



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

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

Registered Charity 1107394

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### **Welcome to the Autumn 2018 Newsletter**

This is my last newsletter as Chairman of the Friends of Devon's Archives, and in writing those words, I cannot help but cast my mind back over the last three and a half years. There are many things for which the organisation should be proud. We have produced policies that we previously lacked; we have maintained a supportive core of members; we have acquired or protected many documents; we have helped the South West Heritage Trust gain recognition for its pioneering work in administering archives through grants and a prestigious award; we have revamped our constitution and made our administrative processes more efficient; we have published a book on reading and understanding Devon documents; we have reported news of archives and their accessions every six months through our newsletter; we have given advice on archives and the risks to certain forms of data (especially born-digital archives); we have maintained the Devon Roll of Honour website put together by Pete Best; we have influenced decision-makers when it comes to cutting a museum grant; and we have held six conferences involving over twenty speakers in all four 'corners' of the county – Exeter, Barnstaple, Plymouth and Torquay. Behind the scenes we have also dealt efficiently with the bureaucracy generated by HMRC, the Charity Commission, our internet service provider and GDPR. What's more, we still have money in the bank! Thus we have every reason to think that this is a successful organisation going from strength to strength.

However, it would be wrong to suggest that everything is rosy. This is because most of the above activities have all been made possible by a small number of individuals, and thus the organisation at times appears to be unsustainable. At the outset of my chairmanship I declared that I wanted FoDA to hold more events in a greater variety of locations and in every respect do more of what

it was doing. As you will be aware, attendances at our conferences have declined, our membership has slightly diminished over the term of my chairmanship, and few members other than committee members have put themselves forward to share the responsibilities. At the AGM in Plymouth in 2016, when I scheduled a serious discussion about our future, only twenty members turned up. It seems extraordinary to me that an organisation which is universally seen to have an important job to do – especially in being a spokesman for our written heritage – and which has a sound bank balance and a smooth series of policies and procedures is *still* on the brink of unsustainability. Little seems to have changed since Pete Best wrote in the newsletter of June 2014 that ‘unless we get new blood coming forward to join the committee and take on the roles of Chairman and Plymouth representative in particular, we will slowly sink into obscurity and have to dissolve.’ Clearly, without the right people and enough of them, no amount of money or achievements can buoy up the organisation as a whole.

With this in mind, it seems necessary that the new chairman appointed at the next AGM on 29 September will have to take FoDA in a new direction. The committee has discussed this and has considered a full range of options, including merging with another organisation. This merging strategy is not an easy fix, however, for no other organisation has similar charitable purposes to FoDA in terms of its protection of archives and its curatorial role, and so it would require more input from officers rather than less. Therefore, in order to continue, it may be that FoDA cannot justify holding conferences in future. It may be that that sort of event can be replaced by something else; it may be the case the organisation’s priorities shift in a way I cannot foresee. Time – and the next chairman – will tell.

Before signing off, I want to tell you something momentous. FoDA has just passed its twentieth birthday! As Graham Parnell will testify – as he has been a committee member from the outset – the Friends of Devon’s Archives was officially inaugurated on 8 July 1998. So many things have happened in those years that it would be utterly futile to try to list them but, suffice to say, the archival landscape has changed beyond all recognition. It is perhaps worth remarking that, while the organisation was set up to help acquire documents, and to educate people about them, within a few years of our foundation the prospect of swingeing cuts was haunting all archive services up and down the country. It continues to do so. It is a huge irony but politicians these days seem to consider that pieces of vellum and paper that have been around for hundreds of years will now look after themselves without the need for professional help – despite the abundant evidence that in the years before archive services, huge amounts of material were lost to the multiple dooms of fire, damp, rats, export, carelessness, theft and wilful destruction, as well as being misplaced. This is a bit like deciding that someone who has lived for many years on a life-support machine now can do without it. At the same time, the threat of inadequate provision for born-digital archive services is still very much with us, and the archive-education deficit is hardly a problem solved. Archives and archive services are in greater need of friends than ever.

Congratulations to all those involved and thank you to all those who have supported us over the last twenty years. And please continue to support us. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM on Saturday 29 September – details are to be found later in this newsletter.

Ian Mortimer, Chairman

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## Acquisitions

The last six months have seen mixed fortunes on the acquisitions front. Committee member Peter Towey noticed a group of deeds relating to Cudlipptown in West Devon and sought to acquire them on FoDA's behalf but alas they all escaped his bidding; we can only hope that the high sums paid mean that they have gone to a good home. Peter has drawn up a list of the items in question, which he has deposited in the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office, so at least the information is not all lost. He was more successful in bidding for four other Devon deeds that were being offered by the same seller via eBay, as follows:

1. Indenture dated 25 March 10 Geo I (1724). Between John Parr of Oakhampton, Clerk, & Thomas Wills of Bridford, yeoman, a messuage called Trenchford in Bridford, now in the possession of Matthew Wills, father of the said Thomas.
2. Indenture dated 16th September 1754. Between Arthur Tremayne of Sydenham, Esq. & John Spry of Thrushleton, yeoman, re a messuage called Thrusselball? In the parish of Thrushleton.
3. Indenture dated 20th January 1776. Between Arthur Tremayne of Sydenham, Esq. & Jane Spry of Thrushleton, widow, for the Barton of Wrays in Thrushleton, formerly in occupation of William Spry, late husband of said Jane.
4. Will of Henry Willie of Lifton, husbandman, dated 9th Oct 1644. Probate Act (Latin) dated 8 July 1646 granting administration to Joanna Wyllie [sic] daughter of said Henry Willye.

The sale of a collection of rare, possibly unique printed rules for several agricultural societies, including two Devon items, was drawn to our attention by Todd Gray. Staff at the South West Heritage Trust did endeavour to buy the four items. However, this lot too escaped us, selling at auction for the surprisingly high figure of £2,000. On the more positive side of things, FoDA member Lydia Burge spotted a Sidmouth apothecary's medical symptoms book from 1830 in an auction catalogue. FoDA made an offer to SWHT to support this acquisition and it has now been acquired and deposited in Devon Heritage Centre. Also a set of early eighteenth century medical ledgers from the RD&E, which we failed to buy last year, have resurfaced. They were purchased by a dealer who has agreed to sell them to a consortium of interested parties led by the Devon & Exeter Medical Society. We have agreed to contribute up to £800 to make certain of the purchase, so these ledgers will find their rightful place in Devon Heritage Centre after all.

Ian Mortimer, Chairman

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## Membership Update

Since the last newsletter several members were able to renew. For that many thanks.

As of mid-August we have 111 individual members, 14 family members, 11 group members and 17 life members. Counting the family members twice (as is traditional!), I make that 167 members.

There are a few members who have still not yet paid this year. I have chased them but, if you think that you may not have paid for 2018, please contact me on ptowey@sky.com.

Peter Towey, Membership Secretary

## South West Heritage Trust

The conservation project on the political correspondence of **Henry Addington, 1st Viscount Sidmouth (1757–1844)** is now well underway. Following a successful recruitment process Becky Dabnor started work as project conservator at the start of April. The project has been made possible by a grant from the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust and support from the Friends of Devon's Archives. See Becky's article for more details about what is being achieved.

The Devon edition of the **Know Your Place website** is now live, and can be seen at [www.kypwest.org.uk](http://www.kypwest.org.uk). The site is very impressive and provides free online access to the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps, GOAD insurance maps for Exeter and Plymouth and some town plans as well as a modern map. It also provides a way to see the Devon Historic Environment Record Data, and to add content to the site on a 'community layer'. This partnership project has been funded by Devon County Council and the site has been developed by Bristol City Council. A well-attended event to celebrate the project was held on Monday 9 July at the Devon Heritage Centre.

Many of the micro-projects which have formed part of the **Devon Remembers Heritage Project** are now reaching their conclusion. The newspaper project will make over 4,000 articles relating to the First World War available to researchers at the Devon Heritage Centre. The story of the Jewish community and Jewish Legion is being told in a display in the Guardroom at Crownhill Fort, Plymouth. An exhibition about the unique and extensive collection of photographs of local Ilfracombe people who served in the war is being prepared for display in Ilfracombe Museum. The display in the entrance to the Devon Heritage Centre is currently telling the story of seven Devon war hospitals. We are also working with RAMM to prepare a major exhibition which will be on display in the autumn, which will draw together many elements of what has been discovered during the Devon Remembers project.

This year is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the **North Devon Record Office**. An event to celebrate this will be held at the record office on 2 October from 2.30 – 7.30pm. Please do come along to find out more about North Devon's collections, what has happened over the last 30 years, and our plans for the future.

Our **digital preservation** project is now well underway, and we are working to develop our chosen solution, called Archivematica. A detailed survey of all our existing electronic archives has been completed for both the Devon Heritage Centre and North Devon Record Office and we are now working on a survey of relevant material in the West Country Studies Library collection.

The annual **Archives and Local Studies closed periods** took place in the New Year and allowed a great deal of collections-based work to be completed. In Exeter staff undertook the vast task of boxing and re-sorting the parish register collection. In North Devon work was done in the strongroom to create expansion space and portfolio shelving.

Very helpful **disaster training** with Devon and Cornwall Fire and Rescue, the Met Office and Devon Norse (facilities management) took place at the Devon Heritage Centre earlier in the year. The Fire Service familiarised itself with the building layout and the archive strongrooms. This is an important part of our work to ensure that the collections are cared for in the best way possible, that all precautions possible are put in place, but that we are also as prepared should a fire break out.

An event to celebrate **local studies collections**, ‘A New Chapter: Discover Local Studies in Devon and Somerset’, was held at the Devon Heritage Centre on 23 April. This proved to be popular and introduced people to the wealth of material held in the various local studies collections, and how to make the most of the online catalogue. As the event was so well received we aim to hold a similar one at the Somerset Heritage Centre later in the year.

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

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## **Anatomy of a Volunteer Project: St Loye’s College**

The Devon Archives and Local Studies Service currently has around fifty regular volunteers who are spread across the service’s various areas of work, including the processing of archives and local studies material, conservation, and assisting with specialist externally-funded projects such as the Devon Remembers Heritage Project and the Beaford Arts *Hidden Histories* project.

We are, of course, very grateful to our volunteers for all the work they do in helping to maintain the service, and it’s especially gratifying when we’re able to make use of volunteers’ experience and specialist knowledge in relation to particular collections of records.

St Loye’s College was a pioneering school of Occupational Therapy which was based in Exeter from its foundation in 1937 until its closure in 2008, after which its site on Topsham Road was sold for redevelopment. In 2017, the records of the college were deposited by *Step One*, the charity which now administers the college’s affairs, and a reception was held to mark the occasion. This was attended by a substantial group of former students, and two of these, Stafford and Christine Cavill, subsequently volunteered to sort and catalogue the college’s vast photographic archive, which includes thousands of images from throughout its existence. After many years spent attending the college and later keeping in touch with its activities, Stafford and Chris have a huge amount of knowledge about the college’s activities and the people associated with it over the last fifty years and more, and this has enabled them to identify many of the people and events featured in the collection. They have been assisted by several friends from their time at the college, so their volunteering sessions at the Heritage Centre on Mondays have often been welcome opportunities to socialize and reminisce about their days at St Loye’s.

For most of the period since they began volunteering in January they have concentrated on arranging the photographs into categories, but they have recently begun the process of cataloguing them, something which is bound to take many more months, if not years. And, once the photographs have been catalogued, someone (in all probability another volunteer) will have to make a start on the many documents which were deposited along with the photographs. The way in which the St Loye’s archives are being dealt with is a good example of how volunteers with relevant knowledge and experience can make contributions to our work which complement those made by staff.

At the moment we are quite near to full capacity with regard to numbers of volunteers, but it’s probable that at various times in the future we will require specialist volunteers of this type to assist with particular projects, and one of the ways in which we will appeal for those is via the Friends of Devon’s Archives, so watch this space!

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

## The Sidmouth Conservation Project

At the start of April, work began on the Sidmouth Project, conserving the political correspondence of Henry Addington held at the Devon Heritage Centre. Addington was prominent in public affairs from 1789-1824 in a number of parliamentary roles, as Speaker of the House of Commons, Prime Minister (1801-1804), Lord President of the Council (1805) and Home Secretary (1812 to 1822). The collection of around 9,000 letters comprises correspondence to and from significant people during a turbulent period of British and European history that included the French Revolution, the Napoleonic Wars, unrest in Ireland, growing opposition to the slave trade and the Peterloo Massacre.

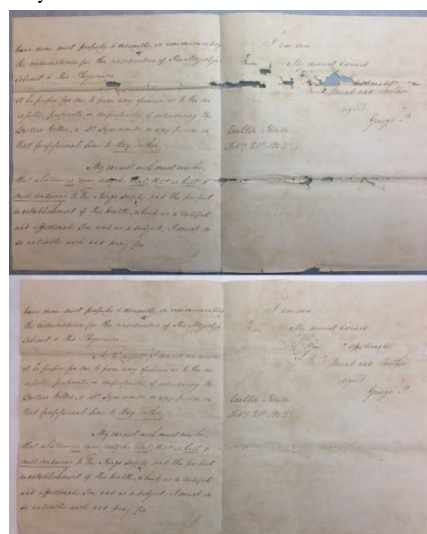
A project to conserve the papers has been funded by a grant from the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust and a generous donation from the Friends of Devon's Archives. The South West Heritage Trust is very grateful for this support, which is making the project possible.

A conservation survey previously undertaken with the help of volunteers revealed the items most urgently requiring conservation treatment. At present, folders of correspondence are marked 'unfit for production' (UFP) due to the soft and fragile nature of the paper, which has typically split, become damaged along the fold lines, or weaker and degraded from previous storage in a damp environment. The damage is scattered throughout the collection, but unfortunately many of the royal letters, including those signed by George III, are among those most fragile to handle and therefore unavailable to the public. At this stage, attention has been concentrated on treating this royal correspondence and other UFP letters in the collection. These letters have been consolidated with a Klucel G solution when the paper is very soft, and Japanese papers applied to the original for further stability.

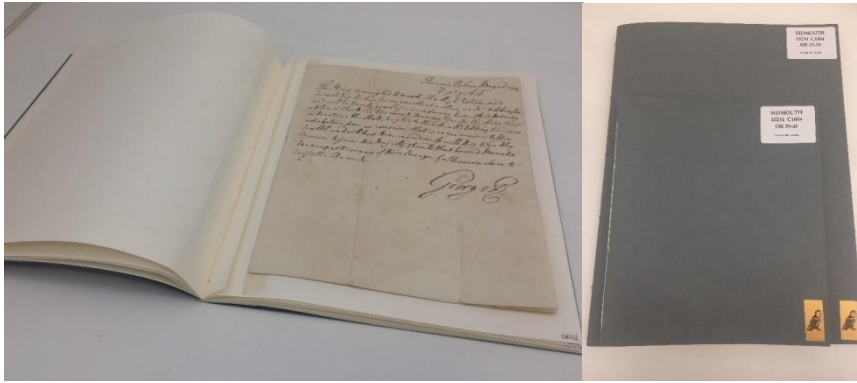
Letters from 1705 to 1786 (around 370 items) frequently with lesser damage of tears or losses that could worsen with handling, have also been fully assessed, treated, rehoused in acid-free folders within archival boxes and relabelled. So far, almost two hundred of the letters of greater historical value have been mounted in fascicules for increased security. Work is ongoing to conserve all the other UFP letters in the collection. We have also begun on improving the labelling and storage of the collection, thereby making it easier for the search room staff to find the items requested. As this collection has experienced increased use over the past few years, this project will enable full access to an invaluable resource that provides great insight into the individuals and perspectives of politicians, members of the royal family, as well as abolitionists, naval and military heroes of the early nineteenth century.



1. Storage of the Sidmouth collection before the project began.



2. An example of a letter before and after conservation treatment.



3. A letter signed by George III in a fascicule.



4. Members of the Friends' committee visit to the conservation studio at the Devon Heritage Centre.



5. Demonstrating a conservation treatment on one of the letters with fine Japanese tissue and rice starch paste

Becky Dabnor, Conservator

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## Plymouth & West Devon Records Office

There is definitely a mind-set change in Plymouth at the moment. The Box development is moving from 'project' phase to 'operational' phase. The last 12 months have seen huge leaps forward with the building nearly complete and handover to us as a client on track for May 2019. A webcam time-lapse is available on the Plymouth Museums Galleries Archives page: <https://plymhearts.org/thebox/project-news/>.

Our partners the South West Image Bank (SWIB) and the South West Film and Television Archive (SWFTA) have now transitioned into Plymouth City Council and the collections are now being managed as one entity. In 2020 researchers will be able to access all the collections across The Box partnership in a single space - the Cottonian Reading Room.

Striding through the entrance to The Box will be 14 ships' figureheads which are currently being conserved for display. These iconic objects from the Devonport Naval Heritage Centre will greet visitors to The Box and will act a fantastic symbol of Plymouth's inherent relationship with the sea and The Royal Navy. The objects will be supported by a digital touch screen with archival background data about the ships they were attached to, their carvers and their relationship to the

city. This ambitious part of the project is possible thanks to INTERREG funding. More information is available on the Plymouth Museums Galleries Archives page:  
<https://plymhearts.org/thebox/history-centre-collections/figureheads/>.

The next 12-18 months will see all the collections at the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office (PWDRO), SWFTA and the Museum's offsite stores being moved into the new building on a phased basis. The new galleries will start to be installed from September 2019 and staff will start to operate from the building from Christmas 2019 so they are familiar with how the building operates prior to opening to the public in spring 2020.

In order to be able to effect a move of such an enormous scale, normal operations will need to cease at PWDRO and SWFTA to allow staff to pack and move the collections. PWDRO is subject to legal restrictions around access, however, so we will ensure that access to public records remains possible during the process. We would like to advise all researchers that although an exact date for closure has not yet been formalised, normal opening hours are likely to be revised from late spring 2019. We advise all visitors to get in contact in advance of their visit.

Members may be interested that The Box team are jointly running a new MA in Archival Practice with the University of Plymouth which started in September. There has been a high level of interest in this course, particularly from students living in the South West peninsula. The optional modules – Palaeography, Sound & Vision and Design & Interpretation will be offered in the New Year and we would like to gauge whether members would be interested in attending these independently of the wider course. This is not possible at present. More information about the MA is on the University of Plymouth website:  
<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/ma-archival-practice>.

Louisa Blight, Collections Manager, Plymouth Museums Galleries Archives

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## **Accessions at Plymouth & West Devon Record Office**

This will be the last 6-monthly update on accessions from PWDRO. We won't have any more to report for the next couple of years as we have now locked down the collections and are now no longer taking any further deposits until we reopen as The Box.

- 4180 Hooe Baptist Church, Newsletters (2017). 3 items.
- 4181 Daphne Du Maurier Letter and Related Papers. Manuscript signed letter by Daphne du Maurier, Kilmarth, Par, Cornwall replying to 'Mr Mitchell' that 'I have no recollection of how I obtained the information about Radford House' with reference to her book 'The King's General', also refers to her stay at Menabilly in Cornwall and papers lent to her by the Rashleigh family, 7 August 1976 (Radford House was a location featured in her romantic period novel 'The King's General', published in 1946). With others papers and photographs relating to Radford House in Plymstock and the Civil War. Also copy of published book 'The Cornish World of Daphne du Maurier' including reference to 'The King's General' (20th-21st century). 1 bundle.
- 4182 Devonport High School for Boys, whole school photographs for years 1975, 1992, 2000, 2004, 2007-2008, 2011 and 2016. 7 items.



- 4183 Plymouth Schools, Plans. Plans of Plymouth schools drawn by the Plymouth City Architect's Department under H J W Stirling, City Architect. Schools include: Chaddlewood No. 2 Primary School, 1973; Open Air School, West Whiteleigh, 1960; Ford Secondary Modern School, 1959; Compton Church of England Primary School, 1962. (1959-1973). 2 rolls.
- 4185 Plymouth, St Barnabas Parish, Stoke, Devonport, marriage register (29 Jul 1967-27 Aug 2010). 1 item.
- 4186 Plymouth, Air Raid Precautions: Note requesting that Miss Jean Burch attend for ARP training at Mutley Methodist Hall, 16 October 1942; letter to Miss Jean Burch from Graham C???, Squadron Leader with the RAF Coastal Command, that her bomb has been dropped and 'it did a lot of good', 10 October 1942; list of gas masks checked by occupiers of Torland Road, Plymouth, 23 June 1943, surnames given. (1942-1943). 3 items.
- 4187 Electronic record: Robert Mack of the Plymouth Town Mission, Diary Transcripts. Transcripts of the diaries of Robert A Mack of the Plymouth Town Mission. Recording details of people and places visited to spread the "word of God ". These included sailors, prostitutes, Plymouth Workhouse, the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, cholera sufferers in December 1853 and many others, 1852-1869. [For the original diaries see accession 3162]. (1852-1869). 13 files.
- 4188 Two colour novelty postcards with seaside theme (children and donkeys on beaches), with black and white photographic inserts showing Plymouth scenes. (1950s-1960s). 2 items.
- 4189 Bundle of letters between Gertrude Tomkinson of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire and S Maurice Evans of London, relating to the sinking of the airship south of Start Point, Devon, on 9 June 1916. With manuscript copy of letter from I J Howarth of the Air Ministry giving an account of the incident. (1934-1935). 8 letters.
- 4190 Drawings of structures on the South Devon and Tavistock Railway including Walkham viaduct, Ham viaduct, Yelverton tunnel, Occupation Road bridge and the River Plym viaduct, mid to late 19th century; drawings of Laira Railway Bridge, Plymouth, 1880's-late 1890's.( Mid to late 19th century). 18 drawings.

Alan Barclay, P&WDRO

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## University of Exeter Special Collections

The library is pleased to announce that it has received a generous gift of items relating to the artist R.J. Lloyd and his collaboration with Ted Hughes on the books 'The Cat and the Cuckoo' and 'What is the Truth'.

Christine Fauch, Head of Heritage Collections, University of Exeter

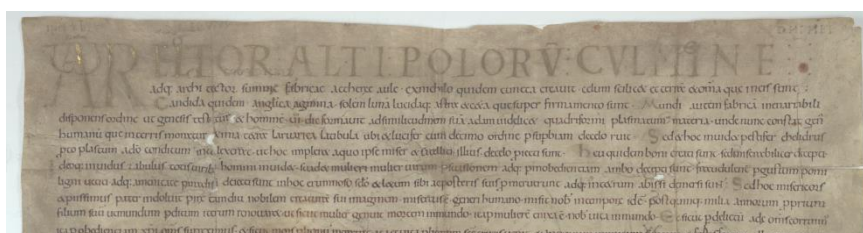
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## Exeter Cathedral Library and Archives

This autumn we are excited to have several items from our collections going on loan to exhibitions elsewhere in the country.



Several fragments of our medieval votive offerings, including the 8 inch tall complete figure of a woman (pictured). In total the cathedral has more than 1000 fragments of these beeswax figures – a mixture of humans and animals – which are believed to have been hung by pilgrims offering prayers at the tomb of Bishop Edmund Lacy (Eps. 1420-1455). The figures were rediscovered in 1943 during war damage repairs. The votive figures form part of the ‘Spellbound: Magic, Ritual and Witchcraft’ exhibition which runs at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford from 31 August 2018-6 January 2019. See the exhibition web pages for more information: <https://www.ashmolean.org/spellbound>.



Three items from Exeter Cathedral will be among the 180 exhibits at the British Library’s Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms exhibition: the Exeter Book of Anglo Saxon poetry, a quire from the Exon Domesday, and charter D&C 2070, better known as the Golden Charter. One of the most exciting features of this exhibition for us is the opportunity it will bring to see the world’s only known four surviving codices of Anglo-Saxon poetry together in one place. The exhibition runs from 19 October 2018 – 19 February 2019. See the exhibition web pages for more information: <https://www.bl.uk/events/anglo-saxon-kingdoms>.

Ellie Jones, Cathedral Archivist

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## Book News

### Exeter's Elgin marbles

This was the somewhat provocative title of a pop-up display at St Stephen's Church in Exeter on 11 August which formed part of a celebration organised by the Exeter Civic Society for the re-dedication of the blue plaque to Thomas Bodley on the corner of High Street and Gandy Street in Exeter. It illustrated pages from thirty of the more than ninety manuscripts from Exeter Cathedral Library donated to Bodley's new library by the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral in 1602. This is often considered a great loss to Exeter, but it is probably thanks to Bodley's action that Exeter retains, albeit scattered to the four winds, one of the finest surviving medieval

libraries in Britain. Pages from these manuscripts were seen in Exeter for the first time in more than four centuries, with the kind permission of the Bodleian Library. The display, once dismantled, was presented to Exeter Cathedral Library to be made available for researchers and a Powerpoint display has also been prepared. It is hoped that this will be a first step in digitally reconstituting Exeter's medieval Cathedral Library. In the meantime a copy of the talk given at the celebration can be seen at <http://bookhistory.blogspot.com/2018/08/sir-thomas-bodley-commemorating-great.html> and a listing of all the manuscripts in the Dean and Chapter's donation at <http://devon-bibliography.blogspot.com/2018/07/exeter-cathedral-librarys-donation-to.html>.

### **Wheatons**

In 2017 the long-established Exeter printing and publishing firm of Wheaton finally closed its doors after more than 180 years of activity. For almost a century it was the largest printing and publishing firm in Devon, producing more than 2,500 titles and acting as one of the largest employers in Exeter. With commendable speed Anthony J. Wheaton produced an account of the firm's history *A lasting impression : a history of Wheaton's in Exeter 1835-2017* (Tedburn Saint Mary : AJW Publishing, 2017. 184 pages : illustrations. ISBN: 978-1-5272-1327-2). Over the years the company produced books under a variety of imprints: Arnold-Wheaton (1978-1988) ; BPC Wheatons Ltd (1994-1996) ; BPC Whitefriars Ltd (1994-1998) ; BPC Wheaton Ltd (1986-1998) ; British Printing and Communications Corporation (1981-1998) ; British Printing Company Ltd (1990-2011) ; Cornwall Books (1980s) ; Cwmni Wheaton (1967) ; Devon Books (1984-1998) ; Elsevier Ltd (1989-2018) ; Oyez Wheatons Ltd (1986-1991) ; Pergamon Press Ltd (1966-1998) ; Pergamon Educational Productions (1983-1989) ; Pergamon Journals (1981-1989) ; Pergamon-Wheaton (1977) ; Polestar Aberdeen Ltd (1998) ; Polestar Digital Techset (1998-2016) ; Polestar Wheatons Exeter Ltd (1998-2015) ; Religious and Moral Education Press (1974-1990) ; Polestar Whitefriars Ltd (1998-2015) ; Regional Magazines (1980s) ; Staffordshire Books (1980s) ; Warwickshire Books (1980s) ; Wheaton Publishers Ltd (1986-1991) ; Wheaton Education Ltd. 1990) ; Wheaton of Exeter (1959-1967) ; Wheatons Exeter Ltd (2016-2017) ; Wheaton, A. and Co (1862-1902) ; Wheaton, A. and Co. Ltd (1902-1998) ; Wheaton, Alfred (1846-1851) ; Wheaton, Anne (1851-1856) ; Wheaton, Mary (1849-1856) ; Wheaton, Phoebe (1846-1851) ; Wheaton, William (1835-1846). No full listing of imprints has been recorded but a provisional listing of almost 2,500 titles has been produced for the *Devon Bibliography* in four sections:

<http://bookhistory.blogspot.com/2018/06/devon-imprints-wheaton-1835-1939.html>  
<http://bookhistory.blogspot.com/2018/06/devon-imprints-wheaton-1940-1965.html>  
<http://bookhistory.blogspot.com/2018/06/devon-imprints-wheaton-1966-1975.html> and  
<http://bookhistory.blogspot.com/2018/06/devon-imprints-wheaton-1976-2017.html>.

The same lack of information is also true of the archives of the company. The author reports on a suitcase of records in his possession relating to the firm and other records may survive with firms with which Wheatons was at some stage linked but it would be a shame if records of this important firm have been allowed to be destroyed.

### **Dartmoor Press**

Another kind of problem is posed by very different publisher than Wheatons. The Plymouth publisher Dartmoor Press produced booklets containing material from original documents relating to parishes in Dartmoor and west Devon researched and written by Mike Brown. There was a flurry of more than 400 publications between 1994 and 2001. A series of publication lists were produced, the latest traced, for 2001, being reproduced in Genuki. Since then Dartmoor Press seems to have concentrated on publishing through CD-ROMs and USB sticks, the main

distributor being the Parish Chests website. Those available in July 2018 are included at the end of a provisional listing of Dartmoor Press publications at:

[http://bookhistory.blogspot.com/2018/07/devon-imprints-plymouth-dartmoor-](http://bookhistory.blogspot.com/2018/07/devon-imprints-plymouth-dartmoor-press.html)

[press.html](http://bookhistory.blogspot.com/2018/07/devon-imprints-plymouth-dartmoor-press.html) in the *Devon bibliography*. None of the Dartmoor Press publications appear in the British National Bibliography and individual titles are consequently difficult to locate. Some titles have been acquired by the Westcountry Studies Library, others by the Plymouth Local Studies Library. Senate House Library also has a number of titles. Dates of publication and titles sometimes differ between the publisher's catalogue and the holding libraries so a definitive list of imprints is difficult to ascertain. The Plymouth and West Devon Record Office also have at least 46 publications (ref: 1903, not all separately listed) but more significantly 405 files of Mike Brown's manuscript working notes have been deposited (ref: 2807). So here, while records appear to have been largely preserved, it has been difficult to locate the printed publications. Perhaps there are some in the collections of family history societies.

### **The Shacklock Collection of books relating to Sabine Baring-Gould**

This collection of more than 1,000 volumes has now been transferred to Lewtrenchard Manor Hotel, the manor house where Baring-Gould lived, and the task of sorting and listing them has begun. David Shacklock has placed them in the Hotel in the hope that they will be used by visitors and researchers but there is no staff to process the material there and it is important that the collection is assessed and any unique items which are not contained in the Westcountry Studies Library, Plymouth Library or the University of Exeter special collections are recorded and secured. A listing will be added to the *Devon bibliography* in due course to join the main union listing of the Sabine Baring-Gould collection which can be seen at:

<http://bookhistory.blogspot.com/2012/01/baring-gould-library.html>.

### **Andrew Brice, unstamped newspapers and his pushing nephew, 1755**

In his brief account of Andrew Brice's disagreement with his "pushing nephew" in 1755 T. N. Brushfield in *Andrew Brice and the early Exeter newspaper press* (1888, pages 39-40) quotes from an issue of the printer's *Old Exeter Journal* then in the possession of the Rev. W. Everitt, rector of St. Lawrence, Exeter, which was thought no longer to survive. It may be that Mr Dymond, who provided Brushfield with this information, saw this issue in the bound volume covering the years 1755 to 1768 recently discovered in the archives of Force and Son and now at the Devon Heritage Centre (Ref: FOR/Z/1/1). As a result we are able to read again an acrimonious exchange which sheds interesting light on the problems facing newspaper printers in the 18th century, and the rivalries which could develop. Brice's "serio-jocular" style was extremely verbose and overblown and much of the rhetorical tirades has been omitted. What remains lifts the curtain on a very dysfunctional family who fellow Exonians would have to have handled very carefully. Brice got on the wrong side of many people during his long career and his statements in this exchange show that he had a long and unforgiving memory. The transcript can be seen at <http://bookhistory.blogspot.com/2018/08/andrew-brice-unstamped-newspapers-and.html>.

The arrival of the Westcountry Studies Library brought a large number of files of newspapers both in hard copy and microfilm to the Devon Heritage Centre. Newspapers are an interesting and vital important primary source which stands half-way between libraries and archives. While they are normally regarded as library material in England, in France they are usually to be found in the archives of départements. This volume is an important addition to resources at the Centre, providing for the first time Exeter newspapers covering the years between 1755 and 1763, and it should be microfilmed or digitised. Hopefully Exeter newspapers for the 1730s and 1740s will also be located in the future.

Ian Maxted

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## Totnes Archives

Sue King and Jill Drysdale have researched and mounted an Exhibition in Totnes Museum title Women's Work and Caring in Totnes in WW1. If you are in Totnes please come and have a look. Recent acquisitions include newsletters magazines and photographs concerning the Dartington Trust and the deeds of a cottage behind 66 Fore Street Totnes. Recently deposited Books include "Turning Paignton Pages 1500 -1700 by John Pentney and "Robots -the 500 year quest to make machines human" from the Science Museum. The latter details the work of a Totnes man who built the first robot (Eric) in the 1920s. We are hoping to run an exhibition about his work in Totes Museum next season.

We have also published a "Totnes Review" this year. It is selling fast. Copies can be obtained from Totnes Museum, here at the Archive and different venues around the town price £5. All the articles have been researched and written for the magazine by volunteers in the Archive they cover a range of local topics from Transition Town Totnes to wife selling in the 1800s and visiting a women's rowing club in Dittisham on the way.

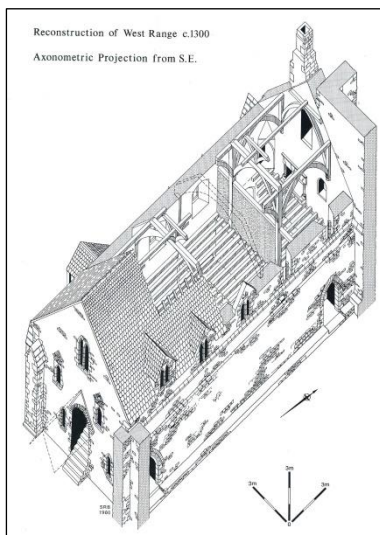
In addition we have been busy answering Family History queries and hosting many visitors from Australia and America who are all searching for family connections.

If anyone has queries for us about anything related to South Hams and Totnes family history or local history we would love to hear from them. Just email [totnes.archives@outlok.com](mailto:totnes.archives@outlok.com).

Sue King & Jill Drysdale, Totnes Archives

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## Polsloe Priory



Tucked away in the city suburbs near Morrison's supermarket, the remains of St Katherine's Priory, Polsloe, form one of the least visited but most interesting medieval monuments surviving in Exeter. The priory was one of Devon's three nunneries, founded by the Bishop of Exeter c. 1160 and dissolved at the Reformation in 1539. One of the four ranges which formerly surrounded its square cloister still stands: the priory west range, built c. 1300, which accommodated the prioress's lodging and a hall and rooms for guests. It has handsome features including a remarkable oak screen (scan PP016) and the well-preserved prioress' room with fine

medieval sculptures. Excavations conducted there in the 1930s and 1970s exposed most of the church and all the other ranges of buildings around the cloisters, making this one of the most fully explored monastic sites in Devon.

John Allan

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## Dates for your diary



## Devon Remembers Heritage Project

Special events for researchers in Exeter and Barnstaple

Join us at Devon Heritage Centre or North Devon Record Office to see a display of significant documents and images from our extensive First World War collections and learn about the new tools and resources that have been developed for use in your First World War research. Talks at 2pm will be followed by complimentary refreshments and time to view the display. Tickets are free but must be booked in advance.

Devon Heritage Centre: Monday 24th September, 2-4pm  
Book at: <https://devon-remembers-at-dhc.eventbrite.co.uk>

North Devon Record Office: Monday 8th October, 2-4pm  
Book at: <https://devon-remembers-at-ndro.eventbrite.co.uk>

Or call 01392 888726

The Devon Remembers Heritage Project has been based at Devon Heritage Centre since 2015, and is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project enables local people to discover Devon's unique experience of the First World War, with a particular focus on the Home Front. It finishes at the end of 2018. An exhibition drawing on the project's research will open at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum on 15<sup>th</sup> September. *Devon Voices: Home Front Stories 1914-1918* is a free exhibition and runs until 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Katherine Findlay, Project Officer, Devon Remembers Heritage Project

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## AGM & AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2018

### Saturday 29 September 2018

St Katherine's Priory, St Katherine's Road, Polsloe, Exeter EX4 7JY

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9.15-10.00	Coffee
10.00-10.45	AGM
10.45-11.15	Introduction to St Katherine's Priory by John Allan FSA, president of the Friends of Devon's Archives
11.15-11.45	Coffee break
11.45-13.00	'The Dissolution of the Monasteries in the West Country' by Professor James Clark, University of Exeter

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Admission is free, but places must be booked. Tickets are available in two ways. Our preference is that people book places via Eventbrite. If you click on this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2018-agm-tickets-49278440141>

it should take you to the appropriate page of the Eventbrite server, where you will be able to book tickets. **If you book via Eventbrite you do not need to send us a booking form.**

Alternatively, if you would rather book the old-fashioned way, please fill in your name below and send this form to The Friends of Devon's Archives, c/o Brian Carpenter, Devon Heritage Centre, Great Moor House, Bittern Road, Exeter EX2 7NL. You can also email Brian ([Brian.Carpenter@swheritage.org.uk](mailto:Brian.Carpenter@swheritage.org.uk)).

Please note, non-members who are guests of members are welcome to attend the talks but cannot take part in the AGM.

Parking is available onsite.

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### FRIENDS OF DEVON'S ARCHIVES: 2018 AGM BOOKING FORM

#### Saturday 29 September 2018 (9.15 – 13:00)

Name(s):

Contact email:

Contact telephone: