



The Friends of Devon's Archives

www.foda.org.uk

Registered Charity 1107394

c/o Devon Heritage Centre, Great Moor House,
Bittern Road, Sowton Exeter EX2 7NL.

Welcome to the Spring 2021 Newsletter

Welcome to the FoDA Spring 2021 Newsletter and let us hope this truly is a new Spring and we can start meeting in person all over our wonderful County and sharing on the ground rather than the screen our local knowledge .

FoDA has become increasingly aware of community archives in many villages and towns across the County and has responded positively to overtures from DHS that we offer a joint membership to local groups. FoDA does not have many local affiliations and this way we can greatly increase these; we have much to offer by way of advice and support to local archive projects. Proposals will go to our AGM in November to introduce the joint affiliated societies' membership next year.

Meanwhile enjoy this newsletter.

Katharine Chant, FoDA Chair

Dates for your Diary – Forthcoming Conferences

The 2021 FoDA Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 4 November 2021 at the Devon Rural Archive – details to follow.

Joint DRA/DHS/FoDA Conference: Dr Ian Mortimer, *The chief rents of Moretonhampstead, 1639-1840: how to use a problematic source*. Cancelled for 2020, now arranged for Thursday 2 September 2021 at 7 p.m. at Devon Rural Archive.

Obituary

Mary Ravenhill

Mary Ravenhill was a long-standing member of the Friends of Devon's Archives who, with Margery Rowe – Devon's former County Archivist, who pre-deceased her by less than a year – co-authored two books which were published by the Friends during the organisation's early years. These were *Early Devon Maps*, published in 2000, and *Maps of Georgian Devon*, published in 2002. These, however, were only precursors to their Magnum Opus, *Devon Maps and Map-Makers*, published by the Devon and Cornwall Record Society and one of the finest gazetteers of English county maps ever produced. From the mid-1990s until a few years ago, Margery Rowe and Mary Ravenhill became very familiar to staff in archive searchrooms in Devon and beyond.

Mary Ravenhill's husband William (1919-1995) was Professor of Geography at Exeter University and a renowned expert on the history of cartography. His influence on her is epitomised by the books to which she contributed.

Mary Ravenhill died on 1st January 2021 at the age of 92.

Update from the Membership Secretary

So far in 2021 we have 161 members, 108 individual members, 13 Family members (counted as 26), 10 Groups and 17 Life members.

Two new members have joined us since January, and I welcome Rosemary Payne and Desmond Atkinson.

Sadly, I have been informed that two of our existing members have passed away: our Life member, Mary Ravenhill, and Julia Sharp. Their families have our sympathy.

Peter Towey, Membership Secretary

SW Heritage Trust Report



Report for FODA newsletter May 2021

The pandemic has continued to have a significant effect on the Devon Archives and Local Studies Service. We were pleased to reopen our services in the autumn but have had further periods of closure of our searchrooms in November 2020 and from the start of January to mid-April 2021.

However, we are delighted to be able to welcome people again, with our services reopening under the same Covid-19 safe systems as we operated in the autumn.

Staff have continued to work from home and a huge amount of project work has been going on, as well as responding to very high levels of enquiries, research and copying requests. We have responded to these as efficiently as possible within the constraints caused by the lockdowns.

The Friends of Devon's Archives have again generously supported a new acquisition, enabling us to purchase the account book of William Walrond (1610-c. 1667), a member of the Walrond family of Bradfield House, near Uffculme. We also received support from the Friends of the National Libraries to support this acquisition. See our blog for further details: <https://swheritage.org.uk/news/walrond-account-book/>.

Some important audio archives relating to Devon are being digitised through the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage Project, which is a national project being led by the British Library. This will help with the long term preservation of these collections, and we are planning events relating to these collections to coincide with Heritage Open Days in September (keeping our fingers crossed that people will be able to attend events at this point).

Staff at both the North Devon Record Office and the Devon Heritage Centre have continued to work on creating an electronic location index, which will help greatly in providing access to collections. We are also busy testing the new version of our digital preservation system, which looks after digital archives. Technology is developing so fast in this area that the new system that was introduced in 2017 is already being superseded. We are benefitting from the work being done by Cade Simpson, who has joined us as a trainee as part of The National Archive's Bridging the Digital Gap scheme. Find out more about what he is doing on our website, <https://swheritage.org.uk/archives/news/cade-simpson-bridging-the-digital-gap-trainee>.

A project is also underway in collaboration with the University of Exeter and schools in Torquay to use digital technology to help primary school pupils use archives to learn about their local area. We are excited about the possibilities of this project, which will help bring archives to the next generation.

Suzanne Brown, a long-standing member of the team at the Devon Heritage Centre, retired in December after 17 years of service. She was a welcoming presence for thousands of visitors to the Heritage Centre over the years. With the easing of the lockdown we have been able to undertake recruitment, and two new members of staff will be joining the public service team over the next couple of months.

Online engagement has continued to be really important over the past few months. The Trust's Lockdown Lecture series reached audiences of over 300 at a time, with people joining from at least three continents, and a very keen researcher got up in what was the middle of the night in their country to join one of our online Q&A research sessions.

Applications for funding have continued to be an important priority and the Trust has been successful in applying for further Covid-19 Culture Recovery Fund money, as well as funding to support projects. This is a cause for optimism as we gradually open up services and welcome more people back to do research and to enjoy events.

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

**Devon Archives and Local Studies: Documents Purchased with
the assistance of the Friends of Devon's Archives, 2020-2021**

Over the past year the Friends have once again provided financial assistance with the acquisition of several more documents, all of which are valuable additions to our collections.

Last autumn I reported on our purchase of a Tudor court roll for Bampton, and this was supplemented in November by the acquisition of a superb 17th century account book which belonged to William Walrond (1610-c1667), a member of the Walrond family of Bradfield House, near Uffculme. The volume's original leather cover and binding are in excellent condition. The cover bears the arms of the Walrond family, and is monogrammed with William Walrond's initials. The volume's early pages are mainly taken up with a range of Latin quotations and aphorisms and an indication that it first came into William Walrond's possession in 1634. However, the main series of estate accounts begins in 1650, and the majority of the rest of the book records the daily business of an English rural estate in the years which followed the English Civil War.

Entries record wages paid to estate employees and rent received from tenants, as well as money paid out for a wide range of estate and personal expenses. These include parochial poor rates and tithes and aspects of livestock management, but also more extensive and expensive undertakings such as 'what it cost me to repaire Woodhouse, since my father suffered it to bee ruined'. This precedes a detailed account of the renovation of part of the house in the years following 1647, including payments for such items as lead, nails and linseed oil, and money paid to masons, carpenters and plasterers.

There are also numerous references to grist and fulling mills, the purchase of furniture ('payd for a side Table at Tyverton') and clothing ('payd for a hatt at Exon'), while there is the additional inclusion of a survey of the Bradfield estate, undertaken by Edmund Crosse of Kentisbeare in February 1650.

In addition to the Friends of Devon's Archives, we received a grant from the Friends of the National Libraries. We are immensely grateful to both organisations, as well as Graham York, the antiquarian book dealer in Honiton who brought the volume to our attention.

In April of this year the Friends' Membership Secretary, Peter Towey, alerted us to a bound 18th century manuscript list of the patrons of parishes in the Diocese of Exeter. After discussions with Exeter Cathedral Archives it was mutually decided that the Devon Heritage Centre would be the most appropriate repository for the volume and we bought it with generous donations from the Friends and the Kent Kingdon Bequest. We are grateful to the Treasurer of the Friends, Ian Maxted, for arranging the Kent Kingdon grant.

In addition to these items, the Friends also contributed to the purchase of some 19th century Annual Reports of Wonford House Hospital in Exeter by the Devon and Exeter Medical Heritage Trust, which it is hoped will be loaned to the Devon Heritage Centre once they have been digitised.

Brian Carpenter
Devon Archives and Local Studies Service

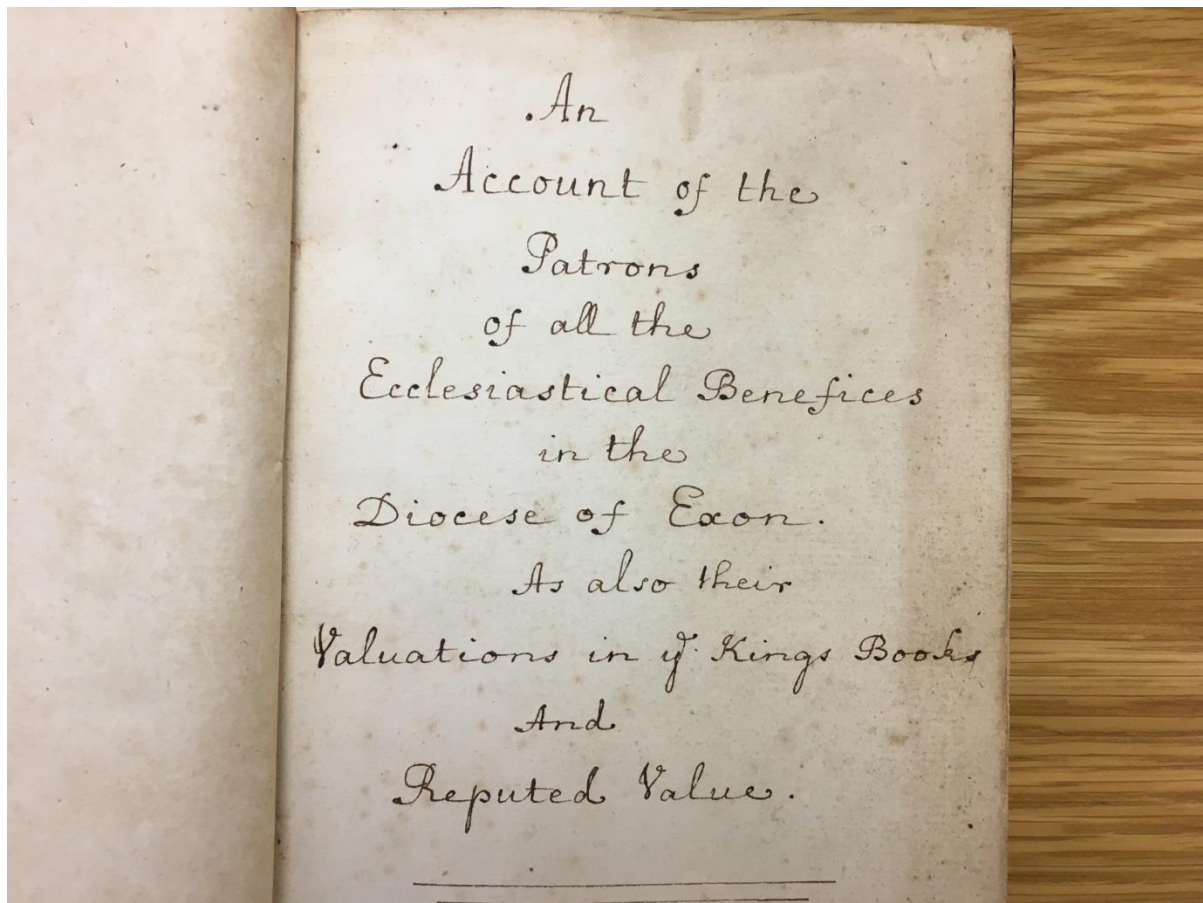
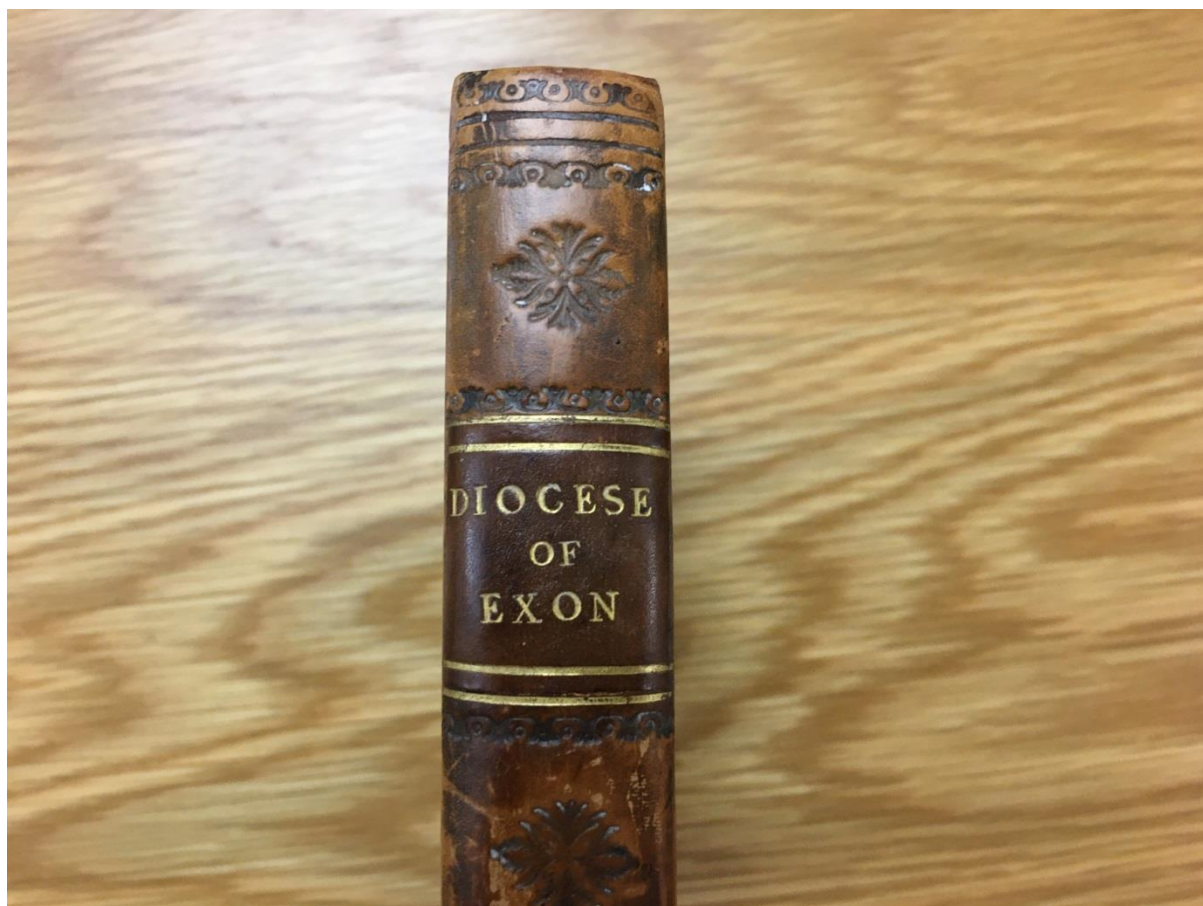
1647
 In money disbursed
 out of my purse
 not accounting
 limbeck workmans
 dist.

An account of what it cost mee to repaire
 Woodhouse, since my father suffered it to
 bee ruined. Since 1647.

Imprimis to the Hellians to stop the holes in the raffe of y ^e middle chamber & south side of y ^e house	— 0 — 2 — 0
for last nayles	— 0 — 0 — 6
for white lead & fynged oyle to cover	— 0 — 2 — 0
for 2 loaders for y ^e wrought brd chambers doors	— 0 — 4 — 6
for Nath. Rowland for mending y ^e backe of y ^e chimney & making y ^e half puer.	— 0 — 2 — 0
for portall gynnys for y ^e greate chambr.	— 0 — 1 — 0
for more white lead	— 0 — 1 — 0
for rusht colbour for y ^e entr clofe	— 0 — 0 — 8
holes of both chambers	— 0 — 1 — 0







Norden Survey

Report on the Norden survey project by Des Atkinson

I would like to begin by thanking the FoDA committee for inviting me to take over the direction of Norden project. Dr David Stone has done great work in getting the whole project underway, and I know that I and the committee would all like to thank him very warmly for his expertise and for his invaluable support. The Covid pandemic has prevented us all from meeting up to share our experiences, so we have not yet had the opportunity to thank David in person for his hard work.

My own expertise lies in the late medieval and early modern periods on which I have worked over the last eight years for my master's and PhD theses. I hope therefore to be able to provide at least some of the skills that David has brought to the project.

Our volunteers have continued to work diligently on their transcriptions of the survey. For several of the manors that work is largely complete, and the volunteers have really done a great job. In dusting off their 'O' level Latin they have shown that they have the skills and determination to tackle all the more tricky passages!

With the transcription phase itself now making such good progress, it is time to think about analysing the information that the survey provides in more detail. There is much numerical information concerning landholdings, their size, their rental value etc., and the figures allow us to see the differences between various individuals, whether listed as knights, gentlemen, widows or those holding smaller plots. The surveyor was clearly exercised by what he saw as the over-exploitation of woodland in some manors, leading to the destruction of what had been some of the finest woodland in the county in late medieval times. There is therefore a rich amount of information, both quantitative and qualitative, to be extracted.

Our thoughts must soon turn to the publication of all this work. A full transcription and translation of the survey in digital form, complete with a suitable introduction will in itself be a notable output for the project. However, it will only be the start of what might follow in terms of more detailed local work. That is something we will want to discuss when we can all next meet up.

One pleasant activity that the survey will facilitate is walking the bounds. The set of articles for each manor includes a description of the bounds as they were identified in the early seventeenth century. Mapping those details on to the modern map will be a fascinating challenge where older place names have been superseded.

The set of tithe maps for all the Norden manors that have been purchased on CD provide a further challenge. The Norden survey was conducted in 1613 and 1614, whereas the tithe maps for the same manors date mostly from the 1840s. There was much change in the ownership and shape of the manor lands between those dates, making a reconciliation between the two sources quite daunting. However our volunteers continue to wrestle diligently with that task.

The wealth of information that is now available to the volunteers will provide scope for a whole variety of projects over the coming months and years. I know they have many great ideas about how they can enrich the history of their localities, using tools such as digital mapping etc. The broad range of skills that they have already developed, and the new ones they are ready to take on, means that this project is building a really strong base for independent research across Devon.

In conclusion I want to thank the volunteers again for their hard work and enthusiasm. I do hope to be able to come and visit all of you as the rules concerning the pandemic are eased.

Des Atkinson

Devon Bibliography

Westcountry Studies. Issue 21. May 2021.



Westcountry Studies
a bibliographical newsletter
on Devon and its region

Issue 21

May 2021



Designated UNESCO
City of Literature
in 2019

Devon bibliography

The following is extracted from the May newsletter of the Devon bibliography which is [available online](#).

Survey of recent publications recorded by the *British national bibliography*

The last four months of the *British national bibliography* from 13 January to 5 May were covered in a recent update of the *Devon bibliography*. The results certainly makes one aware of how much local material is being missed by *BNB*.

There are about 85 *BNB* records that have been identified as having some Devon or wider Westcountry significance although ten of these result from on-line and printed publications having separate entries in *BNB*. Of the 85, 49 are pre-publication records with limited information on pagination or size. There are 59 records for Devon-based publishers, 50 of them with no significant Devon content. There are 42 from Exeter publishers (14 from the reincarnated David and Charles, eight from the University of Exeter Press and six from Pelagic Publications as well as a sprinkling of other academic imprints) and four from Plymouth - the rush of Pilgrim Father publications has subsided. As to the date of the publications, 59 are for 2021, including the 48 pre-publication records, two for 2020, 2 for 2019, ten for 2018, ten for 2017 (including two Mint Press publications) and two for 2016. Of the 35 items with Devon or Westcountry content, 14 are fiction, 11 historical, three guidebooks, one on the natural environment and two periodicals, one of these on Covid-19. Amazon picked up a few additional titles for 2021 and even one for 2022, but it is difficult to search extensively. But where are the publications by local authorities and other local organisations?

Devon in the 1920s

Julia Neville had the idea of running a slideshow of colourful dust jackets of the 1920s as a sort of screen saver during a coffee break during the launch of the Devon History Society project when it was hoped that it would be a live event. I rashly volunteered but soon found dust jackets rather elusive for

Devon titles of that decade. So I decided to look for books whose whole text had been digitised and which were freely available without need for subscription, thus providing a library available at home. Unfortunately the 1920s seems to fall within the 100-year watershed as there is a reluctance to digitise titles which might still have copyright issues. I gather that millions of volumes of more recent material that has been digitised by Google Books is kept in a secure location, only accessible to accredited researchers who can analyse the big data but not access the full texts. However there was sufficient to provide a guide to the range of sources potentially available, and at the Zoom launch event on 24 April there was a silent presentation of what I had gathered together. I have since put a fuller version of it on the internet as [Devon in the 1920s : on-line resources](https://devon-bibliography.blogspot.com/2015/06/devon-bibliography-1920-1929.html). It is interesting that some of the items included are for works that have not yet been located in Devon libraries, so it supplements the other listings I have pulled together or updated for the project:

<https://devon-bibliography.blogspot.com/2015/06/devon-bibliography-1920-1929.html>

(Printed books)

<https://devon-bibliography.blogspot.com/2021/04/devon-in-1920s-periodical-articles.html> (Periodical articles)

<https://devon-bibliography.blogspot.com/2021/04/devon-in-1920s-manuscripts-and.html>

(Non-archival manuscripts and typescripts)

<https://devon-bibliography.blogspot.com/2020/05/devon-photographs-from-1920s.html> (Photographs)

These supplement the listings produced by the Devon Heritage Centre.

A literary walk in and around Exeter

For the sponsored Men's Walk on Saturday 20 March to support Hospiscare a route with a literary theme was followed, perhaps with the walk that Professor Christopher Elrington undertook to promote the *Victoria County History* at the back of my mind. I took photographs as I went round to prove that I actually did it, and was staggered to find that I had raised more than £600 for an eleven mile stroll on a fine spring day. Coverage was extended on the following Monday and later days.

Interesting discoveries were made. At William Pollard's printing establishment in Sowton there was an interesting conversation with an employee with forty years experience in the printing industry who showed us their memorial garden with the wrought-iron gates transported from their Southernhay premises. On the University campus Exeter's Philip Larkin, former Exeter University Librarian and poet Alasdair Paterson, drew attention to a novella by the French writer Georges Perec (1936 – 1982). *Les revenentes* (1972) is a univocalic piece of writing in which the letter "e" is the only vowel used. A brilliant English translation by Ian Monk was published in 1996 as *The Exeter text: jewels, secrets, sex* (also univocalic) in the collection *Three*. It is set in a bizarre univocalic Exeter nobody would recognise, so unfortunately cannot figure in this literary tour, but we must ensure that a copy of the original and translation is available in an Exeter library somewhere.

It eventually became the [Exeter Literary walk](#) and, so large has the project grown, that it has become necessary to split it up:

Walk 1. [The Cathedral Close and the West Quarter](#).

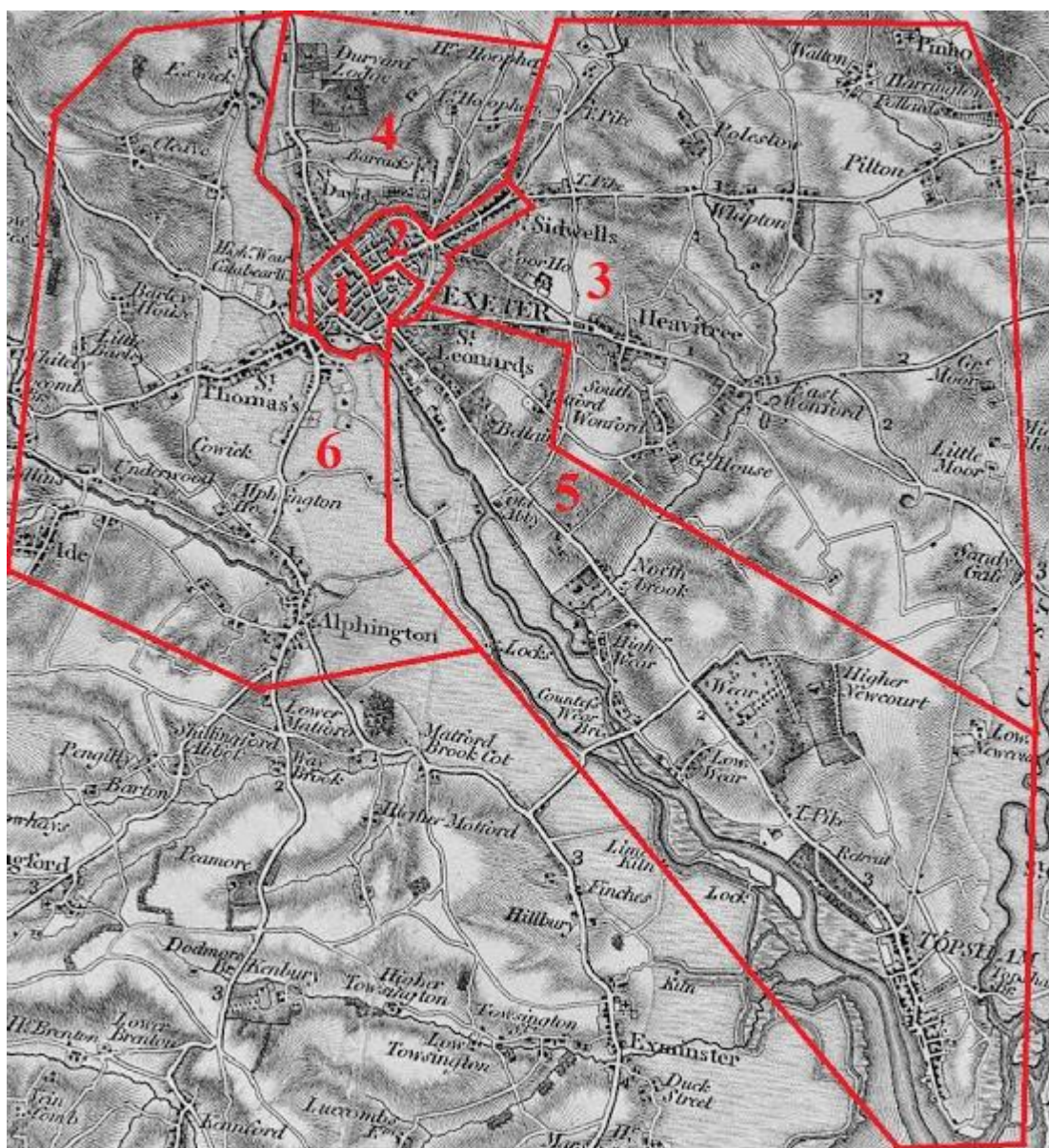
Walk 2. [The High Street and around](#).

Walk 3. [East through Heavitree to Sowton and Pinhoe](#).

Walk 4. [North to the University and Saint David](#).

Walk 5. [South through Saint Leonard to Topsham](#).

Walk 6. [West of the river: Saint Thomas, Exwick, Alphington and Ide](#).



It has been fascinating to discover where Exeter's literary figures lived or worked and it has sometimes proved challenging with streets being renumbered over time. The rooms that the novelist George Gissing rented so that he could write in peace, away from his unstable wife have been located. The elusive Bill West has been run to earth, the writer on military intelligence, who lived by the conspiracy theory and assured me that his phone was being tapped and his mail intercepted. Library staff feared his visits, especially after he published *The strange rise of semi-literate England*, a polemic on the wholesale disposal of books by public and academic libraries. He found nothing to point the finger at in Exeter, but I do wonder what he would have made of what has happened since his death in 1999. It is also interesting to see the parallels in historical bookscapes across the country. The location of the earliest booksellers and printers in St Peter's Churchyard in Exeter mirrors the similar situation in St Paul's Churchyard in London, also a centre for the early book trades, before publishers moved back a block into Paternoster Row, just as they moved across to the High Street in Exeter.

Devon and Cornwall Record Society - the legacy of historians

Todd Gray has just finished masterminding a series of 39 posts on the Facebook page of the [Devon and Cornwall Record Society](#) which celebrates the contribution of "deceased historians, archivists, librarians, curators and archaeologists whose work has had a substantial mark on how we continue to

understand or study Devon and Cornwall". He has now pulled together a document which combines all the contributions, which has just been circulated to the contributors. It is a substantial and varied compilation and it is to be hoped that obvious gaps could be looked for and filled and the dictionary be published.

William Chapple's rediscovered maps of Exeter

William Chapple was one of the historians covered by Todd Gray's DCRS Facebook series and interest in him has been highlighted by Todd Gray's recent discovery of three previously unknown maps of Exeter. They are contained in a volume with the cover title: "Nr 5. Manea curiosa et antiqua : draughts, plans &c" which is held in the Devon Heritage Centre in Exeter (reference 2610M/F3). These maps are much more professional than the efforts of William Birchynshaw, also discovered by Todd Gray and, rather than hearkening back to John Hooker's bird's eye view of 1587, are more in the tradition of John Rocque's finely engraved *Plan de la ville et faubourgs d'Exeter* of 1744. Map three is of greatest interest for bibliographical purposes. On folio 98 of Chapple's scrapbook, it has a pencilled title "A map or plan of the city of Exeter". It appears to be a working proof of a map which has been engraved on a copperplate 280 x 250 mm in size. The map itself is 249 x 221 mm in size and at a scale of approximately 1:7500. There are annotations in pencil and ink and a space is left blank, probably awaiting the text of a key to major streets and buildings.



It is clear that map 3 was intended for publication and map 1 appears to have served as a source for the engraver. Map 2 may have been intended as the basis of a printed map covering a wider area but both projects seem to have been abandoned, probably curtailed by Chapple's sickness and death. The scrapbook also contains some other maps and plans, mostly by Chapple. An untitled map of the country between Chagford and Moretonhampstead was clearly traced from Benjamin Donn's one inch map of 1765 and there is also "A plan of the Devon and Exeter Hospital at Exon" engraved in 1741 and a manuscript plan entitled: "A Plan of the Ground belonging to the Devon and Exeter Hospital" dated June 8 1744. Of interest are also Chapple's surveys with historical notes of ancient monuments in Devon. These include "A Plan of Berry Castle near Queen-Dart in Witheridge [...] Measured Sept 9th 177[3?]. "Berry Castle in the Parish of Woolfardisworthy & Hundred of Witheridge, survey'd Sept 9th 1773 and "A Plan of the Parish Church of Moretonhampstead, Devon; taken 25th & 26th July 1775. What might the other vanished scrapbooks have contained?

A digital bookshelf for Exeter

Continuing the 1920s digital initiative I pulled together an initial virtual bookshelf for members of the Exeter Civic Society which gives a further idea of the range of material that is being unearthed and I have started to search more generally into the treasures available through sites such as the [Internet Archive](#), [Hathi Trust](#) and [Google Books](#). Exeter is also well represented in Leicester's [Historical directories](#) project, partly because I sat on the steering group. Links to the digital versions will be gradually added to the *Devon bibliography*.

Devon bibliography, the next step

I have been frustrated by the inability to locate a database system to run the entire Devon bibliography. What is required is something similar to JISC discovery or the USTC but with a simpler interface for adding and amending data as, at a local level, it will be necessary to rely on unqualified and volunteer participants across the county. As an interim I have turned the entire bibliography on its head to produce the [Devon Communities Bibliography](#), which lists many of the records at a community level. It is really an expansion of *Abbots Bickington to Zeal Monachorum : a handlist of parish histories compiled on the occasion of the centenary of parish councils*, produced by the Westcountry Studies Library in 1994. It is at the community level that the gaps will become most evident, as it is local researchers, organisations, libraries, museums and community archives that will be aware of what has been published on their patch. London, Taunton, or even Exeter is too remote to keep a track of what is happening across the more than 400 parishes and towns across one of the UK's largest counties.

Much of the community bibliography is still in embryo but the largest chunk has been bitten off with the [Exeter bibliography](#). This is so large that it runs to a number of pages:

Books: Subjects [A-B](#), [C](#), [D-F](#), [G-L](#), [M-O](#), [P-Q](#), [R-S](#), [T-Z](#).

Articles: Subjects [A-D](#), [E-M](#), [N-Z](#).

Manuscripts: chronological [325 BCE-1540](#), [1540 to date](#).

Maps [1587-date](#), [Ordnance survey 1876-1997](#).

Exeter Diocese: [Books](#).

Still to be added for Exeter are::

Newspapers 1704 to date

Periodical titles 1760 to date

Topographical prints 1660-1870

Photographs (a selection of publishers with numbered negative sequences) 1860-1960

Exeter city of literature

The project has recently appointed Anna Cohn Orchard as the inaugural Director. She comes from a background rich in literature, having lived in Pennsylvania, Sydney and New York and worked on literature based projects in each place. The [website](#) has also developed rapidly, and there is now a link to the Exeter Working Papers website in the [Literary Devon](#) section. It will be necessary to develop this so that it homes in better on the relevant sections, as the EWP website is international in coverage and more relevant material is with the *Devon bibliography*.

Two millennia of Devon's written heritage

There will be an illustrated zoom presentation on this topic to the Friends of Exeter Museum and Art Gallery on 21 July. Taking as its starting point two alphabets written in Exeter two millennia apart, it will track literacy in Exeter across the centuries, revealing the changing forms in which the written word reached people in Exeter from coins through graffiti, monumental inscriptions, scrolls, codices, illuminated manuscripts, printed books, broadside ballads, newspapers, periodicals, chapbooks and maps, and then into the digital world of the internet and social media. It hopes to show that there is a

continuity running through all these developments. The internet has not killed the book, just as the printed book did not kill the manuscript.

Ian Maxted

Other News Items

From Devon History Society

Devon in the 1920s Project Update

I was pleased to see some FoDA members at the official launch of the project hosted by Devon History Society as a Zoom event on April 24th. If it lacked the opportunity for social interaction that the live launch planned and enforcedly cancelled last year would have had, the upside was that so many people were able to join in. Dr Stefan Goebel of the University of Kent's Centre for War Memory gave the keynote address, focusing on the Legacy of the First World War and vignettes of Devon in the 1920s showed the potential fields of research.

The South West Heritage Trust have now prepared guides to the sources for 1920s project work held in the Devon Heritage Centre and West Country Studies Library which will be of great assistance to researchers. Ian Maxted of the Devon Bibliography had prepared a presentation illustrating publications from Devon in the 1920s relevant to the project and available on-line. You may be interested in his presentation, now accessible at <https://devon-bibliography.blogspot.com/2021/04/devon-in-1920-on-line-resources.html>.

A number of people came forward after the event to sign up to undertake research, but there's still scope for more to join in. We're still looking for more family histories – if you know someone with family in the county in the 1920s, please put me in touch with them. We're also interested in contributions to our themes (see Figure 1). If you can contribute to any of these either by undertaking research personally or alerting me to what's already been published, please do so.

Dr Julia Neville, Devon in the 1920s Project Manager
j.f.neville@btinternet.com

Devon in the 1920s - Key Themes for research

Theme	Areas to explore include
Legacy of the First World War	Impact of loss, injury and illness; memorialization
Growing Up	Changes in education; experience of home and community life; play
Rural Life	Community changes; farming; landowners and estates
Progress and Technology	Transport and infrastructure; new homes and domestic technology

Tourism and Leisure	Increasing tourist activity; promotion of tourism; active and passive leisure pursuits

‘The Charabanc Craze (Ipplepen)’, courtesy of Devon Rural Archive



From Devon Family History Society



**Mayflower International Genealogical Conference
Saturday 28th August 2021**

The show must go on!

This conference was postponed from August 2020 to August 2021.

It was hoped that by that date, the Covid pandemic would be under control.

Although we all should have had our vaccinations by August, people may still be extremely cautious about attending a meeting with a number of "strangers".

I am writing this in March. Who knows what will happen in the next 5 months?

Personally, I don't want to risk organising an event in a public space.

After discussion with Devon FHS colleagues, it has been decided to hold this event online, via Zoom.

I am pleased to report that all of our speakers have agreed to give their presentations online.

Members who have already booked will be contacted with the option to transfer their booking or receive a refund.

I hope that many of you will decide to join us on 28th August 2021.

A full programme with the information on how to join, plus the order and times of presentations, will be circulated by email in early August. Please add conference@devonfhs.org.uk to your address book and check your Spam folder.

Due to copyright issues, the Conference presentations will not be recorded. They will only be available "live" on the day.

I am sorry that the revised arrangements prevent the attendance of the small number of members without online access, however, it will open up the event to a large number of members who are unable to make the journey to Plymouth.

I started planning this Conference over three years ago, so I hope that you will be able to support this long-awaited event!

Maureen Selley – Mayflower Conference Organiser

Email: conference@devonfhs.org.uk

**Join us in 2021 to commemorate the sailing of
the Mayflower from Plymouth in September 1620.**

Our Online Day Conference will be held on 28 August 2021.

Times of presentations will be advised when joining details are emailed in August. These will be spread across the day, with breaks between each presentation. Some will be in the early evening.

Swords and Spindles

Coffers, Clysters, Comfrey and Coifs: Life Beyond the Mayflower

A lively, dramatic presentation from the historical interpreters, Swords and Spindles. Find out what life would have been for those who stayed behind after the Mayflower set sail.

Jim Boulden, TV journalist

American Blue Bloods: Why our families were desperate to find Mayflower Kin

From the time of the mid-Victorians, families like mine wanted to be linked to the Founding Fathers and beyond. Thankfully, my family assumed we were descended from Myles Standish. Only we weren't.

Debbie Kennett, genealogist and author

The genetic genealogy revolution:

How DNA testing is transforming family history research

DNA testing is a powerful tool for the family historian. Not only can it help to break through brick walls but it can also produce surprises. Find out how the different tests work and hear about some of the fascinating stories uncovered with the help of DNA.

Jo Loosemore, curator of Mayflower 400: Legend and Legacy

The making of Mayflower exhibitions for The Box, Plymouth

With objects, images and ideas from museums, libraries and archives across the UK, US and The Netherlands, find out how local, national and international partnerships have changed perceptions of the ship, its passengers and an Atlantic journey made 400 years ago.

Cor de Graaf MA, Deputy Director Leiden Heritage

On the move

In the 16th and 17th centuries large groups of people were moving to other countries for different reasons. People from Flanders and Walloons moved to Norwich, people from England went to Leiden and groups of people went from Leiden to the New World.

Dr Nick Barratt - Director, Learner and Discovery Services, The Open University
When Harry met Dotty: in search of the Fullers

The ultimate brick wall - the chance discovery in 2018 of a birth record in Belgium, culminated in the revelation that our family was descended from the Mayflower Fuller family. Or were they? This paper delves into the life and secrets of Harry Victor Fuller, a chemistry professor from Minneapolis, whose ancestors sailed to America from Plymouth in 1620.

Phil Revell - writer & journalist

Shropshire's Mayflower Children

Born in Shropshire, seized from their mother, dispatched across the Atlantic – the story of Katherine More and the Mayflower Children.

**Mayflower International Genealogical Conference
Saturday 28th August 2021
to be held online via Zoom**

The preferred way of booking is via the Society's Secure Online Shop:

<http://www.devonfhs.org.uk/shop/mayflower.php>

however, if you wish, you can post this form to arrive *before* 10th August 2021 to:
DFHS Conference, Windyridge, Plymouth Road, Horrabridge, Yelverton, Devon PL20 7RL

Conference £5.00	Please reserve online place(s) at the Mayflower International Genealogical Conference
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I enclose a cheque, number..... for £.....made payable to Devon FHS.

If you require booking confirmation, please enclose a stamped SAE or give your email.

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY ESPECIALLY YOUR EMAIL

Title	Initials	Surname	Contact email

Contact Address

.....

.....Postcode

Telephone

Please note, your information will only be held by Devon FHS and used in connection with the Conference.

A detailed programme giving times of presentations and information for attending via Zoom will be emailed to you in early August. Please add conference@devonfhs.org.uk to your address book and check your Spam folder.

Please email any queries to conference@devonfhs.org.uk

Thanks to the generosity of grants from the Mayflower 400 Community Sparks Fund, Plymouth Octopus Project, Devon FHS and the Lady Neville Charity, we are able to keep the fee to just £5, which for a whole day of lectures has to give great value for money.

Maureen Selley – Devon Family History Society

Accessions & Reports from Archives around Devon

Devon Heritage Centre

DEVON HERITAGE CENTRE EXETER ACCESSIONS 11 SEPTEMBER 2020 –30 APRIL 2021

Accession no.	Coll. ref.	Title of collection	Description of contents	Date Range	Date of deposit	Extent
D2020/112	ZAY K	Teignmouth Harbour Commission	Plan and section, proposed groyn [fragile condition]	1899	11-09-2020	1 plan
D2020/113	ZAYL	Bodley Brothers and Co. Limited, Exeter	Black and white photographs, Bodley's foundry & engineering works; billhead	mid-20 th century	14-09-2020	23 photos, 1 document
D2020/114	ZAY M	World War II Hospital Appeals	Leaflets publicising food appeal by RD & E Hospital during WW 2; inventory, Coplestone House, Coplestone	1939-1943	14-09-2020	2 items
D2020/115	ZAY N	Devon Images	Three photographs and negatives of items from collections in DHC and NDRO	20th century	18-09-2020	1 file
D2020/116	ZAY O	South West England Photographs	Album, black and white photographs, Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Gloucestershire	c.1920s	18-09-2020	1 volume
D2020/117	ZAYP	Dartmouth Borough	Two documents relating to Dartmouth: letter re. arrest of a priest, 5 April 1619; part of declaration submitted	17th century	23-09-2020	2 documents

			for lawsuit, Whitticke vs. Babb, possession of property			
D2020/118	ZAY Q	Ebford Barton, Clyst St. George	Abstracts of title, conveyances, epitome of title and related papers, Ebford Barton	1949-1985	28-09-2020	1 bundle (11 documents)
D2020/119	DBD	Devon Birds	Records of Devon Birdwatching and Preservation Society incl. photographs, illustrations, research data.	c. 1929-c. 2016	02-10-2020	10 boxes (20 archive boxes)
D2020/120	GRE	Greeves Collection	Plans, Arsenic Mine Gooseford, South Tawton, 1909; letters, Derek G. Broughton - John Somers Cocks re. Dartmoor mining history, 1965-1966; photocopies, deeds Velwell Road, Exeter 1922-1949	1908-c. 1966	09-10-2020	1 roll, 2 files
D2020/121	ZAYR	Railway History	Photocopy article, South Western Circular volume 18, no. 8, October 2020, re: level crossing accidents, Pinhoe Station, 1893.	2020	08-10-2020	1 file
D2020/122	ZAYS	Devon Deeds and Documents	Property in Ashburton and Ilington	1628-1835	13-10-2020	2 bundles
D2020/123	ZAYT	Mount St. Mary Convent School, Exeter	Four panoramic photographs of pupils and teachers	1949-1956	21-10-2020	4 items
D2020/124	ILB	Ilbert Family	Ilbert family letters - branch of the Ilbert family of West Alvington, Devon	c.1840-c.1924	19-10-2020	2 folders, 1 packet
D2020/125	ZAY U	Devon Sale Catalogues	Sales particulars, properties in Devon parishes	late 20th - early 21st century	23-10-2020	1 bundle

D2020/126	6870A	Halberton Parish Council	Plans showing proposed site, new burial ground; and road bypass (not built)	1961	28-10-2020	3 plans
D2020/127	ZAY V	Halberton Newsletters	Parish newsletter and Business Directory, Edition 148, April-May 2020	2020	26-10-2020	2 volumes
D2020/128	2370C	Berry Pomeroy Parochial School	Managers' minute books. Became School Governors' minutes from November 1985.	1903-1990	30-10-2020	2 volumes
D2020/129	ZAY W	Hole Family	Probate of will of Nicholas Hole, Lieutenant, H. M. sloop 'Amaranthe'	1803	27-10-2020	1 document
D2020/130	5954 M	Totnes Area Tithe Project	Working files, transcription of Totnes area tithe maps, showing field numbers and roads.	21st century	27-10-2020	Digital records
D2020/131	PA	South West Police Heritage Trust	Initial deposit - photographs and negatives - more to follow		03-11-2020	6 boxes
D2020/132	ZAY X	Codner of Abbotskerswell	Probate of will, John Codner gent. of Abbotskerswell	1798-1800	04-11-2020	1 document
D2020/133	ZAY Y	Conscientious Objectors of World War II	Databases of Conscientious Objectors - Exeter Plymouth, Torquay & Spiceland C.O. Training Centre, Devon	2020	06-11-2020	1 Excel file 4 Word document files
D2020/134	ZAYZ	Elm Grove Road, Topsham	Deeds and documents relating to plot of land on which Bridge Hill Garth, Topsham was built in 1885 for occupation by E. H. Harbottle, Diocesan Architect (demolished in 1988).	20th century	12-11-2020	1 bundle

D2020/135	4749 M	Walrond Family of Bradfield, Uffculme	Account book of William Walrond of Bradfield.	c.1650- c.1660	18-11-2020	1 volume
D2020/136	6683 M	Lambert Family	Eighth additional deposit - miscellaneous political and family papers of George Lambert, M.P. and the Lambert family	1844-1958	20-11-2020	2 files
D2020/137	ZAZA	Tatham Family	Family history book including family's wartime experiences and memoir by author, childhood to the covid-19 pandemic of 2020	2020	02-12-2020	1 volume, 1 disc
D2020/138	ZAM R	Methodist Circuit Preaching Plans	Additional deposit of circuit plans	20th century	02-12-2020	1 file
D2020/139	ZAY U	Devon Sale Catalogues	Additional deposit of sale particulars and promotional leaflet	2010-2020	03-12-2020	1 file
D2020/140	ZAZB	Cox of Whipton, Exeter	Detailed household accounts book	1975-2005	08-12-2020	1 volume
D2020/141	ZAZC	Crash Box and Classic Car Club of Devon	Account papers, other financial records, some minutes and reports	1975-2011	11-12-2020	4 archive boxes
D2020/14 2	CAN	Canns of Exeter	Records of Canns of Exeter Ltd., tailors and outfitters, formerly Cann Bros. (Exeter and Taunton) Ltd., with branches in Exeter, Taunton, Seaton, Teignmouth incl. photographs	1900-2004	11-12-2020	c. 12 archive boxes

D2021/1	ZAZD	Devon Deeds	Three miscellaneous deeds, Ilsington, Manor of Bovey Tracey & Denbury.	1832-1859	17-12-2020	3 documents
D2021/2	ZAZE	Exeter Street Plan	Official street plan of Exeter, incl. plans, occupants of Marsh	undated (c. 1960)	16-12-2020	1 document

			Barton and Pinhoe Trading Estates.			
D2021/3	7887B	Devon Pier Surveys	Photographic negatives, Pier/Jetty, Ilfracombe - survey by Christiani and Nielsen of Copenhagen and London	1970	19-01-2021	1 strip of 4 negatives
D2021/4	ZAZF	Luppitt Manor Court Leet	Photograph, members of Luppitt Manor court leet	1937	19-01-2021	1 photograph
D2021/5	ZAZG	Barton, St. Marychurch	Deed, piece of garden at Barton, Torquay St. Marychurch	1835	26-01-2021	1 document
D2021/6	ZAZH	Dartmouth and Torbay Railway	Research paper, construction of the Dartmouth and Torbay Railway	1975	22-01-2021	1 file
D2021/7	ZAZI	14 Hamlin Lane, Exeter	Deeds and papers	1925-1962	08-02-2021	1 bundle
D2021/8	COV	Covid-19 Collection	Assorted printed and published material: coronavirus pandemic in England, particularly in Devon.	2020-2021	22-02-2021	1 bundle
D2021/9	ZAEC	'Great Trees of East Devon' Project	Additional records.	2005-2009	07-01-2021	6 documents
D2021/10	4417A	St Thomas Urban District Council	Drainage map, Exeter St Thomas, showing current and proposed sewers, watercourses	1850	Former deposit of 1977, re-accessioned	1 large map
D2021/11	ZAZJ	Assorted Maps	O.S. Map of Exmoor	1902	Former deposit re-accessioned	1 map
D2021/12	ZAZJ	Assorted Maps	O.S. Map, Bradninch, St Thomas, St Leonard and part of Alphington	1902	Former deposit re-accessioned	1 map
D2021/13	DRP	Devon Remembers First World War Collection	Dr. Kent Fedorowich, 'The "Sawdust Fusiliers": The Canadian Forestry Corps in	2020	23-02-2021	1 digital document [pdf file]; 1 volume

			Devon, 1916-1919', Histoire Sociale/Social History, 53, 109, Nov. 1920, pp. 519- 544. Hard copy, Histoire Sociale/Social History, 53, 109, Nov. 1920.			
D2021/1 4	ZAPG	St. David's Players	Photographs, 'Princess Ida', 2001; 'Ruddigore', 2002.	2001-2002	03-03-2021	12 photographs
D2021/1 5	ZAZK	Devon Postcards	Three postcards, Sidmouth, Ilfracombe and Porlock Hill.	1940s	05-03-2021	3 items
D2021/1 6	ZAZL	Great Western Railway	Ledger, leases and land agreements, Exeter to Plymouth Railway, 1864, and the extended South West rail network; deeds, land agreements and leases, 19th -20th century	19th - 20th century	25-03-2021	1 volume, c. 2 boxes
D2021/1 7	ZAZM	Grey Cars, Torquay	Postcard photograph of charabanc, by Vickery Bros., Paignton	c.1924- 1925	29-03-2021	1 item
D2021/1 8	ZAZN	Stoke Fleming Congregation al Chapel	Treasurer's accounts, "Women's Bright Hours" records; receipts; copy letter re: chapel's sale, 1989.	1920s- 2021	30-03-2021	0.5 box
D2021/1 9	COV	Covid-19 Collection	Additional deposit: "Lockdown Scribblings" booklet	2021	30-03-2021	1 booklet
D2021/2 0	ZAZO	East Budleigh Sale Poster	Sale poster, Balstone [Batstone] Lodge, East Budleigh.	1875	16-02-2021	1 document
D2021/2 1	3724G	NADFAS	Record of church furnishings, Hacombe St Blaise parish.	2021	31-01-2021	1 USB stick
D2021/2 2	ZAZP	Manor of Bishops Nympton	Three maps, manor for sale by Mr. W.A. Bowler, incl.	1871	16-02-2021	3 maps

			enlarged plan of Bishops Nympton village			
D2021/2 3	ZAZQ	Reverend Ford Collection	Sermons and notes on sermons, Reverend William Lionel Joyce Ford, summary of his life and career.	c.1929- c.1954	08-04-2021	1 file
D2021/2 4	ZAZR	Hill Farm, Kenn	Photographs of the farmhouse, Hill Farm near Clapham, Kenn.	early 20th century	12-04-2021	4 items
D2021/2 5	PAS	Dick Passmore Collection	Photographs of Exeter and area, buildings prior to, during or after re-development, existing buildings and other historic structures; Exeter Local History Society newsletters nos. 1-90, 2002-2017	20th century - 21st century	12-04-2021	2 large files photographs , 1 Lever Arch binder
D2021/2 6	ZAZS	Harold Wallis Collection	Photographs, negatives and glass slides of Devon locations	c.1912- c.1938	12-04-2021	0.5 box
D2021/2 7	ZAZT	M5 Motorway Construction	Album, M5 from Poltimore to Sandy Gate, Exeter: photographs and news cuttings.	1972-1975	13-04-2021	1 volume
D2021/2 8	4790Z	Acts of Parliament	Acts of Parliament relating to Plymouth	1802-1824	13-04-2021	4 documents
D2021/2 9	ZAZU	Diocese of Exeter: Patrons	"King's Book: 18th - early 19 th century manuscript list, patrons & properties in the Bishopric of Exeter, with values.	18th-19th century	12-04-2021	1 volume
D2021/3 0	ZAZV	Day Family of North Tawton	Family history research, including family trees, narrative family histories	21st century	14-04-2021	0.5 box
D2021/3 1	ZAZW	Devon Postcards	Nine postcards of Devon scenes	1928-1944	15-04-2021	9 items
D2021/3 2	ZAZX	Piper Family, Bible Christians	Correspondence, local Bible Christian preachers	1862-1940	15-04-2021	1 file

D2021/3 3	ZANR	Teignmouth Urban District Council	Water rates books; ledgers, housing, loans and mortgages	1923-1927	19-04-2021	13 large volumes
D2021/3 4	MEL	Hugh Meller Collection	Sale catalogues, photographs, negatives, re: research into historic houses in Devon.	20th-21st century	19-04-2021	c.6 boxes
D2021/3 5	5954M	Totnes Area Tithe Project	Working files, transcription of Totnes area tithe maps, showing field numbers and roads.	21st century	19-04-2021	1 CD disc
D2021/3 6	800A	Willand Parish Council	Minutes, Willand Parish Council, 2012-2019, Diamond Jubilee celebration booklet, 2012.	2012-2019	23-04-2021	2 large files
D2021/3 7	7634B	Gilbert Stephens Solicitors, Sidmouth	Deeds and papers, properties in Sidmouth and elsewhere	1794-1988	26-04-2021	c.3 boxes
D2021/3 8	7848C	Stoke Canon Primary School	Minutes, School Managers, Governors, committee meetings	1973-2017	26-04-2021	8 files

Kindly supplied by Jan Wood, Devon Heritage Centre

North Devon Record Office

Accessions 1 November 2020 to 30 April 2021

ND/2020/39	1742A	Goodleigh parish: United Church Council minutes and agenda, electoral roll, list of PCC members and miscellaneous items	1989-2015	25/09/2020	1 bundle
ND/2020/40	B955	Appledore Book Festival programme	2020	30/07/2020	1 booklet
ND/2020/41	B144	Barnstaple Town Council minutes	1910-2004	04/11/2020	7 boxes
ND/2020/42	B1427	Boyles of Appledore, General Merchant & Grocer, letter book	1963-1968	04/11/2020	1 volume

ND/2020/43	3064A	Instow parish: Minutes of meetings of the Coronation Celebrations Committee	1952-1953	04/11/2020	1 volume
ND/2020/44	B1428	Abstract of Title to Stag & Hounds Close, Bideford	1865	10/12/2020	1 file
ND/2020/45	B1429	Tamlyn family of Appledore, title deeds	1810-1888	11/12/2020	1 bundle
ND/2021/01	1721A	Goodleigh Parish: The Communion and Other Services, presented to the parish by Sir Henry Bouchier Wrey, 1882; plus miscellaneous papers	19 th -20 th cent.	11/12/2020	1 volume, 1 bundle
ND/2021/02	3064A	Photograph and copy of Christmas Draw at Instow	1958	18/01/2021	2 photographs
ND/2021/03	B1430	Title deeds for property at Townsend, South Molton, with a probate of the will of John Rowcliffe of South Molton, 1844	1786-1875	14/04/2021	1 bundle
ND/2021/04	1742A	Goodleigh Parish: Miscellaneous documents	2016	16/04/2021	1 bundle
ND/2021/05	B1432	Bideford, Northam and Torridge Councils: Papers re wartime evacuees, plans and agreements re road alterations, development proposals, minutes of committees and miscellaneous papers	1914-2021	14/04/2021	1 box
ND/2021/06	BBT	Bideford Bridge Trust: Miscellaneous papers	20 th cent.	14/04/2021	2 boxes
ND/2021/07	B1433	Loosemore Builders, Barnstaple: Wages books, 1948-1961; cash book, 1931-1946	1931-1961	27/04/2021	1 box
ND/2021/08	B1431	Bideford Gas Company: volumes indicating location of gas mains etc.	1884-1983	14/04/2021	2 volumes

Gary Knaggs, North Devon Heritage Officer, North Devon Record Office

Plymouth Archives at The Box

Plymouth Archives @ The Box, Plymouth Update for FoDA May 2021

The Box, Plymouth opened on 29 September 2020 after a delay due to the global pandemic. Six weeks later, the doors had to shut again. At the time, we made the decision not to restart the research element of the business until the New Year. Little did we know that at the end of December a further lockdown was going to ensue and, as we sit under Museum guidelines in the Government roadmap, our re-opening date is not until 17 May 2021. As a result, we are aware there will be increased demand for access to archives and we are preparing for that. All visitors who had their appointments cancelled have been contacted and re-booked as appropriate. We have also made special dispensation

for professional researchers, allowing them to book more slots than we would normally accommodate as we are conscious the pandemic has had an impact on their businesses too.

In terms of the management of The Box, there has been a degree of change in the last few months. The CEO is retiring at the end of August and a new CEO has been interviewed and has accepted the post. They will start in the early autumn. Nicola Moyle, Head of Heritage Art and Film and a member of staff for over 25 years has now left and myself and my colleague Chloe Hughes are picking up the appropriate elements of her role in interim. We wish her all the best for the future; she has helped to give us a building and a service we are truly proud of.

Funding-wise we have applied for all recovery grant funding to which we were entitled, so 2021-2022 is encouraging in terms of finances. However, we are yet to operate at full throttle and, as a result, it is very difficult to plan beyond this year. We are obviously opening with social distancing in place and therefore only a small proportion of the possible footfall we can accommodate and with that will be reduced commercial income. From 21 June hopefully the future will be brighter for all of us and we are looking forward to an exciting summer of events and activities in person again. Many of the Mayflower400 events in 2020 were postponed for instance and several of these will now take place this year. A celebratory event will take place on Plymouth Hoe on Sunday 11 July which is ticketed but free to attend. Tickets are available through

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mayflower-400-four-nations-ceremony-tickets-153192383543>. We have also taken the opportunity to extend the onsite *Mayflower 400: Legend and Legacy* exhibition (which is a predominantly archive-based show) until the end of this year.

Excitingly we have flown over the Second Peirce Patent whilst we have been closed and this will be on display in the UK for the first time in 400 years from 18 May.

Our Active Archives gallery has also seen a refresh in the closed period and amongst other things we will be showing further material relating to the Plymouth Blitz – in reflection of this being the 80th year of commemoration. In our Media Lab gallery we also have two new chapters of moving image archive content, including again one relating to the Plymouth Blitz. We have also developed content in the closed period to acknowledge the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh who was Patron of the Friends of Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery for many years.

Due to Government guidance, any books or documents viewed in Active Archives and the Cottonian Research Room will need to be quarantined for 72 hours after use but we are hoping to review that from 21 June onwards. We are still advising customers BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) is in operation. All catalogues and digital resources are available for free as long as people are onsite and signed into The Box's Wi-Fi. If this is not possible we do have some laptops available for onsite use but these should be treated as a last resort.

Any research visitors must book in advance and should email collections@plymouth.gov.uk. More information can be found here: <https://www.theboxplymouth.com/permanent-galleries/the-cottonian-research-room>.

Louisa Blight
Collections Manager at The Box, Plymouth

University of Exeter Library

Website says the Library is open for essential use only with reduced hours.

Exeter Cathedral Library & Archives

After almost a year focusing on book cleaning, cataloguing, digitisation and other behind-the-scenes work, the Cathedral Library & Archives is getting ready to welcome researchers and volunteers back from 17th May, and planning various public exhibitions and events. The first event will be a celebration of Love Your Burial Ground Week (5-13th June) in partnership with the Devon & Exeter Institution (<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/get-involved/love-your-burial-ground-week/>).

As we reopen to the public, it will be as a newly reconstituted department. The Library & Archives, Education and Heritage are joining together in a new department, with some familiar faces and some new ones. Peter Thomas, the Cathedral Librarian retired at the end of 2020, having been in post for 43 years. Luckily he won't be a stranger and will still come in from time-to-time. Emma Laws, Assistant Librarian, completed her temporary contract at the Cathedral but has returned to her original voluntary role in the Library working on improving the catalogue for the medical collections. Ann Barwood, Canon Librarian, is moving to a new role in the administration of the Cathedral, having managed the service since 2003. Ellie Jones will continue as Cathedral Archivist working closely with Lisa Gordon as Head of Education. Two new team members are expected to start in May/June 2021. We look forward to reporting to FoDA members on these exciting new developments in future issues of the newsletter!

Ellie Jones, Cathedral Archivist

Devon & Exeter Institution

Website says Step 3 reopening plan to be implemented no earlier than 18 May.

Our Region Revealed: the Devon and Exeter Institution's prints and drawings collection

Founded in 1813, the Devon and Exeter Institution is a thriving independent library and educational charity in the heart of Exeter with a diverse membership of all ages. The founders resolved to establish an Institution to promote 'the general diffusion of Science, Literature and the Arts; and for illustrating the Natural and Civil History of the County of Devon, and the History of the City of Exeter'. However, they had a wider vision for the Institution: it was to be a library, a museum and an intellectual centre for debate and scientific enquiry. Indeed, the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM), which was founded in the 1860s, has its origins in the Devon and Exeter Institution.

Over the past four years, and due to an initial investment from Historic England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Institution has widened its reach and begun to explore its potential as a provider of excellent public programming and learning and engagement activities for all ages and abilities. The Institution's historic library and West Country studies collection is available to individual and joint members, Exeter University staff and students, accompanied Junior members, temporary members (daily or weekly) and institutional members, including local libraries, museums and heritage organisations. The Institution is a vibrant community and much of its work is facilitated by an enthusiastic volunteer team, drawn from its membership. People at all ages and stages describe the Institution as a unique space for learning and research, for well-being and for connecting with others.

At the heart of the Devon and Exeter Institution is a fine historic book collection which underpins its research and learning and engagement programmes. The collection reveals the intellectual, political and cultural interests of the Institution's earliest members and benefactors, from natural history, biology and zoology to history, travel and exploration, music, art and architecture, theology, mathematics, science and engineering. Westcountry newspapers and periodicals were collected from the outset, now a rich resource for local studies. As well as books, the Institution also built up a miscellaneous but highly significant collection of prints and drawings, maps, photographs and printed

ephemera, reflecting the founders' and subsequent members' interests in the art and topography of the South West.

While the Library's books were eventually catalogued on the University of Exeter's library management system, the prints, drawings and paintings remained, until recently, unsorted, uncatalogued and, ultimately, unknown. With initial funding from the Pilgrim Trust in 2019, and with subsequent funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2020, the Institution set in place operations and systems to undertake a project to preserve and digitise the collection. With support from the Devon Heritage Centre, a team of volunteers set to work cleaning and sorting the artworks and the Institution launched its online public access catalogue with an initial batch of about 270 drawings and 7 Edward Ashworth sketchbooks digitised by TownsWeb Archiving. Staff have discovered some fascinating items, including a beautiful collection of engraved trade cards and many pencil, pen and ink and watercolour drawings of Devon buildings and landscapes. The most striking items, including several stained-glass designs from the Exeter Diocesan Architectural Society collection, feature in the Institution's new range of merchandise:
<https://devonandexeterinstitution.org/introducing-our-new-merchandise/>

The Covid-19 pandemic has escalated the need for online access to collections. While the Institution has had to close during three national lockdowns, staff have been able to use digitised artworks creatively to divert people isolating at home with online jigsaw puzzles, research call-outs and social media posts. However, there is still a long way to go until the entire collection is rehoused, catalogued and digitised and can be embedded in the Institution's learning and engagement programme.

With a further grant from FODA, the Institution has purchased a graphic arts A3 scanner so that over the next three years fragile artworks can be scanned on site. The Institution is very grateful to FODA for their continuing generous support of the project. If you would like to find out more or are thinking of undertaking a similar project you can email the Institution at:

library@devonandexeterinstitution.org

Website: www.devonandexeterinstitution.org/

Collections Explorer: <https://collectionsexplorer.devonandexeterinstitution.org/>

Emma Laws, Director of Collections and Research
Devon and Exeter Institution

Brixham Heritage Museum

The Museum will be open again at half term.

John Kennar, Chair, Brixham Heritage Museum

Torquay Museum

Website says the Museum will be reopening 17 May.

Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life

Planning to reopen Thursday 20 May and will be open Thursday, Friday, Saturday 11-4 with priority to pre-booked tickets.

Totnes Archives

Currently closed due to the virus, but the website has some very interesting information about recent acquisitions.

Devon Rural Archive

DRA Update April 2021

Admission to the Archive is still by appointment only and numbers are strictly limited. We are currently unable to offer open-shelf access to our resources and instead select relevant material for each visitor ahead of their arrival, based on a telephone consultation at the time of booking. In doing so we are able to keep track of items that have been used and ensure they are available (and not quarantined) when they are next required. Bookings are high with roughly a two week wait for appointments.

At the end of 2020 we invested some time in updating our branding both in the building and online and are particularly proud of our new streamlined website. Please do take a look at what the Archive has to offer www.devonruralarchive.com.

It is just over twelve months since we had to suspend our events programme, and so until we can meet in person again, we have decided to embrace the virtual world and revive our programme via Zoom. Our first talk was given by Martin Read and explored Plymouth in 1620, when the Mayflower put down its anchor in the Cattewater ahead of its journey across the Atlantic. Participants joined us from across the county and from farther afield, including Norfolk, Herefordshire and Durham. Dr Todd Gray will give our next Zoom talk, *Finding the Thread: the last hurrah of the Devon Cloth Industry*, on Thursday 27th May 2021 at 6pm. If you would like to be kept up to date with our work, events and exhibitions you can sign up to our free monthly e-newsletter through our website.

The Archive is open to the public on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 11am and 3pm (other than Bank Holidays). There is no charge for using the resources, but booking is essential. For more information or to book an appointment please call 01548 830832.

Abi Gray, Curator and Resident Archaeologist
Devon Rural Archive, Shilstone, Modbury, Devon PL21 0TW. 01548 830832

Contributions to future Newsletters

If you would like to contribute an article to the Newsletter, you would be most welcome. Please do get in touch with the Newsletter editor Sue Jackson via e-mail: sue.pete.jackson@gmail.com

Likewise, if you have any comments to make, please contact me.

Sue Jackson
FoDA Newsletter Editor