

18 March 2023

## Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter

### 1. News

#### a) Colyton's preparations for celebrating the Coronation in 1953



Planning has just begun for community events here in Colyton to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III at the beginning of May 2023.

Seventy years ago, planning for our late Queen's Coronation went on throughout 1952 and 1953. The Colyton Chamber of Feoffees' Minute books for those years record how their ideas developed. At the Chamber's April 1952 monthly meeting the Feoffees agreed not to take any more bookings for the Town Hall until it was known what Colyton's programme of events to mark and celebrate the Coronation would be. Initially it would appear that planning for the celebrations was a little slow to get off the ground in Colyton. At the 11 November 1952 Chamber meeting it was agreed to defer "*further consideration until after the Parish Meeting*" although the Chamber did resolve not to hold a Banquet in 1953. Presumably to ensure all available community resources were able to focus on planning events for the Coronation celebration. In December Mr E Hooper was appointed as the Feoffees' representative on the town's Coronation Committee. One of the first steps the Feoffees took was to use their good offices to try and persuade the former town band to regroup for Coronation year. The minutes of the Chamber meeting on 9 September 1952 record that the Feoffees resolved "*that an effort be made to persuade the Bandsmen to sink their differences and organise a band for Coronation year.*"

A special meeting was arranged on 29 October 1952 with two former band members Messrs Facey and Dunn to discuss reconstitution of the Colyton Band which was agreed. This led to a larger meeting on 12 November which formally agreed the reconstitution of the Colyton Silver Band and the establishment of a committee to manage it! An offer was made to train musicians in the theory of music and a Bandmaster was appointed. A vote of thanks was recorded to the Feoffees.

Among the key issues which the Feoffees considered during 1952 was an appropriate and lasting gift they could provide for the town to mark the Coronation?

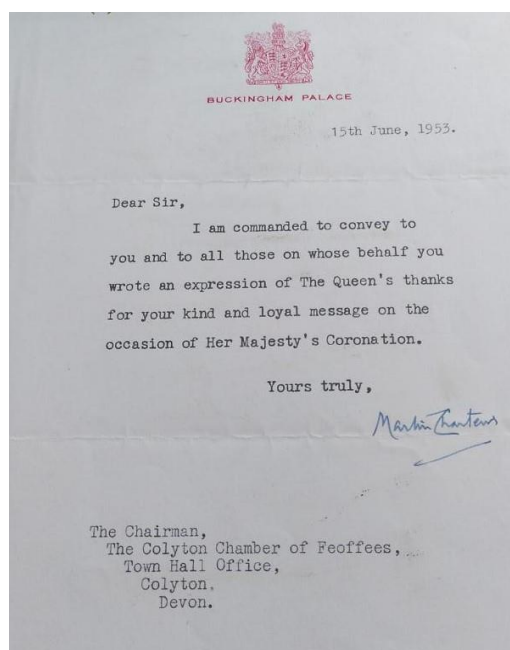
The idea of commissioning a coat of arms came from Mr Reg White and at the Chamber meeting on 9 December Mr White moved "*as a memorial to the Coronation that the Chamber present the Town with a Coat of Arms.*" This was agreed and efforts were set in motion to raise sufficient funds for the design and preparation of the Coat of Arms. The target was achieved by May the following year and the minutes of the 12 May 1953 Chamber meeting recorded the creation of a sub committee "*to consider designs for a Coat of Arms*". (For further information about the design see our FB post from 4 May 2021.) As the year turned the Feoffees were also considering the replacement of the stage curtains in the Town Hall.

Planning for the Coronation celebrations stepped up a gear in the spring of 1953 and at the Chamber meeting on 14 April the idea of decorating the exterior of the Town Hall was discussed and it was decided to convene a meeting on 23 April of the Feoffees and their wives " *to evolve and consider schemes for decorating the outside of the Town Hall for Coronation Day.*" The sum of £25 was also agreed for that purpose. There were in fact two meetings at which Mr Jay presented his proposals for decoration which were agreed.

The Coronation took place on 2 June 1953. At their monthly meeting on 9 June the Feoffees sent a Loyal Message to the newly crowned Queen:

*"On behalf of the Colyton Chamber of Feoffees (established 1546 in the reign of his late Majesty King Henry VIII) we affirm the Chamber's devotion and loyalty to your most gracious and well beloved Majesty."*

A week later a reply was received from Buckingham Palace signed by the Queen's Private Secretary, Martin Charteris:.





a. Merchant's House  
Market Place  
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Devon  
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w. [www.colytonheritagecentre.org](http://www.colytonheritagecentre.org)

Another legacy of the Coronation was the town seat erected outside the Town Hall. At their meeting on 8 September 1953, the Chamber agreed to make a donation of £5 towards the cost of the chair and to take responsibility for its ongoing maintenance.

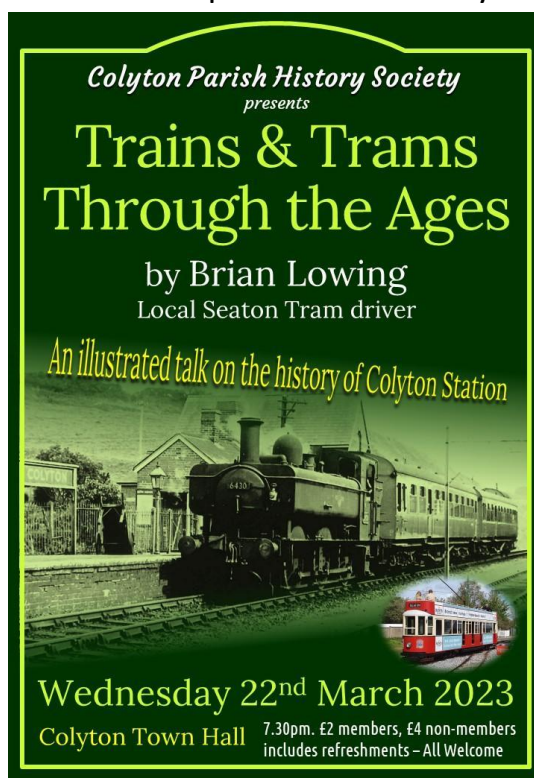
The design for the coat of arms was approved at the 10 November Chamber meeting and in December the motto "*in the manner of our ancestors*" was approved by the Parish Council and a month later by the Feoffees.

Finally, in May 1954 discussions took place with the Parish Council about arranging a suitable public presentation of the Coat of Arms and an event was arranged on 7 August, followed by an evening social organised by the WI.

Do you remember the last Coronation? Do you have any souvenirs, photos, postcards, letters, diaries or any other family reminiscences from the 1953 Coronation and of the celebratory events which were held here in Colyton? Was anyone in your family awarded a Coronation Medal? Do you still have it? Please email me if you have a personal recollection you'd like to share or any of these items or indeed would be interested in helping us to research this subject:

[sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk)

**b) Reminder:** The next talk in the CPHS 2023 programme will take place at Colyton Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 22 March 2023





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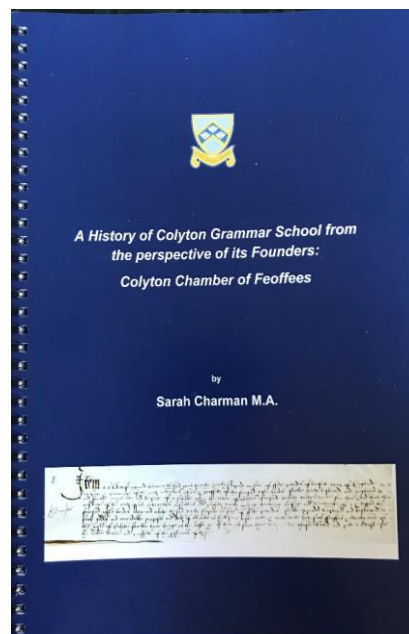
## 2. Other CPHS Matters

### a) Annual Membership Fees Due

A reminder that annual membership fees for 2023 were due from the beginning of January: £8 for a single membership or £12 for a couple. Subscriptions can be paid at any Society meeting. Or they can be paid by standing order or BACS transfer using the following details: Colyton Parish History Society, Sort Code: 30-90-37, A/c no 00992240 (Lloyds Bank.)

### b) Heritage Centre Opening Times

Its nearly time for the Heritage Centre to open its doors again for the summer season. We will open again from **Tuesday 4th April to Thursday 29th September 2023**. To mark the reopening of the Centre on Tuesday morning, I will be signing copies of my book on ***The History of Colyton Grammar School***.



The Heritage Centre is staffed by friendly volunteers who are happy to help with your researches into a family tree or the history of a property in Colyton.

#### Opening Times:

11.00am – 3.00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

Please check website for extended summer opening times.



### 3. Other Organisations Events

#### March 2023 East Devon AONB 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events



**Spring into Life Wildlife Walk, Offwell Woods Offwell, Near Honiton**  
Saturday 25 March 2pm - 5pm Free event

East Devon AONB's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary event programme continues with a journey into one of East Devon's best kept secrets – Offwell Woods - a magical broadleaved woodland, to enjoy the arrival of spring and the amazing array of wildlife it brings. The walk will be led by local botanist, Jan Uden and Ruth Worsley, East Devon AONB's wildlife engagement officer.

Time for wildlife and us to come out of hibernation! After the winter shutdown in the natural world, leaves are bursting from their buds, followed by blossom, whilst hungry mammals emerge from hibernation. We'll be exploring the woods and peering into ponds, enjoying the signs of spring, looking for bluebells and other wildflowers including wood anemone and wood sorrel. Before the trees come into full leaf and cast their dense shade, our woodland journey is a chance to see the woodland floor awash with colour. This is a great site, with a mosaic of habitats including a series of small lakes that hold a fascinating history and today are teeming with wildlife.

Mapsticks - youngsters are invited to come on this journey and create a mapstick. Many years ago Aborigines recorded their new explorations by making maps on



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sticks. They tied found materials and objects to them, to remind of places and landmarks.

We will stop for a mid afternoon snack at picnic tables by one of the lakes. Please come armed with a mini picnic! Details of parking given on booking – to book click on: [Spring into Life Wildlife Walk](#) or contact: [savingspecialspecies@gmail.com](mailto:savingspecialspecies@gmail.com) or Ruth Worsley, Wildlife Engagement Officer, East Devon AONB, 01297 489741

#### 4. **Items you may have missed**

a) **New Sculpture trail at Seaton Wetlands**

[Get up close with wildlife at Seaton Wetlands new sculpture trail | The Devon Daily](#)

b) **Lyme's Tudor, Stuart and Victorian Town Halls**

[Lyme's Tudor, Stuart and Victorian Town Halls - LymeOnline \(lyme-online.co.uk\)](#)

c) **National Lottery Open Week**

[National Lottery Open Week offers free and discounted entry to venues across England | InYourArea Community](#)

d) **Dinosaur Egg Beach**

[https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/gallery/cornwalls-dinosaur-egg-beach-prehistoric-8159270?utm\\_source=devon\\_live\\_newsletter&utm\\_campaign=western\\_morning\\_newsletter2&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/gallery/cornwalls-dinosaur-egg-beach-prehistoric-8159270?utm_source=devon_live_newsletter&utm_campaign=western_morning_newsletter2&utm_medium=email)

e) **Plesiosaur discovered by a dog called Raffle finally goes on display after 16 years**

[Millions of years old and 16 years to extract – Raffle the plesiosaur finally goes on display! - LymeOnline \(lyme-online.co.uk\)](#)

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