

17 July 2023

Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter

1. News

In Memoriam – Mrs Joan White

Mrs Marian Sydenham, Chairman of Colyton Parish History Society, has commented on the passing of local author Mrs Joan White who died in June aged 98. In later years she had lived at Seaton:

"Joan was a remarkable lady. Her contribution to the life of the community of Colyton over many years was enormous. Working behind the scenes, she assisted her husband Roy White to run the local YMCA youth club for many years, organising trips for the youngsters and fundraising events and producing highly entertaining pantomimes.

"She was a great reader and also enjoyed writing poetry and serving as a regular contributor of local stories to the Pulman's Weekly newspaper. Joan's book revealed a considerable depth of knowledge about the history of Colyton and will be a great interest to historians."



In 2014 Mrs White wrote a book entitled "*Footprints in the Sands of Time*"* in which she recounted her life story and long marriage to Roy White, the history of George's Meeting House in Colyton and the YMCA Youth Club which met there. Launching the book in the Heritage Centre in September 2014, Mrs White very kindly donated all profits from the sale of her book to the History Society.

The first page of Joan White's book contains a poem which it seems appropriate to reproduce here:

"Colyton"

"I can stand on the hill, and downward gaze,
At Colyton Church, lying mid a maze
Of houses and garden, and winding alley;
All set in a beautiful bright green valley.
The octagonal tower, could be a crown,
Set on the head of this ancient town.

"The town's circular walls, denote the Saxon strong,
And standing still, witnessed many a wrong.
Like the day when Sprague and Clegg, were
Hanged from a tree,
Watched by their sorrowing family,
Victims both of the Bloody Assize,
To choose Monmouth, those rebels, perhaps were unwise.

"The Colcombe Castle on yonder hill, a ruin now,
Where once trod the Courtneys now treads the placid cow,
Often the hall rang with shouts of revelry
And mirth, in those far off days of chivalry.
A few old walls, midst the farmhouse, topped with tile,
Remain to attest the Baronial pile.

"The river Coly like a silvery snake,
Slithers through fields, then over weirs does break;
Splaying down in gushing white foam,
Then glides along, twixt the banks of loam.
Salmon and trout have their habitat,
Along with the sucking Lamprey and Water Rat."

Mrs Joan White


*Longfellow, H.W., "*A Psalm of Life*": "Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime.
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints in the sands of time."

From Then To Now - Note for your diary - 17 to 22 July 2023

CPHS is participating in an interesting new exhibition at Kennaway House, Sidmouth with displays on the history of dairy farms, milk rounds and milk vending in Colyton and Colyford. The exhibition incorporates memories of community and landscape in East Devon and celebrates 60 years of the East Devon AONB.

FROM THEN to NOW

Memories of Community & Landscape in East Devon



KENNAWAY HOUSE, SIDMOUTH
17 - 22 JULY 2023

A local history exhibition celebrating 60 years of the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Images and film contributed by East Devon Heritage Centres, History Societies and Museums.

FREE ADMISSION
10.00AM - 4.00PM



www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk

MILK VENDING & DAIRYING

In the 2020s
Abbey Manor Farm, Colyton

THE DAIRY HERD
There are 115 milking Friesian cows. Each cow wears a collar with tags which is read by the milking robot to provide individual management data. The milking robots are housed in a modern milking parlour with individual milking stalls and a covered lane where they can shelter from sun or rain, with individual feeding and watering troughs. Robots have never been remotely manipulated in the herd, resulting in low levels of antibiotic use.

PROCESSING ON FARM
Milk is processed on the farm and put into 200 litre stainless steel containers (referred to as 'cans') for delivery to the Vending Machine at the farm. The containers are then loaded into the Vending Machine at the farm where it is refilled according to demand. The empty container is returned to the farm where it is thoroughly cleaned before being refilled and re-delivered to the Vending Machine.

THE VENDING SHEED
The Vending Sheed is located at Abbey Manor Farm. Milk is also supplied to well-served machines at Colyton Stores, Musbury Garage, Taite of Devon Butchers, and Sharns Close Farm Shop. Sales are according to the season, with the Milk per day the summer. Additionally, milk shakes are dispensed, as well as a variety of baked goods made by Emma.

THE VENDING SHEED
The Vending Sheed provides single source milk, processed on the farm and direct to the customer, available 24 hours a day. Minimal levels of plastic are used with customers encouraged to reuse their glass bottles.

MILK ROUNDS & DAIRY FARMS

1960s - 1970s
Dares Farm, Colyford

THE DAIRY HERD
The small herd of the 1960s with a mix of 30 dairy Shorthorn and Charolais Island. Government cow give to 70 cows in the 1970s, predominantly Holstein-Friesian cows producing higher milk yields. A few Guernseys were kept to increase the yield of high fat content which was used for butter and cream. Cows were identified by name, and a farm-kept notebook was used on the farm, but official identification was used on the Guernseys.

MILKING PARLOUR
By the late 1960s the first automatic milking machine was introduced, followed by a new two-stage partial milking system installed in the 1970s. Cows were collected on a day when they were milked.

PROCESSING & BOTTLING ON FARM
The whole process of bottling, washing and sterilising, using automatic glass bottles, was carried out on farm. The farm dairy was subjected to regular hygiene inspections by the Devon County Council.

MILK ROUND
300 CUSTOMERS & DAYS PER WEEK DELIVERY
The village of Colyford had grown from 60 houses and 120 people to over 400 houses and 1000 people in the late 1970s. The milk round increased to over 300 customers, delivered 6 days a week between 7am and 10am from a small open back truck by Ted Pardy and then David Achary. These bottles delivered milk, cream and butter.

THE END OF AN ERA
From the 1970s onwards, one of the most significant changes in society was that both dairy farmers were out to work. Home delivered milk left on the doorstep resulted in warm conditions. Insulated bottles had to be used. Customers began to stop leaving daily deliveries as their shopping habits changed.

THE END OF AN ERA
In 1986 the Pardy family made the decision to stop the milk round and by the end of 1987 the world of dairy cows was sold - an end of an era!

2. Other CPHS Matters

Researching the Newton family tree

John Newton was one of the group of well to do Colytonians who went to see King Henry VIII to petition him to allow them to purchase lands in the Parish of Colyton which were seized by the Crown from Henry Courtenay, Marquis of Exeter when he was executed for treason in 1539. The King agreed and granted the town a Charter which led to the establishment of the Chamber of Feoffees in 1546. John Newton also became one of the first Members of the Colyton Chamber of Feoffees.



Recently one of his descendants - Will Davies and his wife Phyllis - came to visit us in the Heritage Centre to do some family research.

If anyone has any information about the history of the family which they would like to share with Will and Phyllis please let me know.

3. Other Organisations Events

a) Lyme Regis Somers Day Parade

This year's Somers Day celebrations in Lyme Regis will be held on **Wednesday, July 19** with a visiting party from Bermuda in attendance, including the town crier of St George's, E. Michael Jones, and of the capital Hamilton, Ed Christopher.

Twinning association members from both sides of the Atlantic and civic guests will assemble at the Pound Street entrance of Langmoor Gardens at 11am, and will process to the statue of Admiral Sir George Somers in the gardens for a cry by Lyme Regis town crier Alan Vian at 11.25am.

[Lyme Regis to welcome friends from Bermuda for Somers Day next week - LymeOnline \(\[lyme-online.co.uk\]\(http://lyme-online.co.uk\)\)](#)

b) East Devon A.O.N.B – 60th Anniversary Events

i) **Saturday 22 July, 8.45pm - 10.45pm Bolshayne Farm, Colyton**

The farm includes Bolshayne Fen, a wet meadow which is an SSSI (site of special scientific interest), also hedgerows, and woodland edge which all offer great habitat and food for bats. To book Bat Safari Bolshayne Farm r email: savingspecialspecies@gmail.com or ring 01297 489741

ii) **Nature's High Fliers Walk, East Budleigh Common, Wednesday 26 July. 2pm - 4pm**

Free event for all ages East Budleigh Common is one of the few places where the Pearl Bordered and Small Pearl Bordered butterfly have been seen in East Devon. These endangered butterflies are two of the East Devon AONB's Elusive Eight special species. Join Graham Jones to explore a rare piece of Devon heathland in search of these elusive insects. We will also look out for other summer wildlife and you can help us spot butterflies to record on the Butterfly Conservation's annual Big Butterfly Count Survey. East Budleigh Common is part of the Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve (NNR), the largest block of lowland heath remaining in Devon. This event is part of Heath Week. To book: click this link: [Nature's High Fliers Summer Wildlife Walk](#) or email savingspecialspecies@gmail.com or contact Ruth Worsley, Wildlife Engagement Officer, 01297 489741



a. Merchant's House
Market Place
Colyton
Devon
EX24 6JR
e. info@colytonheritagecentre.org
w. www.colytonheritagecentre.org

iii) **Devon Wildlife Trust's Devon Bat Survey** – bat detector loan

Devon Wildlife Trust is currently holding its annual Devon Bat Survey, the largest Citizen Science survey in the county. Between now and 6th October there are opportunities to borrow a bat detector for 3 nights and set it up to record in your garden or other secure location, and discover which types of bats you have near you. You will need a degree of technical confidence and competence and a computer operating Windows or Apple software in order to take part. The Garden Shop at Colyton is the host centre this year for the bat detector in East Devon. Places are filling up fast so sign up soon via <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/devon-bat-survey-2023>

4. **News items you may have missed**

- a) **Stonehenge tunnel given go ahead**
[A303 Stonehenge road tunnel given go-ahead by Government - Wiltshire Live](#)
- b) **How Sidmouth Inspired Beatrix Potter**
[How Sidmouth inspired the setting for a Beatrix Potter book | Sidmouth Herald](#)
- c) **Exploring Roman baths in Exeter**
[Roman Exeter \(exploringgb.co.uk\)](#)
- d) **Archaeologists find rare stone age boulder in Dorset**
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-dorset-66132962>
- e) **Heritage Watch scheme launched**
[Devon and Cornwall Police launch Heritage Watch scheme | Midweek Herald](#)
- f) **Battle of Sedgemoor at Westonzoyland 338 years ago**
<https://www.somersetcountygazette.co.uk/news/23635855.battle-sedgemoor-westonzoyland-338-years-ago/?ref=rss&IYA-mail=2c626b80-7a64-4f57-afe4-6bdeb137e043>
- g) **Photos of old Dorset shops**
[Looking back at old pictures of Dorset shops | Dorset Echo](#)
- h) **Legend of Dartmouth submarine proved**
[Mysterious Dartmouth submarine urban legend finally proved - Devon Live](#)
- i) **History of Bodmin**
[The most visited bit of Britain that hardly anyone knows \(msn.com\)](#)



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j) National Trust properties to visit in Devon this summer

https://www.devonlive.com/special-features/discover-national-trust-gems-around-8523987?utm_source=inyourarea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily-newsletter&utm_content=content-marketing

Sarah Charman
Editor – CPHS Newsletter.
sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk