

14 June 2023

Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter

1. News

- a) **Colyton in the news!** Well done to Heritage Centre volunteer Maggie Tinsley who spoke to Neil Clark!



b) Mike Williams – would like help tracing information about his family – see wedding photos

Does anyone recognise the room in which this wedding breakfast is taking place? Does the building where it is located still exist? Mike thinks that the couple were a Leonard Maeer and Gertrude Disney who was his grandmother's sister.

The marriage took place in 1920 and is registered in the Parish of Axminster. Sadly, Gertrude died in childbirth within twelve months of the wedding. She is buried in Shute churchyard.

Gertrude May Disney was born around 1900, possibly in Donyatt. Leonard Maeer went on to remarry and died in the 1970s. Mike found the photos in the attic of his grandmother's house.

If you can help Mike with any information regarding the location of the wedding breakfast – note the vaulted ceiling - he wonders if it could possibly be in Shute House or Shute Arms? Or if you have any information about Gertrude or Leonard please let me know and I will pass it on.





c) Visit to the Heritage Centre by Nancy Wicker – a member of the Whicker/Whyker/Wicker Family

Last week we had a visit to the Heritage Centre from Nancy Wicker and her husband Matthew Murray from the US. They came to do some research into Nancy's family tree, to consult our records and to visit some of the properties and local sites in Colyton historically associated with the Whicker family.

They were sad to learn that Knolle House is no more and would be grateful for any memories/photos/information people living here in Colyton may have about the property. Please let me know if you can help. They are planning to come back to do some more research into our archives.



2. Other CPHS Matters

3. Other Organisations Events

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

i) Bat Walks

Friday 23 June, 9.30pm - 11.30pm Blackbury Camp, Southleigh

This site is an iron age hillfort with many old oak trees lining the ramparts, perfect homes for bats. To book Bat Safari Blackbury Camp or email savingspecialspecies@gmail.com Or ring 01297 489741

Friday 14 July, 9.00pm - 11.00pm River Lym riverside path, Uplyme Rivers offer excellent navigation routes for bats as well as food from emerging insects. To book Bat Safari - Uplyme or email savingspecialspecies@gmail.com Or ring 01297 489741



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

Saturday 22 July, 8.45pm - 10.45pm Bolshayne Farm, Colyton

01297 489741 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 or email savingspecialspecies@gmail.com Or ring 01297 489741

ii) Heath Lobelia – first discovered growing near Shute in 1780s

Celebrating East Devon's special plant and on the Elusive Eight List – The Heath Lobelia First discovered in the UK growing near Shute in the 1780s – seeds collected from this site have successfully been planted at nearby Kilminster Common. Later this month you are invited to 'go wild on the common'...

Saturday 24 June 10.30 am – 12.30 pm Go Wild on the Common

Kilminster Common, Shute Road, Kilminster Free event for all ages A chance to celebrate our special wild Common. Come and visit and find.

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>

iv) Shute Festivals June Events:

Tuesday 20 June 7-8:30 PM, St Michael's Church, Shute EX13 7QR - Kate Rawles on the Life Cycle

Environmentalist and cyclist Kate Rawles will be arriving in Shute on her handmade bamboo bicycle on which she undertook a 6000 mile environmental odyssey through South America, to talk about her new book, The Life Cycle. The travel story involves a solo woman on an 8,000 mile journey through South America, a bike made of bamboo, and a lot of mountains. The issue is biodiversity



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loss. Populations of wild animals have plummeted by 60% in less than the author's lifetime. The Life Cycle, in showing why biodiversity matters to everyone, is a powerful call for action – action for life – as well as an informative, celebratory, engaging, adventure of a read. Kate will be in conversation with festival director Sam Knights about her journey personal and physical which evolved as she left her academic post as an environment and philosophy lecturer to devote herself full time to freelance work and to The Life Cycle. Tickets £8 on the door - cash or card. Refreshments will be available and books on sale thanks to our lovely local Archway Bookshop, Axminster.

**Sunday 25 June 2-5 PM, Meet at Shute Gatehouse EX13 7QR
TALKING WALK ON MEDIEVAL OAKS with JILL BUTLER –**

Jill is an ancient tree and wood pasture specialist and trustee of both the Ancient Tree Forum and the Tree Register of the British Isles. She has travelled extensively to visit important ancient and special trees in many other parts of Europe and the world and from this experience has learnt that the ancient trees of the UK are almost unique. Jill campaigns for greater recognition for this living heritage and advises on protection and best practice management. One of her favourite ancient trees is the King John's Oak in Shute Park, named after one of her great heroes of the British landscape. This is a spectacular walk which will visit some of the magnificent trees in the Shute Estate including the 1000 year old King John Oak. Places limited so booking is essential via shutefest@gmail.com. Tickets £15 on the day - card or cash

4. News items you may have missed

a) Sir George Somers part 2

<https://lyme-online.co.uk/blogs/sir-george-somers-part-ii/?IYA-mail=2c626b80-7a64-4f57-afe4-6bdeb137e043>

b) Lyme Regis Museum opening evening – 15 June

<https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/23561983.lyme-regis-museum-opening-evening-takes-place-june-15/?ref=rss&IYA-mail=2c626b80-7a64-4f57-afe4-6bdeb137e043>

c) Summerland School, Honiton

<https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/23548893.summerland-school-honiton-strict-victorian-school/?ref=eb&nid=2397>



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d) Royal Marines Links to Exmouth

<https://www.exmouthjournal.co.uk/news/23547082.local-history-royal-marines-links-exmouth/?ref=rss&IYA-mail=2c626b80-7a64-4f57-afe4-6bdeb137e043>

e) Button history

<https://www.bridportnews.co.uk/news/23551371.discover-amazing-tale-behind-little-button-found-loders/?ref=rss&IYA-mail=2c626b80-7a64-4f57-afe4-6bdeb137e043>

f) Historical footage of Bridport available online

[Historical footage of life in Bridport can be viewed online | Dorset Echo](#)

g) Do you know the history behind Honiton pottery?

<https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/23575152.know-history-behind-honiton-pottery/?ref=eb&nid=2397>

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