COLYTON
HERITAGE CENTRE

a. Merchant's House
Market Place
Colyton
Devon
EX24 6JR
e. info@colytonheritagecentre.org
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28 June 2024

Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter

This month – a lovely tour of Acton Court, Iron Acton for History Society Members and a family history request for information about the Good family.

1. News

a. Day Trip to Acton Court – 19 June 2024

Members of Colyton Parish History Society had a most enjoyable coach trip last week to visit historic Acton Court at Iron Acton near Bristol. They were welcomed with a guided walk round the outside of the house and through the lovely gardens full of wild flowers such as yellow rattle and poppies and with the exquisite perfume of old roses wafting gently on the warm sunny air, before the group was split in two for a tour of the inside of the house.

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Dating originally from the C14th the moated manor house was owned until the late seventeenth century by the Poyntz family. Thereafter, the Grade I listed property declined and was eventually rescued by English Heritage with substantial renovations required and an archaeological survey undertaken in the late C20th.

Briefing in the Garden

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In January 1535 Sir Nicholas Poyntz, an influential Royal courtier, was informed that King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn would be pleased to pay him a visit during their Royal Progress to the Bristol area later that year. In nine months, at considerable expense, he had a massive new East wing built, designed to impress and accommodate them for just two nights! It is thought he was knighted for his pains during the visit!

The Privy Chamber

King Henry VIII's personal loo!

Inside the house, the State Apartments - the Presence, Privy and Bed Chambers - still bear visible signs of the lavish artistry with which they were decorated. And during renovations King Henry VIII's personal loo was also discovered discreetly embedded in the walls! A number of important Tudor artefacts were also found.

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Bridge across the moat (dry)

View of the house from the walled garden

The visit was polished off with a tasty afternoon tea on tables set up in the garden, Acton Court is a Member of the Historic Houses Association and is well worth a trip. Booking is essential - it is only open for a few weeks each year.

Sources:

Acton Court | History of Acton Court
https://www.buildinghistory.org/bristol/acton.shtml

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b. **Family History information request** -

The Good Family - from Devonshire to New Zealand

Bruce Aitken of Auckland New Zealand is researching his three-times great-grandfather William Good (born 1839). He has traced his family roots back to Colyton and Beer in the sixteenth century and very much hopes he may connect with other Good family members still living in the East Devon area.

William Good

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Donna Aitken, Bruce's wife takes up the story: William (Generation 3) arrived in New Zealand with his older brother Walter Good (born 1838). The brothers were born in Coggeshall, Essex, their father Walter was a tailor and their mother, Keziah, was a Coggeshall native They married in Coggeshall in 1837. In May 1857 William and his brother Walter paid a bond of £20 to sail to New Zealand on the "*John Masterman*" and arrived in Nelson New Zealand where they set up a timber mill and helped construct churches in Nelson and Wellington. William lost his arm in a chaffing machine- but continued quite proficiently working with his right arm- as seen in this portrait.

Back in Britain, the family tree in Colyton can be traced back to William Goode who was born in 1525 and went on to marry Annes. In turn his second son, also a Wyllm (William) Goode, was baptized in Colyton on 16 March 1547/8. A lifelong Colytonian, he married Agnes Pittman of Colyton on 30 September 1570 and they had three sons. Wyllm (William) died aged 70 in 1617. Donna and Bruce have tracked their ancestors in Beer and the Heritage Centre here has been helping them with details of Colytonian ancestors.

In more recent times there is a record of a Walter Good Snr being baptized on 6 April 1816 in East Budleigh, the son of William Good (shoemaker) and Joan Carter.

If anyone knows of any members of the Good family still living in this area of East Devon, Donna Aitken would be delighted to hear from them. Please let me know and I will put them in touch with Donna. (sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk)

2. Other CPHS Matters

a. Heritage Centre visitors in May

In May we had 166 visitors to the Heritage Centre compared with 139 in May last year.

b. Missing file

A file containing significant information about King Street in Colyton has gone missing from the Heritage Centre. Please if you have borrowed it could you return it to us asap. As you know, files should NOT be removed from the Centre. (NB There is a limited facility for History Society Members only to borrow a book providing that they sign for it in the register and sign again when they bring it back.).

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3. Other organisations events

a. Somerset archives coffee time talks

Practical Preservation - Sat 13 Jul, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Join our Senior Conservator, Jenny Barnard, for a practical workshop showing how to look after your family or community archive.

Book Practical Preservation

Searching Mental Health Records - Fri 19 Jul, 10.30 am - Digital Event

Join Archivist Esther Hoyle for an overview of records relating to mental health.

Book the Talk

b. East Devon National Landscapes

Bat Safaris 2024

Three bat species are on the list of East Devon National Landscape's 'Elusive Eight' list of species that are under serious threat, include the Greater Horse-shoe, Bechstein and Grey Long-eared Bats. At our nocturnal wanders under moon lit skies, learn more about them and how we can help increase their numbers. All ages welcome.

Friday 26 July, 8.45pm - 10.15pm River Lym riverside path, Uplyme
Rivers offer excellent navigation routes for bats as well as food from in-sects emerging from the waters. To book click this link: **Uplyme Bat Safari** or email savingspecialspecies@gmail.com

Friday 16 August, 8.00pm - 9.30pm Blackbury Camp, Southleigh
This site is an iron age hillfort with many old oak trees lining the ramparts, per-fect roosts for bats. To book click this link: **Blackbury Camp Bat Safari** or email savingspecialspecies@gmail.com

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Celebrating the Heath Lobelia work and Kilmington Common wildlife, the Kilmington Common practical group of volunteers invite you to:
Go Wild on the Common! on Saturday 27 July 10 am -12 noon for a guided walk, wild art, moths and other minibeasts and much more! Free and all ages welcome.Kilmington Common, Parish Council Open Space, is on the road out to Shute village.

Wild about Streams – Family Stream Dipping Event –
Manor Mill Farm Stream, Branscombe, **Sunday 11 August, 2pm - 4pm**, Free event for all ages. Splashing time dipping into the Branscombe brook to meet its watery residents. Come and join the 'Big Dip' at Branscombe brook, Manor Mill Farm. We will be surveying the depths for the fearsome dragonfly larvae, busy beetles, and other water loving minibeasts. Also, a chance to visit National Trust's Branscombe Mill (now open on Sundays). With Megan Vallender, National Trust and Nicola Westlake, a National Landscape Ambassador farmer at Manor Mill Farm. More details and to book click this link: **Wild about Streams Event**

4. Items you may have missed

a. Historic house in Sidmouth for sale

https://www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/24386050.property-sale-sidmouth-historic-house-town-centre/?ref=eb&nid=2405&block=article_block_a&u=26e309a1465491fa9108b8530c3bc91f&date=150624

b. Playing by the rules – fashion exhibition at NT Killerton

https://www.greatbritishlife.co.uk/magazines/devon/24267336.playing-rules-fashion-exhibition-killerton-house/?ref=eb&nid=2374&block=article_block_a&u=26e309a1465491fa9108b8530c3bc91f

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