

17 December 2024

Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter

Happy Christmas everyone – its been quite a year! In a world full of turmoil and change let's hope for a more peaceful and successful 2025. And more fun and adventures with history! Look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

1. News – Family history adventures Down Under

I spent October in Australia visiting family and friends for the first time in nearly thirty years. My brother had told me that he had discovered we had family ancestors in Melbourne in the suburb of Cheltenham. So when I visited there I made a short diversion to explore our family history visiting the local library where a very helpful volunteer lady did some quick research into their archives – and struck gold!



It turns out that some of our ancestors emigrated there as free settlers in the 1850s and took up marigold farming, selling the harvest to a local pharmacy for medicinal purposes. They prospered – so much so that they

were able to purchase from the King at the price of just over £1 an acre - some 300 acres of prime real estate in the area. Today they are remembered with a road named after them! What fun it was to stand beside that sign! Charman Road is a very long and straight one stretching down to the sea.



In the short time we had there we were also able to visit the local cemetery and find some family graves. The cemetery helpfully had a big display board at the entrance indicating where various graves could be found. Interestingly it was a multi denominational graveyard with zones for the different church groupings. It was sobering to see the number of little children who died very young including two from our family.



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

2. Other History Society News

a. Membership – Reminder Annual Subscription due in January 2025

A reminder that annual membership fees for 2025 are due from the beginning of January next year. The rate is unchanged at £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)

3. Items you may have missed

a. Axminster High Street

[Axminster featured in Daily Telegraph's high street series | Midweek Herald](#)

b. Sir Rod Stewart's model railway

[Sir Rod Stewart model railway revealed in Devon magazine | Midweek Herald](#)

c. Phone box transformed into art gallery Seaton Hole

[Phone box transformed into art gallery in Seaton Hole | Midweek Herald](#)

d. Public to see King's penthouse view for first time since 1646

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/travel/news/public-to-see-king-s-penthouse-view-for-first-time-since-1646-destruction/ar-AA1v5AiS?ocid=msedgdhp&pc=HCTS&cvid=404017c006d64a068a7eda404249e422&ei=58>

e. George III sampler auctioned in Dorset

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/money/other/george-iii-sampler-to-be-auctioned-in-dorset/ar-AA1uTv09?ocid=msedgdhp&pc=U531&cvid=34596ee32e6d4d6f97c58b2cf43d2499&ei=18>

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