COLYTON
HERITAGE CENTRE

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

Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter

16 January 2026

Happy New Year everyone! Lots to look forward to despite the gloomy weather!

1. News

a. REMINDER - Colyton Houses Through Time project

This year we are launching a project to find out more about the history of properties here in Colyton, who lived in them over time and what those individuals and families did - similar to the process used in the tv documentary series *A House Through Time* presented by David Olusuga.

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An introductory meeting is being held **in the Heritage Centre** on **Tuesday 20 January 2026 from 2pm to 4 pm** to discuss how we take this exciting project forward.

If you are interested in joining the project or are simply keen to research the history of your own home please do come and join us – two Sarah's and Claire who together are organising the project. We will have on display some of the material we already hold in the Heritage Centre archives about various properties here in Colyton. Do please come along and talk to us. For those new to research, the project will provide guidance on how to go about finding information on the history of your home and where to begin looking. If you have any questions do please talk to one of us - Sarah Humphries, (cloamcrazy@gmail.com), Claire Ross (clairehross61@gmail.com) or me – Sarah Charman (sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk). We look forward to talking with you.

If you have already begun researching the history of your house here in Colyton Parish and are willing to share what you have discovered including any photographs please do bring your findings along.

Reference
BBC Two - A House Through Time

b. Did you know Colyton Library Service is 101 years old – by Jane Dauncey

Our Library service in Colyton is 101 years old in 2026 and CPHS will be hosting a talk by William Mearns, from our library service, Libraries Unlimited. He will be sharing his research on the 101 years of the public library service in Colyton. The talk is on **Tuesday, 24 February at 2.30pm** in the Town Hall.

Change is afoot again in the library service and DCC have started a consultation "Shaping the Future". DCC plan to keep the 50 Devon libraries open but with a serious reduction in opening hours and a change to how the service is organised.

They are encouraging everyone to give their views on the proposals and to complete the DCC questionnaire- devonlibraries.commonplace.is/ **deadline 22 February.**

We consider that Colyton Library is already being used as a community hub and our Tuesday morning volunteer session "Library Extra" works well so some of the ideas being proposed are already working well here. However the success of the service depends on the continued interaction between paid library staff and volunteers.

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Colyton Library would also like to be able to provide afternoon opening for the benefit particularly of school age children.

Please don't think that because you don't use the library currently that you don't need to respond to this survey – please do to show that the Colyton community is interested in continuing to have a library as our community hub.

Jane Dauncey, Chair of Friends of Colyton Library – FoCL jdauncey1@gmail.com

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Colyton Parish History Society

Includes Quiz,
Tea & Cake

All Welcome

Please Come and
Join Us and
Support Your
Local Library

Flame from the original sign for the County Library

An illustrated talk on the humble origins of Colyton Library and the evolution over the past 101 years to the important place it holds in today's local community

COLYTON LIBRARY
Celebrates 101 Years

A Talk by William Mearns | Libraries Unlimited

2026

Tuesday 24th February | 2.30pm
Colyton Town Hall
Members £2 | Visitors £4

Libraries Unlimited

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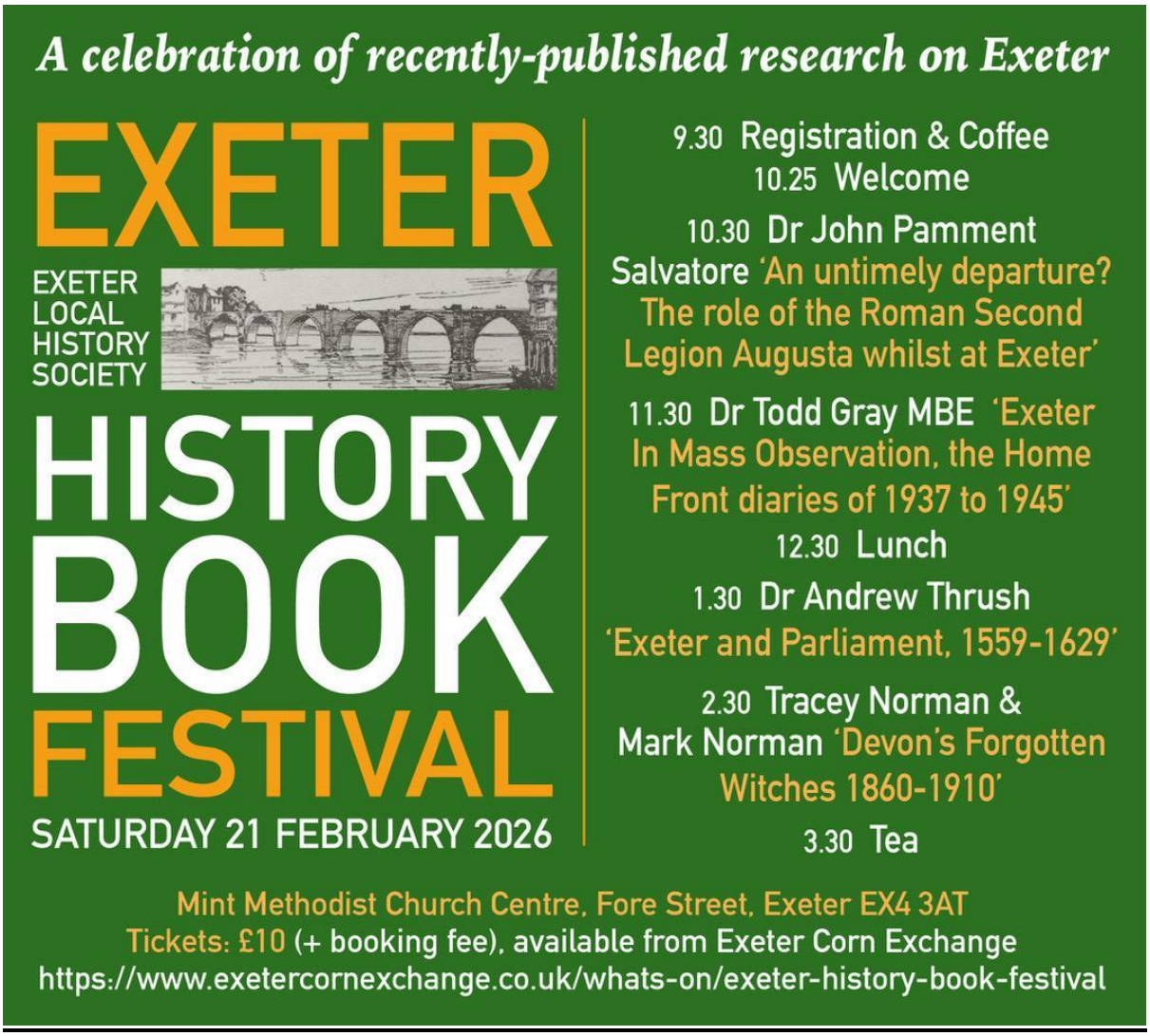
2. Other Society News

c. **Membership – Reminder Annual Subscription due in January 2026**

A reminder that annual membership fees for 2026 are due from the beginning of January. 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) NB There is also an opportunity to Gift Aid your contribution.

3. Other organisations events

a) Exeter Local History Society



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b) Axminster Heritage Centre

AXMINSTER heritage Centre

Axminster at War (1939 - 1945)
'Uncovering the Untold'

Reminiscence & Refreshments

*A **FREE** weekly session run as part of **'Uncovering the Untold'** an Axminster Heritage Centre oral history project, funded by Arts & Culture East Devon (ACED).*

Tuesday's
10am - 11:30am
Bradshaw Meeting Room, Axminster Heritage Centre, Silver Street, EX13 5AH.

Were you a child during WW2? What are your memories of 1939 - 1954? Did your parents talk about their experiences?

Join us for these weekly social mornings and enjoy free tea or coffee in a warm, inviting space, while chatting with others about different aspects of life between 1939 - 1954.

ACED

Project conducted by Saltwater Narratives

Charity no: 1113818.

AXMINSTER heritage Centre World War 80th Anniversary

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4. Items you may have missed

a. 850 year old Exeter Cathedral School to close

https://www.devonlive.com/news/news-opinion/heartbreak-sad-times-850-year-10750032?utm_source=devon_live_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=auto_westernmorning_newsletter&utm_content=&utm_term=&ruid=0f3b0370-2d82-4801-be9a-21ee0af0fd15&hx=c2c794ed89df6602f4e82633c343d96d68a5399027490d09d0ed370ddee48065

b. Blue Plaque quest for building in Sidmouth which housed evacuees in the Blitz

https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/blue-plaque-bid-blitz-evacuees-10738879?utm_source=devon_live_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=auto_westernmorning_newsletter&utm_content=&utm_term=&ruid=0f3b0370-2d82-4801-be9a-21ee0af0fd15&hx=c2c794ed89df6602f4e82633c343d96d68a5399027490d09d0ed370ddee48065

c. Devon man at wheel when disaster struck the Titanic

https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/torquay-man-titanics-wheel-disaster-10712810?utm_source=devon_live_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=auto_westernmorning_newsletter&utm_content=&utm_term=&ruid=0f3b0370-2d82-4801-be9a-21ee0af0fd15&hx=c2c794ed89df6602f4e82633c343d96d68a5399027490d09d0ed370ddee48065

d. Hidden secrets of Devon churchyards

https://www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/25666767.hidden-secrets-devon-churchyards-burial-sites/?ref=eb&nid=2405&block=article_block_a&u=26e309a1465491fa9108b8530c3bc91f&date=231225

e. History of Devon pubs

https://www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/25714515.book-raises-glass-history-devon-pubs/?ref=eb&nid=2405&block=article_block_a&u=26e309a1465491fa9108b8530c3bc91f&date=221225