

Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter

16 April 2026

1. News

a. Colyton Heritage Centre opens for 2026 Season



Clare Roadknight was our first visitor of the 2026 season at the Heritage Centre on the morning of Tuesday 7 April. She came in to see what information we might have about the Manor House in Old Manor Gardens in Colyford. If anyone has any local knowledge of the Manor's history please let me know and I will put you in contact with Clare.

(sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk)

We are looking forward to welcoming lots more visitors this summer. Everyone is welcome – tourists, family history researchers and of course locals. Do come and see the wealth of information we have about Colyton's long and fascinating history.

b. All Hallows Museum in Honiton – new lace bonnet exhibition



Allhallows Museum in Honiton is to launch a delightful new exhibition this season featuring an extensive display of lace bonnets which have not been featured before depicting a wide range of skills and designs.

Founded in 1946 the Museum is housed in the oldest building in Honiton and holds the largest collection of Honiton lace in the world. The Museum traces the history of lacemaking in Honiton from the 17th century to the present day. You can see the first written evidence of lace production in Honiton; a brass plaque from the tomb of James Rodge, dated 1617. There are also examples of black lace worn by the Victorians as a symbol of mourning and a scarlet nightdress which was owned by Wallis Simpson, for whom King Edward abdicated the throne in 1936.

[Allhallows Museum of Lace and Local Antiquities, Honiton, Devon](http://www.allhallowsmuseum.co.uk)



COLYTON
HERITAGE CENTRE

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

2. CPHS News

a. CPHS April Talk

COLYTON PARISH HISTORY SOCIETY

SONGS OF DEVON
JIM CAUSLEY
...and Uncle Tom Cobley and all!



BBC RADIO 2
FOLK AWARDS
2017
SINGER OF THE YEAR
NOMINEE

JIMCAUSLEY.CO.UK JIMCAUSLEY ALANBEARMANMUSIC.CO.UK

Come along & join our friendly group

DEVON SONGS & FOLKLORE
Tuesday, 28th April 2.30pm
COLYTON TOWN HALL
Members £2 | Visitors £4

Includes Tea & Cake



2026

All Welcome



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b. Colyton Houses Through Time community project

We have had a couple of really interesting and helpful talks from local historians in the past month. Martin Minter from Musbury came to our monthly meeting in the Sunday School Building on Saturday 14 March to talk about the research he has undertaken in Musbury. He has kindly provided the group with some examples of the work he has done. Axminster historian David Knapman also came and gave a talk in the Town Hall on Wednesday 25 March about his experiences in researching local history over many years. He too has also provided a very detailed summary of helpful sources of information.

Please note that this month's Saturday morning gettogether of the Colyton 'Houses Through Time' project group will take place on **Saturday 18 April in the Heritage Centre from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.** We aim to mount an exhibition in the autumn (October).

c. CPHS 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. **If you pay online please do remember to download and complete the membership form and let us have it back so we have your contact details and email address! You can bring completed forms into the Heritage Centre – please mark FAO Treasurer.** 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. Friends of All Saints Church East Budleigh

Why is Roger Conant famous?

East Budleigh's ancient and beautiful All Saints Church will be the setting for a talk about Roger Conant on **Friday 24 April at 7.30 pm.** Historian Ian Blackwell will explain the link between East Budleigh and Salem, USA, and Roger Conant's role as a peacemaker. Tickets Visitors £5 Friends £4



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b. Topsham Museum

Lectures

We have lectures throughout the year, held in Matthews Hall. The Summer Series runs monthly from April to October; lectures start either at 11:00am with doors open at 10:30am or at 7:30pm with doors open at 7:00pm. The Winter Series runs bi-monthly, in November, January and March, when lectures also start at 7:30pm with doors open at 7:00pm.

The entry fee, payable at the door, is £6 for each lecture in the Summer Series and £7 in the Winter Series. A bar serving both soft and alcoholic drinks will be available at evening lectures.

Devon in the 1920s

21 May 2026 @ 11:00. Dr Julia Neville speaks on the Devon History Society's research programme that explored the question "What was life like in Devon 100 years ago?"

Mass Observation in Devon

16 June 2026 @ 19:30. Dr Todd Gray returns to talk about Mass Observation in Devon during the Second World War.

US Declaration of Independence

9 July 2026 11:00. In recognition of the 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence, Topsham Museum is pleased to welcome Dr Henry Knight Lozano, to talk about the context of the 4th July 1776 Declaration.

Exeter Guildhall Shopping Centre

11 August 2026 @ 19:30. Nigel Sadler talks about the history of the Exeter Guildhall Shopping Centre site on its 50th anniversary.

Alfred the Great Penny

17 September 2026 11:00. Details to follow.

Items you may have missed

- a. **Bowling alley dig set to uncover Weymouth's 13th-century origins - BBC News** <https://share.google/HdRmECsBFvf2uVjaM>
- b. **Rural churches face rising crime threat with 'ten offences a day' across UK** https://open.substack.com/pub/pulmansweekly/p/rural-churches-face-rising-crime?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email



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- c. **Buckland Abbey, now a National Trust owned property, marks 75 years of welcoming visitors_**
https://www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/25991236.national-trusts-buckland-abbey-celebrating-75th-anniversary/?ref=eb&nid=2405&block=article_block_a&u=26e309a1465491fa9108b8530c3bc91f&date=030426
- d. **_Exeter's oldest building requires roof repairs -**
<https://share.google/Gmo9VXzQjxnL3bQ7x>
- e. **The Abbot's Way** [The Abbot's Way: the Dartmoor route between medieval abbeys | Great British Life](#)
- f.

Sarah Charman
Editor