

2019 EXHIBITION. "CREDITON STATION - A BRIEF ENCOUNTER".

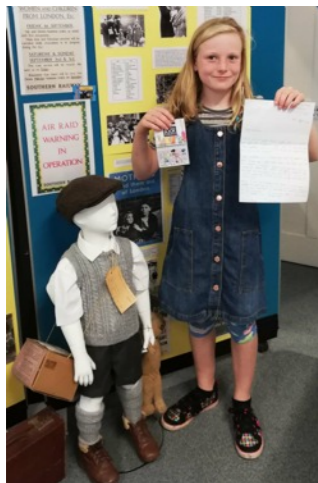


Crediton Brownies with the station model in the background.

Last year's exhibition "Crediton Station - A Brief Encounter" was one of our most successful yet. We had group visits from the Crediton and Morchard Bishop Brownies and children from Yeoford School; there were also lots of individual visits.

The Brownies were shown how to send messages using Semaphore (flags held with the arms in different positions to signify letters) and took part in museum quizzes.

A "write letter home" competition was also held, and of the many "lovely heartwarming letters" Cheryl and Helena received, the winner was Primrose Everitt from Crediton.



Primrose Everitt



Somophore demonstration

A big thankyou to Helena Sykes and Cheryl Lewis Lewis and all their helpers for their hard work in putting on the exhibition.

Chairman's chatter

This year's exhibition - which opens on the 1st April - will feature the 1950s. A decade that many of us will remember. For me it was growing up in a rather primitive house but with a wonderful garden which became my playground.



Our outing this year will be to St. Nicholas Priory in Exeter, where the main attraction is the beautiful Tudor Panelling in the dining room. Parts of the building that survived Henry VIII are almost 1000 years old. There are a maximum of 20 places so it will be first come first served.

During my three years as chairman we have run two of our best exhibitions and I have no doubt this year's will also be a great success. Exhibitions are planned by a sub-committee who work very hard during the winter months, and thanks to everyone involved.

Thank you all for your support over my time as Chairman, and I wish my successor, whoever that may be, a successful term.

John Heal
Society Chairman.

www.creditonhistory.org.uk

This is the address of the museum website. Do add it to the Favourites on your computer. It contains information about local history, an up to date diary of events and links to other

PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

We have an archive of more than 1000 photos in the museum. Copies of many are available to purchase. Contact us through our website.

Our Corporate Friends

Please don't forget to support the local firms whose logos appear in our literature - see below. Without them we would not have a museum. Our income is insufficient to cover the expenses.

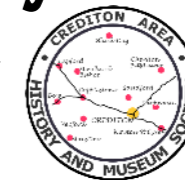
Crediton Museum
& Heritage Centre



Crediton Area History & Museum Society



www.creditonhistory.org.uk



Members
Newsletter
Spring 2020

CREDITON IN WORLD WAR ONE

The September talk which followed the AGM was given by CAHMS member Keith Parson.

Keith began by explaining that before WW1 Crediton was a quiet market town, and he showed a slide of children playing in the middle of East Street, but this changed with the onset of the war. By 2 August 300 men between the ages of 19 and 30 had left Crediton and Col Leopold Montague a retired soldier living at Penton House was given command of the local volunteer reserve platoon, which soon had 58 men over the age of 42.

The Tenth Battalion the Devonshire Regiment, known as Buller's Own were shown parading outside the drill hall in Union Road (now the old Cherry & Symes garage and built as a Temperance Hall for the Salvation Army in 1879).

Two VAD hospitals opened in 1915, in the grounds of the Union Workhouse (now Western Lodge flats) and the Liberal Club (now a pub); 30 women from Crediton volunteered and Doctor Hugo gave lessons in first aid. The first casualties arrived in September 1914.

In October a committee in Crediton began raising funds to house Belgian refugees in the town, and in less than a week six were being accommodated in no. 2 High Street (now The Ivory Secret). By January 1915 most men had left for the front, 382 men were serving, including 25 from Dean St, 11 from Bowden Hill, 71 from Mill St, Park Road and Blagdon Lane, and 58 from Park St - including five members of the Keen family, whilst another family had nine serving.

24 Crediton men died including Thomas Keen who died at the Battle of the Somme. One of the last Crediton men to be killed in September 1918 was Robert Coles who lived in the High Street. In April 1918 Lieut Charles Bicknell - who lived in the Dock Hotel (lately the Il Casita restaurant) was awarded the Military Cross for "conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty"

In the summer of 1915 Miss Winifred Adams - whose family owned a tannery in the town, funded the construction of Upper Deck. It was reported that 50 residents visited on one day in the first week, including convalescing soldiers.

In July 1915 The National Registration Act became law; this required all men and women between



Volunteers parading outside the Drill hall in Union Road

the ages of 15 and 65 to register. Early in 1916 the Compulsory Service Act came into force and all men between 18 and 50 were required to enlist. Men were classed according to their fitness and there were six categories; by December more than 200 men had enlisted. Tribunals were set up to adjudicate appeals; Arthur Tremayne Buller (Redvers' brother) and Sir William Ferguson-Davie were amongst the local worthies on the panel. Seventeen cases were heard, 4 were refused and the rest were postponed for two or three months. Then there were conscientious objectors of which there were three categories: pacifists, political, and religious. Few were excused by the uncompromising tribunals. Of those refused, many were sent to do "work of national importance" and in some cases were imprisoned.

As more men left for the front, women were trained to carry out farm work but at first many farmers were reluctant to accept them.

In July 1915 the first Alexandra Rose Day was held to raise funds for the Red Cross which was training VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) nurses. Events included a "Grand Evening Concert" held in the Town Hall, and although "well-known London Artistes" were advertised to appear, they only got as far as Exeter and none actually appeared!

Thanks are due to Keith for his talk, that was very well received.



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Dr CHARLES NEWTON LOVELY AND THE EXETER WORKMENS DWELLING COMPANY

The Society's first talk of 2020 was given by Richard Holladay, Charles Newton Lovely's paternal grandson. Richard told his audience that Charles was born in Durham in 1863; he qualified as a doctor in 1888. Soon after moved to Exmouth and then to Dawlish where he lived in The Knowle, which now houses Dawlish Museum.

He moved to Exeter during WW1, where he ran No. 2 VAD hospital in Bishop Blackall School. He moved in to Bouverie House in Magdelene Road in 1920; here he later held his GP surgeries.

He was the founding chairman of the Exeter Workmen's Dwelling Company in 1926, with other local worthies being on the board. It had offices in Bedford Circus and set about building decent housing and clearing away slums, and by September 1928 "54 decent, healthy, wholesome houses had been erected and 79 slums wiped out". Kings Dwellings at the top end of Stepcote Hill were opened by Miss Violet Wills from the Bristol tobacco baron's family, in 1933; the scheme was promoted by the then mayor of Exeter Mr. H.W. Michelmore and the rents were set at six shillings (30p) per week. The 16 flats were modernised in 2017.

Violet's sister was Mrs (later Dame) Ella Rowcroft, who in 1926 donated £100,000 towards the new Torbay Hospital; she later set up her charity that still exists today, running the Rowcroft Hospice in Torquay.

Homes built in Mildmay Close, Exwick in around 1929 were paid for with a loan from the Great Western Railway Company, to be let to railway employees.

In 1936 Dr. Lovely retired from the company chairmanship, and at that time the company had built 444 dwellings. By 1940 that number had risen to 552, when building work ceased because of WW2. During the war the Bedford Circus offices were bombed and the company moved to Southernhay East. In 1954 the company was renamed the Exeter Housing Society, when it obtained charitable status. In 2008 the Society was renamed Cornerstone Housing that now owns or manages in excess of 3,000 properties including some in Crediton.

Dr Lovely was involved with the Red Cross and St John's Ambulance, and was also a prison doctor. He died in Aug 1947 and his life and achievements were finally commemorated when in February last year Richard arranged for an Exeter Civic Society blue plaque to be erected on the Kings Dwellings.

A remarkable man admirably described by his grandson Richard, who gave his audience an insight into slum conditions that existed in Exeter right up to modern times.

The Exeter
Workmen's Dwelling Co. Ltd

CLEARING AWAY
THE SLUMS OF
EXETER



Block of the Company's houses in Beacon Avenue

What it has done in 1927-28-29 and what it is endeavouring to do in 1931

THREE HARES

November's talk was given by Dr. Sue Andrews and was about the medieval Three Hares motif, found carved in oak roof bosses in churches in Devon and in other parts of the world. The three hares are locked in a circle and share three ears, with each having two. Sue first came across the motif in 1991 when she read an article in the Dartmoor magazine "The tinnners' rabbits chasing hares" written by archaeologist Dr Tom Greeves; here he concluded that the hares had nothing to do with tinnners!



Sue Andrews with John Heal

Sue, Tom, and Dartmoor photographer Chris Chapman began writing a book "The three hares – a curiosity worth regarding" in 2000, to document the hares. Sue said that in Devon they are found in 16 churches, extending from Paignton to Ashreigny, with a few examples over the border in Cornwall, Dorset and on Exmoor. Mostly they are carved in timber, but at Broadclyst there are plaster copies after the roof was rebuilt. It was thought that the bosses were mostly from the 1400s and the boss in Spreyton church is inscribed with the date 1451. Most hares run anticlockwise but three are known to run clockwise and Chagford has one of each!

Sue talked about the Lady Chapel at St Davids, Pembrokeshire; here a roof boss had been salvaged when the roof fell in after the lead covering had earlier been stripped off during the Rebellion in the early 1700s. Even at that time the hares' significance had been lost, and they were merely "a curiosity worth regarding." It was only at the beginning of twentieth century that the boss was put back in the roof after having first been inserted in a wall.

Sue then showed slides of tiles embossed with the three hares, including a surviving tile at Long Crendon in Buckinghamshire that she had reproduced using the original medieval techniques. The three hares were also found in stained glass and a surviving example is at Long Melford church, Suffolk. Here most of the stained glass was smashed during the Reformation but perhaps because the clerestory glass was out of reach, some survived!

The earliest known image of the three hares in the UK is in the Grandisson Psalter (a richly illustrated religious book) that was produced in southern England in around 1270. Grandisson was Bishop of Exeter from 1327 to 1369.

The hares don't only appear in England and Sue showed a slide of a stone boss in a church in Alsace Lorraine, France. Others examples are found in Germany and right across the world to the Great Wall of China, taking in all the world's great religions.

In spite of the work by Sue and her fellow researchers, there is no clear evidence as to the true significance of the three hares and it remains a puzzle to this day.

MICHAEL PENTREATH

Last autumn the Society lost one of its most energetic researchers and historians, Michael Pentreath who died on 30th October aged 89.



Michael was not a Kirtonian and lived at Farringdon near Exeter, but had a great liking for the town, mainly through his interest in the career of General Buller. He gave the Society talks on that subject, and whenever a request came from elsewhere for information or a lecture on the General, it was Michael that we turned to, and he was always willing to help. He was also a guide at Downes, donating his earnings to CAHMS funds.

His most significant contribution for us came with our Victorian and Edwardian Exhibition in 2008. He prepared a display on Sir Redvers and the Buller family, which amounted to about a quarter of the exhibition.

Over the last few years Michael's health did not allow him to travel to Crediton very often, especially at night, but we should remember him as a significant contributor to the welfare of our Society.

Do you have some time to spare?
Are you thinking of Volunteering?
Do you enjoy meeting and chatting to people?



We are seeking more stewards for our exhibition. If you would like to find out more please call Cheryl (01363 776307) or Helena (01363 877434) No experience needed as training and support will be given. You just need a friendly outgoing nature to join our team

ALAN SHARPE



Alan stepped down as the Society's Treasurer towards the end of last year, and at our January meeting, chairman John Heal presented him with a Life Membership certificate in recognition of his many years service to the Society, mostly as our Treasurer.

Few of us have known any other Treasurer of the History Society and John said he reckoned that Alan's service extended over more than 25 years. Not only has Alan kept our books under control, he has also involved himself in so much more of the work necessary to run the Society, from stewarding at the museum, to DIY jobs at Downes and the museum, through to making the tea! He very capably managed our changed financial circumstances when we finally started the museum 10 years ago and

struggled manfully with the onset of technology! He continued following the sad death of his wife and fellow Society worker, Shirley in 2015. Alan has unfortunately not enjoyed the best of health himself recently, but true to form he has attended our meetings when he could. John concluded by wishing Alan a long and happy 'retirement'.

We have been most fortunate in recruiting member Gloria Petherick as an able replacement for Alan.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CAHMS events commence at 7.30pm at the Boniface Centre, For more details and to keep up to date, visit "Whats On" on our website.

- 9 Mar "The work of a modern wheelwright" by Greg Rowland (N.B. THIRD Monday)
- 18 Mar Providing for the poor in some Mid Devon parishes by Elly Babbage. A Newton St. Cyres History Group event.
- 23 Mar "Ipplepen Excavation" by Steve Rippon, Professor of Landscape Archaeology at the University of Exeter. A Bow and District Historical Society event.
- 27 Mar "Exe Bridges around Thorverton" by civil engineer Bill Harvey. A Thorverton & District History Society event.
- 5 Apr Tedburn History open day.
- 20 Apr "Lundy through time". by Simon Dell. A CAHMS event

- 22 Apr "Dellers of Bedford Street, lost in the 1942 Baedeker raids" by Ed Williams Hawkes. NSCHG event.
- 27 Apr "Church, Sex and Slander in Elizabethab North Devon" by North Devon historian Peter Christie. A BHG event.
- 11 May CAHMS annual outing to St Catherine's Priory.
- 25 May "Peat Powder and Power." by Tom Soby. A BHG event.
- 22 June "Breton Craftsmen in Early Tudor Devon" by Devonshire Association president John Allen. A BHG event.
- 14 Oct "Devon's Orchards; How we took to Cider" by Michael Gee. A NSCHG event.
- 26 Oct "Exeter in 1743" by Dr. Todd Gray. A BHG event.

CAHMS entry 50p members, £3.50 non-members
NSCHG entry £2.00. BHG entry: members free.
£3.00 non-members