

THE TEAM!

I am sure that most members and Friends realise the huge amount of work that goes on to keep the museum open and protect and promote our collection. Often it is thought invidious to name names but I'm going to mention a few now because I don't think their enormous effort is much known about. In no particular order:

Jon Kelsey. Family History research volunteer, web site webmaster and adviser and often doer in connection with anything 'I.T.'

Adele Cox. Former Chair, now long-suffering Rota organiser for Museum Stewards and steward herself, and social/coffee morning organiser.

John Heal. Acknowledged expert on Crediton history, author, former secretary for many years and now chair.

Keith Mortimer. Newsletter editor and press officer, represents us at our Landlord's meetings and gets involved in Local History research.

Mike Brett. Who faithfully records all our talks, and advises and usually implements any advanced technical visual/audio matters.

Judy Tucker. Without whom we would not have a Talks programme.

Alan Sharpe. Treasurer since the year dot! Somehow keeps tabs on our finances.

Keith Parsons. Runs the Family History Research Corner.

Helena Sykes. 'Shop Manager' and master mind behind this year's great exhibition.

Peter Budd. Who, with John Heal, finally catalogued most of our substantial photograph collection and still advises and assists on any photographic needs.

Cheryl Lewis. Breath of fresh air who has got to grips with marking and cataloguing our artefacts.

Gloria Petherick. What a relief when Gloria came on the scene to concentrate on inputting details of our collection on the computer programme we'd had for years but never had the courage to use!
David Nation

Chairman's chatter

After a very hot and dry summer we are now moving into our programme for the winter of 2018/19. After the AGM Ellie Babbage will give us a talk on the Bidlake family. Her talk earlier this year on the pauper and the lunatic was excellent.



Judy Tucker has organised another interesting and varied series of talks; details are on the our Web Site and will be on your membership card.

This year's exhibition "Young at Heart" is probably our best so far and visitor numbers are slightly up on previous years. I must thank Helena Sykes and her team for all their hard work.

On a negative note, we have a number of vacancies on our committee and need new volunteers. There are only 10 meetings per year, held at the museum and usually are all over in 90 minutes. If you could spare just a little time to help keep the Society running smoothly the existing committee members would be delighted to see you.

Our Christmas party this year is on the 10th December at the Three Little Pigs. I hope to see you all there.

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.

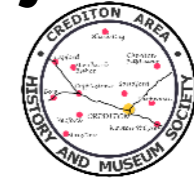
Crediton Museum & Heritage Centre



Crediton Area History & Museum Society



www.creditonhistory.org.uk



Members and Friends Newsletter
August 2018

"KNOW YOUR PLACE"



This screen grab of the centre of Crediton is of the 1946 RAF aerial photograph on the left (the "comparison map") and the 1878-1888 Town Map on the right (the "base map"). The square in the centre of the join between the two is a slider that can be moved left or right to show more or less of each map. A further slider (top right of the screen - not visible here) enables the map on the left to be faded in and out.

It's very moorish - try it out!

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

Now that the dust has begun to settle on the GDPR, it is not as thick as everyone anticipated! A bit like the Millennium Bug as the year 2000 loomed!

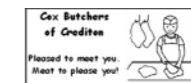
Many thanks to the vast majority of you who returned the consent form we circulated with the last newsletter but it has become apparent that all we really needed was a "legitimate interest" in contacting you and since you all pay a subscription to belong, it's pretty obvious! So this little piece is just to confirm to you all, that, whether you completed the form or not, **we will continue to communicate with you as we always have done.** The most important bit is perhaps our Privacy policy, quoted in the Newsletter: **We will not pass on your details to any outside organisation unless required by law to do so.**

If you've any concerns about this or want us to change the way we keep in touch with you, please contact us either in writing at the museum or through our website.



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Supported by:



SANDFORD HERITAGE GROUP VISIT TO THE MET OFFICE.



About 20 members and guests visited the Met Office on the afternoon of the 28 July. The photo shows members outside the entrance to the forecasting room, where one of the volunteer guides is explaining what goes on inside. On display on the wall outside is a copy of the original D Day weather chart – probably the most important chart the Met Office has ever been produced. It included isobars across occupied Europe – obtained with the help of the famous “Enigma” decoding machine, and they were vital to preparing an accurate forecast.

The tour started with a lecture about the function and workings of the Met Office and then moved on to an air conditioned room housing one of the two supercomputers in the building – capable of carrying out two million calculations per second for every one of the Earth's inhabitants! A third similar computer had to be housed in a separate building on the Exeter Science Park because the Met Office building doesn't have enough electricity supply to run all three!

The tour then moved on to a display of present and historic information gathering equipment including what looked like a silent football rattle that apparently enabled the relative humidity to be calculated. The tour concluded with a lecture about weather forecasting and brought a very interesting tour to an end.

AUCTION OF FOUR MILLS FLOUR MILL IN 1847



Extract from Bristol Mercury July 31st 1847

Mr HELMORE will SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, at the HALF MOON HOTEL, EXETER on THURSDAY the 10th August next, at three o'clock in the afternoon

All that's new-built and commodious FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE, with the extensive Flour-Mills and Lots adjoining, called *Four-Mills*, together also with Four cottages, Walled Garden, and a productive orchard, called Chown, and a rich Tillage Field, called Long-Close, close adjoining the above Premises, containing altogether about Three Acres, late the property of Mr William Drake, deceased. The Premises are most substantially built, with brick and stone walls, and covered with slate and tile. The Machinery consists of two over-shot water-wheels, 14 ft. by 9 ft., and 16ft by 7 ft., with treble motion; iron shafts, buckets and rings, each driving three pair of stones, together with a bunt, flour, rubble and three smut machines, and a kiln for drying wheat, The Machinery, with every accommodation necessary for the carrying on a most extensive business, has been carefully studied by the late owner, and erected upon the very best principle, and the whole is now replete and capable of manufacturing 300 sacks of flour per week. The Mills consist of five stories, 70 ft. in length and 21 ft. in breadth, and there are four lofts adjoining the Millhouse, 74 ft. by 22 ft., which are capable of being constructed into stores for various purposes, and in which are two pastry-rooms. To a person about to embark his capital in the flour or other manufacturing business, this will be found a most favourable opportunity. The situation for purchasing corn of the first quality is one of the best in the West of England; great facilities are also given to the carrying on an extensive trade, by the Exeter and Crediton Railroad-Station being within 100 yards of the manufactory, and within five hours journey from London. Dated 7th July, 1847.

£10 upon G Bodley, a weaver. According to Mrs Northcot standing corn was seized and sold for £30 which was worth £50 or £60. And Mr G Bodley's very looms were distraised and carried away, whereby he was much disabled from getting a livelihood. And so barbarously cruel were the Officers in distraising, that they took away a poor weavers clothes, and endeavoured to take away a poor maid's shift. And this gentlewoman Mrs Northcot is so perpetually disgusted (?), that she can scarcely talk with a friend about her ordinary affairs, but she meets with disturbances. Sometimes the Officers breaking open her doors when there is no meeting nor grounds of suspicion in that regard; so that not being able to endure their impetuosities, rage and oppressions any longer she is forced at last to leave the Town, where she was very charitable to the poor.

Extract from one of 19th Century Crediton historian Alfred Edwards' notebooks.

FIND OF MEDICAL BOTTLES AT 52 HIGH STREET

The Museum has recently received an interesting donation from Mr Patrick Collier of Pownes House, High Street. When he acquired Pownes House and the neighbouring premises some 20 years or so ago, Mr Collier found a collection of medicine bottles and other medical items in a cupboard. He has now



decided that they should go to the museum and met archivist John Heal recently to hand over the finds. Since then the museum volunteers have researched the occupancy of the premises and discovered some interesting facts.

It was known that the house was named after a Dr Powne and that the practice was at The Old Surgery a few doors up (that eventually became Chiddenbrook Surgery). The research revealed that medical practitioners had lived in the house for almost 100 years but that Dr Powne had, in fact, only lived there for a period of 15 years or so at the turn of the century. Prior to that two generations of Drs Body had lived there from 1871. Two generations of Drs Hugo lived in the High Street, probably at no. 52, for at least 20 years before that. What is quite remarkable is that a third generation of Hugos began to practice there for 30 years from about 1916. This means that there was a Dr Hugo in the town for around 100 years, the last one arriving almost 50 years after his grandfather. At least two of the doctors were for some time Medical Officers of Health for the area.

Archivist and current chairman John Heal said “It is not often that artefacts such as these are left in a building for so long. In this case they have a special significance because they relate directly to the important service that was provided by the occupants to the community for such a long time.”

37 HIGH STREET UNCOVERED



The main photo - taken when the Moore's Garage site was being redeveloped in 1998 shows the exposed flank wall of 37 High St - which was then the Liberal Club. The smaller photo is of the Georgian window that was covered over when No. 36 was built in the 1800's.



CREDITON IN WORLD WAR ONE

A new booklet in our series on Crediton History will be published shortly. It will be called “Crediton in World War One”. It will be about life in the town and surrounding area during the War. The problems farmers had in meeting increasing demand for food whilst losing much of their labour force at the same time; rationing in the later years of the War; the Voluntary Aid Detachment Hospitals; and the story of the building of the War Memorial are some of the subjects covered.

The majority of the contents have been taken from local newspaper and magazine reports at the time. There are a couple of Appendices which give information on the fallen, including some local men who are not listed on our War Memorial.

RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE IN THE 17TH CENTURY

At Crediton May 29th, 1670.

Mr T____ a non-conformist was desired by Mrs Northcot to pray in her family home, which accordingly he did. At which time came in one Philip Lendon, pretending to the gentlewoman his great desire of hearing something that might do his soul good. So she admitted the masked Hypocrite into her house, who after a little time went forth and informed the Constables there was a conventicle (*clandestine religious meeting*) at Mrs Northcot's. Five, therefore, with some others, came and found a few of their neighbours in the house, who were on May 30th summoned before Justice Tuckfield; who only upon the oath of this informer, convicted them of a conventicle (*clandestine religious meeting*); fined the minister £20 and the gentlewoman £20 for her house. Because the minister was no housekeeper, he levied £10 of the fine upon her, and

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CAHMS events at 7.30pm at the Boniface Centre unless otherwise shown. For more details and to keep up to date, visit “Whats On” on our website.

- 10 Sept** AGM at 7pm followed by “The Bidlake Family and the Young Pretender” by Ellie Babbedge.
- 19 Sept** Talk on the ancient three hares motif Newton St Cyres History Group event
- 24 Sept** “Okehampton - Historic gateway to North Dart-Moor” by Andrew Thompson. Bow and District History Society event.
- 8 Oct** “Women's suffrage - the women (and men!) who made history” by Sue Virgin
- 17 Oct** “The rise and fall of Mosley's Blackshirts in Crediton and Devon.” by Dr. Todd Gray. Crediton U3A event.
- 17 Oct** “Fairgrounds at War. 1939-45” by Kay Townsend. A NSCHG event.
- 22 Oct** “Devon Great Consols - a Mine of Mines” by Rick Stewart. A BDHG event.

- 12 Nov** “General Gordon's death at Khartoum - political procrastination and military obduracy” by David Baker
- 14 Nov** “The Clarence - A History and Update” by Dr Todd Gray. A NSCHG event.
- 21 Nov** “Crime and Punishment.” by Sir Neil Butterfield. A Crediton U3A event.
- 26 Nov** BDHG AGM and Social.
- 10 Dec 2019** CAHMS Christmas party.
- 14 Jan** “Antiquities in profusion - an exploration of Exmoor's past.” by Shirley Blaylock.
- 11 Feb** “Living with smell” by Carole Vivian.
- 11 Mar** “Digging up Britain's oldest shipwrecks” by Peter Marsden.

CAHMS entry 50p members, £3.50 non member NSCHG entry £2.00. BDHG entry £3.00 non members