



HISTORY IN PHOTOGRAPHS.

The Society held its AGM in the Boniface Centre on Monday the 12th September. This was followed by a presentation given by the Society's archivist John Heal in which he featured 20th century photographs from the Society's archives.

John began with photos of what was arguably the biggest event ever to take place in Crediton – the funeral of General Sir Redvers Buller of Downes in 1909.

The next big event in Crediton was the coronation of George V, which was marked by the demolition of cottages and the Ring o' Bells public house that extended from the churchyard entrance to Church Lane, and the erection of the Coronation Cross that still stands in the churchyard south east corner.

Photos connected to WW1 followed, including the 300 or so volunteers from Crediton, gathered outside what is now Redvers House, the two hospitals for wounded soldiers – one in the grounds of the workhouse (now Western Lodge) and the other in the Liberal club (now Wetherspoons). Also a Blue Cross day in 1916 that raised fifty pounds, and a Peace Day march in Union Road.

The construction of the town's war memorial in 1923 was next. This was followed by photos of Newcombes Meadow and the tennis courts that once were next to the bowling green, Newcombes House (demolished in the 1970's) in the background and the long-gone wartime huts (including a photo of them on fire!).

Photos of royal visits followed, including the Queen's Rolls Royce passing the Green, the late Princess Margaret unveiling the statue of St. Boniface and the Archbishop of Canterbury blessing St. Boniface Well in Newcombes Meadow; also local Coronation parties. Photos of the Fordton floods, Codshead Bridge washed away leaving the railway track in mid air, and deep snow in High Street and North Street.

John ended his presentation with photos of the thatched almshouses that once stood in Church Street and the lodge to Newcombes House that once stood in Belle Parade.

Chairman's chatter

Happy New Year to one and all. As I write this on a chilly and damp day I can see the early daffodils starting to shoot and primroses flowering. The days are getting longer and hopefully we'll get some warmer sunny weather soon!



As you can see, we have had some interesting donations to the archive and some very good talks at the Boniface Centre. Our Coffee Morning in early December was a sociable affair and the cake stall was very popular. Another Coffee Morning is planned for **Saturday 18th February** when again we will have a second-hand book stall and cakes and preserves on sale. Please come along and support us.

Our next exhibition at the Museum opens after Easter and is entitled "Down on the Farm". It will include all sorts of gadgets and equipment used on farms in the past and should be of interest to everyone. Members of the committee and volunteers are working hard on the new exhibition and redesigning the Museum entrance. We are always looking for extra helpers whether it in cataloguing, computing, researching, writing articles, DIY or making cakes for

Sandra Cooper

Sandra Cooper
Society Chairman.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

The Society has an archive of more than 1000 photos kept in the museum. Copies of many are available for purchase and contact can be made through our website.

[creditonhistory.org.uk](http://www.creditonhistory.org.uk)

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



Supported by:



Crediton Area History & Museum Society

www.creditonhistory.org.uk



Members and Friends Newsletter

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THE DOUGLAS PENNY HOARD.

Douglas Penny – formerly senior partner at Veitch Penny, solicitors in the town – has recently donated to the museum a collection of property auction catalogues that he acquired during his career. The earliest date from 1914 and include the Eggesford Estate amounting to 2,763 acres – in 1914; outlying farms from the Coombe Estate owned by the Sillifant family for many years and amounting to 2,060 acres – in 1919; and the sale of 11 Credy Estate farms amounting to 1,520 acres – in 1953. Also the auction of a number of properties in Crediton owned by the Downes Estate and including Hillbrow House and the adjoining White Hart Hotel, Crediton Post Office, and over fifty cottages in Mill Street, Exeter Road, Charlotte Street, High Street including the telephone exchange then in No. 141, North Street, Market Street, Park Street and Salmonhutch; the auction was in June 1922, at "3pm precisely" although 33 of the 44 lots appear to have been sold to the tenants before the auction!

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 museum web sites.

ECONOMIC BOOT AND SHOE WORKS.

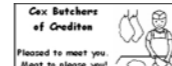
David Nation and Keith Mortimer were closing up the museum on the 26th October when an Australian visitor from New South Wales came in. He was Roger Irving a descendant of the Gimblett family who were owners of the Economic Boot and Shoe Works at 111-112 High Street (now Helmores – although the factory that stood on the land behind is long gone) in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. David was able to give him information about where Samuel Gimblett had lived in George Hill and we have subsequently exchanged emails with him.

We have auction details dated 1909 when the "mortgagees in possession" disposed of the high street premises and the now-demolished "fine range of manufacturing premises" on the land behind. Also auctioned was a 2-acre field ("Part of East Field" and described as a "charming building site for one or two villa residences") in George Hill, and reading between the lines this land may well have been owned by Samuel Gimblett.

Roger has sent us undated press cuttings about a strike in Gimblett's premises that came about because the men wanted 8d (3.3p) per pair to make "Blucher" boots but Gimblett would only offer 6½d (2.7p). Another press cutting described the prosecution of Samuel Gimblett by the NSPCC for thrashing a nineteen year old orphaned apprentice called Fielding for ruining a boot he was making. His defence was that Fielding's grandfather with whom he lived had told Gimblett to "correct him if he misbehaved". Forty strokes of the cane was judged too much however and Gimblett was found guilty and fined two pounds. This is about £170 in today's money which doesn't seem much, but perhaps the magistrates took into account "his endeavours to advance the "welfare of the labouring classes" in Crediton.



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SOUTH WEST COAST PATH AND BRUNEL

The first CAHMS talk of 2017 about the South West Coast Path from Starcross to Plymouth was presented by David Westcott - a science teacher at Queen Elizabeth until his retirement in 2008.

David began at Starcross at one of the few remaining of Brunel's ill-fated atmospheric railway pumping stations, and he produced a model powered by a Dyson vacuum cleaner!

Approaching Dawlish is the "Sea Lawn Gap" so called because Brunel's sea wall had to be lowered so as not to obstruct Sea Lawn House's view! The gap was removed when the Orange Army rebuilt the sea wall in 2014. Dawlish, has its black swans, and David told us that Brunswick Place is named after Catherine of Brunswick wife of George IV, who once stayed in the town.

At Teignmouth one passes the Parson and the Clerk rock outcrop, and David recounted the fanciful way it allegedly got its name! From Teignmouth the path crosses to Shaldon, via one of the country's oldest foot ferries dating from 1296. At Torquay one passes Brunel Manor, designed by the great man for his retirement but he never lived to see it built.

Oldway Mansion, Paignton was occupied by the Singer family for several generations, and Isabella Boyer the French wife of Isaac Singer was apparently the model for the Statue of Liberty.

David then discussed the Palk family who developed much of Torquay, Robert Palk and his association with Stringer Lawrence, Haldon Belvedere and the long-gone Haldon House.

The audience was then moved on to Brixham via Goodrington and the Hookhills Viaduct designed by Brunel. Somehow David then doubled back to Exeter and William of Orange before moving on to the Berry Head Hotel which was built as a military hospital and was sold to the local vicar Henry Light of "Abide with Me" fame.

Further west is Strete and when the Coast Path was constructed there, unexploded munitions from WW2 exercises were uncovered; nearby at Slapton in the Sherman tank recovered from the sea and which now stands as a memorial to the 700 American troops lost in a WW2 training exercise disaster. Next up is Hall-sands, scene of a civilian disaster which lost the village to the sea after dredging destroyed the village's natural defences.

Moving on to Salcombe, passing Burgh Island with its Agatha Christie connections one arrives at Noss Mayo. David recounted the story of Membrane House, built by Edward Baring (later Lord Revelstoke) of banking fame. Edward wanted a grand carriage drive to impress his guests and built the 9-mile long, wide and level road now known as Revelstoke Drive.

David ended up at Wembury and his talk was as much about history as walking and was well received by the large audience.



1888 EDITION O.S. MAPS

Local solicitor practice Quality Solicitors Charlesworth Nicholl have a history extending back into the 19th century and who are already a much valued financial supporter of Crediton Museum through the Corporate Friends scheme, recently presented a fine set of local Ordnance Survey maps.

Senior partner Chris Nicholl – shown presenting the plans to David Nation, said "It is good to know that there is somewhere secure where interesting documents like this can be lodged. When this is the local history archive, the fact that local people can access them for research is a big bonus."

The maps are to a scale of 1 in 500, in which 1 mile is represented by 10.56 feet; a scale only used for urban areas, and large enough to show details of individual buildings as the extract demonstrates. Apart from 1 missing sheet, of which we already have a paper copy, the built up area of Crediton in 1888 is shown on 12 sheets. Mounted on cloth, their robustness makes it practical for them to be stored at the museum rather than the Downes archive, for more convenient viewing by CAHMS members, researchers and other interested members of the public.



THE BULLERS IN CORNWALL

The November CAHMS talk was presented by Carole Vivian from Pelynt near Looe and was about the Buller family in Cornwall. The talk resulted from Carole's research, originally into the Trelawny family that have many connections with the Bullers, and indeed almost all the land in the parish of Pelynt was once owned by both families.

The first Buller Carole referred to was Francis of Tregarick near Pelynt, who died in 1615 and who moved there from Shillingham in St Steven by Saltash parish. Francis and his wife Thomasine had 8 daughters and 4 sons! Richard was his son and heir and he lived at Shillingham; he was also an MP and sheriff for Cornwall and it was during this period that the Bullers acquired the manor of Pelynt, and the patronage of Pelynt church has been held by a descendant of the Buller family ever since and there is substantial evidence of the Bullers in the church at St. Steven. Wentworth Buller sold Shillingham in 1847.

John Buller (grandson of Sir Richard of Shillingham) acquired the Morval Estate by a judicious first marriage to the daughter and heiress of John Coode of Morval. His second wife was also heiress to a fortune and by these two marriages John acquired substantial holdings in the area.

John Buller (grandson of Sir Richard of Shillingham) acquired the Morval Estate by a judicious first marriage to Anne, the daughter and heiress of John Coode of Morval. His second wife was also heiress to a fortune and by these two marriages John acquired substantial holdings in the area.

The Bullers fought for parliament during the Civil War and the first John Buller of Morval and his son also John were both MPs for East Looe at one time and the quay is still known as the Buller Quay.

Jonathon's daughter Rebecca married John Francis Buller the son of the 2nd John Buller of Morval. Thus two of Cornwall's most powerful families had been united. With the marriage of his son James to Elizabeth Gould, Downes came into the Buller family, and a painting of Rebecca hangs at Downes.

James Buller's first son (James) also married a member of the Gould family, Hussey the daughter of Thomas Gould of Frome who bore 2 children (James, the grandfather of Redvers Buller and William Buller of Whimble). His son was Thomas Wentworth Buller who was appointed one of 3 tithe commissioners by the government. In later life Thomas lived at Strete Raleigh near Exeter. He died in 1852 and is buried in Whimble churchyard.

Harriet Eliza Buller's 2nd marriage was to the Reverend James Buller-Kitson but from studying her diaries Carole concluded that she had had a crush on the future baronet William Lewis Salisbury Trelawny son of Sir John, who married Harriet in 1872 and thus another joining between the two families. Harriet's cousin Redvers Buller occasionally visited Trelawne before and after the war, and as patron of Pelynt church he took an interest in the parish.

Buller Terrace in Pelynt as well as several Buller Arms in the area are reminders of the Buller family's influence for over 300 years and Henry Parker at Downes is the current patron.

The Trelawnys sold all their land around Pelynt and the adjoining parishes, and the baronet Sir John William moved to France. The manor house is now part of a holiday complex. The Bullers left Shillingham and there are no longer Bullers living at Morval House although the Buller-Kitsons still own land.

Sir John Carew wrote in 1600 that every Cornish gentleman was a cousin. This makes for very confusing family trees and as this brief report demonstrates, trying to follow the tortuous Buller family tree was not easy! Thanks are due to Carole for a most interesting talk.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All commencing at 7.30pm at the Boniface Centre.

Unless otherwise shown.

To keep right up to date visit "Whats On" on our website.

13th Feb "Finds From Shipwrecks in Devon."

by Charlotte Coles

15th Feb "The Geological Survey of Crediton" by Dr Richard Scrivenor (Contact Crediton U3A for details of venue etc.)

15th Feb "Stories from a Devonshire Kitchen" by Paul Cleave. (Newton St Cyres History Group in the village hall)

18th Feb. CAHMS coffee morning in the Museum.

27th Feb "The Cheriton Family of Nymet Rowland" (Bow and District Historical Society event).

13th Mar "St Lawrence Chapel, Crediton" by Isolde Summers.

15th Mar "Name Calling in Elizabeth Devon (1540 onwards)". Talk by Dr Todd Gray (U3A event.)

15th Mar "An Aspect of Newtons Archaeology" by Bill Horner (NCHG event)

27th Mar "The Three Hares" The story of a quest from mediaeval Devon to ancient China. (BHS event).

10th Apr "The Moistown Archaeology Project" by Janet Daynes.

19th Apr "Lighter Moments of a Veterinary Surgeon's Life". Talk by CAHMS volunteer Peter Budd (U3A event)

24th Apr "The rise of the Alehouse in Tudor and Stuart England". by Mark Hailwood. (BHS event).

26th Apr "Medicine in Devon in the 18th and 19th Cen-

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



LEN DARLING

We were very sad to hear that Len Darling died on 10 December 2016 aged 68. His funeral in Shobrooke church was very well attended by family, friends and colleagues. He had been married to Eileen for over 40 years and his sons, Ian and Pete, and brother Robert all spoke very affectionately of him and told amusing and colourful stories of his life.

Len carried out research on the gravestones in Shobrooke churchyard and arranged for names to be added to the war memorial. He also researched the life of Stephen Cyril Dimes and persuaded the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to install a headstone in the churchyard in his honour. Len lived in Shobrooke for over 30 years and after moving to North Tawton maintained his interest in the history of the village.