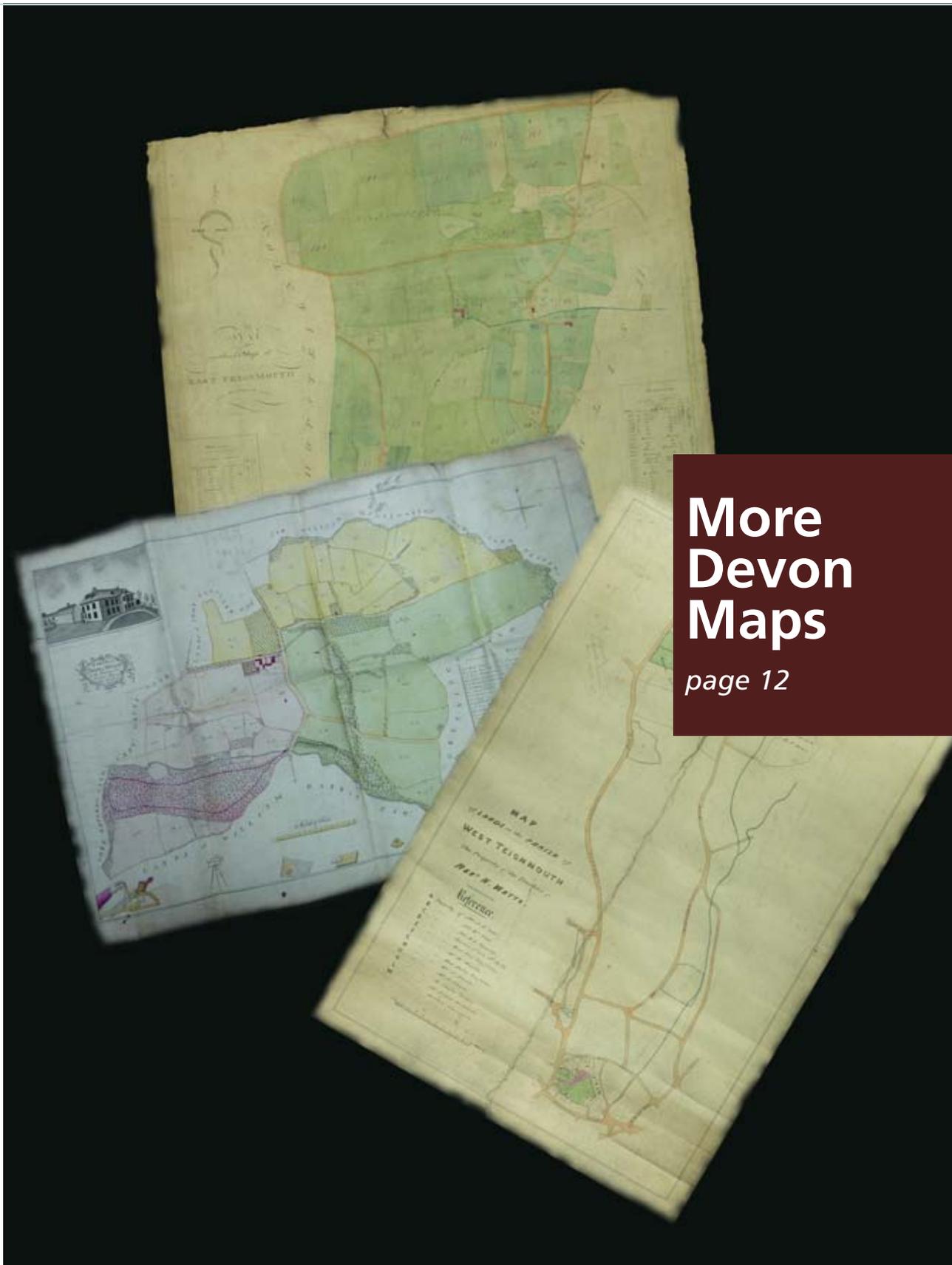


# Devon Heritage Services

## Newsletter

Winter 2011/12 ■ Issue 1

collect, conserve, inform, inspire...



**More  
Devon  
Maps**

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## Devon Heritage Services

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Corporate  
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Please see our website  
for details of opening  
times

Front Cover

Maps of Winscott Barton  
(North Devon Record Office,  
B1041), East and West  
Teignmouth (Devon Record  
Office, 3257 add)



# Introducing Devon Heritage Services

2012 marks both the Diamond Jubilee of the Devon Record Office and a brand new chapter in its history. Indeed, it would be wonderful if we possessed some actual diamonds that we could use to enhance the funding of the service because, as we all know, the current financial climate has seen a dramatic reduction in money available to local authorities, affecting the level of service that we have all become accustomed to. The archives service has not been immune from this, and we are being required to cut our revenue budget by 20% as our contribution to the present round of County Council cutbacks. This has meant that we have had to lose staff as a result of a major restructure exercise. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find profiles of all the roles in our new structure, together with photographs of the post holders, which we hope will help make it easier for you to recognise staff members when you visit or call either of our two offices in future. Regrettably, we have had to say goodbye to several old friends and absolute stalwarts of the archives service over many years: John Draisey has stepped down from the post of County Archivist that he has held with such efficiency since 1996; John Brunton, Principal Archivist at our Exeter Office, has left us after 33 years dedicated service; and Susan Laithwaite, Senior Archivist at Exeter, has also departed after over 30 years with the office. Just before the restructure started, our former Heritage Outreach Officer, Katherine Weston, left to take up a similar post in London. Angela Doughty, who worked in both the Exeter Cathedral Archives and the County Modern Records Unit, retired during 2011 and Gill McCairns, who also worked in the MRU, has transferred, along with the modern records, to a new section in the County Council.

So we are now a much smaller team with fewer resources at our disposal, but we are not downhearted. We appreciate that things could have been a great deal worse, and I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to everybody who contacted the County Council, came to one of our consultation meetings, signed the petition organised by our Friends group or filled in one of our consultation forms to express their concerns about the future of the archives service in Devon. The strength of your views did actually make a huge difference and made us, and others, aware of the immense level of support that is out there for our work. This effectively saved the North Devon Record Office in Barnstaple, which looked under serious threat of closure at one point.

You will see that our service is being re-branded as 'Devon Heritage Services'. The idea behind this is to develop closer partnerships with related heritage organisations and to begin a process of co-locating a range of historical resources (including those of the Westcountry Studies Library) with us at Great Moor House in Exeter to provide a joint Devon Heritage Centre service along the lines of what has worked very successfully on a smaller scale in north Devon for over 20 years. A new Business Plan is being developed to progress this vision, and this will be published on our website. Our main aims for the future are to work more in partnership with others (for there is strength in numbers), to expand our online resources, including the digitisation of key records, to develop projects with local communities, in order to help them make their collections of photographs, oral history recordings and other historical or topical material more accessible through the Internet, and to ensure that the many amazing treasures that we hold are more widely known and, above all, relevant to as wide a cross section of the population as possible. If we can achieve all that, our chances of continued survival should be much stronger next time the spending axe is brought to the sharpening stone!

Thank you again for your valued support.

**Tim Wormleighton**

*Heritage Services Manager*

# Friends of Devon's Archives

The year 2011 must rank as the Friends' busiest and most productive since its formation - a time of campaigns and conferences. Its support for new premises for the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office is now part of a five-year campaign and the FoDA Chairman, Dr Todd Gray, meets regularly with Plymouth City Council Officials alongside Mrs Maureen Selley, Chairman of the Devon Family History Society to discuss the new building. The recent announcement that the Royal William Yard is the intended home of the new office is to be welcomed.

The campaign to mitigate the proposed drastic funding cuts to the County Council's record offices in Exeter and Barnstaple involved FoDA members in a great deal of work, and particularly Todd Gray who masterminded the plans to raise public awareness of the problems the funding shortfall would cause; for example the closure of the Barnstaple Office, a 30% staff reduction and the severe curtailment of the Exeter Office's opening hours. Council Officers and Members were deluged with communications from record office users, including many from local history societies. As a result, the Council looked again at the proposed cuts and a way forward was found to allow the use of funds accruing from the digitisation of some records to offset the budget shortfall.

FoDA has continued to stage events to publicise archives in Devon. Peter Towey, under its auspices, organised a very successful day in March on the subject of the Plymouth Blitz and in June a Joint Conference with the Devon and Cornwall Record Society in Exeter Guildhall was devoted to 'The Elizabethan Orphan's Court and its Inventories'. On 15th October FoDA held its AGM and a Conference on 'Woodwork in Devon' in County Hall, Exeter and was welcomed by the

Chief Executive, Dr Phil Norrey. The first speaker, John Allan (FoDA's President) gave a lecture on 'Breton Carpenters in early Tudor Devon'. He stressed the relationship between archives (he had made good use of the Lay Subsidy rolls) and surviving carvings in Devon and Brittany. There followed talks by Sue Andrew on 'Late medieval roof bosses in Devon Churches' and by Eddie Sinclair on 'A look at the polychromy of Devon rood screens'. The last speaker, Hugh Harrison, talked about 'The Three Herbert Reads' and their ecclesiastical building and furnishing business in Exeter, based on the records which are now in the DRO. This was a most interesting and successful day and was enjoyed by an audience of over 100, made up of FoDA members and a greater number of visitors.

## Further events are planned for 2012

### **Saturday, 17 March 2012**

Devon Record Office Open Day at Great Moor House, Exeter

### **Saturday, 14 April 2012**

One-day Conference in Plymouth at the Sherwell Centre, North Hill on the subject of 'Plymouth People through the Ages'

Further details of these events will be available from the record offices in Exeter, Barnstaple and Plymouth in the New Year.

**Margery Rowe**

# Margaret Graves

The Simcoe Family papers (Deposit Number 1038) relate to the life, career and immediate family of General John Graves Simcoe, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. The collection consists primarily of property records and the diaries and correspondence of family members.

The letters included in the collection have previously been catalogued by bundle. As part of the process of making the catalogue available online it has been decided that all 928 letters should receive an individual description in order to make the collection more accessible.

The collection contains, amongst other items, the letters of Margaret Graves, who was the second wife of Admiral Samuel Graves who was the godfather of John Graves Simcoe. Margaret lived as a wealthy widow in Bath, during the era in which Jane Austen was using Bath as a setting for many of her novels.

Margaret Graves corresponded principally with her grand nieces, Eliza, Charlotte and Anne Simcoe, daughters of John Graves Simcoe. Her letters are lively and humorous, often containing gossip and scandalous revelations about Bath society. As such she provides a valuable eye witness account of the society and culture of Georgian Bath.

A prime example of Mrs.Graves' love of gossip is to be found in the letter transcribed below.

*'I fancy that you remember the inhabitants of the upper Crescent; & amongst them the family of the Hursts; last week he, his wife & daughter was at the Ball at the upper rooms; where the old gentleman amused himself, with inspecting the different tables in the tea*



*The Assembly Rooms – Bath*

*room & taking & actually pocketing a handful of sugar from each bason [sic]; it seems he had been in the habit of supplying his own family for the*

*last three years by this odd kind of industry; being suspected by the Waiters, he was watched & discovered; but when charged with pilfering; he denied it absolutely, & said it was a lie of the servants, upon which, to clear their own characters, they insisted upon his pockets being searched; & they found near three pounds, which he had purloined from the different tables; I hear that a party of gentleman are to meet on Saturday next, to consult whether he shall be prosecuted by Mr Stroud, or only expelled the rooms'.*

## **1038M/F/1/150:**

Letter from Margaret Graves of Bath to her niece Eliza Simcoe at Wolford Lodge, dated 28th April 1799.

She also took great pleasure in visiting the latest innovations in entertainment, one of which was the 'Phantasmagoria'. This was a form of theatre which used a modified magic lantern to project frightening images



*The 'Phantasmagoria'*

such as skeletons, demons, and ghosts onto walls, smoke, or semi-transparent screens. The description transcribed below is one of very few to have survived to give us a notion of the effects of such a display had on a captive audience, Mrs. Graves did not seem to find the spectacle very impressive:

*'It was exhibited at the Theatre; the House was crowded; the lights extinguished; & every Door fast locked; the noise of the galleries very disagreeable; enveloped in darkness; they uttered abject fear & vulgar impatience; with shrill whistles; & loud screams; the first appearance was an imitation of forked lightning; too dull to be terrifying; then skeletons came forward; & one figure that seemed in pain; they receded & grew less as they left the stage; a yellow light flowing round*

*them as they retired had a good effect; these pandemonium rather than Elysian figures; gave place to Lord Nelson, crowning by fame; & ended with a figure of his Majesty; ushered in, by the old loyal tune of God save our King';*

**1038M/F/1/134:**

Letter from Margaret Graves of Bath to her niece, Eliza Simcoe at Wolford Lodge, dated 3rd February 1802.

On one occasion Mrs. Graves attended an exhibition of Maillardet's Automaton, which visited Bath in 1802.

*'wonderfully was I amused with them; the spectacle itself was elegant; the figure which wrote was in a spanish habit, representing a boy of four or five years old; the writing is as fine a copper plate, both French and English; too [sic] or three different things he draws; but what is surprising, when the paper is placed & the pen put into his hand the people never touch the machine till he has finished; in two other elegant cases; is a rope dancer in one, & a fortune teller in the other between seven & eight inches high each of them, the agillity of the little rope dancer beats Richier & he is a very exact timist, either on his head or his heels & his attitudes are wonderfull; but the fortune teller is soped to be a chinese of a very imposing countenance; there is thirty or forty questions on pieces of Ivory,*

*that you are at liberty to chuse out of and may ask the whole of them; upon putting any one of them in a draw; it, like Merlin immediately [rises] from its seat; draws a circle with is wand looks important; & then hits a panel in its own apartment, & a very pertinent answer is received, the automaton then bows & replaces himself in the chair; there was likewise a spider, which the artist had formed; withal the disagreeable movements of a real spider & it crawled over the table several times; without any apparent assistance'.*

**1038M/F/1/164:**

Letter from Margaret Graves of Bath to her niece, Eliza Simcoe at Wolford Lodge, dated 23rd February 1802.

The first automaton described above actually survives at the Franklin Institute in Philidelphia. It has been preserved in its original state and exhibited to show its internal workings.



*Maillardet's Automaton*

The Simcoe letters are still being transcribed, but descriptions of those which have been catalogued are available from Devon Record Office on-line catalogue: [http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/record\\_office/online\\_catalogues.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/record_office/online_catalogues.htm)

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## Conservation Update

The Conservation Studio is now offering a variety of preservation products for sale at reception. Please take a look at the display and consider how you could prolong the life of your personal archive with these simple folders and enclosures which will soon to be available on our website.

Since the launch of Devon Heritage Services, the conservation studio has continued projects on Parish Registers, Herbert Read Church Architecture and Bodley Bros. Ironfounders, among other plans

for exciting new projects that will involve the participation of our volunteers and lead to extensive and important digitisation of collections.

**Interest in becoming a conservation volunteer is always welcome. For an informal chat and tour, please contact Deborah Phillips, Senior Archive Conservator, [deborah.phillips@devon.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.phillips@devon.gov.uk) Telephone: 01392 384317**

# Devon Heritage Services Staff



## Tim Wormleighton Heritage Services Manager

I joined the Devon Record Office in 1984, starting as an Archives Assistant in the Exeter office and later qualifying as an archivist. In

1993 I took up the post of Principal Archivist at the North Devon Record Office in Barnstaple, which I held until taking over management of the county archives service in 2011. My responsibilities include leading the service, defining its strategic direction and the development of external partnerships.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my career so far has been my work with some wonderful community archive groups and this is something I am very keen to develop further.



## Renée Jackaman Collections Development Manager

I was born and grew up in the Tamar Valley. As anyone who has ever lived there will tell you, it is a mesmerising place and I return there at least once a week.

I qualified as an archivist in 2005 while working as an Archives Assistant at the Cornwall Record Office, following which I became an archivist at the Devon Record Office.

I am now Collections Development Manager and have responsibility for managing the searchroom and developing the collections. The biggest task ahead of me is to oversee the listing of uncatalogued accessions, a challenge which I relish. There is a great deal of work ahead, but the opportunity to develop the service to a new level of excellence is well worth the effort.

I am a keen singer and have been a member of the Callington Singers on and off since I was 13 years old. I have sung in St. Peter's in Rome, St. Marks in Venice, La Madeleine in Paris, Salzburg, Vienna, Barcelona and Empoli cathedrals and many other churches all over Europe.



## Irene Andrews Access and Service Development Manager

I was a nurse for nearly twenty years but my love of history led me to consider a career in archives. After qualifying as an archivist, I

worked at the Somerset Record Office for four years and then the Bristol Record Office for two years as Senior Archivist.

As Access and Service Development Manager I am looking forward to working with local groups, communities and education organisations. My role also involves improving access to our records and there are several exciting projects in

progress including the digitization of Tithe maps and parish records. I am also responsible for the recruitment and management of volunteers and there will be new opportunities opening up in the future in this area.

My interests outside work are varied, and include family and local history, gardening, reading, cooking, and a wide variety of handicrafts.



## Brian Carpenter Community and Education Development Officer

I was born in London and became interested in working with archives while I was an undergraduate at Warwick University. I joined the

staff of the Devon Record Office at the start of 1991.

After more than twenty years as an archivist I took up the post of Community and Education Development Officer in October 2011. I am responsible for developing the service's relationships with the wider community, including local history societies, schools, colleges and universities, libraries and museums, and in the field of adult and community learning. I am enjoying my new role and am excited by the challenges and opportunities which lie ahead, both for myself and for the service.

I spend much of my spare time watching, reading about and writing about sport, especially cricket and rugby union. I also enjoy walking, photography, reading and historical research.



## Jan Wood Archivist (IT and Access)

I was born in Australia and came to England in 1995 after working as a veterinarian, as an animal care course lecturer and finally in university administra-

tion, whilst finishing a second degree in history and archaeology. I began my archive career as a volunteer, and then became an Archives Assistant at the Devon Record Office, before completing an MA in Archives Administration at the University of Liverpool. My first job as a qualified archivist was in Doncaster, but after 14 months in exile up north, I returned in 2000 to a job in beautiful Devon. I have been working as an archivist at the Devon Record Office since then.

I designed our first website, and after we moved to Sowton I was in charge of the searchroom. I enjoy helping people to succeed in their research, and I really enjoyed working in the searchroom, and running courses and workshops.

My present post involves organising a new digital copying service, updating the website and assisting on projects to make our records available online; I'm rarely in the searchroom these days. However my primary aim is still to make the experience

of those using the record office services, as rewarding as possible.

When I was younger I travelled to many parts of the world, often backpacking with my two sons, who live in Australia. These days my interests include historical research, visiting museums, libraries and historic houses.



## Mandy Caine Archives Assistant

My name is Mandy Caine, I first joined the Devon Record Office as a Clerical Officer in 1988 and I took up my current role as an Archives Assistant in 1997. During my time

here I have gained a professional photography qualification, an NVQ Level 3 in Archives Services and a BA (Hons) degree in Humanities from the Open University.

My role as an Archives Assistant has changed slightly and involves me being in the searchroom on a semi-permanent basis. I am also currently involved in filming and processing documents as part of our digitization service.

In my spare time, I like to dance, play badminton and go kayaking, cycling, walking and motorbike riding. I also enjoy drawing, and my love for art and animals has led me to be commissioned to do pet portraits.



## Mike Dowell Archives Assistant

Mike Dowell is one of the service's team of Archives Assistants and the record office's longest-serving member of staff. Prior to the office's move to Great Moor House he was

chiefly responsible for producing documents for searchers at the office's former out-store at Marsh Barton. He now works mainly in the searchroom at Great Moor House, but also answers remote enquiries, records document locations, manages collections and undertakes a range of reprographic duties.



## Josephine Halloran Archives Assistant

I came to the Devon Record Office in 1991 as a volunteer. This led to a temporary post as an Archives Assistant at the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office

and after this I returned to the Devon Record Office as an Archives Assistant. I previously worked at the Natural History Museum and for the National Trust, as an administrator on their Vernacular Building Survey, and cataloguing their photographic collection. I was also a picture researcher on 'Five Great Houses', published by Bossiney Books. I have a combined honours degree in History of Art and

Drama.

Over the years, my role has involved searchroom duties, microfilming, and also cataloguing some of the collections. I enjoy handling the original documents, especially maps, as I particularly like helping searchers with their house history and enhancing my knowledge of the varied collections that we hold here.

Outside work, my main passion is riding my horse over Dartmoor and its environs, and competing in organised endurance rides in Devon and Somerset. I also enjoy stained glass design.



**Eliza Newton  
Archives Assistant**

Hi, I'm Eliza and I'm an Archives Assistant in the new Devon Heritage Service. I started here in 2003 and qualified as an archivist in 2006. I came from an

administrative background and chose to follow a career in archives after completing an Open University degree in Humanities. My main duties in the new service involve working in the Public Searchroom helping customers with their research and also behind the scenes locating documents onto our database.

Outside of work my main hobby at the moment is keeping fit. I recently completed the First Chance 10k run on Exeter Quayside in a time of just over 51 minutes, while running in aid of UNICEF. When I'm not keeping fit, I like to spend time at home with my family and my cat.



**James Ward  
Archives Assistant**

Growing up in Devon I became interested in the history of the area and this spurred me on to study for a BA in Ancient and Medieval History at the University of Wales and an MA in

Naval History at the University of Exeter. I was a volunteer at the Devon Record Office before becoming an Archives Assistant. I am amazed and delighted by the scale, diversity and enormous historical value of the collections in the archives, and I feel very lucky to work in a field which allows me to learn new things every day. I am now entering the final stages of my studies to become a qualified archivist. I enjoy watching rugby, football, and golf and playing tennis. I also like travelling about the country and abroad to learn about new people and places, especially those with historical interest.



**Deborah Phillips  
Senior Archive  
Conservator**

I was born in London, trained as a theatrical milliner/jeweller and spent the next ten years at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon

before coming to the Devon Record Office in 1991. I qualified as a conservator in 1995 and became an Accredited Conservator/Restorer in 2002.

I have been involved with the Archives and Records Association Conservation Training Scheme for many years, and I published a handbook of preservation practice for the millennium through the DRO called Stopping the Rot, which has been distributed throughout Devon. I have given papers on the design of conservation workspaces, outreach and volunteering at ARA conferences in recent years.

The highlight of my time with DRO has been the move to Great Moor House, where the new conservation studio represents the most modern, well equipped working space for archive conservators in the South West of England.

My current interests include promoting good preservation practice to the public and research into the dilemmas of decay and reversal in early conservation techniques. I am optimistic for the future of archive preservation and access in Devon.



**Ian Ponsford  
Conservation  
Assistant**

My name's Ian Ponsford and I'm the office's Conservation Assistant. I've worked here for thirteen years.

The thing I enjoy most about my job is

conserving old photographs - I love looking back into Victorian times. I also enjoy working with our great volunteers, and advising local history and museum groups. I specialize in the production of tailor made packaging such as boxes and map bags, so I'm normally happily guillotining, welding or sewing something up if you pop in to the Conservation Studio.

I have a love of things gothic and macabre, such as tales of witches, highwaymen and piracy. So when one of our archivists asks me to help them retrieve some records from the tower of a church or the basement of a manor house or hospital I jump at the chance because who knows what forgotten secrets you may find?



**Suzanne Brown  
Clerical Officer**

I am one of the two Clerical Officers at the Devon Record Office and with my colleague Helen am responsible for both the administration of the office and for reception, which

principally involves registering and booking in searchers to the public searchroom, administering the public access computer system and processing sales. Following the changes to the Record Office, in addition to the above duties I am now jointly responsible with Helen for running the photocopy service.

A former civil servant, I have been employed here for eight years following the demise of the government agency I previously worked for.

I enjoy the rapport I have built up over the years with our searchers and am currently enjoying my new role within the photocopy service.

I am a keen amateur artist and mosaicist and devote much of my spare time to creative projects.



**Helen Mason  
Clerical Officer**

I am a Clerical Officer, sharing the administration, reception and photocopying duties with Suzanne. I started working for the Devon Record Office as a

Clerk/Typist; the job has changed a lot over the years with the increased use of IT and the fact that I have worked in reception since the office's move to Great Moor House.

I enjoy working in reception where we greet and register visitors and oversee the sales of books and other items. I enjoy working with IT and I have been responsible for updating the office's website for over 10 years. At present I am working on creating a more detailed webpage for our publications and shop sales.

I enjoy cycling and have tested out most of the Devon Cycle trails over the last few years. I also make jewellery.



**Gary Knaggs  
Archivist (North  
Devon Record Office)**

I have worked in the North Devon Record Office since 2002, having previously been an archivist at the Norfolk Record Office. My responsibilities include accessioning,

sorting and cataloguing of collections, supervision of the public search room, answering enquiries, outreach and education work and reprography.

Originally from North Yorkshire, I studied history and philosophy at the University of Leeds and did archive work experience at Leeds District Archives before gaining my Diploma in Archive Administration at the University of Wales, Bangor. I'm a Leeds United supporter, enjoy good beer and fine wine, holidays in the sun (particularly Italy), the music of Australian band The Church, Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Jackson Browne and Steve Earle...I also like to twang the guitar a bit myself!



**Colin MacDonald  
Archives Assistant  
(North Devon Record  
Office)**

I have worked in the North Devon Record Office ever since it opened in 1988, and have the distinction of having worked

previously in both the Exeter and Plymouth Record Offices. My responsibilities include answering enquiries, reprography, assisting in the public searchroom, clerical support and transcription and indexing projects.

I enjoy swimming, football (I support Plymouth Argyle), pub quizzes, reading and local history.

# Acquisitions of Special Interest

**Between the start of October 2010 and the end of October 2011, the Exeter office received the usual excellent range of accessions.**

In a bumper year for the acquisition of parish records, they were deposited by the parishes of Abbotskerswell (8101), Alphington (8022), Aveton Gifford (8010, 8011), Axminster (7980, 8039), Bampton (8138), and Petton Chapel, in Bampton (8137), Beaworthy (8121), Bickleigh (8072), Blackawton (8102), Black Torrington (8117), Bow (8066), Bradford (8118), Bradninch (8074), Buckerell, Escot and Feniton (7889, 7942), Butterleigh (8070), Cadeleigh (8071), Chagford (7989), Cheriton Bishop (7925), Clayhanger (8135), Clyst Honiton (8054), Coffinswell (8099), Colebrooke (8064), Combyne with Rousdon (8038), Crediton (8078), Dalwood (7898), Dartington (8123), Dartmouth St.Clement Townstal (8112), Dartmouth St.Petrox (8113), Dartmouth St.Saviour (8111), Denbury (8106), Dittisham (7857), Down St.Mary (7996), Exeter Central (8131), Halberton (7864), Hatherleigh (8035, 8082), Highampton (8119), Hollacombe (8108), Holsworthy (8107), Huntsham (8136), Ide (7862, 7936), Ipplepen (8100), Kentisbeare (8069), Malborough (7921), Milber (8105), Milton Damerel (8109), Newton St.Cyres (8081), Northlew (7990), Ottery St.Mary (7991), Poltimore (7934), Poughill (8091), Salcombe Regis (7949), Sampford Peverell (7937), Sandford (8065), Shobrooke (7844, 8080), Silverton (8073), Stockleigh Pomeroy (8092), Stoke Fleming (8007, 8104), Strete (8103), Thornbury (8120), Tipton St.John with Venn Ottery (8067), Torbryan (8097), Uplowman (8079), Willand (8068), Woodbury Salterton (7967, 7988) and Woodland (8098). Many of these collections contain parish registers which are more than 100 years old.

Collections of church records were also received from Dawlish United Reformed Church (8053), Exeter Methodist Circuit (8084), the Heavtree Gospel Hall, Exeter (7977), Hatherleigh Methodist Circuit (7944), Point-in-View United Reformed

Church, Withycombe Raleigh (7861), Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District (8031), Sidmouth and Bridport Methodist Circuit (7935, 8032), Teignbridge Methodist Circuit (8125) and Topsham Congregational Church (8130).

Parish council records were deposited by the councils of Chulmleigh (7994), Cornworthy (8116), Cruwys Morchard (7945), Dittisham (7858), Puddington (7871), Stokeinteignhead (7886), West Alvington (7964) and Woodbury (8052).

We have received school records relating to Higher Brixham Primary School (8058), Eden Park Primary School, Brixham (8060), Hayward's Primary School, Crediton (7869), Down St.Mary School (7997), Central Middle School, Exeter (8001), Montgomery Combined School, Exeter (7974), St.Nicholas Roman Catholic Primary School, Exeter (8086), Feniton Church of England Primary School (8087), Hatherleigh Community Primary School (8041), Malborough with South Huish Primary School (7957), South Milton Junior School (8005), Newton St.Cyres County Primary School (8030), The King's School, Ottery St.Mary (8149), Pinhoe Church of England Primary School (8133), Bolham County Primary School, Tiverton (8124), Priors Roman Catholic Primary School, Torquay (8059), St.Marychurch Church of England School, Torquay (8061), St.Saviour's and All Saints Primary School, Torquay (7969) and Wembworthy and Eggesford School (7919).

The usual small but significant crop of business records was received, including some additional material relating to Berry and Vincent, of Crediton, Builders (7959), and Herbert Read Limited (7866), while we also acquired further family records relating to the Pine-Coffin family of Alvington (7868, 7913, 7979) and the Whiteway family of Whimple (7941).

Last but not least, a few excellent deposits have been acquired which do not fit easily into any of the above categories, including a large collection of material relating to A La Ronde, Exmouth (7907), deposited by the National Trust, and an

annotated copy of Tristram Risdon's 'Survey of the County of Devon', originally published in 1714 (7950), and an excellent original map of Morebath, dating from 1838 (see elsewhere in this newsletter) (8057).

Not all these records are yet available for consultation. We shall endeavour to make them accessible as soon as possible, and staff will be happy to advise about the accessibility of a particular collection. Full details of these collections can be found on our online catalogue: <http://app-calmview.devon.gov.uk/CalmView/>

## Barnstaple

Since the previous edition of this newsletter, a large quantity of additional parish registers and other records have been received from the following Church of England parishes as a result of our regular inspections carried out under the Parochial Registers & Records Measure: Alwington (266), East Anstey (B445), West Anstey (B446), Berrynarbor (3921), Bideford (799), Brendon (3251), Buckland Brewer (267), East Buckland (3334), Bucks Mills (3447), Challacombe (3399), Clovelly (1058), Combe Martin (4025), Countisbury with Lynmouth (1910), Hartland (1201), Kentisbury (2686), Knowstone (B594), Landkey (1951), Loxhore (1328), Lynton (2579), Mariansleigh (B564), Martinhoe (1023), Meshaw (1794), Newport (1721), Parkham (1892), Parracombe (2099), Pilton (3071), Rose Ash (B678), Stoke Rivers (2286), Swimbridge (1621), Tawstock (2288), Welcombe (1202) and West Woolfardisworthy (922). The North Devon Record Office has also received additional deposits of records from the Bideford (2237) and South Molton (2506) Methodist Circuits. The South West Baptist Association has deposited a large number of records of individual chapels in its North Devon District, as well as district minutes going back to 1887 (B1055).

Other deposits of note include a school log book, 1870-1915, from Landkey Wesleyan Day School (B1038), and admission registers from 1910 and governors' minutes from 1903 from the recently closed Clovelly County Primary School (B1077), administrative records of the Law Memorial Houses, Bishops Tawton (B1042), minutes and correspondence of North Devon



Archaeological Society (B516), research notes of Richard Bass and Ann Adams, experts on the history of the parish of Chulmleigh (B1066), farm accounts, 1809-1825 for Ovis Farm, High Bray (B1039), photograph albums of the Martin & Grigg families of north Devon (B1048) and the Lee family of Manchester (B1058), papers of the Braunton Study Group (B1078), records of The Grange Ministers' Guest House, Mortehoe (B1069), oral history recordings in both cassette tape and digital format relating to life on Lundy (B852), and a collection of Lundy stamps and first day covers (B627).

Some maps and plans of interest have also been deposited in the Barnstaple office. These include an attractive map of Winscott Barton, Peters Marland, by John Mallet of Torrington, c1800 (see above), which shows a field called 'Brick Field' on the site of the later Marland Clay Works (B1041), a map of Kelly's Higher Withecott, Langtree, by Nicholas Cuming, 1845 (B1044), and a copy plan and design for a proposed new house to be built at Oxford Cross, Georgeham, for the author, Henry Williamson, in 1929 (B1049). For various reasons, the house was never built!

Several of these items have been purchased by the Record Office with the generous financial assistance of the Devon Family History Society.

Please note that some of the collections listed above have not yet been catalogued in detail and so are not available for consultation at present. We advise that you check the availability of material with staff at the North Devon Record Office.

# Devon Shipping Records Project

The Devon Record Office has housed the records of the several ports and harbours in Devon for many years. Until recently this collection was not easily accessible because the records were split over several different collections.

Custody of the records originates with HM Customs & Excise (since 2004 HM Revenue & Customs following amalgamation with the Inland Revenue). The later records have been deposited by the Records Officer of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency

(formed in 1998 by an amalgamation of the Coastguard Agency and the Maritime Safety Agency) who inherited custody of the records from H.M. Customs & Excise.

This confused custodial history is what led to the records being referenced under no less than eleven different collections. This situation has now been remedied by amalgamating these records into one collection. The new arrangement is now available for viewing on the Devon Record Office online catalogue under the reference DSR (Devon Shipping Records)

The records include registers of shipping, plus transfers, transactions and appropriations, and Customs & Excise records relating to seizures, wrecks, duties and warehousing. Some personnel, passenger and property records are also included, along with an extensive collection of files relating to individual ships.

The Devon Record Office is aiming to work in co-operation with the Devon Family History Society and the Friends of Devon's Archives to develop the collection further. The aim is to digitise the shipping registers and index them to provide information relating to the name and number of each vessel and the history of ownership; the index will also provide any information relating to the crew members and master. Such work will complement both the Devon Family History Society's 'Masters & Mates' project and the on-going Crew List Index Project (CLIP).

Do you have an interest in the maritime history of Devon? Would you like to help make these records more accessible? Devon Record Office is actively seeking volunteers to help index the shipping registers. If you want to know more or wish to take part in the project, please contact:

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# The Right to Remain Silent?

In late 2011 the Devon Record Office was awarded a grant of £32,000 by the National Archives Cataloguing Grants Programme. This award will fund a project - entitled The Right to Remain Silent? - to catalogue, digitize and index some of the office's most important and extensive records.

The records of the Devon Quarter Sessions courts, chiefly comprising 'order books' and rolls, form a complete and unbroken series which covers the period from 1592 until the courts were abolished in 1971, and is the earliest uninterrupted series of such records in the country.

The sessions order books contain minutes of the courts and record business relating to the administration of the county, while the sessions bundles contain the raw material of the business transacted at the sessions. There are writs, bills and depositions relating to criminal cases, apprenticeship indentures and removal orders where these were disputed in court, papers concerning the removal of vagrants, petitions from bankrupts, and, relating to the administrative function of the sessions, there are jury excuses, coroners' bills, reports on roads and bridges needing repair and bills for the maintenance of county buildings. In addition, the 19th century rolls contain reports on lunatic asylums in the county, crime statistics and lists of county police constables and officers.

The fact that Devon is a maritime county with strong links with the Royal Navy and was heavily involved in overseas trade is reflected in the documents found in the sessions rolls. Many of the people passing through the county were travelling long distances, not only from other parts of Britain but from the colonies and from Europe as well, and some of them appear in the sessions rolls as a result of being arrested as vagrants or for criminal behaviour. The coroners' bills mention sailors who were killed by falling from rigging in the dockyard at Plymouth or who drowned at sea.

The sessions rolls covering the period 1734-1804 will be catalogued in detail for the first time, and there will also be two parallel projects to digitize and index the gaol calendars and to transfer the card index to the sessions order books for the same period to a computer database. An archivist will be appointed to undertake the cataloguing, and extensive use will also be made of volunteers from the Devon Family History Society and the Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education.

Once the project is complete it will complement work done by the National Archives in making criminal records available online. It will also link in with projects already carried out in other counties to catalogue sessions records, thus enabling students to have a wider overview of topics of national relevance, such as the implementation of the poor laws and the treatment of criminals.

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## Open Day

**On Saturday 17th March, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Devon Heritage Services, in association with the Friends of Devon's Archives, will be hosting an Open Day at the Devon Record Office, Great Moor House. The day is designed to launch the restructured service and also to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the Devon Record Office, which was founded in March 1952.**

Representatives of many of the county's local history and other societies will be in attendance, including the Devonshire Association, the Devon History Society, the Devon Family History Society, and the Devon Gardens Trust, in addition to staff from the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office and the North Devon Record Office.

Members of the Devon Family History Society will be available to offer advice on family history research, and the Devon Record Office enquiry desk will be fully staffed throughout the day.

There will also be guided tours of the different sections of the record office, including several of the strongrooms, where documents will be on display. Visitors will also have the opportunity to visit the Conservation Studio and receive advice on the preservation of documents which they can bring with them on the day.

There will also be a number of talks and seminars on subjects of interest, and the speakers will include Jill Drysdale, who will be discussing Devon Diaries, and Clare Greener, who will be speaking about research into Devon gardens.

It is not necessary to book and there is no charge for attending. Food and drink will be on sale throughout the day.

# More Devon Maps



An impressive map of the parish of Morebath has been added to the Devon Record Office's collections (Accession Number 8057). The map is large, measuring 232 cms x 176.5 cms, coloured, and mapped at a scale of three chains to an inch. The rivers Exe and Barle are named, relief is shown by dark wash, tree symbols mark orchards, hedgerow trees and mixed woodland and buildings are coloured grey and hatched. Farms are named and county and parish boundaries shown. There is an 8 point compass indicator. The map is dated 1838, the same year as the parish tithe map was made, but it is not a copy. The surveyor's name does not appear on either map. In 1819 a valuation of the lands of Montague Baker Bere in the parishes of Morebath, Bampton and Clayhanger in Devon and Timberscombe, Winsford and Ashbrittle in Somerset had been made by Henry Wakely, described as surveyor but there is no evidence to show that he drew a map to accompany the valuation then or later.

A map and survey of the manor of Branscombe has come into the DRO very recently (Accession Number 8180). It is dated 1810 and mapped at a scale of three chains to an inch, coloured, and drawn for the Lords of the Manor, Vincent Stuckey and Barnaby John Stuckey. Of particular interest are the cliffs shown on the map with a possible landslip indicated. The map is the work of [Thomas] Bradley and [William] Summers of Taunton and their survey also refers to a map and valuation of the property made in 1793 by Alexander Law, then Surveyor to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter and a prolific Devon map-maker. Bradley and Summers had assisted him. In fact Bradley was Law's nephew but his uncle seems to

have had only limited confidence in him – in a letter he states 'few men are more capable but he certainly does not love work'.

Two undated maps of Teignmouth have come to light in an unlisted collection that has been in the DRO for some time (Accession Number 3257 add). They appear to date from the 1850s or 1860s. One is described as a map of lands in West Teignmouth, the property of the Trustees of the Revd. N. Watts and is drawn at a scale of three chains to an inch. It is coloured. The Clergy List for the 1850s and 1860s includes a Nicholas Watts senior and a Nicholas Watts junior at Kingsteignton.

The other map is described as 'Plan and Outline Map of East Teignmouth with the supposed content'. Three different shades of green on the map appear to be identifying meadow, pasture, and cultivated land. The surveyor's name is given as Thomas Webber; he may be the Thomas Webber, gentleman, described as living at 'Crescent' in Teignmouth in White's Directory of 1850 but Thomas Webber is a common name and this may not be the map-maker.

## Mary Ravenhill and Margery Rowe

