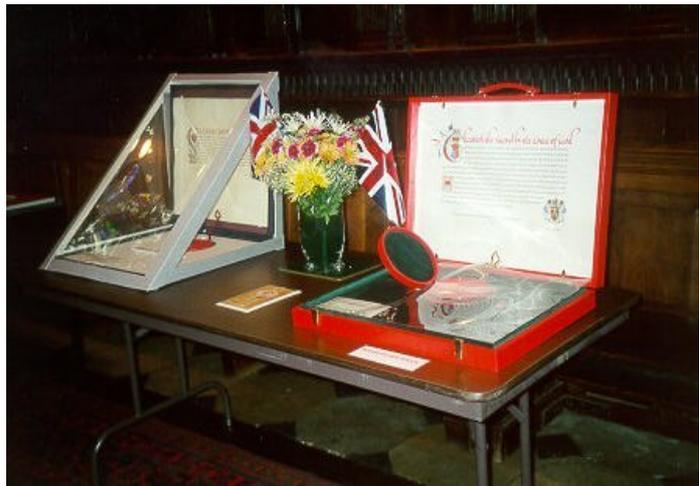


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The two latest City charters on display

50 Glorious Years...and more

Everyone who has read Leviticus chapter 25 will know that a jubilee is a Sabbath of Sabbaths; the 50th year is the extra 'year off' which follows seven Sabbath years in a row. The word itself originally denoted the ram's horn which was used to proclaim the jubilee year. By the 16th century the English word had come to be used for an occasion of rejoicing or celebration, and in more recent times it has been qualified with the epithets 'silver' and 'diamond' (by analogy with wedding anniversaries) and applied to 25th and 60th anniversaries, while the 50th year is now described by the odd coinage 'Golden Jubilee'.

The year 2002 brings with it much to celebrate. Our present Queen has reigned for 50 years, and this is being marked, quite properly, with rejoicing throughout the kingdom. Closer to home, the Devon Record Office was founded in the same year as the Queen's accession, and we are celebrating this with an exhibition, which, as part of *The City, the County, and the Crown*, was on display in Exeter Guildhall throughout Local History Week and was visited by over 2,500 people, and which will be touring the county during the year. A booklet on the history of the office, *Ten Centuries of Devon's Archives*, has also been published and is on sale at the record offices for £1.50. The reminiscences of former members of staff which form the latter part of this volume make for interesting reading and illustrate both how much has changed and how much has not in the last half-century.



It would not be right, however, to pretend that the collection and preservation of Devon's written heritage did not start until 1952. John Hoker, the first Chamberlain of the City of Exeter, made the first list of the City Archives around 1600, and Exeter City Library, from around 1908 in Rougemont House, and from the 1930s in the building now occupied by the Record Office and the Westcountry Studies Library, took a leading role in gathering together records from all over Devon and making them available for research. Tribute must also be paid to Miss Olive Moger and Prebendary John Chanter for their work on the records of the Diocese of Exeter, to successive Clerks of the Peace, culminating with Mr R W Norton, for the care of the Devon Quarter Sessions records, and to the many unknown monks, priests, lawyers, and estate managers whose diligence has ensured the survival of a remarkable range and variety of records from the middle ages on.

We have other reasons to rejoice, however, than over what has happened in the past, for we are looking to the future, and to the laying of the foundations (literally and metaphorically) for the care of Devon's archives for at least the next twenty years at Sowton. It seems a long time ago that Great Moor House was first mentioned in these columns, and indeed it is, but much has happened in that time, and all the major preparations for the construction of the new record office are now complete. We still hope to open to the public in the new premises in the late summer or autumn of 2004, and this will be preceded by a period of closure, probably for the first half of that year, when the documents will be moved from the present sites to their new home. When the timetable is more exactly known, we will do our best to let everyone know the actual dates when original records will not be accessible, and we hope to keep a limited public service in operation, with microfilm and microfiche, in the Castle Street building throughout.

What will happen in Castle Street after the Record Office has departed has not yet been decided in detail, but this access to microfilmed records will continue, so that the many people who use parish registers, census returns, the IGI, and similar sources will not need to make the journey to Sowton. The separation of the Record Office from the Westcountry Studies Library will certainly be a wrench, and some duplication of sources between the two locations will be unavoidable, but technological advances are taking place so fast that it is hard to predict how our research habits will have changed two and a half years from now. Already there are many Devon catalogues on the Internet, and by 2004 the difficulties with the on-line 1901 census should have been sorted out. As the move approaches, we shall be asking our users what they will expect to find in Castle Street and at Sowton in the way of secondary sources, and, although we may not be able to please everyone, we will take the answers into consideration in our planning. We must also remember that, for the first time ever, all the records in Exeter will be on one site and available at short notice.

The Devon Record Office, 1952-2002

Although manuscripts had been collected by Exeter City Library since the early years of the twentieth century and the Exeter City Record Office was founded in 1946, a County Council office to administer the records of Devon was not established until the first County Archivist, Joan Sinar, was appointed in March 1952.

In order to commemorate the jubilee of both the office and Queen Elizabeth II, an exhibition was staged in Exeter Guildhall in early May comprising a wide range of original items from the Exeter City Archives including John Hooker's history of Exeter, a number of medieval deeds and two of the earliest extant maps of the city. Exeter's strong associations with the monarchy were represented by a range of royal charters issued by monarchs from Henry II to the present Queen and by other items such as the record of the expenses incurred by the city in connection with George III's visit to the city in 1789 and the visit of George VI and Queen Mary to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in 1899.

The original material was complemented by a series of screens which charted the history of the record office from its origins in the early fifties to its current status as one of the busiest local authority record repositories in the United Kingdom. Former members of staff were invited to submit their recollections of their time at the office, and these were collected together and published in a book entitled *Ten Centuries of Devon's Archives*, the appearance of which coincided with the opening of the exhibition. The exhibition was opened by the newly-created Lord Mayor of Exeter and, later in the week, a reception was attended by a large number of past and present members of staff and users of the office. Unfortunately Joan Sinar was unable to attend, but the other two surviving County Archivists, Margery Rowe (1977-1996) and John Draisey (1996 to date) were there, together with the County Archivist of Cornwall, Paul Brough, the former County Archivist of Hampshire, Margaret Cash, Helen Ford of the National Gas Archive, and many others. A further reception was held for members of the Friends of Devon's Archives and the Friends of the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, which was attended by more than 100 people.

The exhibition, the receptions and the associated publication were all extremely successful. The exhibition gave members of the public – the majority of whom would not normally be record office users - an opportunity to view elements of the documentary heritage of their city in a wonderfully appropriate setting and raised the profile of the office by giving an indication of the rich history of record-keeping within the county. For members of staff, the reception allowed them to meet former colleagues, exchange anecdotes and also compare notes on the ways in which the archive service has changed and discuss the methods by which we can meet the increasingly intense demands placed upon us.

Jubilee Exhibition - Any Offers?

The exhibition of copies of documents and photographs relating to the history of the Record Office (which formed part of the Exeter Guildhall exhibition) is at present on display at the North Devon Record Office, where it will stay until mid-July. It is due to make another trip to Barnstaple in October, but for the rest of the year it is available for display at any venue in Devon. If you have a gap to fill in your exhibitions schedule and would like to host the exhibition for a while, please get in touch with the Devon Record Office in Exeter to discuss dates.

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Facts and Figures

It is usual in the May newsletter to quote some statistics relating to the use of the record offices over the past year, and the figures for 2001/2 are given below, with those for 2000/1 in brackets.

Statistics - 2001/2002(2000/2001)			
	Exeter	Barnstaple	Total
Individual visits	10,087 (11,164)	2,802 (3,019)	12,889 (14,183)
Groups	10 (5)	11 (18)	21 (23)
Microform issues	98,194 (106,239)	18,719 (18,377)	116,913 (124,616)
Document orders	7,348 (7,430)	1,102 (1,344)	8,450 (8,774)
Postal enquiries	8,559 (7,348)	474 (457)	9,033 (7,805)
Exhibitions	3 (2)	3 (4)	6 (6)
Talks	13 (9)	13 (10)	26 (19)
Deposits	182 (200)	88 (95)	270 (295)
Collections listed	82(45%)(92 (46%))	68(77%)(64 (68%))	150(55%)(156 (53%))

The first thing which is noticeable is that individual visits were substantially down on last year, by 9% overall. Whether this is due to Foot and Mouth Disease or to a reluctance to travel after 11 September, or to a combination of both, is difficult to determine, but the record offices did not escape the general decline in visitor numbers which hit Devon in 2001. Curiously, deposits were also down at both offices, but numbers of these tend to fluctuate from year to year.

The smaller number of visitors used a larger number of microfiche at Barnstaple and more original documents from the Castle Street office in Exeter, but fewer from Marsh Marsh Barton. Group visits, exhibitions, and talks all increased in number, and postal enquiries and e-mails rose by 16% over the previous year, which is a staggering rise on top of the jump between 1999/2000 and 2000/1, even considering that e-mails tend to proliferate more easily than letters.

It is interesting to speculate on the extent to which the postal enquiries rose because people could not visit us in person, and on the effect which the availability of catalogues on-line (as part of the A2A programme) has had. It is impossible to know the answers to these questions, of course, but the figures may be early signs that patterns of use are changing. Alternatively, we may very well see the trend reversed next year – you never can tell.

Acquisitions of Special Interest:

Exeter

Between 1 November 2001 and 30 April 2002 ninety-five new accessions arrived at the Exeter Office.

Additional records were received from the parishes of Heavitree (D 3004 add 6), Spreyton (D 6143), Lustleigh (D 1987 add 5), Hittisleigh (D 551 add 4), Bondleigh (D 2991 add), Wolborough (D 2518 add 5), Sampford Courtenay (D 1232 add 2), Honeychurch (D 1233 add), Sidmouth (D 1855 add 6), Farringdon (D 3167 add), Clyst Honiton (D 4023 add), and Rockbeare (D 4002 add). The Diocese of Exeter also contributed a copy of Thomas Shapter's notes made in 1881 on the 'surplice' question which exercised the diocese in the 1840s (D 6193).

The nonconformist churches were well represented, with additional deposits from the Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton (D2319 add 12), Totnes (D 2275 add 11), Torbay (D2330 add 34), Tiverton (D2514 add 33), Exeter (D3080 adds 33 & 34), and Sidmouth and Bridport (D2399 add 33) Methodist Circuits and the Plymouth and Exeter District (D 2359 adds 18 & 19), from Budleigh Salterton Baptist Church (D 3548 add 3), Wonford Baptist Church (D 6187), Flavel Church in Dartmouth (D 6196 & add, including baptism registers, 1726-1876), and United Reformed Churches in Torquay, Exeter, and Sidmouth (D 6192).

The Parish Councils of Tedburn St Mary (D 5237) and Clyst Hydon (D 4534 add 2) have sent in records, and Devon County Council contributed some early 20th-century bridge plans for Teignmouth and Exeter (D 6189), but local government records were not otherwise plentiful this time.

The only education records received were the 19th-20th-century minutes and accounts of the Protestant Dissenting School in Exeter (D 6160).

A few family and estate collections came in, including deeds of Dunkeswell Mill, 1692-1883 (D 6170), an 1815 plan of Southbrook Farm, Broadclyst (D 6178), some 20th-century heraldic crests of the Oakden family (D 6195), deeds, 1750-1832, of property in Hatherleigh (D 6201), and a small group of letters to Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, 1794-1820, purchased from a gentleman in Canada (D 6184).

There was a good crop of club and society records, including those of Marley (Exmouth) and Yarcombe Women's Institutes (D 6156 & 6159 respectively), the minutes of the Exeter Shakespeare Reading Society from 1918 (D 6151), the rules of the Devon and Exeter Club (D 6162 & 6190), some 18th-century bills from the Devon and Exeter Law Society (D 6176), minutes and deeds of the Devonian Orthopaedic Association (D 6181), and photograph albums of the Ottery St Mary Handbell Ringers, 1891-1991 (D 6204). The Colyton Millennium Bequest (D 6150) consisted of envelopes containing items submitted by Colyton residents in 2000, while records in modern media were represented by a collection of oral history tapes made in Exmouth between 1993 and 1999 (D 6182).

The individual and miscellaneous items received were not as bizarre as they

sometimes are, though they did include a masonic certificate from Exmouth dated 1874 (D 6174), a collection of photographs of the staff and employees of the City Brewery, Exeter, 1939-1963 (D 6138), and another of Buckfast Abbey in the 1950s (D 6171). The prize for the most unusual deposit must go to a correspondence file relating to a parcel of eggs sent from Okehampton on the Great Western Railway in 1904 (D 5505 add 3).

As ever, though we try to get these accessions listed and ready for use as quickly as we can, we cannot guarantee to make them all available immediately, and we ask you to bear with us if this takes a little time.

Barnstaple

We are pleased to report that the usual variety of accessions has been received by the North Devon Record Office over the past six months. These include additional deposits of records from the following Church of England parishes: Alverdiscott (2976 add 6), Charles (3333 add 4), George Nympton (3731 add 2), High Bray (815 add 4), Satterleigh (1709 add 2), South Molton (3331 add 3), Warkleigh (1710 add 2) and West Buckland (1935 add 5). The South Molton material is particularly extensive and includes surname indexes to the parish registers (the parish is only partially covered by the International Genealogical Index). Minutes of the Feoffees of Shebbear Parish Lands, 1904-1978, have also been transferred (3990 add). Nonconformist church records deposited include those of Atherington Baptist Church (B658), West Down United Reformed Church (B651) and Barnstaple (2347 adds 20 & 21) and Holsworthy (2638 add 8) Methodist circuits.

Minutes, accounts and other administrative records of the *North Devon Journal* newspaper dating from 1938 have been transferred to the North Devon Record Office for safekeeping (B643). Some of the material is closed to public access, but there is plenty in the collection to interest those wishing to explore the history of north Devon's longest running newspaper, first published in 1824.

The town of Barnstaple is well represented in recent accessions, which include a large volume compiled in 1810 containing transcripts of the borough charters made between 1445 and 1611 (B144 add 29), an account book, 1936-1963, and day book, 1895-1896, of Sanders, builders and contractors (B653), and a collection of video cassettes exploring aspects of the town's history, including Barnstaple Fair, the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway and the Queen's visit to the town in 1956 (B652). The videos have been privately produced by the recently retired town clerk. A manuscript petition of 1670 concerning non-payment of travel expenses incurred while delivering warrants for raising soldiers to resist enemy forces (probably the French) sighted off Dartmouth, ordered by the Mayor of Barnstaple (B656), was purchased by the Record Office at auction.

Other notable deposits include plans of railway buildings on the Lynton & Barnstaple line, 1952 (B649), a group of papers relating to Bradworthy which includes records of the Bradworthy and Sutcombe Female Clubs (B657), and a supplement to the collection of photographs of Lundy by R. D. Sach mentioned in the previous edition

of this newsletter (B627 add).

News from the Service Points

Social Impact Audit Project

"Service Points unite common goals"... "better service for the user"

This project, highlighted in the previous edition of this newsletter, has now been completed, and involved all our existing and projected Service Points in libraries and museums across the county. Successful focus group meetings were held earlier this year by independent auditors from Plymouth City Council library and museum services. The resulting report on the impact that the scheme has on individual users and local communities has been distributed to all our Service Point partners and will be used to inform service development and provide evidence for performance reviews. Our local findings have also contributed to a regional report on social impact, which includes the results of similar audits carried out on seven other services in the South West. The main conclusion is that libraries, archives and museums in the region are making a positive contribution to social issues and add real value to local communities and quality of life. There was a lot of evidence to demonstrate the sector's contribution to learning, community identity, social cohesion, local economy, access and equity, but the research also raised issues such as marketing, promotion and the poor standard of some buildings as areas for improvement. There was general agreement across the region that the audit has been a worthwhile exercise, and it has introduced us to an effective, new way of gathering evidence of the impact of our services.

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Beaford Photographic Archive

Beaford Arts, the owner of the Beaford Photographic Archive, which has been based in the North Devon Record Office since 1992, has recently undertaken a wholesale review of its activities. From now on, the organisation will focus on providing a mobile arts programme in north Devon, and it sees the Photographic Archive as a key resource for its future development. It will, however, be difficult for the Archive to achieve its full potential in the rather cramped conditions in which it operates at present. We have therefore agreed that the Beaford Archive collection will move to a new photographic centre as soon as suitable premises become available. In the meantime, the North Devon Record Office will

continue to look after the collection, and to offer access to the index and a selection of photographs. However, no reproduction work will be possible until further notice. For further information please contact Beaford Arts on (01805) 603201.



Victorian family group from the Beaford Photographic Archive

February 2001 User Survey

In last May's newsletter we promised a summary of the findings of the most recent Public Services Quality Group survey of record offices. The individual reports on the two offices in Devon arrived late last year, but our colleagues in Dorset have just produced comparative data for the South West, with a set of magnificent bar charts.

It is noticeable that the region in general fares better than the UK average score. In general the Exeter scores are similar to the average for the country and below that for the South West, while Barnstaple does better and is more typical of the region. It has been remarked that nationally smaller offices produce better scores than larger ones, and the NDRO is the smallest office in the region (there is no information available for Bath and North East Somerset) and the only branch office. This is not to suggest that the North Devon results are undeserved, but merely that we are dealing with perceptions rather than quantifiable facts.

As in previous surveys, the worst scores at Exeter relate to visitor facilities (only 5.2% excellent), finding aids (25% excellent), microfiche viewing facilities (24.3% excellent), copy services (19.2% excellent), opening hours (17.2% excellent), and facilities for people with disabilities (no one thought that these were excellent). Barnstaple had a 100% excellent score for services to people with hearing and physical disabilities and 100% good and excellent combined for finding aids and for service overall.

One area of continuing concern is customer care, and the impression created is still that staff at Exeter are more knowledgeable than friendly or helpful (the figures for

Barnstaple are the other way round). This is something which we take seriously and try to improve, but it is hard to know how far the scores reflect the experience of using a busy office in an inconvenient building, where everyone is working under difficulties, and how far they are telling us that we are doing something wrong. As the move to Great Moor House slowly approaches, we want to make sure that the public service there is as good as it can be.

Some of the differences between the (admittedly small) samples of users who responded at the two offices are interesting. Most people in Exeter were either on their first visit or had been coming for more than 10 years, whereas at Barnstaple the spread was more even. Exeter had more users in the 60-plus age bracket, whereas in Barnstaple the majority were between 25 and 59. There were slightly more women than men at Exeter, and more men at Barnstaple, and the sample was, not surprisingly, overwhelmingly white and British.

The 2001 survey included some questions which relate to the effect which visitors to record offices have on the local economy. In Exeter 40.5% of respondents, and 50% in Barnstaple, intended to stay up to a week in the area; the UK average was only 9.1%, with 88% staying for one day only. In Exeter many people ate out locally (60%), used local shops and services (52.0%), and used public transport (48%); in Barnstaple 48% paid for overnight accommodation, 67.7% ate out locally, 77.4% used local shops and services, and 41.9% visited other places of interest in the area. Visiting the record office was the main purpose of visiting the area for 83.1% of Exeter respondents and 76.6% in Barnstaple, but this figure was high both regionally and nationally.

Although it is sometimes difficult to interpret the results of these surveys, and even harder to know what to do about some of the problems which they seem to indicate, they do give us valuable information about the people who come through our doors, and we are grateful to everyone who took the trouble to complete a form. It is not easy to maintain any enthusiasm, among either staff or searchers, for handing out and filling in questionnaires, but persevering with this does mean that we shall build up a picture over a period of time of what sort of people use the record offices, what they think of the service that they receive, and how things are changing. It would be harder to plan any improvements otherwise, and it is to be hoped that the Public Services Quality Group will continue the good work that it has started.

The Media at Morebath...

The first volume of churchwardens' accounts for the parish of Morebath, which covers the years 1527-1596, has received a great deal of media attention since the publication of Eamon Duffy's book *Voices of Morebath* earlier this year.

Dr Duffy's detailed analysis of the accounts has given us a vivid picture of life in a pre-Reformation Mid-Devon parish, coloured particularly by the personality of its priest at the time, Sir Christopher Trychay. A conference held at the University of Exeter culminated in a fascinating illustrated talk in the Chapter House by Dr Duffy, and at least two television programmes and one radio programme have been made or

are in preparation which feature the accounts.

The account book came into the Devon Record Office in December 1978, one of the early deposits which followed the passing of the Parochial Registers and Records Measure, and a transcript by the Revd J. Erskine Binney, a later Vicar of Morebath, was published by *Devon Notes and Queries* in 1904. This is clearly a document whose time has come.

...and the Cambridge Group at Colyton

Another recent arrival in the searchroom library at Exeter is Pamela Sharpe's *Population and Society in an East Devon Parish*, racily subtitled *Reproducing Colyton, 1540-1840*. This 400-page study builds on the work of the Cambridge Group in using the unusually detailed registers and other records of Colyton to create a picture of the demographic, economic, social, and political aspects of life there over three centuries. We have followed Dr Sharpe's research, both in Colyton itself and in the Record Office, over a number of years, and it is good to see the results of it presented in such a handsome volume.

Parish Church Inspections

Under the Parochial Registers and Records Measure of 1978, revised in 1992, parish records are required to be inspected every five years. During the late 1970s and 1980s a regular programme of inspection was undertaken by staff from Devon Record Office in Exeter and Barnstaple and the then West Devon Record Office (now Plymouth and West Devon Record Office). Unfortunately a sharp increase in the number of visitors using the search rooms combined with a reduction in staffing levels and other financial constraints meant that it was no longer possible to carry out these inspections on the approved quinquennial basis.

In 1996 some financial assistance from the Diocese of Exeter made it possible for a member of staff to resume the programme for a short time. Thanks to a further grant from the Diocese, Gillian Falla, Research Archivist at Exeter, has recently commenced a new programme of inspections. Although only two team ministries have been covered so far, additional registers and other parish records from Clyst Honiton, Rockbeare and Farringdon have already been deposited as a result of the visit.

With so many small rural parishes in the county it is not surprising that over 50 are still using the first printed form of baptism and burial registers adopted in 1813. Under the terms of the revised Measure, all registers still in current use and which contain entries over 150 years old are required to be closed immediately and deposited in the appropriate diocesan repository. It is hoped that a visit from a professional archivist who is also able to offer advice on storage and safe keeping of current registers and records in the parish will encourage these parishes to comply with the Measure by closing and depositing their registers in the Devon Record Office.

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Research Register

In 1988 the Centre for South-Western Historical Studies published a Register of Current Research. Its purpose was to facilitate contact between active researchers working on historical aspects of south-western England. It provided contact addresses and a brief outline of the kinds of research being conducted, together with a selective list of recent publications. Now, ten years on, the Centre is updating its details for a new edition, and distributing a new survey form throughout the region. If you have recent or current historical research interests in the south-west (other than genealogy), particularly if you have published research findings in the past, or envisage your current work being published in due course, the Centre would be very pleased to include your details. The publication will initially be freely available on the World Wide Web, and in due course there will be a hard copy version (subject to demand). Anyone interested in being included should contact Professor Roger Burt, Centre for South-Western Historical Studies, Amory Building, Rennes Drive, University of Exeter, Devon EX4 4RJ (r.burt@ex.ac.uk).

Geometric Genealogy or A Pythagorean Pedigree?

A series of entries in the Holne parish registers around the turn of the 19th century has recently come to light, which neatly illustrates the variation that is commonly found in the spelling of surnames, and possibly also a sense of humour (or lack of it) on the part of the parish priest or parish clerk of Holne.

The marriage is recorded on 6 April 1790 of Thomas Angel and Elizabeth Wright (both signed their names clearly). By the time that their son Elias was christened on 1 May 1799, the spelling of the name had changed to 'Angle', and his younger sister, Joanna, also had her surname spelt thus.

Following a custom still common today, Thomas and Elizabeth gave the children their mother's maiden name as a second Christian name, so the children were christened respectively Elias and Joanna Wright Angle. Sadly, the occupations of the family are not given, but it would be nice to think that one of them might have chosen a suitable calling, like a carpenter and joiner or a surveyor.

School Records Course

Susan Laithwaite and Jan Wood ran a full day course on school and educational records for local and family historians on 20 April, and repeated it on 24 May. Class notes and photocopies of sample documents were provided, as well as morning tea with the usual delicious biscuits, and relevant reference books and magazines were put out on display for students to look through at morning tea and lunchtime. Twelve students enrolled for the first course, and fifteen for the second, which we considered a

a good response. We like to keep class sizes fairly small as this allows people to get to know the teachers and each other, and to ask their own questions more easily.



The course covered the history of school education and its records from the 17th to the early 20th century, and, although a large amount of information was crammed into the day, there were still topics which couldn't be covered in the time available! We put some original educational and school records out on display, so that class members could see the range of material which we hold, but the course also covered records held in other types of repositories, including libraries. Both classes were very enthusiastic and appreciative, so we regard the course as well worth organising.

Friends of Devon's Archives

Following the excitement of the AGM conference and Ian Mortimer's talk, which were reported in the last issue of this newsletter, the Friends' attention over the past six months has been mainly occupied with preparations for the future.

The highlight of the winter was Maryanne Kowaleski's talk in February on 'Women, Gossip, and the Economy in Medieval Exeter', which drew a large and attentive audience. Professor Kowaleski spoke about the rise of presentments of women in the local courts as 'scolds' or 'gossips' in the later 14th century and speculated on possible economic causes for this in the wake of the Black Death. The combination of social and economic history, what are now termed 'gender issues', and graphic descriptions of some of the punishments meted out for these offences (which were never forbidden by statute) ensured a lively debate, and the Friends left with much to think about.

Another series of workshops is planned for Tuesday afternoons this coming

November, under the general title 'Listing the People'. The speakers will be Gillian Falla, Susan Laithwaite, Jan Wood, Ian Maxted, and Ian Mortimer (who will deal with access to historical sources on the Internet). Further details will be sent to Friends shortly and will be available at the record offices.

The Friends' publishing ventures have continued with *Ten Centuries of Devon's Archives*, mentioned earlier in this issue. Following their second Lottery success, work is proceeding towards publication of the 18th-century sequel to *Early Devon Maps*, which is due out after the appearance of the larger Devon and Cornwall Record Society volume, *Devon Maps and Map-makers: Manuscript Maps before 1840*, in the autumn. The Friends' book will contain reproductions of about twenty maps by Robert Whittlesey, William Chapple, Richard Davis, John Wynne, Lewis Thomas, Richard Cowl, Charles Tozer, George Lang, Alexander Law, and others, most of which are in record offices, though some are in private hands and are not generally available for study.

Frost at Mamhead

John Trott has drawn attention to the following entry, which he transcribed from the Devon and Cornwall Record Society transcript on 16 May 2002.

Entered in the schedule of Christenings.

3152: No. 234 21 May [1837] Edward John Crothologus Abbott (b. 25 Apr.) s. of Edward and Mary Abbott smith.

No.235 & 236 The above named child is the offspring of Edward Abbott & Mary Ann Frost his step daughter. The parties were married at St Mary Arches Church in Exeter by Banns by the Revd. Edward Chane Rector on the 28th of February. The Certificate of said marriage No. 363 was presented to me at the Baptism of the above named child. By an Act of Parliament passed 5 & 6 William the 4th Cap. 54 (31 May 1835) the Marriage of the above named parties is null and void, being within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity. R. A. St Leger Curate

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<p>This newsletter is edited by John Draisey, County Archivist, Devon Record Office, Castle Street, EXETER, Devon, EX4 3PU, UK and is published by Devon County Council.</p>	<p>If you have any comments or suggestions on this newsletter please send to devrec@devon.gov.uk</p>
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