

Newton St Cyres History Group



We had an excellent and interesting local outing for the History Group this year. On Saturday June 15th a large group of us met on the forecourt at Pynes. This large and imposing house was built around 1700 by the Northcote family, but it replaced an earlier manor, probably dating from the early 12th century.

We were conducted around the formal gardens and the house by Nigel Chambers, two of whose children have bought the property with their partners, and who are renovating and repairing the building. In the future it will be available to hire for functions and entertaining, as well as being a family home, which is of course how it has always been used historically.

The approach to the house was changed in 1857, apparently for a visit from Queen Victoria, from the original south east which is now the garden front complete with pool and fountain. The present entrance is on the south west side and is a large square forecourt with two large deer statues, leading to an imposing stone stairway and entrance hall, surrounded by a heavy cornice with the coats of arms of the Northcote family and their marriages. Our talk in March on hatchments made it easier for us to understand the heraldry and symbolism of the arms, which Nigel explained. One of the most well-known members of the family was Sir Stafford Northcote, who was prominent and influential in the Victorian parliament and in Exeter affairs, and he added a new wing to the original building, and also a water tower. Queen Victoria created him Earl of Iddesleigh. The Northcotes finally sold the house in 1998.

The reception rooms are now under restoration, but are large and light, and Nick Baker had arranged a display of information about the house and family which he has researched, and half our party were able to examine these documents whilst the other half went 'below stairs' to see the original kitchens, passageways and servants' quarters. We then swapped around.

There is a strong case made by Anne-Marie Edwards, a Jane Austen scholar, that Pynes is the setting for 'Barton Park', in 'Sense and Sensibility'. Furthermore, the author believes that Woodrow Barton, a farmhouse just up the valley, is the site of Barton Cottage, where the Dashwoods came to live, and where the fateful meeting between Marianne and Willoughby happened. The second part of our outing was thus to Woodrow Barton, a long way round by road but a relatively short walk by footpath, as in the novel. The farm is still owned by the Earls of Iddesleigh, and the present tenant, Alan Nicks, and his wife June, were kind enough to show us round and explain the history of the house – which has been there in some form since before the Conquest. It is in a most beautiful position above the River Exe and June explained how the original cob house is now enclosed by Victorian additions, including an estate office, used to keep records and wages – the original safe is

still in position.

Our final visit of the day was to Turlake House, or rather the converted buildings behind it, where Nick Baker and his wife, Jill, gave us a splendid tea, with wonderful cakes and biscuits, which we could sit to eat in Nick's beautifully designed and planted garden.

Our thanks go to Jean for her organisation, and to the Chambers family, the Nicks family, and Nick and Jill Baker for their hospitality.

Next meetings

Meetings are usually on Thursday evenings in the village hall club room and start at 7.30pm.

Everyone is welcome. There is a small charge of £2 which includes tea and biscuits.

For further information contact Jean 851337 Isobel 851351

Autumn Programme

Sept 14th Flower and Produce Show. The History group will have a display of WW1 memorabilia.

Sept 19th Helen Turnbull 'The Story of a Manor – Chudleigh'

Helen is an experienced Historian who joined with us last year for John Allen's visit. Some of the wood for the Bishop's throne was brought from Chudleigh to Norton to be seasoned. The two villages have much in common in their early development both being Church land until the Reformation.

Oct 17th Lynda Pearce 'Pictures from the Past'

Nov 14th 'Fun with History' Shobrook Local History Group

Dec 12th Christmas meeting. Chris Lee reading 'A clergyman's journey'

We have no special membership arrangements. Everyone is welcome. If you would like further details ring Jean 851337 or Isobel 851351

War Memorial

Newton St Cyres does not have a specific War memorial in the parish. There is a plaque inside the Church which details all those who gave their lives in the two World Wars. If the Church was ever to close the memorial plaque would not be available for relatives to visit or yet for any other names to be added should the occasion arise.

The Parish Council are inviting comments from parishioners on whether the village should have a Memorial or whether they feel another form of memorial (such as an engraved board in the hall) would be appropriate. Please let any member of the Parish Council have your comments / ideas or email the Chairman, David Baker on

davidbaker687@btinternet.com

Crediton Museum & Heritage Centre

The Old Town Hall, High Street, Crediton

Free admission

Open Wed-Fri 10-4 and Sat 10-1
From April till October.

See centuries old maps, documents and artefacts

2013 exhibition
'Local Worthies' -
Learn about the
national and
international
achievements
of people from the
Crediton area.



Research your family history or the history of your house

Our Research Corner, a 'Service Point' for Devon Heritage Service, is open 10am-4pm every Wednesday and 10am-1pm Saturday and at other times by appointment.

Visitors are able to access:

- UK Census returns from 1841-1911
- Parish Registers from 26 local parishes from the 1500s
- Tithe maps
- Masses of free data on web sites
- Access our growing catalogue of historic items and documents in our local collection



Tel. 773919/774441 or see our web site at www.creditonhistory.org.uk

A message from David Nation

Secretary Crediton Area History & Museum Society

You may be aware that, after 25 years searching, three years ago we were able to open a museum in the Old Town Hall, High Street, Crediton. We are open from Easter to October, 10 till 4 Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 10 till 1 Saturdays. We have a growing static display about the history of the area and each year we also have a themed display. This year it is 'Local Worthies' - centred on the dozens of local people who over the centuries have made an impact on the national or international stage. It really is amazing how many there are! Please do come to see for yourself whenever you can! There is no admission charge but we welcome donations to pay the rent!

Earlier this year Devon Heritage Centre (formerly Devon Record Office) made us one of their Service Points. This means they have provided us with micro fiche copies of all the parish registers for Crediton and 25 parishes, which includes yours, around the town, and the Tithe Map and apportionments. Funded by Crediton Town Council, a phone line and Broadband has been installed and we have a subscription to Find My Past, giving access to their data base of census records etc. The micro fiche readers provided by the Devon Heritage Centre and computers are contained within the Research Corner in the museum, which is open 10 till 4 on Wednesdays, 10 till 1 on Saturdays and other times by appointment. We have a band of experienced amateur genealogists able to help people research the history of their family or house. There is a charge of just £2 per day, or by becoming Friends of the Museum at a charge of £15pa, free access is provided for 12 months.

The facility means that residents can carry out this fascinating work without having to travel into Exeter. Those who have availed themselves of it so far, including some visitors from the USA, have unearthed some fascinating facts. One difficulty we have is ensuring local people are aware of the facility and we shall be most grateful if you can please help us with this. If it is possible for you to advertise the service in your community, that would be greatly appreciated. I attach a poster giving details and if you are able to display this, that would be most helpful. If you would like more of these in hard copy form, please let me know.

Catalogues of our collection of documents, artefacts and photographs housed at Downes are also available, providing a valuable record for researchers. We have excellent relations with other local history societies in the area and are always seeking ways to help and promote their work. Recently one of our Corporate Friends built a web site for us at www.creditonhistory.org.uk so please have a look at that.

I hope this provides sufficient information for your purposes but if you would like to know more or I can help further in any way, please get back to me. We would be pleased to receive formal visits from your members should they wish.

Many thanks for your time.

David Nation

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