

DAWLISH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Newsletter

September 2012

Dear Members,

We understand that from 2013 we cannot use the main hall at the Manor House for our history meetings on a Monday afternoon; some other group have booked the hall every Monday.

At the moment we may have to use the upstairs double-room as previously used occasionally.

An alternative would be to have our meetings in the Monday morning or on a different day and use the main hall. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting, however, if regular attendees have a preference for a different day we would like to hear from you. You could call Tricia on 01626 866927 or myself on 01626 888463.

On 3rd September, 2pm, there is an 'outing' to Forde House in Newton Abbot. This is a repeat visit of a couple of years ago.

Unfortunately, Mr Bob Thompson's memorial service is at the same time at the Dawlish Methodist Church. We hope many members attend.

Derek Wain

Our next meeting will be on 1st October, at The Manor House.

Mr Colin Marsden will give a talk on Railways at 2.30pm

Bob Thompson

We are sad to report the death on August 17th of Dr. A R Thompson, known to us as Bob. He was our Chairman for nearly the 19 years existence of our History Group when he researched, wrote, kept the archives, published the newsletters, helped those who felt inclined to write, edited and produced our books. He hardly ever missed a meeting and conducted them and our committee meetings with his generous humour and wit.

He had been trying to retire from the Chairmanship for some time but it was only at the AGM in April 2012 that he finally achieved this and we gave him a small farewell party shortly after.

His funeral (cremation) will be on Monday morning 3rd September attended by family only. A memorial service has been arranged at 2pm on the same day at Dawlish Methodist Church. We hope it will be well attended by his many friends from the History Group and all his other activities and interests; he will be sorely missed. Our condolences to Marie and family. God Bless Him.

Tricia Whiteaway

Visit to Chudleigh, 2 July

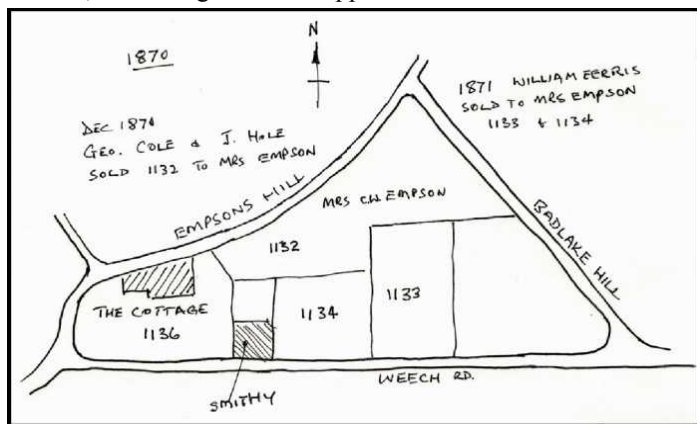
The 2nd July 2012 was a grey damp day when 19 members of DLHG met at the church of St Martin & St Mary in Chudleigh where they were welcomed very warmly. A gentleman called Alan introduced himself as our guide for the afternoon and after a brief introduction another gentleman who was the archaeologist for the Diocese of Exeter gave a fascinating talk on the history & archaeology of the church. Long before the present building appeared in its earliest form it was thought that there had been a Saxon place of worship on the site. Chudleigh came into prominence in 1080 when Bishop Osborne chose it for his rural palace – remains of this building can still be seen in a local orchard in Rock Road. Bishop Brewer granted the church & its income to the Precenter of Exeter in 1225. Several stages of renovation and rebuilding were carried out between 1300 & 1754 followed by an extensive renovation in the 1840s. There are eight bells from the 16th to 20th century – all have been hung on a steel frame. After a walk around the churchyard noting several aspects of the building and the yard, where the local bow-men practiced their skill aiming for local woods still known as 'Target Woods' (and quite a distance).

The next part of our Chudleigh visit was to Rock House & Caves – remains from mid-Palaeolithic times (75,000BC) we discovered in the grounds which were very atmospheric as plants from Africa planted by a previous owner. The rain dripping from the leaves & ferns with the limestone 'cliffs' in the background added to the overall effect – topped by a 3 million year old fossil embedded in a rock face. We would have missed that if Alan (guide) had not pointed it out to us! There was so much to see but time was running out so we made our way to the tea-room passing some old farm machinery & carriages etc which would have been fantastic if restored. There was a very nice tea-shop waiting for us to enjoy a lovely cream tea – what would a DLHG trip be without it? As usual a big thank-you was due to Tricia for organising it all and to the drivers who got us all there; not forgetting the guide Alan. Chudleigh is a fascinating place with lots of history.

Mavis Stuckey

The Cottage at Empsons Hill, Dawlish

On 24th May 1869 Miss Frances Campbell, spinster, who had occupied The Cottage, Dawlish from 1815, made her last Will and Testament, devising and bequeathing to her executors, administrators and assignors all her Freehold Messuage, Tenements, Dwelling House, Offices, Outbuildings, Yard, Garden, Pleasure ground and appertances.



Frances Campbell died on the 27th April 1870. Her executors, Henry Frampton Esq of Moreton in the County of Dorset; John Fortescue Knighton, surgeon of Dawlish and Sydney Pearson of Dawlish, sold the property to Mrs Charlotte Wilkes Empson of Clevedon in the County of Somerset for £2500. The Indenture duly signed by the executors also contained the list of the property with the tithe numbers.

Tithe. Copy of property sold to Mrs Empson from Miss Campbell's will and death in 1870.

1136: House, Lawn and Shrubbery.

1137: Garden and the following property which now forms the Kitchen Garden attached to the House.

1142: (1) The site of a School House and small Dwelling House formerly attached there. (2) The site of two Cottages and Gardens formerly occupied by George Cole and Richard Phillips and his under-tenants, with the Courtlage and small garden attached. (3) A piece or parcel of land formerly part of a field called Pitt Meadow. (4) The site of Two Cottages and Courtlages formerly occupied by Simon Smith and afterwards by Ann Smith, his widow.

On 13th December 1870 a close of land was sold from George Cole of Dawlish and John Hole of Newark, Notts, to Mrs C.W. Empson for £650. (This was the field going up the hill from "The Cottage".)

In 1871 Conveyance of Two Closes of land situated in Dawlish from William Ferris to Mrs C.W. Empson for £1200 (Acquired by Richard Ferris from John Edge Manning in 1812. (Pitts and Gales Orchards)

In 1878 Conveyance of a Messuage, Orchards and premises at Dawlish from Mr Charles Jewell to Mrs C.W. Empson for £1150. He grants her all that Messuage, Tenement and dwelling house, with SMITH's shop adjoining, a large garden in the rear and also orchard plot, workshop and building on the opposite side of the road, near to the Vicarage.

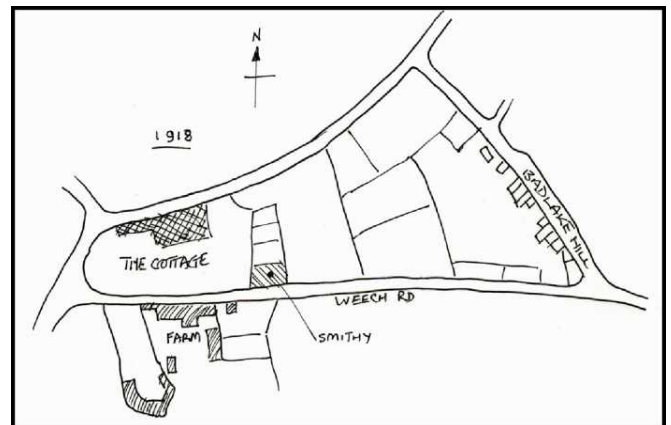
In 1918 Conveyance from Miss Frances Empson to Mr William Anstey a field called Turnip Close as a gift for his work as her agent.

Property bought by Violet Cavendish Bentinck from Frances Charlotte Empson (spinster) of The Shrubbery, Stone in Staffordshire on the 18th January 1918.



The Cottage on fire 1911

The property had been leased to Miss V. C. Bentinck on 28th June 1916 - all the messuage, premises, outbuildings, gardens, lawns, pleasure ground known as "The Cottage" for the term of 14 years. Should the Lessee be desirous of purchasing, the reversion in fee simple in the premises, thereby together with the adjoining premises on the said map, payment of the sum of £4500. In 1918 Miss V.C. Bentinck agreed to purchase the said property and the Smithy and closes and buildings on the opposite side of the road in consideration of £3950 paid to the Vendor by the purchaser, as rent had been paid in the previous years.



In 1919 Conveyance of Myrtle Cottage formerly known as Badlake House, Dawlish, together with farm buildings, messuages and premises adjoining from Mrs Mary Sophia Hambley, Robert Hambley, John Valley and John Henry Beare all of Newton Abbot to Violet Cavendish Bentinck of "The Cottage" for £1100.

Garden Cottage on Badlake Hill was built by Miss Cavendish Bentinck in 1928 for her loyal housekeeper and companion, Miss Moseley and she lived there for many years.

December 1929: Mr William Anstey of 4 Clifton Place, Dawlish conveys to Miss Violet Cavendish Bentinck a freehold piece of ground called "Turnip Close" for £300 of approximately 1 acre and 33 poles and numbered 143 on Ordnance Survey map.

Miss Violet Cavendish Bentinck contrived to live in the property until her death in 1932.

Betty Roberts