



Friends of Somerset Archives

Snippets - No. 46

September 2018

Dear Friends

What a wonderful summer we have had this year – almost too good to be spending hours looking at the computer and rooting through old documents!!

I paid a brief visit to the Sidmouth area in August and decided to visit two cousins – a third cousin on my paternal grandmother's side and a first cousin, once removed, from my paternal grandfather's side. I thought the chances of them knowing each other was extremely slim as Sidmouth is quite a large area – but with my family I should have known better as, due to a set of cousins getting married, they knew each other. My Grandmother always said that she didn't mind who her sons married – as long as they weren't related! Fortunately, the only connection my parents may have is from the Maltravers family – and would be quite distant.

I am sure you will join me in sending all good wishes to Jane de Gruchy as she starts her maternity leave at the end of September.

We also thank Carol Dimmer for all the help she has given to the Friends.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Snippets and please don't forget to send me any articles that you think may be of interest to our fellow members.

Kind regards

Liz James

Finding Phoebe Dear/Deer/Dare in Somerset – from Valerie Boddie, nee Dare.

I am writing in the hope that a Somerset Archive friend might be able to help finding my 6 x great grandmother Phoebe Dear/Deer/Dare's baptism c 1695 in Somerset or anywhere else in the West Country. Many years ago, I discovered her spurious son John DEAR baptised on 11 April 1714 in DULVERTON, with no mention of the father. Since then all available records and indexes have been tried to no avail. I have also checked for the name Phoebe DARE. Neither can I find any marriage after 1714. It may be that she never married as there is a burial at LYDEARD ST LAWRENCE on 26th January 1771/2 for a PHEBY DEER. I think the name is quite unusual. My research started well before computer indexes, and original records have been used as well as modern methods. Any suggestions or help would be gratefully received. It is a coincidence that my surname changed to DARE when my 2 x great grandparents were married in Taunton in 1864, and a similar thing happened to my Australian cousin at some stage out in Australia!

If you can help Valerie, please let me know and I will put you in contact with her.

Castle Cary Visit – thanks to Bob Warren

Seventeen FOSA members turned up at this charming East Somerset town on the 14th of June for a very enjoyable and interesting visit.



Fortunately the weather stayed fine throughout and we had the advantage of all day free parking. We first went to a small, somewhat cluttered, Museum within the 19th century Town Hall and looked around for about an hour before being given a conducted tour of the town by a member of the Tourist Information Centre. After that, lunch was taken in the pubs and restaurants of the town, and then, in the afternoon, there was a visit to the only horse hair weaving factory in the UK.



The Museum staff, both volunteers, had opened it up earlier than normal at 10 am and enthusiastically showed us their surprisingly varied range of documents and rural and trade artefacts. They were Castle Cary born and bred and had a detailed knowledge of the development over the past centuries of what had been a small, largely self contained, community adjacent to the Great Western railway. Their anecdotes about the arrival of the

US army in WW2 were particularly interesting. As is so often the case, they lamented the recent estate developments that had arisen on the edge of the town.



Jane Wilde of the TIC then took us on a surprisingly long walk around Castle Cary, having been promised half an hour we got over twice as much. This revealed a very wide range of architecture from the medieval onwards, most notable being a two man mini prison and the smallest fire station I have ever seen, not much bigger than my garden shed. Neither building is currently in use. A sign of the times was a mobile bank, satellite dish deployed, the last local branch having been recently closed.

A fifteen minute walk after lunch to the outskirts of Castle Cary took us to the John Boyd horsehair weaving factory, where we were given a very fascinating guided tour of a process that has not essentially changed since Victorian times, apart from electricity being the motive power instead of water or steam. The horsehair now comes from Mongolia via China using Swiss intermediaries and is hand sorted before dyeing and weaving. The nearest equivalent factory is in France, where hand weaving is undertaken. As might be imagined, the product is for a specialist market and very expensive, although we were allowed to take samples away with us. Unfortunately, photography was not allowed within the factory, but for those that are interested there is a very good video showing the complete weaving process at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8ZyLBcYVoY> .

Our thanks for a very knowledgeable tour by a lady called Bridget.

Where do we go next? Any suggestions?

Some upcoming events at the Heritage Centre, which may be of interest:

An opportunity to see behind the scenes at the [Somerset Heritage Centre](#), the storehouse of the county's rich and wonderful history.

The tour will include the public searchroom, where people can visit for a wide range of research purposes, and the behind-the-scenes areas not usually seen by members of the

public. See centuries-old documents, as well as fine art, textiles and archaeology, and find out how the collections are stored, preserved and made available for future generations.

Booking required – FREE

To book call 01823 278 805 or email info@swheritage.org.uk

8th October 2018

Join us for a celebration of the joint Local Studies library collections: there will be the opportunity to see an exhibition of some fascinating items from the collections, have a demonstration of our online resources and catalogues, and hear about developments and forthcoming projects.

Booking required – FREE

To book call 01823 278 805 or email kate.parr@swheritage.org.uk

(<mailto:kate.parr@swheritage.org.uk>)

20th November 2018

Discover the world of photographer Walter Stanley Kenyon and hear about the successful project to save his images from destruction during this Explore Your Archive event. The talk will be followed by a session on using photographic collections for research.

Booking required – FREE

To book call 01823 278 805 or email info@swheritage.org.uk

A Remarkable Somerset Woman

Members may be interested to know that John Porter, one of our number, has recently published the first biography of Edith Cornelia Crosse, more commonly known as Yoi, who was the granddaughter of Andrew Crosse of Fyne Court, the famous electrical pioneer.

Born in Hungary to an English father and a Hungarian/Polish mother, Yoi later moved to England to live with her grandmother, she settled down to marriage and children, until her life was altered forever by a major scandal. Yoi's love of travelling took her as far afield as Teheran, before she settled in Italy, first in Rome and then Florence, with her second husband, the well know sculptor Antonio Maraini. Embarking on a career as a writer and publishing several successful books about her travels, Yoi's social circle included many of the leading literary and artistic figures of the day. She also regularly contributed many articles to newspapers and journals in England, including an interview with Mussolini.

She lived through turbulent times, with the rise of fascism and two world wars disrupting her tranquil existence. Yet throughout it all she remained an extremely fascinating woman - cultured, ironical and refined.

More information is available on John's website at www.crosseconnections.org.uk.

AGM Report – with regard to the report below, could you please note that Carol Dimmer has now resigned from the Committee.



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Somerset Archives
held on Wednesday 11th July 2018 at 2.00pm at the Somerset Heritage Centre**

Present: Jenni Llewellyn, Vice-Chair, fourteen other members of the Friends, and Janet Tall, Kate Parr and Jane de Gruchy from Somerset Archives and Local Studies.

Apologies were received from Valerie Body, Hilary Bolitho, Janet Hiscocks, John Morkham and Grace Rubery.

1. Minutes of the previous AGM, held 11 July 2017

A few corrections were made to the minutes.

On page 3, under the Election of Officers item, Ann Murch's name needs to be replaced by Liz James as the *Snippets* Editor. It was also commented that, at that point, *Snippets* was planned to be produced twice, not once, a year.

The spelling of David Hawkings' name was corrected.

The minutes, with these corrections, were passed as an accurate record.

2. Matters arising from 2017 AGM minutes

There were no matters arising.

3. Annual report (Jenni Llewellyn, Vice-Chair)

Jenni started by thanking the Committee members for their hard work, and commented that they had achieved a lot in the past year. She said that special thanks were due to Liz James for her work on the *Snippets*, which is being produced more frequently, and said that Liz was happy to produce several editions a year, as long as she had sufficient copy. Jenni mentioned the fact that Sue Burne's talk on her Storey family history had been reproduced in full in *Snippets*, which was good for people who had not been able to hear the talk at the time, and wondered if this was an idea which might be repeated in future.

Jenni summarised the Friends' events held over the past year:

September 2017: Sue Burne's talk on the Storey family of Bridgwater and North Petherton

April 2018: a visit to Crowcombe church and church house, which was preceded by a convivial lunch at the Carew Arms, organised by Carol Dimmer.

June 2018: a visit to Castle Cary museum, town tour and visit to the horsehair factory – all in brilliant sunshine – organised by Bob Warren.

She also reminded us that there will be talks in September and November 2018.

Over the past year, the Friends' website has also been revamped. It is now much simpler in its style and aims. The new website has just been launched [and can be found at <http://www.friendsofsomersetarchives.org.uk/>].

Jenni concluded by reminding the membership that new committee members are needed. She said that the Friends deserved to have someone good at the helm, and reiterated that she wished to stand down as acting chairman.

4. Financial and membership report (Ann Leigh)

Ann circulated her written report, which is summarised here for convenience.

The finances are healthy, with an income this past calendar year of £529.00 and a total expenditure of £353.29, giving a balance (as at 31 December 2017) of £1,729.80.

The membership numbers are down on last year. There are currently:

- 40 single membership holders, including four members who joined this year
- Three family membership holders
- One associated membership holder
- 22 life members
- Two family life members

Janet Tall was asked whether she thought that the South West Heritage Trust's Supporters' Scheme was acting in competition with the Friends. She replied that she did not think so, as the Supporters' Scheme carries out different activities and has a different focus. The Friends has an independent rôle and is able to financially contribute to specific projects and to be an advocate for the service.

It was commented that leaflets had been delivered to the local libraries, and the members were asked whether anyone had seen any evidence of this. It was felt that Taunton Library's approach to publicising local societies was not a helpful one.

5. Report on Somerset Archives and Local Studies (Janet Tall)

Janet gave a presentation showing a year in Archives and Local Studies in pictures. She mentioned the following:

- In July 2017 funding was obtained to start a digital preservation project. This will involve getting a proper system in place to ensure that digital files can be read in the future; a program called Archivematica has been chosen to help process digital records. This project is working across Somerset and Devon, and has involved some staff secondments: Jane de Gruchy has been seconded to do the Devon work, and Eve Bickerton to do the Somerset work. One main part of the project has been to find out what both archives already hold and in what format. It is a complicated project, but may put the service at the forefront of digital preservation work nationally.
- October 2017 saw a celebration of having achieved 'Accredited Archives' status. This is measured against the national standard for holding archives and making them available.
- In autumn 2017 Bath Abbey's archives were temporarily deposited at the Somerset Heritage Centre, where they will stay for a couple of years while the Abbey is being redeveloped. Somerset A&LS is providing access to them during this period.
- 'Take Over Day' was held in November 2017. This involved Year 5 children at Staplegrove Church School 'taking over' the searchroom for a day. This included answering the phone and acting as journalists. This scheme aims to enthuse the next generation about archives.
- In December 2017 the news was announced that the Luttrell collection (DDL) had been accepted in lieu of inheritance tax. This means that the collection has been permanently assigned to this office. This was very good news at this one of the service's most important collections, particularly for West Somerset. Work has just started on improving the catalogue; some of the original cataloguing was done in the 17th century.
- This year's Closed Period in January and February 2018 saw the sorting and boxing of the Wyndham collection (DDWY) – which is the next-door estate to Luttrell. The cataloguing of this collection was made possible through The National Archives' Cataloguing Grants programme. This is the service's single largest collection, at over 300 boxes. As well as Somerset, the collection includes material on Devon and Wiltshire, and in September an exhibition was held at Silverton in Devon, which was a Wyndham estate village.

- February 2018 was also the start of an exhibition at the Museum of Somerset showcasing the Stanley Kenyon photographic collection. Kenyon was a Wellington photographer, with the collection spanning over a 50-year period during the 20th century. He photographed local events, but also worked on national and international commissions, particularly to photograph post-war industrial sites. The collection was suffering from “vinegar syndrome”, which is where the chemicals in photographs start to react in such a way that the images destroy themselves, so it was a race against time to digitise the 58,000 negatives. Volunteers catalogued the collection, using Kenyon’s meticulous records, and packaged up the 5,000 glass plate negatives which were not affected by vinegar syndrome. There will be lots of other opportunities to showcase the collection.
- Janet also mentioned the Wansborough Paper Mill project at Watchet. Archivists went on a rescue mission to the closed site to collect archives, which were then catalogued by volunteers from “Contains Art” as part of a Heritage Lottery-Funded project. The archive was deposited at the Heritage Centre in spring 2018.
- Spring also brought the snow; Janet showed us a photograph of the Somerset Heritage Centre in the snow taken on 2 March 2018. The site closed for a day and a half, which is extremely rare; the decision was taken after red weather warnings were issued.
- On 23rd April 2018 a Local Studies event was held at the Devon Heritage Centre, which showcased the collections held at both Somerset and Devon, including the SANHS library. This was very popular, and lots of enthusiasm was shown – so much so that there will be another local studies event at the Somerset Heritage Centre on 8th October, as part of National Libraries Week.
- Changes to the searchroom were mentioned. Over the past year, new display boards have been acquired, which will show temporary displays about the collections. (The current display is about the Wyndham collection.) Janet asked that anyone with an idea for a subject for these displays should get in touch. She also mentioned the new public ‘kiosk’ computers, which are used for accessing online resources. The impression so far is that this made it much easier to get to useful websites, but we would welcome any comments.
- The Archives service has also been involved in the ‘Take One’ initiative, which focusses on a single object. This year, the ‘object’ was an archive record – an autograph book from Hinton House, which was used as a military hospital during the First World War. The project involved working with local schools, who used the book as a springboard for different ideas and subjects to research. They produced a wide range of imaginative responses. A display of their work was held at the Rural Life Museum and has also been shown at a community venue in Glastonbury.
- The Summer pop-up exhibition this year has been on tourism in Somerset and Devon; Janet showed some photographs of the exhibition on its day at Weston Museum.
- This term has been a very busy one for work with schools. Lots of schools have been researching the First World War, and many have been visiting the Museum of Somerset for workshops linked to the Michael Morpurgo exhibition. Archivists have visited several schools to do archive sessions.
- A few weeks ago, Phil Hocking retired as Researcher, having worked for the service for 28 years.

Janet finished by thanking the Friends for their help and support this year, and said how helpful it was to have an organisation which can provide advocacy or support for archives.

Tim Collins added that, on the subject of digital preservation, there would be a talk on digital preservation on 29th November by Eve Bickerton; Jane de Gruchy explained that this was the nearest possible date to International Digital Preservation Day.

6. Land Tax project (Kate Parr)

Kate introduced the Land Tax project, which will be the next Friends’ volunteer project.

She started by introducing the records. Land Tax was in theory collected from 1692 to 1964, but Somerset only has returns from about 1767 to about 1833. They are very useful records, as they contain details of owners, occupiers and property descriptions. As they are such a name-rich source, they are very useful for family history, and they are a key source for house and local history. She showed examples of a later return (these are laid out in tables, and are quite easy to read) and an earlier return (these are hand-written and a bit more variable). Kate explained that less information was collected the farther back in time you go, but said that the occupier and value was always included.

The project will be a long-term one; she expects it to last 3-5 years. This is because of its scale – 164 boxes. The work will include photographing every return, transcribing it and checking the transcript, and creating a master spreadsheet for the whole county. A pilot project using the last few years of the Taunton Deane area returns will be done first, in the autumn; this area was chosen to tie in with the research currently being carried out by the Victoria County History of Somerset.

At least five volunteers will be needed: one to act as the work co-ordinator, two to photograph and two to transcribe and check. Kate will be the overall co-ordinator and is the contact to find out more about the project. Transcribers and checkers will be able to work from home or in the searchroom.

The project will eventually produce high-quality digital images of every return and full transcripts, which will be made available in the searchroom, and a searchable master index, which will be available on the Trust's website.

Kate finished by outlining what volunteers would get out of the project: being part of valuable project, learning new skills (or, for former tithe volunteers, the chance to use skills already gained), and the camaraderie of being part of a team.

Bob Warren commented that this project needs to be publicised, and suggested that it go to Liz James for inclusion in the *Snippets* and that some information about it could go onto the new Friends' website.

7. Election of officers

Jenni reminded the meeting that she no longer wished to act as chairman, but would be happy to act as secretary. Carol Dimmer wished to step down as secretary. Liz James was happy to continue as *Snippets* editor, and Ann Leigh as treasurer and membership secretary. Officers were elected as follows:

Chairman: Bob Warren agreed to act as meetings chairman. He was proposed by John Porter and seconded by David Hawkings.

Vice-Chair: Tim Collins offered to act as vice-chair, to deputise for Bob Warren as needed. He was proposed by Sue Berry and seconded by David Hawkings.

Secretary: Jenni Llewellyn was proposed by Carol Dimmer and seconded by John Porter.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Ann Leigh was re-elected, having been proposed by David Hawkings and seconded by Jenni Llewellyn.

Events Co-ordinator: Carol Dimmer volunteered for this post.

Webmaster: Tim Collins and Carol Dimmer to be trained in how to update the new website, overseen by John Porter.

The committee now consists of: Sue Berry, Tim Collins, David Hawkings, Carol Dimmer, Ann Leigh, Jenni Llewellyn and Bob Warren.

It was agreed that an appeal for anyone else who might wish to join the committee be put in the next edition of *Snippets*.

8. Update on the Friends' website (Bob Warren)

Bob explained that the website needed work. John Porter has updated old content with a simple site which mainly aims to give basic information about the Friends and our activities. This could be expanded in the future as needed. Scaling back the website has cut the website fees by half. John explained that the new website was written in a program called

Kompozer, which is easy to use. Basic training takes only about half an hour, and there is a YouTube video lasting an hour for further training.

Bob commented that the information on the website needs to be complemented by targeted emails to members, such as for events, as most people will not remember to look at the website regularly to see what's changed.

9. Conclusion

The meeting concluded at approximately 3.00pm, and was followed by a talk by Terry Ransome on "Finding Eliza Carr".

Finding Eliza Carr ... a talk by Terry Ransome, a write-up by Tim Collins

As part of the 2018 AGM Janet Tall from the Somerset Heritage Centre informed FOSA members of an initiative with local schools called 'Take One'. The initiative focusses on a single object contained within the Archives and uses it as a springboard for different ideas and subjects to research.

It was therefore appropriate that, following the AGM, we were treated to a fascinating talk, by Terry Ransome from Nailsea, which took a single item as its starting point; in this case an exquisite and detailed needlework sampler from the middle of the 19th Century.



The sampler contained the name 'Eliza Tabitha Carr', it was dated 1865, it read 'Bratton British School' and was handed into the British Schools Museum, in Hitchin, Hertfordshire in 2012. The Bratton as referenced on the sampler is the one near Westbury, which is just over the Somerset border, in Wiltshire. Back in 2012, Terry was a volunteer manager at the museum, his interest was piqued and he wanted to find Eliza's school, and to learn more about her life. The talk, with slides, that followed was a remarkable tale of investigative work using both the internet and County archives to tell Eliza's story.

After the arrival of the sampler in 2012, the detective work got off to a good start because, by chance, Terry and his wife had already booked a holiday cottage in Wiltshire so they thought

they would seize the opportunity and take a look around Bratton to see if they could find Eliza's school. Initially, the Wiltshire County website pointed them to what turned out to be Westbury Baptist Church, alas not a school. Terry then discovered the Swindon and Wiltshire Archive Centre at Chippenham, and 'bingo' – they held a photograph of the British School at Bratton, the date of the image provided another clue as the school opened in 1846. The question remained, where was the school? A map from the 1890s held the answer – there was a school in Stradbook, Bratton – and that was indeed the Bratton British School.

The Swindon and Wiltshire Archives also held the school logbook, and by good fortune a needlework accounts book for the girls' school – all very important to piecing together the story.

Further detective work allowed Terry to trace Eliza from her birth in Tinhead, just East of Bratton, in 1850 to Paddington in London where she entered service. Eliza then returned to Tinhead to marry a Henry James Miles in 1879, before returning to London where three children were born to Henry, employed as a butler, and Eliza.

A move to the West Country followed and in the 1901 census Terry established that Henry and Eliza were now living in 'Coffee Tavern' in Under Way, Combe St Nicholas just North of Chard. Henry is also listed in the Kelly's Directories from 1897 to 1923 at the Coffee Tavern. In the 1911 census Henry is recorded as an 'egg and poultry dealer'.

Use of the church records allowed Terry to find Eliza's grave, buried with Henry, in the churchyard at Combe St Nicholas. Eliza had died in 1919 aged 69, Henry a few years later in 1925, aged 80.

Terry had one final 'gem' in his talk. It was a low resolution picture of the residents of Combe St Nicholas at some sort of village celebration, believed to be, in the early 1900s. Terry (and his former colleagues at the British Schools Museum) would love to know if Eliza is in the picture, or if anyone has a good quality copy of it. Equally if anyone knows of any direct descendants of Eliza, please let Tim Collins [twcc@btinternet.com] or any FOSA Committee member know and we will pass on the information to Terry.



The research continues and an updated version of this talk is due to be presented at the Warehouse Theatre in Ilminster as part of their Spring 2019 'Thursday' programme.



Jane Austen's wealthy and childless Aunt and Uncle, James and Jane Leigh-Perrot, had a home in Bath where they were able to enjoy society, take the waters, and offer their nieces a chance at seeing something of the world; Jane Austen's first visit there was in 1797.

Soon after that visit, an incident took place which would cast a cloud over the Leigh-Perrots and bring Aunt Jane into the annals of history. In August, 1799, Mrs Leigh-Perrot visited a linen drapers shop to purchase a length of black lace. Upon leaving, Mrs Leigh-Perrot was accosted and it was discovered that a card of white lace was also included in the packet. Mrs Leigh-Perrot insisted that it was a mistake by a clerk who had accidentally wrapped the white lace along with the black. The owner called it shoplifting.

A few days later, Mrs Leigh-Perrot was arrested for theft.

The crime, if Mrs Leigh-Perrot was found guilty, was punishable by hanging or, as was more likely in her case, deportation to Australia.

To learn more come along to the talk by David Pugsley at 2-pm on Thursday 27th September 2018 at the Somerset Heritage Centre.

New Accessions 1 June-31 August 2018 - thanks to Jane de Gruchy

Full catalogue entries of all the catalogued records listed here can be found on the Somerset Archives online catalogue, <http://somerset-cat.swheritage.org.uk/>.

Business records

Burnham on Sea: diaries containing copies of minutes, accounts and other associated records relating to the running of Barrington and Sons' Solicitors, 1991-1999 (9 boxes) (A\ENX) (all records CLOSED)

Taunton Cider: records and publications, 1990s (A\DTM)

Somerset: correspondence and accounts of Bennett's solicitors, 1840-2018 but mainly 1860s (A\DRP)

Clubs', societies' and charities' records

Bishops Lydeard: papers of John Daw's Charity, 1897-2018 (A\ENS) (some records CLOSED)

Cranmore and Doultong Women's Institute: scrapbook, 1988-2002 (DD\WI)

Curry Rivel, Drayton and Fivehead Royal British Legion: minutes and circulars, 1959-1998 (A\EOA)

Taunton Master Builders' Association: reports, 1861-1893 (A\EOD)

Taunton Women's Hockey Club: minutes, 1969-1980 (A\DKT)

Weston super Mare: records of the Wyndham Lecture Trust including minutes, correspondence and financial records, c.1920s-c.2010s (DD\X\WLT.wsm)

St Andrew's Conservation Trust: grant files for work on churches in various counties, 2001-2016 (A\CAI)

Old Somerset Sequence Dance Association: records including minutes, accounts, correspondence and programmes, 1948-2018 (A\ENZ)

Somerset Federation of Women's Institutes: Millennium scrapbooks covering Wiveliscombe, Standerwick, Berkley and Beckington, 2000 (DD\WI)

Somerset Twinning Association: publications, 1987-2003 (C/LIB)

Deeds, sales papers, wills and other legal documents

Chedzoy: deeds and sales particulars of the Baker family, 19th-20th century (A\ENU)

Nailsea: records relating to 23 Ashton Crescent and to Nailsea more generally, 20th century (A\BDY)

Nether Stowey: deeds for 9, St Mary Street, 1790-1989 (A\ENY)

Shepton Beauchamp: deeds for 'The Covey', 1842-1911 (A\DXT)

Worle: copy of letter agreeing to rent 'Endholme', New Bristol Road, 1939 (A\ENL)

Family and estate papers and research

Alway family of Taunton and West Monkton: photographs, official documents and press cuttings, 20th century (A\ENN)

Broker family of Burnham on Sea: personal diaries of Martin Charles Broker, solicitor, 1973- (A\ENX) (all records CLOSED)

Causley family of Taunton: family papers, 1915-1975 (A\BEN)

Evans family of Nailsea: papers relating to Charles Evans, early 20th century (A\BDO)

Portman family of Somerset: Portman estate records, including valuations of estates and building reports, 1847-1917 (A\ENR)

Withers, Knight, Willcox and Keele families, of Charlton Adam, Charlton Mackrell and elsewhere: miscellaneous papers, c.1914-2015 (A\EOC)

Local government records

Parish and Town Councils

West Hatch Parish Council: photographs of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations, 2002 (D\PC\w.hat)

Winscombe and Sandford Parish Council: minutes, 1984-2016 (D\PC\winsc)

Wraxall and Failand Parish Council: minutes, 1983-2016 (D\PC\wrax.f)

Urban, Rural and District Councils

Bridgwater Borough: Assessment Committee minutes, 1929-1947 (D\B\bw)

Congresbury: drainage books and card index, c.1930 (D\DC\n.som)

North Somerset District Council: minutes, 1999-2012 (16 boxes) (D\DC\n.som)

Other public bodies

Bridgwater: lists of Burgesses of Bridgwater, 1862-1875 (C/LIB)

Taunton: mayoral scrapbook of Howard Southwood, 1947-1949 (A\EOB)

Somerset: High Constables account book of Joseph Large and C. Hayes, 1819-1878 (A\BAV)

Military records and records relating to the World Wars

Somerset Light Infantry and its predecessors

13th (Prince Albert's) Light Infantry: account book of John Shaugnessy, 1845-1862 (DD\SLI)

Somerset Light Infantry: Postcard of the grave of Private H. G. K (Hugh) Henderson, c.1915 (DD\SLI)

Somerset Light Infantry: Service records of George Frederick Lay, c.1917 (DD\SLI)

Somerset Light Infantry: World War diary of Arthur Trehane Deacon, 1916-1919; files concerning Lord Harding of Petherton, 1983-2006 (DD\SLI)

Other military, Civil Defence and World War records

Bishops Lydeard: photographs of American Military Hospital, Sandhill Park, Bishop's Lydeard, c.1945 (A\ENM)

Civil Defence: *Manual of Basic Training, Vol. II: Basic First Aid*, 1949 (A\ENK)

Nonconformist records

Glastonbury: records of the Quest Christian Community, 1989-2006 (A\ENI) (some records CLOSED)

Wellington Baptist Church: accounts relating to Wellington Baptist Church (and associated chapels), 1926-1991, Rockwell Green Baptist Church, 1920-1967 (Sunday School accounts) and 1950-1984 and

Holywell Lake Chapel, 1908-1951; minutes of the South Street Baptist Church Sisterhood, 1971-2005; booklet entitled *1814, Centenary History of Silver Street Baptist Church, Taunton, by the Rev A.J. Davies and Biographical Sketch of the Author*, 1914 (D\N\wel.b)

West Somerset Methodist Circuit: additional records, including memoranda of appointment of Trustees (various churches), Mission account book, minutes, preaching plans and Interfaith Group records, 1827-2018 (D\N\wsc)

Weston-super-Mare and Burnham-on-Sea Methodist Circuit: minute books, accounts, baptism registers, etc., 1910-2014 (6 boxes – unlisted) (D\N\wsm.brn)

Parish and diocesan records, and other records relating to parish churches

Barwick: PCC minutes, register of services, register of notices and intercessions, and miscellaneous papers, c.1911-2018 (D\P\barw)

Brushford parish records: settlement certificate, 1700, trust deed for chapel, 1926, and correspondence relating to the closure of Bury School/church, [1848]-1978 (D\P\brush)

Charlton Mackrell: marriage registers, 1838-1998 (D\P\cha.ma)

Evercreech parish records: registers, plans, faculties and PCC minutes, [1914]-2017 (D\P\eve)

Otterford: marriage register, 1986-2007 (D\P\ott)

Weston All Saints (Bath): records including confirmation register 1907-1952, PCC minutes 1984-2008 and correspondence 1995-2007 (D\P\w.as)

Weston in Gordano: burial register, 1813-2018 (D\P\w.in.g)

Photographs, postcards, maps and illustrations

Cheddar and Wells: photographs of Cheddar Gorge, the Cheddar Yeo river, Wells Cathedral, the Bishops Palace and the Swannery, July 1953 (A\ENW)

Taunton: engravings of Taunton, c.1840-c.1850 (A\ENM)

Somerset: glass plate negatives of Somerset scenes, 19th-20th century (A\CHA)

Somerset Levels: aerial photographs, 1978 (A\DXC) (2 boxes)

Publications

Dinder: *Roundabout* community magazine, 2002-2007 (A\DBL)

West Hatch: A 10 year update to the Millennium project, 2001-2017 (A\EIG)

Somerset editions of newspapers associated with *Pulman's Weekly News*, 1998-2002 (A\ENP)

Railway records

Langport: railway fare collection receipts, Langport West Station, 1949-1951 (A\ENJ)

Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway: additional papers, including photographs, drawings and Railway Trust records, 1845-2016 (A\CWO) (some records CLOSED)

Somerset and Dorset Railway Trust: additional papers including photographs, 19th-21st century (A\CWO)

Research papers and transcripts

Bridgwater: 2018 translation and photograph of the will of Thomasine Hill of Bridgwater, merchant's widow, 1484 (DD\TRANS)

Somerset: records collected during research into 'History of the Somerset Coalfield', including records for Camerton Colliery, Norton Hill Colliery and other Somerset collieries, 1870s-1960s (A\ENV)

Somerset: illustrations and information on Somerset armorial bearings, compiled by the late Jim Skeggs, late 20th century (3 boxes) (DD\X\SKG)

Somerset: research notes and papers of former Somerset Archives and Local Studies professional researcher Phil Hocking, c.1970-2017 (A\AXN)

School and education records

Cannington: photographs of Cannington College and Somerset Farm Institute, mid 20th century (A\EJK)

Charlton Mackrell Church of England Primary and Pre-School: records including log books 1863-1994, managers' and School Governors' minutes 1903-1991 and school diaries 2003-2013 (A\DSY)

Charlton Mackrell Church of England Primary and Pre-School: Log books (1906-1959) and photographs (1996-2008) (some records CLOSED) (A\DSY)

Nailsea: St Francis Catholic Primary School: governors' minutes and associated records, 1984-2013 (A\ENT)

Street: papers relating mainly to the education of Miss Pauline Rose Culverwell and her appointment as an assistant teacher at Street County Mixed School, 1945-1957 (A\ENO) (CLOSED until 2032)

South West Heritage Trust and associated records

Taunton: Letter from Harold St George Gray to Miss Kezia Augusta Goodland, concerning the post of Assistant for the Museum at Taunton Castle, 1908 (A\ENH)

Taunton: Friends of the Museum of Somerset: minutes, newsletters and other papers, 1991-2010 (A\DLS)

Other records

Somerset: list of doctors, nurses and health visitors, 1973 (A\ENQ) (CLOSED until 2056)

Somerset: visitors' book of Lady Florence Emily Moore, c.1918 (C/LIB)

Contact Information

Meetings Chairman – Bob Warren - rwwarren2000@yahoo.co.uk

Vice-Chairman and Web-Master – Tim Collins - twcc@btinternet.com

Secretary – Jenni Lewellyn - tithes@friendsofsomersetarchives.org.uk

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Ann Leigh -

membership@friendsofsomersetarchives.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth James - editor@friendsofsomersetarchives.org.uk

Events Officer - to be confirmed

**Any articles in this Snippets are the responsibility of their individual authors.
The Editor and Deputy Editor of the Friends of Somerset Archives newsletter cannot
be held responsible for any inaccuracies or omissions.**

If you change your email address please let us know!!

If you currently receive Snippets by post but now have an email address - please let us know.