



Promoting awareness of the archaeology
and history of North Devon

Newsletter, Spring 2023

If you're an active digger, then this season is set to present great opportunities for back ache, sore elbows and wearing your favourite trowel down to a nub, while satisfying your curiosity and undoubted need to solve puzzles. This year's NDAS dig at Clovelly Dykes took place in April and you can read Chris's report below. Then there's the dig at Gallantry Bower which, at the time of this writing, is already under way. Then in September/October NDAS members are invited to join a dig at the site of Torrington Castle under the leadership of professional archaeologist Emily Wapshott. In addition NDAS members are once again invited to offer their services to ACE Archaeology on their long-term excavation at Moistown near Broadwood Kelly. So field archaeology has definitely picked up since the hiatus caused by Covid.

Before moving on, I wish to take this opportunity to write a few words about our oldest lifetime member, Margaret Reed who died at the age of 90 on the 19th April this year. Margaret was a local historian whose thoroughly researched work 'Pilton: Its Past and its People' (1977, reprinted 1985) is an invaluable resource for anyone researching the history of Pilton and Barnstaple. In addition she applied her historian's skills to producing a similarly well researched history of Morteheo, 'Morteheo and Woolacombe: On the Record' and a history of the Old Custom House on the Barnstaple Strand. As a member of NDAS she researched and compiled a number of documents relating to the history of Parracombe with which the Society was engaged in the early 2000s and for a while she was NDAS Secretary. As a Board Member and Trustee of the North Devon Athenaeum Margaret took on the task of sorting and indexing the Athenaeum's document collection. For a time she was a North Devon councillor and was involved with the erstwhile North Devon Movement. Her engagement with the community was therefore extensive from the scholastic to the political and her memory will be for a long time respected.

Clovelly Dykes Excavation 2023

Chris Preece

Following Substrata's geophysics in 2022, we were eager to investigate two possible sub-square structures on either side of a hollow way, outside the presumed north-east entrance to the hillfort (Fig. 1). Although the Tithe map (Fig. 2) showed various buildings, none of these overlapped with the structures evidenced by the geophysics.

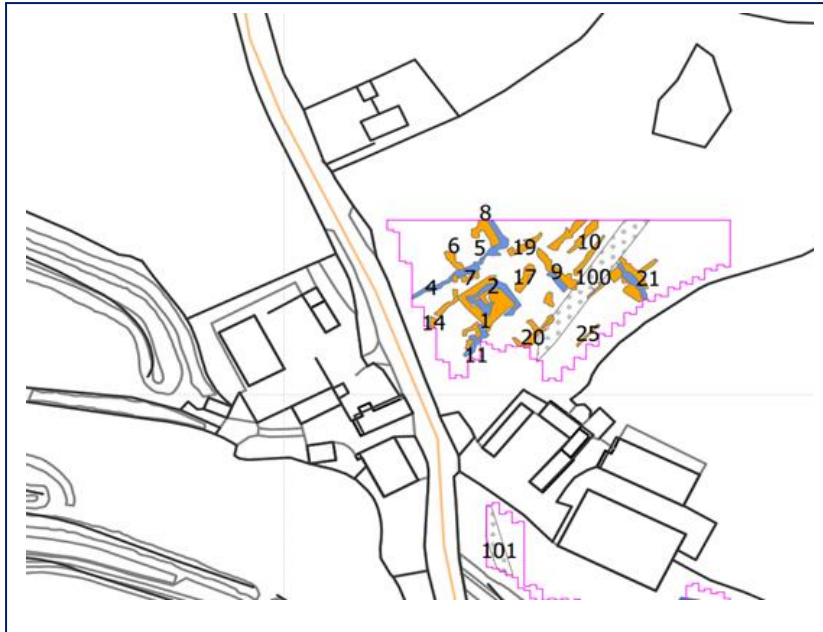


Fig.1: Ground plan of East Dyke Farm with, highlighted, features indicated by Substrata's geophysical survey.

had not been ploughed within living memory – ‘too uneven’ as the farmer said and mounds probably relating to the tithe map buildings are evident on first approach.

We set out two trenches, with T1 targeting the most clearly defined structure with a wider trench (5m x 2m) running NE/SW across the lower linear (no. 2 on Fig. 1). T2, with more ephemeral signals, we limited to 5m x1m, again targeting the seaward linear (no. 8 on Fig.



Fig.2: Extract from the Clovelly tithe map of 1839, showing the corresponding area with domestic buildings in pink and agricultural buildings in grey.

Thanks to the co-operation of the farmer, Stephen Goaman, we had been given a window of opportunity to excavate in the pasture before the cows resumed residence in April. This meant that we would have to take pot luck with the weather and as it turned out, we had a particularly wet week and with lost time, had to revise objectives and extend by a couple of days. The field

1). Due to adverse weather however, we later halved T1, making it a 5m x1m trench and with T2, we reduced the length at the SW end by two metres. As it turned out, we were confounded by the results of excavation. In T1, it soon became clear that at the SW end of the trench we were dealing with a lot of the detritus from one of the buildings on the Tithe map and a considerable depth

of what was interpreted as garden soil. Finds were of a wide range and included flints, Blue and White as well as other 'china', N. Devon wares and a few sherds of N. Devon medieval coarseware. We eventually 'bottomed out' on the penultimate day at a depth of 0.8m. At the NE end of the



Fig.3: *The base courses of a probable medieval wall revealed in Trench 2.*

trench, natural was fairly shallow and was separated from the

'deep end' by a rough alignment of stones, probably a garden feature. A fairly shallow linear ran N/S into the balk at the NE end of the trench. No finds came from this and it was probably a field drain or service trench. There was no sign of a wall in T1 as suggested by the geophysics nor any sign of a building platform as recorded on the HER.

In T2, where our expectations were more limited, the geophysics proved exactly right. At the NE end, stone rubble was revealed as we removed the turfs. Once we had removed loose stones we began to reveal a clay-bonded, rubble-infilled wall with faced edges (Fig. 3). This sat on the stony natural and its width (c. 1m) and composition is suggestive of medieval build. To the NE of the wall, an apparent shallow cut is more likely interpreted as a burnt spread but did contain one sherd of N. Devon medieval coarseware. Another linear, parallel to the wall, is of unclear purpose with no finds within the fill.



Fig.4: *Probable hammerstone found at the bottom of Trench 2.*

Counter intuitively, to the SW of the wall (where the inside of a building might be expected) there was the cut of what appeared to be a ditch. This was filled by a similar depth of post-medieval garden/kitchen detritus as T1, in terms of pottery, charcoal and coal fragments, and even included a modern charcoal briquette!

Confined space due to the foreshortening of the trench, made excavating this fill challenging and the reward was a find in the base context just above natural. Initial consultation suggests this is a hammerstone,

used in the striking of flints (Fig. 4). These generally date to the prehistoric period. No other finds were made in this context, which was sealed by the post-medieval material. The bottom of the 'ditch' in fact flattened out as it disappeared into the balk, so may not be a ditch *per se* but rather the bottom of a garden plot using the wall as a boundary.

The hollow way which was visible between the trenches, leads down to a hollow where there is a spring which undoubtedly was used by the Iron Age inhabitants of the fort. The farmer confirmed it provides a plentiful supply of water to this day. It is now encased in a stone-built, well-like structure.

Despite the trying conditions, there was a good turn out of diggers with an average of 7 per day; it was also good to see some new (and younger) faces and hopefully the experience hasn't put you off. We even had the odd sunny period where the commanding view could be appreciated (Fig. 5). Thank you to all who volunteered.



Fig.5: A trench with a view on a fine sunny day at East Dyke Farm.

Finally, 'find of the day' award (excepting of course the hammerstone) has to go to Keith Hughes who detected a lead fishing weight (modern) from the spoil. The farmer confirmed that a previous tenant of the adjacent cottage used to practise his casting in the field!

CLEARING THE HOLIWELL – AN ESSAY IN MUD, MIRE AND MUCK!

Sarah McRae

In January the North Devon Coast AONB Monument Management Scheme (NDC AONB MMS) was back! Led by Joe Penfold and Dave Edgcombe, volunteers were called upon to help on the somewhat remote site of a small scheduled monument at Higher Clovelly. Many volunteers were returning helpers from previous projects – and were not deterred by weather, ground conditions or wearing a motley selection of warm old clothes and waterproofs! This was certainly NOT a fashion parade!!

The NDC AONB MMS aims to take practical action to safeguard the AONB's scheduled monuments, and targets those that are under particular threat from things like scrub and

erosion damage. In this instance and with new funding from Historic England, the goal was to take on management of a small former “holy” well and “green lane” near Higher Clovelly with a coppice/scrub bash to improve access to the well and to clear around it.

Holy wells, pre-Reformation, were considered as Christian “curative” sources; people would travel to the well to pray for help from a particular saint, for example, or might bring afflicted patients in the hope that the water might cure them of their illness, especially if these were skin or eye disorders. After the Reformation in the mid 1500’s many “holy” wells fell into decline or were simply used as local water sources. Today there are about 200 holy wells in Devon in varying states of decline and decay. Some, in their heyday even had small chapels attached to them in pre-Reformation and some were also used as baptismal wells.

This particular holy well, approx. 120m west of Holiwell Farm, and on private land, represents a good example of a sacred well being converted in later years into a “butterwell”. This was when a nearby farm/smallholding or even local villagers would store fresh butter in the cool of the well building for preservation, usually by inserting shelves above the spring or water source. Butterwells are considered to be rare nationally and in Devon, where they are known to have once been relatively common, there are very few recorded examples.

(*The late Isabel Richardson , formerly of the National Trust, identified two examples near the Home Farm at Arlington. Ed.*)



Before clearance the holiwell/butterwell was hard to spot.



The holiwell/butterwell after clearance

The Holiwell monument at Higher Clovelly includes a circular stone-built well with a maximum diameter of 1.3m housed within a small stone building. The building measures 1.7m square externally and is 1.4m high; the doorway has a stone lintel. Inside the building, the springers for a shelf, which would have spanned the well, are built into the two side walls. This shelf would have been used for storing butter. The place-name evidence strongly suggests that this well was originally a holy well, but the surviving evidence and oral tradition confirm that during the post-medieval period it was converted into a butterwell.

When we arrived on site, the immediate problem was how to actually access the well! Originally it could have been approached directly from the farm along a “green lane” of approx. 100 yards with high banks on either side, which once formed part of a now-lost



The green lane before clearance



The green lane after clearance

footpath connecting Holiwell with East Dyke to the west. The hedges atop the banks and inside the lane itself had now grown to jungle-like dimensions and were choked with small trees, brambles of epic proportions, weeds, overhanging branches, scrub and a tangle of climbers and undergrowth. Eventually we had to break through one of the hedges to access the “lane” and the well building and then duck and dive through the scrub and tangle. The well building itself was almost invisible behind years of hedgerow overgrowth and the surrounding waterlogged ground held a small stream running in thick mud. The lane was in a similar state and it was impossible to see from one end to the other through the barrier of vegetation.

Apart from the tremendous overgrowth of foliage covering both projects, the other main problem was MUD. Lots of mud. Mud up to our calves and sucking on our wellie boots as we tried to wade through the slippery, wet, gloopy mire, clutching our loppers, secateurs and bow-saws.

We divided into 2 groups – one to free up the well area and other to clear the lane. Slowly, branch by branch, bramble by bramble we began to make progress, all the while attempting to keep upright in the sludge – except for Derry who fell most gracefully backwards into the muck! Joe and Dave then fired up the chainsaws and started to lay waste to larger branches and trees, whilst we slashed, trimmed and hacked at the dense bush around us.

By early afternoon the difference was quite amazing. The well building was now clear to see with its internal shelves used to cool butter, and the lane, despite the acres of churned mud, was clear to the sky with the solid walls of the hedge banks now visible.

We celebrated with our coffee and sandwiches, exhausted but thrilled at the improvement we had made to the site.

The well is situated on private land, and we are grateful to the tenant farmer at Holiwell Farm and to John Rous from Clovelly Estates for their co operation in letting us loose with saws, cutters, chainsaws, loppers and secateurs, as well as to Historic England for funding this engaging and interesting project. Roll on the next one please Joe and Dave!



Dave and volunteers nearing the end of the green lane scrub bash.

A Recent Metal Detector Find

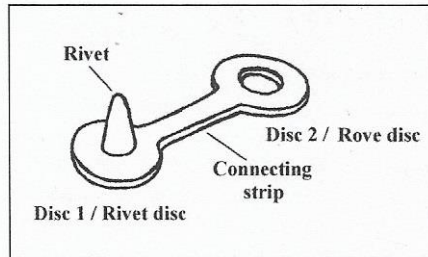
Alison Mills

A recent find is shedding new light on the Barnstaple cloth industry, and in particular the mysterious cloth known as “Barnstaple Bays” which made up the majority of cloth exports in the 17th century.

Sam Cawthorne found the items on his family’s land near Braunton, and has generously donated them to the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon.

Cloth seals were applied to exported cloth to guarantee its quality, either by an official aulnager, or by individual merchants.

The usual structure of a simple (2 part) cloth seal is shown below.



After attaching to the cloth, the "rivet-disc" was folded over the "rove-disc" and the rivet flattened to close the seal. Their remains are often found with the combination intact, but in this case we seem to have two rove-discs, "ripped" from the cloth breaking off the remains of the rivet.



A folded over rove disc clearly showing the name of Barnstaple



The impression of textile on the reverse surface of a folded over disc.

What we seem to have here is two "rove-discs" (from two seals), each with an image (possibly a loom) the initials I (or J) T and the words BARNESTAPLE BAYE. Each half-seal has been folded over so it is quite difficult to see them. What is clear is the textile impression on the reverse, which seems to be a plain tabby weave (not full) with about 10 threads per cm.

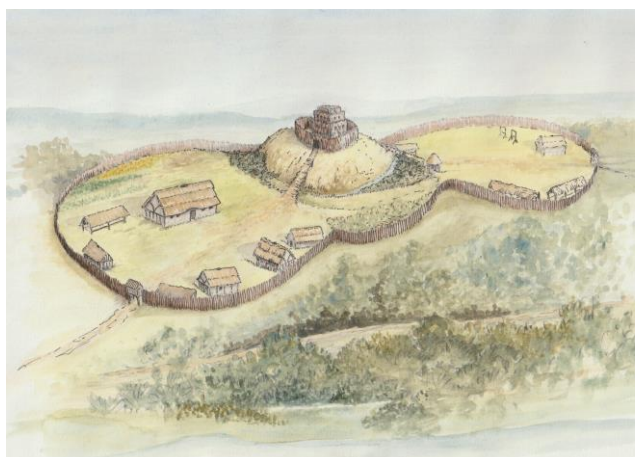
Baize (or bayes) was a "new drapery" that, like serge, combined a worsted warp with a woollen weft. The heyday was the seventeenth century, and the style of this seal appears to be late seventeenth century. There are central initials "I T" which probably represent the name of the merchant. I have not yet worked out who this might be, though there are a few candidates within the Port Book records available on Genuki.

Intriguingly, there is a reference to a Barnstaple town seal for baize (or bayes) in 1586-7, about ten years after manufacture of this fabric began.

The acknowledged expert on cloth seals was the late Geoff Egan, whose thesis “Provenanced Lead Cloth Seals” can readily be found online at discovery.ucl.ac.uk. Many can be seen on finds.org and also on bagseals.org, run by Stuart Elton. I have exchanged emails with Stuart, as well as Peter Maunder and Michael Patrick who have recently published Exeter and Tiverton cloth seals found in the Low Countries.

Dig the Castle – Great Torrington September 22nd – October 8th 2023.

Emily Wapshott



Artist's impression of the 11th/12th century castle at Great Torrington showing the motte, the central donjon and inner and outer baileys.

A new community excavation, “**DIG THE CASTLE**”, part of the wider ‘Torrington Through Time’ project aims to explore the earthen banks of Great Torrington Castle, after a survey of the earthworks was undertaken in 2022 by South West Archaeology Ltd. Four trenches will be opened between 22nd September and 8th October 2023. We are seeking

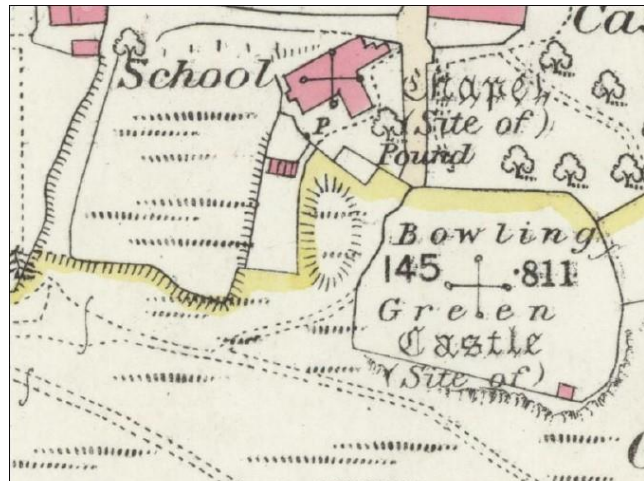
enthusiastic, experienced volunteers to join the dig team, to help community members excavate the site. Over 100

local children from six schools will also visit the site over a five-day period. Please contact the following email to register as a volunteer: torringtondigthecastle@outlook.com.

Great Torrington Castle is one of North Devon’s most enigmatic heritage sites, having lain largely unacknowledged, framed by the Barley Grove car park, since the 1970s. The site has several HER entries (undesigned) and a small excavation in 1987 under the adjacent bowling green pavilion found medieval (12-15th century) buildings and pottery (Goodard. S & Higham. R. 1987. DA. Vol.45). Lying on the edge of the Commons, it is a Norman motte and bailey castle; with the motte partly surviving as a truncated mound and the remains of ramparts surviving within 18th and 19th century parkland landscaping. It was mooted in the early 1900s by George Doe, that *Barley Grove* is a corruption of ‘*bailey*’.

First mentioned in a survey document of AD 1090, as a 'castellum held by Odo', the castle was likely consolidated under Odo's son William in the 12th century. Odo (Fitz Gamellin, the illegitimate son of Bishop Odo, William of Normandy's half-brother) had married his son William to the daughter of another powerful landowner, Tetbald Fitzburner, forming the Barony of Toriton. During the Anarchy (1138-1153), the castle was attacked by Stephen's troops, under Henry de Tracy, as William, was holding the area for Matilda. This provides our first concrete description of the castle, as quoted in the 1987 article from Potter, K. & Davis, R.H.C. 1976.

'Henry, acting with spirit on the King's behalf, after weakening William in a great number of fights, finally learned from trusty scouts that the garrison of his castle was thinned and some of the inmates were sent on a plundering expedition; and coming with his men in the silence of the night, he stealthily entered the castle, eluding the guards, and by throwing torches through the loopholes of the tower, set the interior aflame...(ibid., 82).



The castle site as recorded on the OS First Edition map at 1:2500 published 1886.



Aerial view of Great Torrington (1937) showing the castle site. The rectangular area lower right is the bowling Green.

Having been rebuilt after the Anarchy, medieval documents record the castle's destruction in 1228 by the Sheriff of Devon and a small army, in response to its status as an adulterine castle, likely adapted by the current Baron during the backlash from Magna Carta's reissue in 1217. In the later 13th century, the Barony fell into abeyance as the last

Baron died without a male heir and the lands were split between his five daughters, who had married into Merton,

Tracy, de Umphraville, amongst others. In the 1340s-1370s a series of additional licences to crenellate were issued to Richard Merton and in 1343, a description of the castle mentions; *chapel, chambers, hall, kitchen, grange and cowshed.*

The castle was abandoned by the later 15th century, mentioned as ruinous by Leland and Risdon and it is believed it was replaced by a moated manor house, to the north of the town, under Margaret Beaufort, who became Lord of the Manor after 1485. Margaret assigned the castle's forecourt and chapel building in the leigh of the motte mound to become the first school in Torrington.

For further information consult:

Websites:

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/magna-britannia/vol6> -

DCC Environment Viewer and HER

<https://maptest.devon.gov.uk/portaldvl/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=82d17ce243be4ab28091ae1f15970924>

Contact Details:

Dig the Castle page - <https://www.onegreattorrington.uk/digthecastle/>

Dig the Castle email – torringtondigthecastle@outlook.com

ACE Archaeology

One of our speakers during the past winter was Janet Daynes of Ace Archaeology based at Winkleigh. This very active and experienced group keep us regularly updated on their activities among which is the long-term dig at the abandoned settlement of Moistown. In the recent past some of our members have accepted an invitation to join ACE digging there, so I've extracted the following from the group's March newsletter, just in case you haven't seen it before.

News from Moistown

Janet Daynes

Losing a month last autumn to the dreaded Covid has had a detrimental effect on the progress of last season's interim report. So far, I have only managed to finish drawing the sections and just recently started on the plan. There has been so much else to catch up with,

and having the occasional post covid porridge-for-brains, at times it all feels a little overwhelming.The good news is that the finds are coming along nicely, after several finds team sessions, most of the industrial pottery has been sorted into type sub-groups even down to individual vessels. Erica has been doing loads of research into all the types of industrial pottery we have, and is building up a fabulous digital reference library, to help with identification and dating. This allied with the research into the more recent residents of Moistown, we are getting a good picture of their lives towards the final years of when Moistown was inhabited. So much for chucking the industrial wares on the spoil heap, which sadly, has been, and still is common practice on many sites. What a chunk of the story of people's lives they are missing, just to get to the juicy Roman or medieval stuff quicker! I am not the only one to be concerned about this, recently the subject has come up and was discussed on the medieval pottery research group Facebook pages. This was sparked off by Clare McCutcheon, the membership secretary, who is giving a keynote talk soon on the essential nature of post-medieval and modern pottery to illuminate our understanding of sites, and the necessity to retain such material for future study. I hope that her talk will be available on the internet somehow. All the same I can't wait until we get to sorting our medieval pottery, that will be very exciting and a lot more difficult because there is nothing written about our locally made medieval pot at all. But at least we will have the help from Graham Langman and members of the medieval pottery research group, some of whom are keen to see what we have.... At the time of writing this piece for the newsletter I have not heard from Mark at Substrata, who was hoping to test out some GPR kit at Moistown in February. However, I have heard from Andy Crabb though, he said that Mark still intends to come to Moistown, so fingers crossed. The clearing session we had at Moistown on the February ACE was partly in preparation for the goephys but it was not only done for that. We have cleared all the thorny scrub back to and beyond the site grid base line, which has not been seen in its entirety for years! This will make it so much easier to lay out the grid needed to complete the contour survey to the north-west of the trenches. We also cleared the brambles from the area of the barns to the west side of track as it emerges from the holloway. A fantastic days work, thanks to everyone who helped that day. A big thanks to everyone who came that day, you all worked really hard and it helped that the weather was kind to us too!

You can keep up with the activities of ACE Archaeology on Facebook or by visiting the group's website at www.acearchaeologyclub.wordpress.com

History, as Arnold Toynbee (or Henry Ford?) is reputed to have said, is ‘one damn thing after another!’

True enough, but every one of those ‘damn things’ was the result of decisions taken or was down to the twists of fate. History could easily have turned out otherwise. Our regular contributor John Bradbeer has done extensive research on Devon’s maritime history and in this edition of the newsletter poses the question...

What if?

John Bradbeer

I have been writing about North Devon’s maritime history and when one tries to explain the parallels and contrasts between North and South Devon, chance events loom large and might invite, if not a counterfactual history (which historians deplore!), then at least a reflection on the consequences and opportunities foregone if things had been different. Being a geographer by training, I am less hostile to these sorts of ‘what ifs?’ Geography struggled with and against notions of environmental determinism and a form of environmental racism in the early twentieth century and my generation of geographers

at least, was invited to explore possibilities of different histories and geographies. I am not sure where archaeologists stand on these issues, so let me sketch a little of the multiple possibilities as they relate to North Devon’s maritime history and possible causes of divergence with that of South Devon.



The famously beautiful and powerful Eleanor of Aquitaine Queen of both England and France.

In 1152 Henry II married Eleanor of Aquitaine and so acquired the wine producing areas of south-west France. This brought about some shift in English trading patterns and Devon from being quite peripheral to North Sea trade and not exactly well placed in relation to trade and links to Normandy, was now one of the better placed regions to enjoy these now opportunities. True, this benefitted South Devon rather more than North Devon and it was Bristol rather than North Devon that played a prominent role in the wine trade. King John lost the ancestral lands in Normandy in the first years of the thirteenth century and this

further cemented Devon's role in trade with western France. It is probably fair to say that Devon's part in the Atlantic trade of the sixteenth and later centuries would be greatly facilitated by the earlier trade to south-western France and there was no inevitability that Henry would marry a French duchess with a dowry that included land yielding commodities that England could not produce.



*Richard Earl of Pembroke,
known as Strongbow.*

A key element in giving North and South Devon such contrasting opportunities in the medieval period was Henry II's invasion of Ireland in 1172. This was caused by the involvement of Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke and better known as Strongbow, in Irish affairs. Strongbow had agreed to assist Diarmait mac Murchada, king of Leinster in his efforts to regain his throne. He was to be given Aoifa, Diarmait's daughter in marriage. The small party of Anglo-Norman knights, men-at-arms, and archers rapidly prevailed against the Leinster Irish and Strongbow was poised to succeed Diarmait after the latter's death in 1171. So, to forestall this, Henry brought his own army to Ireland and received not only the submission of Strongbow, but also that of many Irish kings and princelings. The Anglo-Norman occupation of much of Leinster and parts of Munster which followed, offered

opportunities for North Devon to supply these new settlements and to benefit from trading opportunities with what were the most agriculturally productive parts of Ireland. Thus began a period of some seven hundred years when North Devon's principal trading partner was Ireland and North Devon enjoyed a far greater share of the Irish trade than did South Devon, whose ships faced the longer and more perilous voyage around Land's End.

It may have been inevitable that at some point in history the English would seek to extend political control to Ireland, but if this had been by expeditions mounted from say Chester, rather than Pembrokeshire, then surely North Devon's links with Ireland would have been rather different. North Devon was, compared to Pembrokeshire, a more economically developed region and was better placed to capitalise on the initial opportunities. So, most of the vessels leaving Milford Haven for Ireland were not Welsh but had originated from along the English shore of the Bristol Channel.

A major reason why historians are so reluctant to venture into 'what ifs' is that so many other factors come into play and a myriad, rather than a single alternative history emerges.

Perhaps, in relation to North Devon's maritime history, a significant 'what if' concerns the death in 1042 of Harthacnut, the last Danish king of England. He had no son and Edward the Confessor was his nominated heir. But, if Harthacnut had lived longer and had a son, then England possibly would have been a westernmost part of the Scandinavian world.

Would there then have been a Norman Conquest? Devon would have remained a distinctly peripheral part of a polity that was focused on the North Sea.

I would have to conclude that North Devon's maritime history was much more open than we might think, and should one of the 'what ifs' have turned out differently, then our maritime history would have been perhaps unimaginable.

John has agreed to give two talks in the coming months to the Friends of the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon on North Devon's maritime history.

A reminder from our Treasurer and Membership Secretary:

If you haven't already renewed for the current year, may we remind you that annual subscriptions (£16 per individual adult member, joint membership (couples) £24, junior and student membership £8) became due on 1st April. Subscriptions should be sent to the NDAS Membership Secretary, Bob Shrigley, 20 Skern Way, Northam, Bideford, Devon. EX39 1HZ. You can save yourself the trouble of having to remember every year by completing a standing order, forms available from Bob.

NDAS Summer Days Out 2023

Sunday 4 June – 2.30 pm

WEARE GIFFARD HISTORY WALK AND CREAM TEA

The afternoon will take the form of 1 ½ hour plus of a history 'walk and talk' through one section of our lovely valley village, following the Torridge upstream from the Weare Giffard Hall (15th century) and Parish Church, to the 16th century (at least) Old Corn Mill.

We will finish the walk at the leader's house, *Wind in the Willows*, where Ratty and Moley will serve refreshments – tea/coffee/squash & a cream tea. Here you will be able to enjoy wandering around our lovely garden – stream; large lawn; large pond; Monet's bridge; veg garden; wild flowers; summer house; conservatory etc. etc..

On the day, there will be a small charge of £4 for refreshments, any profits going to further village history research.

DATE/TIMES: 2.30 – 5 P.M. SUNDAY 4TH JUNE 2023.

MEETING: Parish Church, WG. Walk starts at 2.30p.m.
Church will be open if you wish to come early.
Distance ½ mile out and ½ back!

PARKING: Not easy/some at Church. Some at village hall 200m towards
Torrington from Church; and some at Village Park a further 100m. Please do
not park at the pub!

WET

WEATHER: I will postpone and ring all who have booked.

LEADER: Keith Hughes. **Booking essential.** All inquiries 01 237 475168.

IMPORTANT: **In order to cater, a firm commitment is required by Tues. 30/5.**

If you book, but cannot attend, your £4 is still welcomed !

(Light fold up garden chairs – a few more welcomed)

Wednesday 14 June – 2pm

HARTLAND

A walk through two Medieval Deer-parks, to see the use of water in the two valleys and how the landscape was modelled to form a carriage drive for the owners of Hartland Abbey. It is a circular walk, and if time allows then the closing stages will be to point out some aspects of medieval Harton.



The walk is approximately 2 miles along woodland paths. Paths may be wet in places - dress accordingly [preferably not shorts/short sleeves due to such as ticks/deer/etc]

*Possibly the only oak bark crushing stone in Devon.
Used to extract tannin for Hartland's leather industry.*

LEADER: The walk will be led by Steve Hobbs but...

BOOKING: Please contact **Chris Preece** to book a place – chrispreece23@gmail.com

- MEETING: We are due to meet outside the Hartland Fire Station/British Legion.
- PARKING: Car parking available locally either by the Fire Station, the road towards the School or in The Square. There are no charges for parking. There are two charging points available in Hartland at the Resurgence Centre. These have to be pre-booked via a call/payment to the Resurgence Centre.
- FOOD: In theory there are snacks/light lunches etc available at the Coffee in the Square, cafe, but they tend to close early if no customers. Otherwise the Anchor Inn is open from midday for light meals/dinners etc.

Sunday 10 September – various times

Holwell Castle Open Day at Parracombe

Holwell Castle is one of the best-preserved examples of a Norman Motte and Bailey Castle in England, and is not normally open to the public. Find out more at <https://parracombe.org.uk/holwell-castle/>

- BOOKING: Booking details will be sent out nearer the time.
- MEETING: There will be a number of walks during the day, meeting at Christchurch and walking down as a group. NB – uneven ground and steep up the Motte
- PARKING: Parking at the village hall.
- FOOD: Refreshments at Christchurch in aid of Christchurch. Lunch available at the Fox and Goose, booking essential. Community shop and cafe will be open until 1pm.

TG.