

## Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society

## **Historic Buildings Group**

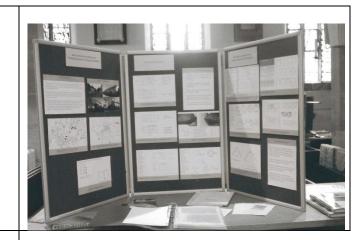
SANHS Building Research Group (West Somerset)

## Newsletter 6: Spring/Summer 2016

This year our display was included in an historical exhibition staged on the same day as the Milverton May Fair and held in the church.

There were many visitors and information included buildings previously surveyed as well as further transcripts and details on the many probate inventories dated mainly between 1650 and 1750.

We have also put together details on the Quaker families who lived in Milverton in the 18th century.



A young member of the History Group??? consults Clive Perry on the history of Milverton Church at the History exhibition at the May Fair.

The History Group meets regularly with the next meeting on 4th August in the Reading Rooms. Members' interests cover a wide range from the extensive archive of local documents, old maps, local families and industries and of course the recording and history of individual buildings.

The Church displays are a way of disseminating this information to the local community.



The original Quaker Meeting House was on the boundary between the parishes of Milverton and Wiveliscombe and built by Edward Pole in 1683.

His son Thomas Pole moved to Milverton on marriage and the Meeting House dating from 1753 is behind their house, "The Recess", shown here,. There was a Boarding school next door to the Meeting House.

In the house to the right in this picture and related to the Poles lived the family of Thomas Young, the younger Thomas Young becoming the polymath who had a part in translating the Rosetta stone.



In Porlock, we have been looking at "the Cottage" which is next to where the old tannery used to be. At the time of the tithe apportionments, Elizabeth Ridler described as a shopkeeper lived there with her son, a farmer. Also in the house were a carpenter and 2 servants. By the time of the next census in 1851 her son - in - law and his family had moved in. He was a Relieving Officer and perhaps the mounting block still in evidence was there for his benefit.

In the 1910 census, an artist called Leghe Suthers is shown as living here. He was associated with the Newlyn School and was a friend of Fred Hall. B18

Recording of buildings continues in Porlock and will do so for some time. We now have a considerable amount of information put together. If you know of anyone who has unpublished work on aspects of the history of Porlock or would like to be involved in our group, please get in touch.

In May we had a walkabout with Conservation Officers from other National Parks and viewed some of the buildings we have surveyed including Doverhay Manor. In September there will be a walkabout with the Somerset Vernacular Buildings Group (SVBRG) taking in some of the buildings.



The 16<sup>th</sup> Exmoor Archaeology Forum will be held on 15th October 2016 at Brushford Village Hall and will be on the theme of historic buildings in Exmoor, looking at the current work and research of built heritage; from conservation and archaeological recording of early buildings to historic signposts in the street scene and landscape. The event fee of £16 includes buffet lunch. **Booking essential** - visit http://www.exmoornationalpark.gov.uk/Whats-Special/history/exmoorarchaeology-forum-2016.



Look out for our group's display in the Visitor Centre at Porlock during the second half of September. We will be focusing on work carried out to date in the village.

Leaflets on the group will be available in the Centre over the summer months.



Readers may not be aware that for members, the SANHS library is available for lending from its extensive collection of books on many aspects of Somerset. The catalogue is available on terminals in the Reading Room at the Somerset Heritage Centre and it is hoped that it will soon be available on line. In the meantime for any queries contact tel: 0300123 2224 or "generalenquiries@somerset.gov.uk"

The website of SVBRG has recently been expanded and now includes general information on help with dating buildings as well as summaries of buildings recorded. www.svbrg.org.uk



Newspaper archives can be a fascinating source of information on the history of a place (examples from Milverton and Porlock at right). The national collection of newspapers dating back over a considerable time are now available free on "Findmypast" for anyone with a subscription or can be seen for a monthly fee of around £13 from www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk



Forty-one lots of property and land in Porlock and Doverhay—the estate of Mr. G. W. Blathwayt, Lord of the manor—were offered for sale by auction by Messrs. Haw five lots of land, everything messrs. Haw five lots of land, everything messrs. Haw five good prices? The pricipal lots, with the prices made; The lots of four truitdings, including Mr. John Ridder's boot shop, &c. (£250); house on south side of road below Ship Inn (£490); Mr. J. W. Willis's butcher's shop and grocer's and draper's shop adjoining (£700); cottage redicted comprising baser's shop, two cottages, and house formerly great promises comprising baser's shop, two cottages, and house formerly and former for

Jerry Sampson has recently completed a very successful series of talks in Wells on the subject of parish churches in Somerset. He has kindly offered another series of talks which will be held in the Taunton area over winter 2016 - 2017. Please consult the SANHS website (sanhs.org) for further information. Leaflets will be available in due course



## Puzzler:

These two narrow windows (along with others elsewhere in the building) either side of an earlier door at "the Cottage" in this case look as though they would have had some supervisory function. Any other thoughts on this?



If you would like to provide information, pictures or anything else for this bi-annual Newletter please contact Mary at:

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