

SANHS Building Research Group (West Somerset)



Newsletter 14 – Spring 2020



Early Dunster Project

The Early Dunster Project is now well under way and has been granted a two year extension by Historic England. It is now due to complete in September 2022. This extension was requested because of the extraordinary number of properties found to have evidence of early fabric. In view of the age of the buildings, there have been numerous alterations over the centuries and this, together with the wish to record as many of these early features as possible, has created more work than first envisaged.



Wicket gate in main gates at the Castle

The most complex to date has been the Castle gatehouse, which is known to have been built around 1421, with major works in the C18th and C19th. The south elevation of the building follows the line of the curtain wall around the lower ward, and on the north east side there is evidence of a barbican wall. The building is part buried in the steep bank rising up to the Castle. The gates with their towers are thought to have originated in the C13th and are very impressive indeed. From past records, we suspect that these were reinforced in 1417 with iron bands across the wooden framework. As these are among the oldest gates in the country, we are hoping that it may be possible to dendro-date them (tree-ring dating) under this project and they will be assessed for this, later this month.

Another major piece of work has been the a study of the Old Priory Buildings. The roof trusses have been dendro-dated by Time Team to 1455 for the south block. This has an exceptionally fine arch braced collar roof with 3 tiers of wind bracing from eaves to apex. The west block has an estimated date of 1270 - 1302 for the roof timbers. This latter has one tier of wind bracing arch braced trusses with the lower legs removed at a later date. The date is very early for this type of construction with an arch-braced cranked collar and trace of one cruck leg. The wind bracing in this wing is of a square section 12 x 14cm, unlike the flat chamfered wind braces in the other range.

Further work on the houses and shops has also thrown up many examples of cruck structures. A number of these had been previously recorded by Cdr. E.D.H. Williams and Ron Gilson, who carried out work in the 1970s and 80s. Early dates have been confirmed by Time Team who have visited Dunster over a number of years.

This is a wonderful opportunity to study such early structures and the work has been greatly enhanced by our first class photographer, Tony Harding, who has also constructed a model open hall house, based on one of our surveys and on display in Dunster Museum (open from Easter onwards).

Right: Cross passage in open hall house (West Street)
Below: Profile of leg of cruck truss (Church Street)



We are hoping to show more of our work in a display in Dunster Church and are planning a big event on 27th September with talks from experts and visits to some of the properties investigated. Every participant will receive a copy of the building report which they have helped with, and, as per normal practice, a copy will be lodged at the Somerset Record Office. Anyone interested in helping with the project should contact Mary Ewing through the SANHS office in the first instance.

Below: Smoke blackening to cruck roof with infill panel



Summer Exhibitions in Doverly Manor Museum

In the Solar, "Soldiering On", (on the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe), will reflect not only on those who served in the Armed Forces, but on village life and activities in Porlock during the war years. Life went on, but with additional hardships and heartbreak. Jeff Cox and Ron Biddle have undertaken the task of researching and telling the stories of the fifteen men from Porlock, eight from Selworthy and four from Luccombe who died in the conflict. The story of the planes that crashed in our area will also be told.

Rosemary Boaz has interviewed a lady who played the piano in the Porlock 'Merry Makers Dance Band' when the war ended and her story can be viewed. This lady took over from Geoff Perkins, at the age of 16 years, when he left Porlock to join up with the forces.

Downstairs in the Great Hall there will be a smaller exhibition centred on the life of Capt. Tony Collings and the legendary Porlock Vale Riding School. Capt. Collings, who was instrumental in the founding of the Horse of the Year Show, helped to found the Badminton Horse Trials, riding in the first event in 1949 and going on to win in 1950. The Museum was recently gifted many of his private papers.

Rosemary Boaz, on behalf of museum curator Lita Strampp

What Are Those Marks?

by Lizzie Bethune

Recently I attended a conference run by the Vernacular Architecture Group, as did several other volunteers from the Dunster house survey group, the topic being "Marks on Buildings". We do see some quite often in our surveys, so it was good to hear expert knowledge on a wide range of marks, learn new things and be inspired to find out more.

Besides stonemasons' and carpenters' marks, made to facilitate fitting different pieces together correctly on site, different signs and symbols can be found on wood or stone in and on medieval buildings.

These are commonly called witches' marks, and are thought to protect the house from witches and evil spirits; but it was suggested that we don't call them that, rather ritual protection marks, or apotropaic marks to use the proper term.

I'd never even heard of Baltic marks - made on timber imported from the Baltic states in the 17th century - carved, chalked or painted, sometimes indicating quality or size, or the name of the vessel that they had been transported in - and not always obviously. We were shown a slide of a series of random cuts into a piece of wood which, when told what to see, miraculously appeared as "Queen of the Ocean".

Below left: Daisy wheel on wall in tithe barn

Below: Marks on window cill and (bottom) fireplace bressumer



I had seen "daisy wheels" before. These are made with a compass and consist of a 6-petalled 'daisy' within a circle, found scratched on stone or wood.

I was surprised to learn that they were sometimes used in place of a cross in a religious setting. We were told they were the most common motif on 11th- and 12th-century fonts.

And I had thought they were just graffiti done by someone with a compass and time on their hands—and perhaps some are!



... What Are Those Marks? continued

My particular interest though is the burn mark. They are very often found on the large beam over a fireplace and are burnt into the wood to leave a darkened indentation in a characteristic flame shape at best though some are less distinct. They can be found anywhere; on the inside of a door, furniture or even on a roof timber, singly, in groups or crowded together. They may have had an accompanying ritual but no one can be sure as there is no written evidence yet found. They were falling out of use by the late 18th century.



Two experimental archaeologists had researched them, using different candles, tapers, wicks, wax and tallow, held at different angles. They found that it required some time to make a significant burn and it was necessary to clean out the carbon before continuing if you wanted to burn deeper into the wood than 3mm.



Inspired, I have done some limited research of my own, so I can confirm that they are not made with a poker, it's very difficult to get a good flame shape with an ordinary modern candle, it takes simply ages to make any significant burn mark and it is frankly boring to hold a candle at the regulation 45 degree angle for any length of time!

However, it has given me a deeper insight into the minds of those who wanted to make these marks. They were prepared to spend considerable time and effort, so surely they had a need and a real sense of purpose in making them, with or without an accompanying ritual. Perhaps younger generations carried on for a time because "grandfather" had always made them, until the fear of witches had died out and with it the need to repel them.

A perfectly shaped burn mark draws me to place an index finger in the indentation. I find it strangely satisfying. Perhaps my ancestors did too!

Marks on (top) fireplace bressumer and (above left and below) wall framing



Carpenters Marks

by Tony Harding

The VAG spring conference also covered some very good research and findings on Carpenters Marks. The timber frames and roof trusses - which formed the backbone of many early houses - were typically produced, cut, shaped and jointed at a "framing yard" which may actually have been some miles away from the site of the building itself. The whole assembly would then have been dismantled and transported for reassembly on site - a kind of mediaeval "flat-pack"!

The carpenters making the frames often made marks on mating halves of the main joints, so that during reassembly on site, it was clear which bit fitted into which. Marks were typically based on roman numeral characters and made by scoring with a knife, or by chiselling or gouging.

We very often encounter these marks in the course of our surveying and recording in Dunster - here are a few of many examples. There's something very powerful about finding these marks and reflecting that they were made by some carpenter maybe five or six hundred years ago!

So there you have it. Self-assembly pre-dates Ikea or even MFI (for those who can remember it) by several centuries! Can't help wondering if the mediaeval flat-pack roof truss came with its own little matchstick man assembly guide? And no doubt a couple of bits missing . . .



Marks (V) made by scoring



Marks (IIIV) made by gouging



Marks (III) cut with a chisel

In the latest VAG Newsletter, there is an article highlighting a new section on the website - very useful for vernacular architecture enthusiasts. This can be found on the website www.vag.org.uk under "Online Resources". The topics are under the headings:

1. Guidelines for recording
2. Examples of building reports
3. Reading lists and bibliographies
4. Glossaries and thesauri
5. Introductions to form or style of vernacular buildings
6. Researching individual places and buildings
7. Maps

Dunster Priory Farm Inventory 25 June 1816 and Mr Thomas Paul

by Jill Strobridge

The SW Heritage Centre at Taunton holds many fascinating records, and amongst them is a long Inventory (DD/L/1/30/28B/2) for Priory Farm, Dunster, found while doing research for the Early Dunster project. Inventories, usually made to accompany a will, are a wonderful glimpse into people's houses and give us a (sometimes surprisingly detailed) idea of how a household worked. This particular inventory, however, was drawn up not as the result of someone's death but because of an over exuberant lifestyle! One of the joys of research is coming to know various personalities as they emerge from documents. Some leap out of the pages at you - others approach more slowly as little by little you gather information and their story unfolds; some have long histories, others just a brief snapshot of their lives and then they are gone.

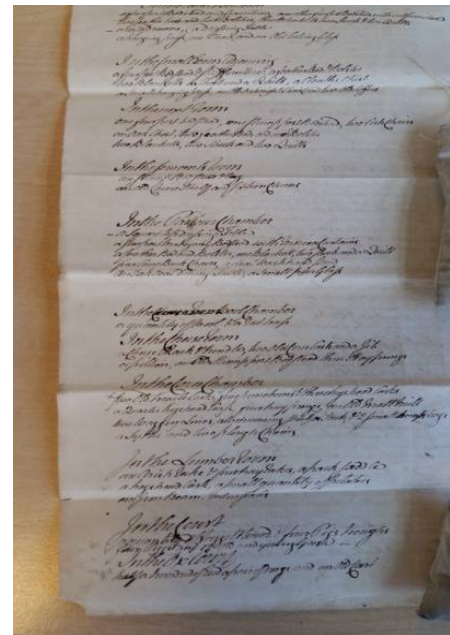
Thomas Paul first appears in the Dunster archives in 1797, when he submitted the highest bid for the lease of Dunster Priory Farm, which had been put up for auction after the death of the previous tenant, Mr William Pincombe. Priory Farm at this date was 170 acres and a good dairy and grazing farm, and the farmhouse was built within the ruins of the priory north of the church. Mr Paul occupied it for the next 20 years and became important enough to be collecting the Land Tax for the area - a task he was still undertaking in 1816. It is therefore rather puzzling that at some point he seems to have stopped paying his rent; although, given that he was owing a considerable amount of money to other creditors, it is perhaps not surprising!



*Priory Farmhouse Exterior - N elevation
Copyright A. Harding*

Court proceedings in London were eventually taken against Mr Paul for a debt of £1000. He was found guilty, and it is this that probably precipitated both the Inventory and the subsequent auction of his Priory Farm goods. In the same bundle as the Inventory is a Writ to collect the £1000, issued by the Sheriff of Somerset, John Goodford, Esquire, dated 28th June 1816. However, four days earlier, on 24th June 1816, Mr Luttrell's Steward (William Gale) had distrained "the Cattle Goods and Chattles" of Thomas Paul of Dunster Priory Farm for the sum of Eight hundred and seventy seven pounds, three shillings and three pence, for rent and arrears of rent due to John Fownes Luttrell with the Inventory taken on 25th June. Mr Luttrell himself seems not to have been in Somerset at the time, communicating with his steward by letter.

There was probably very little warning given before this seizure took place, since cattle, sheep and horses belonging to other farmers were still in the Priory Farm fields. There are also some letters of protest; so we can assume that the house and its contents are all as they would have been on a normal working day. Judging by the furnishings, it would seem that Mr Paul enjoyed a lavish and comfortable lifestyle and was not short of money when buying furniture! The enumerator grouped similar items together as he went round the various rooms, so we can see that the Parlour was clearly the main room for socialising. It was comfortably well-furnished and its fire grate was one of the fashionable "Bath" type with a basket flanked by flat-topped hobs ([Georgian Group Guides No. 9 Fireplaces](#)).



Above: Inventory of Priory Farm 1816 (copyright SWHC)

The Kitchen fireplace, by contrast, is still furnished with chimney crooks and a spit with all its furnishings, although there is also a grid iron, probably used for flat-bottomed pans. However, only kettles are in the fireplace, all the saucepans and pots are neatly stowed away in "the passage outside the Little Sitting Room". The Little Sitting Room itself seems to have been where the ironing was done. The main bedroom over the Parlour had a 4-post mahogany bedstead and lavish Moroccan curtains, and all the other bedrooms also contained at least one 4-post bed. There was plenty of cider in the Cider Cellar, but the Dairy looks to have been the most active and best provisioned room, with 16 milk pans, some milk coolers and a quantity of butter-making equipment.

The farm itself appears to have been thriving. Its fields were full of crops and well stocked with cows and sheep. In addition, in the Priory Grounds there were three plough horses, two saddle horses and several colts.



Above and right: Kitchen Fireplace and Bedroom in St Nicholas Priory, Exeter

The auction itself took place on 5th July 1816, several days after the Sheriff issued his Writ. However, John Fownes Luttrell was quite definite that any money arising from it was due to him and should not go to any other creditors. The SW Heritage Centre archives also hold (DD/L/1/2/2/67) the copy draft of a carefully worded Indemnity given by Mr Luttrell to the Sheriff and written the day before the auction, on 4th July 1816, saying quite categorically that, since Mr Luttrell's Steward had distrained the goods for non-payment of rent before the Writ was issued, they were his (Mr. Luttrell's) property and not Thomas Paul's, and he therefore had the right to keep any proceeds arising from their sale.

The bankruptcy, loss of his livelihood and no relief for his creditors must have been a terrible blow to Thomas Paul. Mr Oatway took over the lease of Priory Farm (now 187 acres), with its empty farmhouse now stripped of all its furnishings. What became of Mr Paul is not known, although the Parish Records show that a Thomas Paul (presumably his son) married Joan Escott in Dunster in 1819, so it may be that some of the family stayed in the area.

Dunster Priory Farm Inventory 25 June 1816

DD/L/1/30/28B/2 Dunster Priory Farm Inventory 25 June 1816 [and Appraisal 1st July 1816]. A seizure warrant [see below] was also issued by the sheriff on 28th June 1816 following a Chancery ruling against Thomas Paul for a debt of £1004 . 12s . 0d owing to William Brewer and Samuel Payne.

Appraisal additions are in italics. Spellings throughout reproduce those used in the inventory.

An Inventory of the Goods and Chattles distrained by me William Gale as Steward to John Fownes Luttrell Esqr in the Dwelling house, Outhouses and other the Premises in the possession of Mr Thomas Paul Senr. and known by the name Dunster Priory Farm and Land. Herewith held and situated and lying in the several parishes of Dunster and Carhampton in the County of Somerset this Twenty fifth day of June 1816 being for the Sum of Eight hundred and seventy seven pounds three shillings and three pence for Rent and arrears of Rent due and owing unto the said John Fownes Luttrell Esqr on the Twenty fourth day of this Instant June for the Estate and premises herewith held and known by the name of Dunster Priory Farm, and which is still in Arrear and unpaid. Vizt.

IN THE PARLOUR

One Mahogany Card Table, one Mahogany dining Table, one Oak dining Table / a deal Beaurough [Bureau] & Book Case, a round Pear tree Stand Table, Six Beach Chairs and one / Beach Elbow Chair, two round back Arm'd Ash green paintd Chairs – four small ditto, /

a Japan Tea tray, a large Japan Waiter & three Small waiters – a Mahogany Tea Tray / a Mahogany tea Caddy *or chest*, a Japan Tea Urn – a pier [?looking] Glass, thirteen small fram'd pictures /

some Chimney Ornaments, - a Bath *Fire Grate*, fire Irons & Tin fender /

Six China Cups & Eight Saucers, - two China Basons, - two Old China Teapotts / one Black Wedgewood teapot, a Blue Coffee Pott – a Punch Bowl / Ten Glass ?limmers, Eleven Beer Glass's, one Wine Glass, five flower potts and Stands, /

IN THE PARLOUR CUPBOARD

Eighteen Small & two large Earthen plates / Seven Quart black Glass pottles & one half Gallon *ditto* / three small Stone Jars

. . . Dunster Priory Farm Inventory Continued

IN THE CELLER INSIDE OF PARLOUR

Two Iron bound Hogsheads / one ditto *with Ale* and a three Quarter Cask full of Ale / one half hogshead Cask full of ale / two Barrells, - a Tunner – a Small Tub & buckett, / two Small ?Cags & two firkins, a Salting tray / a Candlebox and a Tin Lanthorn / two long Jibs and a Square Stand [NB: *the Appraisal deleted all the Ale items*]

IN THE KITCHEN

A long Elm top table & two forms, a dressor and shelves / An Eight day Clock and Case - a deal top Sqr [Square] Card Table / a round stand wallnut table, an Arm'd Settle / Six Ash Chairs, one Arm'd ditto, a Corner Cupboard /

a Shelf with some Old books a Bacon Rack & a Small quantity of Bacon /

two long Chimney Crooks, two Short Crooks, one Grid Iron / a Copper Teakettle, a Roasting Jack line and weights & two spits /

two pewter Waterplates, a bell mettle pestle & mortar /

a pair of Brass Candlesticks, a fire shovel & Tongues /

one Copper & one Tinn coffee potts, a Brass Flower dredge /

a Brass Ladle & Schimer *sceemer*, a pair of Bellows, five pewter Dishes /

one Brittish Mettle Teapott, seven delf plates, one Quart & one half pint Delf / five Delf dishes, five Earthen Jugs & two butter potts - a Vinegar Cruet / A black Wedgewood teapott, a Mahogany Tea Waiter /

A fowling piece or Gun, five pair of sharp shears, an Iron Tripod / nine *old* flower pans and stands /

A knife box, twelve knives and twelve forks and two steels

IN THE CYDER CELLER

One Iron bound pipe partly full of Cyder / Two Iron bound hogsheads one partly full of Cyder / One long and 2 short Jibs / one wood hoop $\frac{3}{4}$ Cask Empty - two old Corn Cask / Two tubs and six sieves, one small Barrell /

A Cheese Vatt and ?bunge, three Gathering Bows & an old ?Irn hook /

A seed pipe, two side saddles /

A Bottle, one Iron wedge and a pitch kettle / A firkin, and an old breakboard *or drawboard* / One Iron barr, 2 weeding Irons and a chain /

Two old Bridles, a ?Cripper a and three Girths /

IN THE DAIRY

15 Brass Milk panes and one milk pan with a Copper bottom, A Brass kettle /

Two lead Milk coolers, three Jibbs - a Round Salter and form / one butter tub, one Butter ?Printer and six Butter potts & two stone Jars / an Old Ash Table, two Safes or Cupboards, two Cream panns /

Two Coarse Dishes, three white Oval Dishes, three pair of Small Dishes / five dinner plates & five small plates, a Cream Scheemer / an Iron beam & brass Scales and weights, an Iron beam & wood Scales & Weights / a small Barrell partly fill'd with butter & two Cheeses

IN THE PASSAGE OUTSIDE THE LITTLE SITTING ROOM

Six pewter Dishes and seven plates, a Sette of Cupboards / an Iron Cleaver, and severall small Tin dripping pans & c / three Tin Saucepans & a Cullendar, three bell mettle and one Iron potts

IN THE LITTLE SITTING ROOM

A large long Oak Table and form, an Old Ash Chair and an Arm'd Chair / an Oak knife box and six knives and six forks, a brass warming pan / a pair of flatt iron heaters and stand, a Cheese toaster, an Old Earthen tea pott / three Earthen Wash hand basons & three small Basons / an Ironing box and two heathers, an Old writing desk / a flower Barrell, some old flowerpans & stands /

. . . Dunster Priory Farm Inventory Continued

IN THE BREWHOUSE

A Butter Churn & three Cheesewrings, nine Cheesevatts / four Milk pails, a Cheese Tub, two Vatts & three small Tubs / two brass kettles a Brake board, a peck & ½ peck wooden Measures / a Milk Stove four bucketts and one *old* pail, two long Chimney Crooks & two Jibbs *or Iron stand* /

IN THE LOWER BEDROOM

A four post Bedstead and furniture, one other fourpost Bedstead without furniture / two feather beds and two Bolsters, three Blanketts two Sheets & two Quilts / - a nest of drawers, a Dressing Table / a hanging press, one Chair and an Old looking Glass

IN THE SMALL ROOM ADJOINING

A four post Bedstead & stuff furniture, a feather Bed & Bolster / two Blanketts a Sheet and a Quilt, a Cloaths Chest / a Small hanging press, an Old Oak night Chair and two Old Coffers *or boxes* /

IN THE NEXT ROOM

One four post bedstead, one stump post Bedstead, two Ash Chairs / an Oak Chest, two feather Beds and one Bolster / two Blanketts, two Sheets and two Quilts /

IN THE SERVENTS ROOM

One stump bedstead & ?Rug / an Old Cheese Shelf and sixteen Cheeses

IN THE PARLOUR CHAMBER

A Square top dressing Table / a fourpost Mahogany Bedstead with Morcan Curtains / a feather Bed and Bolster, one Blankett, two sheets and a Quilt / four Cane Back Chairs, a deal Wash hand stand / An Oak Oval dining Table, a small pier *vuing* Glass

IN THE WOOL CHAMBER [Cheese Room *is crossed out*]

A quantity of Wool & a rat trap

IN THE CHEESE ROOM

A Cheese Rack & trendle, two Old Corn Cask and a Jib / a pillion, an Olde stump post Bedstead three Hayprongs

IN THE CORN CHAMBER

Two Old treacle Casks, five puncheons & three hogshead Casks / a Quarter hogshead Cask, four hay prongs, an Old Malt Mill / two Waggen Lines, a Winnowing Sheet a Jack & 2 small hemp bags / a Sythe and two plough Chains

IN THE LUMBER ROOM

One ?Irish Rake & four hay Rakes, a pack saddle / a hogshead Cask, a small quantity of potatoes / an Iron Beam but no Scales

IN THE COURT

A quantity of faggott Wood & four Pigs troughs / Four Piggess and 12 Old and young Geese - /

IN THE OX COURT

Half a hundred of Reed a pair of drags and an Old Cart

IN THE OUTER COURT

In the ?Tallet a small quantity of hay, a single ful or plough / two putts and wheels, two Waggons and wheels one Cart and wheels, a hundred of reed /

. . . Dunster Priory Farm Inventory Continued

IN THE OLD CALVES HOUSE

A two furrow *or double* ful and a single one, a pair of harrows & a pair of drags / a roaler, a Shifting ful *or plough* & three Yokes and bows

IN THE BARN

A winnowing Vann, between 70 & 80 Hurdles / a quantity of Oak Poles and a Market Cart & head - / *Elm poles* /

IN THE GARDENS

A quantity of Beans Pease Cabbages &c /

CORN in ground

Wheat in Dean Close / *ditto* in the Greenclose / Barley in the nine Acres & Haddens piece and Conduit Close / an Acre of potatoes in the Hellen Burrows /

MOWING GRASS

in the Ten Acre Meado[w], - the Putshenns Close and the South East quarter of *ditto* / the ?Hemny Meadow / the Apples in the two Orchards /

Corn and grass are all deleted in the Appraisal

IN THE 19 ACRE MEADOW

Twenty one Ews & 14(13) Lambs / ten Yearling Heifers / two 2Yr old ditto & 5 Calves /

IN THE N.E QUARTER OF LOXHOLDFIELD

One Bull, one Cow, five heifers & one heifer of Mr ?Edbrooks to keeping [*not present in the Appraisal*] / six Calves & 19 (23) Weather sheep

IN THE 16 ACRE QUARTER OF LOXHOLDFIELD

Ten Cows, and three Cows to keep for Mr. Westcombe / [*in pencil* 1 Saddle Horse] *not present in the Appraisal* /

IN THE HEMER LOXHOLD

Two Cows and one Steer *Mr Letbrook* / two Steers to keeping for Thos Tapscott / two 2 Yr. Old Heifers to keeping for Mr Crang / [*pencilled comment in the margin says Mr Crang was due to [with]draw them the day before the Distress but Mr Paul says it was that day*] / one three years old Colt /

IN THE PRIORY GREEN &c

Three plough horses with their harness / 2 Saddle horses – into keeping [*in pencil* young T Pauls] / three Yearling Colts

Mr Thomas Paul

Take Notice that I as Steward to John Fownes Luttrell Esqr have distrained the Goods and Chattles mentioned in the beforegoing Inventory for the sum of Eight hundred and seventy seven pounds three shillings and threepence due and unaccounted for to the said John Fownes Luttrell Esqr for Rent and Arrears of Rent due the Twenty Fourth day of this Instant June for the premises before mentioned and have left the said Goods and Chattles on the same premises to the Care of John Hole of Dunster ?Junl and unless the said Rent Arrears of Rent and Charges of Distress be paid or the said Goods and Chattles be ?repreived within five days from the date hereof the said Goods and Chattles will be Appraised and sold according to Law. Dated this Twentys fifth day of June One Thousand eight hundred and sixteen.

Wm Gale.

Seizure Warrant

[part of the same bundle (2) with the Inventory DD/L/1/30/28B/2]

County of Somerset to Wit:

John Goodford Esquire sheriff of the County aforesaid to William Dyer and John ?Littlely my Bailiffs

Greeting.

By virtue of a Writ of our Sovereign Lord the King to me directed I command you and every of you that of the Goods and Chattles of Thomas Paul in my Bailiwick. You or one of you cause to be made as well a certain Debt of one Thousand Pounds which William Brewer and Samuel Payne lately recovered against him in the Court of our said Lord the King before the Barons of the Exchequer of our said Lord the King of Westminster as also of four pounds twelve shillings which have been adjudged to the said William Brewer and Samuel in the same court for their damages which they have sustained by reason of their detaining of that Debt so that I may have that Money before the Barons of the Exchequer of our said Lord the King at Westminster on the third day of July next coming to render to the abovementioned William Brewer and Samuel Payne for their Debt and damage aforesaid whereof the said Thomas Paul is convicted. Hereof fail not as you will answer at your peril. Given under the seal of my office the Twenty eighth day of June in the fifty sixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King defender of the Faith and in the year of our Lord One Thousand eight hundred and sixteen -

By the same Sheriff

[in a different hand] *NB: Received at ½ past 11 o'Clock Saturday ye 29th June 1816 Levy £1004 = 12 = 0 besides Poundage and Officers ?fee Hancock, John Adlington ?A*



Above: The C16th dovecote is thought to have replaced an older one, also belonging to the Priory

Dunster Priory

Dunster Priory was built by Benedictine monks from Bath as a cell of their abbey. They were granted the church of St. George in 1090, and it is thought that the abbey must have had a cell there from the earliest times. The Priory was first mentioned in 1177. By 1199, when King John came to the throne, it was well enough established to provide accommodation, food and stabling for the Vicar of Dunster. Water came via a conduit from St. Leonards Well, which also supplied two public troughs in Dunster. In 1262, endowments from the de Mohun family provided the monks with a separate manor to farm, as well as a goodly amount of land to the north of the Church, and some in Alcombe, where they also had a chapel.

Ruth Luckhurst
(data from Exmoor National Park HER)

SANHS Historic Buildings & Local History Events

Book through www.sanhs.org or phone 01823 272429

SATURDAY 13th June. 2pm

Medieval Exeter. A tour around the highlights of medieval Exeter led by Des Atkinson. Meet at the Underground Passage entrance, Exeter. Cost: £4.00. Numbers limited for safety reasons. Book by 11th June.

SATURDAY 20th June. 12.30-4.00

Guided tour of Low Ham Church by Julian Orbach as a follow-up to the talk at the SANHS Low Ham day in 2019. Meet for lunch at the Rose and Crown (Eli's) at Huish Episcopi prior to arranging car sharing to the Church. If not wishing to have lunch, please arrive at Eli's by 1.45. Lead : Mary Ewing. Cost: £5.00 excluding lunch. Booking essential, by 12th June

WEDNESDAY 22nd July. 10.45-4.00

Visit to Cannington to include Cannington Court and Village followed by Blackmore Manor. Lunch at Cannington Court (pay individually), Blackmore Manor entrance £12.00 to include a cream tea. Lead: Chris Sidaway. Cost £4.00. Numbers strictly limited. Book by 3rd July. Meeting arrangements on booking.

SATURDAY 25th July. 11am

Ashton Windmill, a guided tour with further visits in the afternoon. Lunch at the Wheatsheaf Inn, Stone Allerton. Lead: John Page. Cost £5.00 excluding lunch. Booking essential, by 3rd July.

SATURDAY 1st August. 11.00 -

approx. 3.30. The Topography and Historic Buildings of Dunster.

A guided walk of key places and buildings. You will be entering private spaces, please be suitably shod. Lead: David Dawson/Lizzie Induni. Cost £5.00. An hour allowed for lunch, participants to provide own lunch, coffee etc. Booking not required. Meet above the steps outside the National Parks Centre, Dunster Steep car park.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY August TBC.

9.30-4.00. Archaeology on your doorstep. Test pitting in Milverton to discover information about the origins and settlement pattern of the village. Lead: Liz Caldwell. Meeting arrangements confirmed on booking, maximum no.9 Cost £4.00.

THURSDAY 20th August. 10.30 - approx.4.00. Kingsbury Episcopi.

The Kingsbury Local History group will give a talk on the research work carried out by their group and SVBRG. This will be followed by a walkabout with visits to buildings, finishing at the church in the afternoon. Lead: Mary Ewing. Venue: Kingsbury Village Hall Cost £15.00 to include lunch Booking essential, by Thursday 6th August.

SUNDAY 27th September.

10.00 – approx.4.00. Historic Buildings of Dunster. A review of the work of the SANHS recording group, with talks by timber framing experts in the morning. In the afternoon there will be a walkabout with visits to recorded properties in the afternoon. Lead: Mary Ewing Venue: Dunster Tithe Barn. Cost: £20.00 whole day, £5.00 from 2.p.m. Booking essential, by 13th September.

The EDP newsletter is edited by Ruth Luckhurst and written by members of the group, who also provide the photos.

Relevant material is always welcome: please email it at any time to Mary Ewing c/o SANHS.

CORONAVIRUS

All SANHS events listed may be altered or cancelled if Coronavirus restrictions still apply. Please don't make any travel arrangements without checking first. For the same reason, Early Dunster Project building surveys are on hold until further notice.

SANHS - Championing Somerset's Heritage since 1849

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