

Ottery Cinema prompts more memories.

The article in the recent Heritage Journal on the Ottery Cinema brought back many happy memories to me and, I expect, many others. But do you know how the reels of film to be shown ever got to Ottery? I was a junior booking clerk at Ottery station, starting there when I was 15 years old, and worked in the booking office from 1944 to 1946, and can well remember.

The programme of films shown at the "Cerdic" cinema at Chard on a Monday to Wednesday were sent to Ottery by train on a Thursday morning. The Thursday to Saturday programme of films was sent from Chard on a Monday (there being no Sunday service as Chard Central was on the Great Western Railway branch line from Taunton to Chard Junction).

The reels of film were placed in a kind of steel canister like a disc about one foot in diameter - the smaller the film the smaller the canister. They were despatched by passenger train from Chard Central to Chard Junction and transferred there to a passenger train for conveyance on to Sidmouth Junction (now Feniton) where they were transferred to the Sidmouth train for conveyance to Ottery.

They were only labelled "Ottery Station (to be called for)", and the projectionist at the time would come to the station to take delivery. I remember one occasion they didn't arrive, and after meeting at least four trains, including the 4.00 pm, Jim Dommett said he had no option other than cancelling that evening's show. However, when the 5.17 pm train arrived from Sidmouth Junction, the guard unloaded the missing canisters of film onto the platform. I quickly booked them in and cycled from the station to the cinema with them, where I discovered Jim just about to place a poster outside the cinema cancelling the evening's show. He quickly took the films, only to curse the projectionist at Chard who had

sent them without rewinding them, which I think in those days was done by hand! However, the show went on that evening, although Jim didn't have time to check for breaks or faults in the films.

From Ottery the programme of films were sent on to Honiton, but I cannot recollect them going by train, but can only assume, given the short distance from Ottery to Honiton, they may have been sent by bus as the Devon General bus company did have a small parcels service on their buses.

Leo Dolling

OUTING TO WHIMPLE HERITAGE CENTRE

Members of the Heritage Society have been invited by Whimple History Society to visit their Heritage Centre, to view their permanent displays and temporary exhibitions that are being mounted for 2012.

The date is April 11th (Wednesday) and the time is 2.30 pm. It is anticipated that around one and a half hours will be spent there. Travel will be by private car. Some visitors may wish to have lunch at the New Fountain Inn, adjacent to the Heritage Centre, prior to the tour.

Would any members who wish to participate in this outing please give their names to Chris Saunders on 812962 before the end of March, indicating whether they wish to have lunch at the Inn as well.

DEVON RECORD OFFICE OPEN DAY 17 MARCH 2012

The Friends of the Devon Record Office have issued an invitation to the Heritage Society to an Open Day at the D.R.O. at Great Moor House in Bittern Road, Sowton, Exeter. This is being held on

ERRATA:

This edition of the journal is not perfect!

The editor apologises for some errors and omissions in this edition of the Journal. He has learned that 'more haste, less speed' is a maxim never to forget.

Chris Saunders article on Escot Magazines:

P.5, col.3, line 11: '*information and news dedicated to Escot parish (Fig.4).*'

P.6, col.3, last line: No continuation advice. Should read '*continued on back page*'

Saturday, 17 March 2012, and will run from 10 am until 4 pm.

There will be lectures, tours of the strong-rooms, a family history advisory service and tables are being provided to local groups to display their activities. The Open Day will be open to the public. There will be no admission charge to the public, nor to groups for their tables. There will be hot drinks, cakes and sandwiches available for sale. Free parking is immediately outside the building.

The Heritage Society has accepted this invitation, and will have a table at the Open Day, giving the general public a chance to become aware of what the Heritage Society has achieved since its founding in 1999.

Do come along and support us - and take the opportunity of viewing the facilities and work of the D.R.O. You will not regret taking an hour or two to avail yourselves of this offer!

If you need any further information please contact Chris Saunders on 812962.