



# Heritage

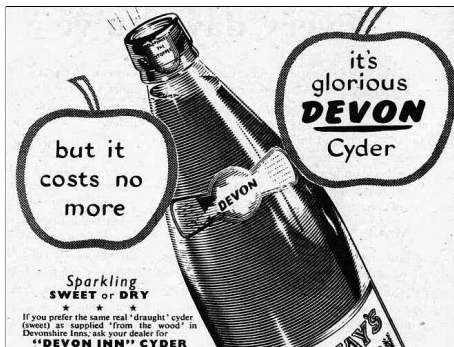
No. 45

Spring 2013

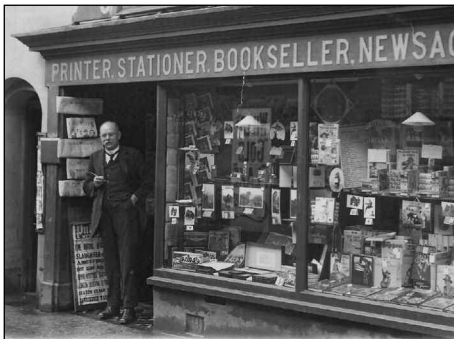
Registered Charity Number 1087086

*Journal of the Ottery St. Mary Heritage Society*

Including...



**East Devon History Workshop on Cider and Orchards p3.**



**The long struggle for a playing field in Ottery St. Mary p7**



**Lines in the landscape - looking further afield.**

Flemish Chimney in St Florence (photo: Humphrey Bolton, wikimedia Commons)

[www.otteryheritage.org.uk](http://www.otteryheritage.org.uk)

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

### Operation Pied Piper

The members' meeting programme for 2013 started off in grand style. At the January 8 meeting, guest speaker John Brasier's talk was entitled "Operation Pied Piper"; it took his audience back to the dark days of the Second World War and the mass evacuation of children from areas at risk from aerial attack in 1939. John's story was fascinating. As a nine-year-old child, he was himself an evacuee and spoke about his own experiences when he and his younger brother were hurriedly packed onto a train with thousands of other youngsters – destination unknown!

The attendance, however, was disappointing – little more than half our usual audience, which was a great pity. I'm confident that members will rally for future meetings – Sylvia Wainwright has arranged an interesting and varied programme for the rest of the year.

### Membership

A huge thank you to everyone who renewed their subscriptions so promptly, it helps to keep our administration costs to a minimum. Membership numbers have remained constant – end of year figures show current membership of 199.

### Trustees SOS

A year ago, I emphasised the importance of recruiting new Trustees who will bring new energy and a fresh approach to the running of the Society. It will soon be fourteen years since our inaugural meeting, and some of our leaders, who have been with us since the start, feel that the time is now appropriate to step down.

Chris Saunders resigned as Hon Secretary at last year's AGM, and to date we have been unable to find a replacement for this vital role. Our treasurer, Jim Woolley, is looking to step down at the next AGM (at present we do have someone who would eventually take up this post) – and please bear in mind that for some time we have been looking for a New Chairman!

We need to broaden the base of members' responsibilities for running certain aspects of the organisation, and we appeal for people to step forward. We do have a strong committee at present, but we must not allow it to stagnate – please give this some serious thought in the coming weeks.

### Outings 2013

Your committee are in the process of selecting venues for outings later in

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# Editorial

A prolific report from our Chairman in this edition of the Journal has shrunk the field of play for your editor's customary historical circumlocutions. Briefly then...

Movement over the flood plain by the course of the river Otter, which usually happens at a sedate and unremarkable pace, has been whipped into near frenzy by the extravagant amounts of rain falling over the past year. Take a trip over Cadhay Bridge and look north. The sweep of the river towards the old crossing keepers cottage is now truly astonishing - completely departing from its old course and looking set shortly to claw its way into the railway embankment.

The same has happened a short way south of the town where the railway embankment, (now the footpath - due to earlier wanderings of the river) is under siege from an ever more adjacent torrent.

I mention this because here's a rare chance to witness a dramatic change in the environment without the least inclination or hope or wish to take any action in response, beyond making a note of it.

*Chris Wakefield*

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**...from the Chairman. cont from page 1**

the year, so please let us have your suggestions for historic places to visit.

## The Old Cinema

The old Ottery Cinema in Jesu Street has received a new lease of life. It is now a furniture shop trading as 'The Stock Exchange', so whilst you're looking at what they have on offer, you can also view what was once the cinema auditorium, where the silver screen entertained countless Ottregians with 'moving pictures' over a period of forty years. A Heritage Blue Plaque was recently unveiled to commemorate the building's former use - more details in the next edition of the Journal.

## Devon History Society

We have been invited to host the Devon History Society members' meeting, which will be held in the Institute on Saturday April 20th. Three of our members, Betty Williams, Richard Coley and Chris Wakefield will be guest speakers at this event. We shall be looking for volunteers to help with refreshments and also to escort delegates on guided tours of 'Historic Ottery' during the afternoon. Anyone keen to be involved please contact me on 01404 813686.

*Robert Neal*

# Forthcoming Events

Unless otherwise noted, all the Society's meetings are held in the Institute, Yonder Street, Ottery St. Mary.

## 2013

• **19th March 2013 (Tuesday) 7.30 pm**

**Geology, Landscape & Scenery in SE Devon**  
Dr Malcolm Hart

• **16th April 2013**

**What did Women Do All Day**  
Dr Jane Whittle

• **20th April 2013**

**DHS conference hosted by OSMHS**

**10am - 10.30: Registration / Tea / Coffee**

10.30 - 10.40: Welcome and Introductions

10.40 - 11.20: Betty Williams, "Thackeray and Larkbeare"

11.20 - 12.00: Richard Coley, "History of Ottery's parish Church"

12.00 - 12.40: Chris Wakefield, "Landscape and History"

**12.40 - 2.00: LUNCH**

2.00 - 3.30: Guided tour of Historic Ottery and (or) guided tour of Parish Church including briefings on the College of Canons and poet and philosopher Samuel Taylor Coleridge

3.30 - 4.00: Afternoon Tea with scone / biscuits

**4.00pm Close**

OSMHS Members must book with DHS if they wish to attend (contact Robert Neal or Chris Saunders - tel nos below). The meeting is free. Lunch, Tea and Coffee - £8.50 per person. Tea and coffee only £2 per person.

• **21st May 2013**

**Devon Inns**  
Robert Hesketh

• **18th June 2013**

**AGM followed by Your Place in History - an opportunity for audience participation!**  
Colin Dean

• **16th July 2013**

**Subject to be confirmed**  
Chris Wakefield

• **17th September 2013**

**Powderham Castle**  
Felicity Harper

• **15th October 2013**

**West Country Byways**  
Lucy Channon

• **19th November 2013**

**Devon Building Stones**  
Stuart Blaylock

## Heritage Society Trustees

Hon Chairman	Robert Neal	813686
Acting Hon Secretary	Chris Saunders	812962
Hon Treasurer	Jim Woolley	812176
	Hazel Abley	
	Vaughan Glanville	812628
	John Pilsworth	812737
	Chris Wakefield	815262
	Betty Williams	814044
	Oliver Wilson	813021

## Co-opted members

Membership Sec.	post vacant - see p8	
Meetings Secretary	Sylvia Wainwright	813041

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[www.otteryheritage.org.uk](http://www.otteryheritage.org.uk)

# The East Devon Local History: Cider Workshop

**The East Devon History group meeting (reported in the last Journal), had some interesting output on orchards. Vaughan Glanville has collected together some of the detail concerning the cider making industry, and added a few of his own recollections.**

Chris Woodruff told us that the area had been chosen as part of an English Heritage project to produce Historic Environment Action Plans (HEAPs). The aim is to add a historic environmental dimension to existing landscape maps. Concrete proposals are now ready, and he will bring the East Devon Local History Workshop up to date on these and the question of how local history and heritage societies might contribute by submitting local maps information and personal accounts collected over the years. The various groups from the towns and villages will then submit their work which will then be made into a map characterising East Devon through the ages.

Presentations were given by Margaret Burrough (A personal account of the Whimble apple orchards), Sue and Trevor Dymond (produced detailed percentage figures showing the rise and decline of orchards in this area through the ages drawn from the various local survey maps made at different periods of our history). There was also a detailed presentation from the Woodbury Heritage Society showing the decline of orchards in and around Woodbury from hundreds of acres to just six acres today. Other talks included speakers from Branscombe, Beer and Exmouth.

The general conclusion was that the original cider industry was driven by the agricultural way of life and governed by local need. Cider was drunk by all agricultural workers and became part of their wages on many

farms. Then with the advent of railways cider became an export industry from the Westcountry and by the early twentieth century most Westcountry cider went to the growing cities and throughout the Empire. East Devon Farmer, Phil Pile, (now deceased) told me of the times when as a young man with his father while on the family farm at Talaton he would take, "Several Hogsheads" of cider by horse and cart to Ottery St. Mary Railway Station each week for a tavern in London. Mrs. Burrough, from the Whimble Heritage Society, emphasized the importance Whiteways Cyder Company played in East Devon. She told of the occasion when in the 1950's as a young lady on holiday in the Far East she stayed in an hotel and asked for a Babycham only to find it was from Whiteways of Whimble! By the 1960's the majority of the farm cider apples were being taken to the Whiteways factory.

By the end of the 1970's the decline in the local cider industry was accelerating at a rapid rate. There were many reasons, the main one being the Common Agricultural Policy. Farmers were being paid excessive subsidies to grub out their orchards and hedges in order to add to the grain and butter mountains. Then the British public started taking their holidays across the channel and started a new relationship, replacing their glass of cider on a summer's evening with a bottle of wine. The import of foreign apples and juice, together with building development, (an example being in Whimble itself), has only added to the pressure on our remaining orchards. The introduction of farm machinery and drink/drive laws while in charge of machinery on public highways also put an end to the consumption of cider on the farm. Modern farm machinery led to the demise of the traditional farm worker and the need for cider disappeared completely apart from the few gate sales to tourists



There is much local interest in the cider industry which used to employ many people in East Devon. Whiteways of Whimble were a family run firm that was in production from 1892 to 1987.

Image courtesy of [www.historyworld.co.uk](http://www.historyworld.co.uk) (excellent site! - Ed)

seeking rough cider as an experience or challenging gift.

The group concluded that while the end of 20th century rang the death knell of our traditional orchards, the New Millennium may yet see them rise again but in a different form as a leisure drink.

Mrs. Burrough expressed the hope that a sympathetic tax regime would be introduced to encourage the reintroduction of commercial orchards. It was also felt that community orchards have a part to play in sustaining orchards for the future. A local example is the Sustainable Ottery Group which has taken over the use of an orchard at Blacklake Farm on East Hill. They intend to have community events such as pruning, picking and importantly, pressing the apples for cider or apple juice. Unfortunately 2012 was a poor year for all fruit and the entire apple crop only amounted to four apples! But this could be a bumper year if the weather stays clement during blossom time. Hopefully some of you have interesting memories of the hey day of local cider making. Any articles and photos on this subject will be welcome.

Vaughan Glanville

# Landscape history is an Open Field

## Ottery's field system tells us something important, but what is it?

A few days after a talk I gave to members last March on the significance of landscape studies for historical research, I had a note from Ruth Brown who lives in South Wales. Not that my repute stretches that far; it was merely that she was staying locally and came along to the meeting for lack of more fruitful distraction. Her note requested more information on the word "landscore" which appears in Ottery's Charter of 1061 (not as you would expect, in reference to Landscore Lane which forms the parish boundary northeast of Alfington village, but as the marker on East Hill for the start of an old division of the parish into north and south parts).

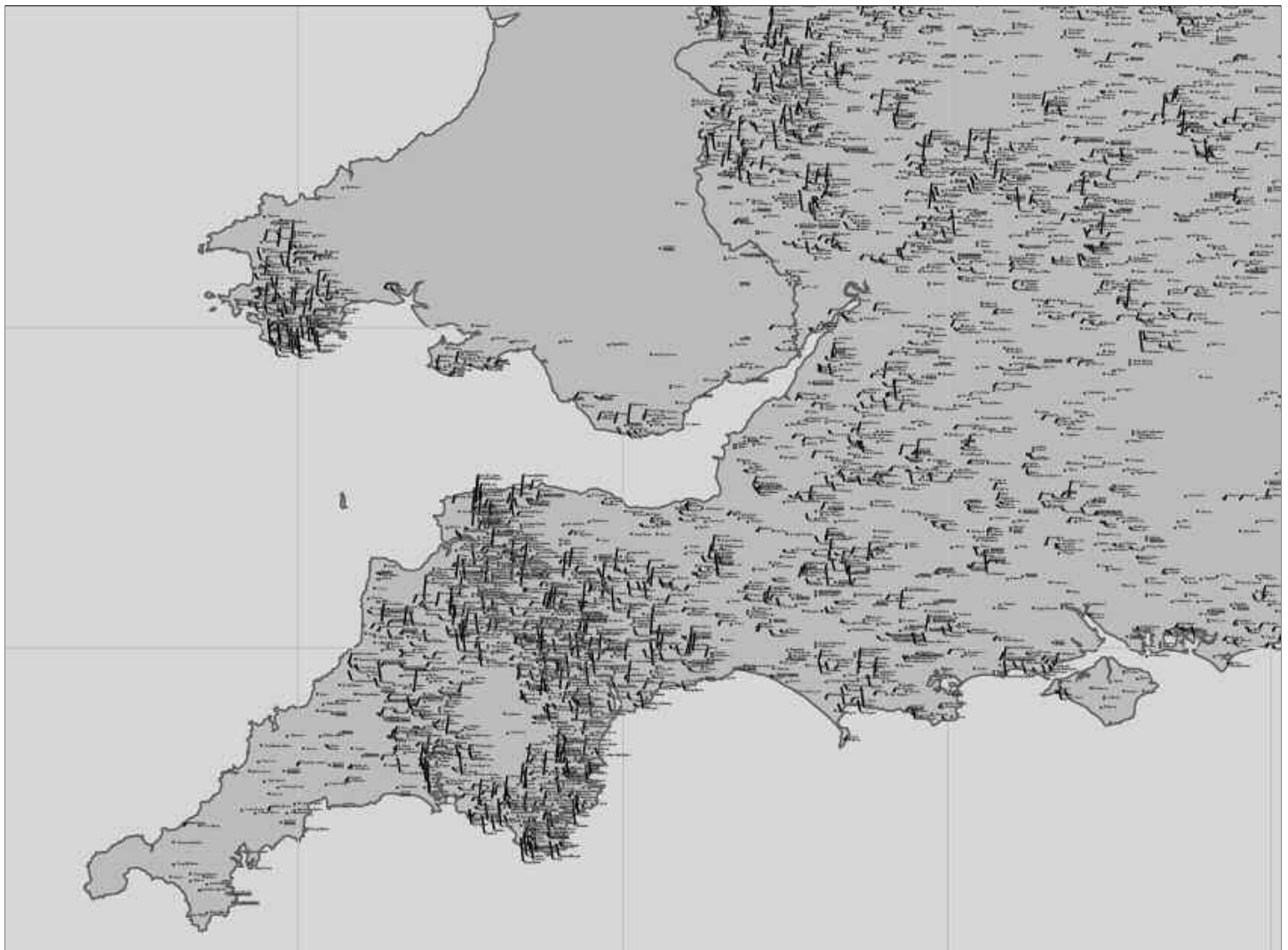
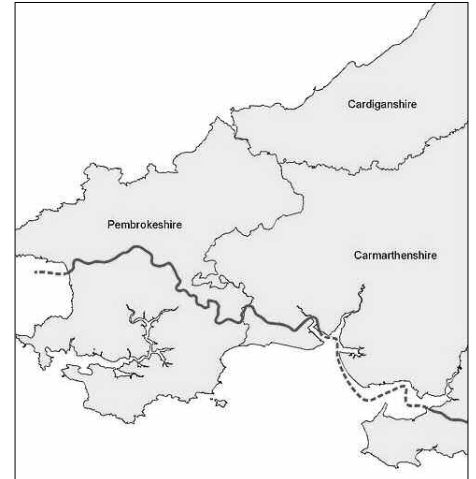
My attention was drawn to the term "Landsker" which, I learned, is a cultural boundary dividing two distinct communities on the southern Welsh coastal territory in Pembrokeshire: one "English" and the other "Welsh". The English area is known as Little England beyond Wales, and the 'boundary' dividing it from the rest of Wales is not marked in any physical way

but is none the less recognised as identifiable in the landscape, with Welsh speakers to the north and English speakers to the south, facing each other across a 'frontier zone' of anything from 3 to 10Km in width. The placenames are also divided into Anglo Saxon style names in the "English" area, which are entirely absent over the "border" (see Fig 2 for the dominant '-ton' names).

I had noticed the unusual "-ton" distribution in my preparation for the talk and I assumed that this reflected a further aspect of the more general westwards spread of English influence in the 6th to 8th centuries. I have no reason to change that view - although there are alternatives. A summary scan of some internet sources on the topic suggest that the Little England colony took root after the Norman accession., but the evidence points more, I believe, to an earlier establishment and I hope in the following to draw some introductory thoughts together to support

**Figs 1). (below) The Landsker in 1901. The boundary is not a physical one, but it is recognised locally as having a fairly well defined geographical presence. It moves about as dictated by cultural change. (from wikipedia)**

**Fig 2). (Bottom of page): The placenames containing "-ton". The superabundance in Devon has spread over the water to the fringes of South Wales. Map from Keith Briggs' website <http://keithbriggs.info/>**



that view, and make one or two speculative suggestions along the way.

The appearance of English placenames in the southernmost reaches of Wales is most logically explained as a seaborne incursion from North Devon across the Bristol Channel to the most available southern Welsh territories as a further movement of the general westward push of immigrant English settlement. Travel by sea was easier and quicker than the overland route, and especially so in the case of the journey from lands on the east of the Severn to the settlement sites in Pembrokeshire, if ever that was considered an option by English colonists.

If the Normans were responsible for Little England it might be expected that the spread of ownership and new infrastructure into Pembrokeshire which followed the invasion of 1066 will show some congruity with the Landsker. That's not the case however (see Fig 4) On the other hand it may be that the extent of Norman influence reflected in their castle buildings, shows an extended area of English influence already existing in the 11th century, which has since been reduced from the north, and places renamed, by the Welsh.

Early Norman influence in Wales was established in 'frontier' areas where there was a plausible pre-existing English claim - the Welsh Marches and along the south Wales coast. These areas became the most densely castellated area of the UK reflecting the significance of these frontier zones where English and Welsh interests collided. Taken together it looks very much as if the Normans were moving into an already Anglicised countryside on arrival in 11th century Pembrokeshire.

Another story has the English area settled by Flemish weavers - immigrants



Fig 3). (above): The coaxial field pattern of Manobier parish in Pembrokeshire. (Google maps)

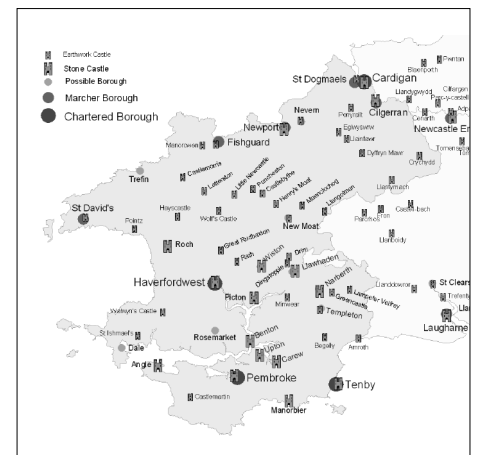
redeployed from elsewhere in England to stimulate the woollen industry. But there is little supporting evidence of a Flemish cultural legacy. "Flemish Chimneys" are a possible exception - an interesting architectural feature, although not vastly different to those found on some 15th and 16th century farmhouses in Devon (see photo on front cover). There may have been a small scale influx of Flemish craftsmen but this would most probably have been in the 14th and 15th centuries too late and unlikely to have produced the abundant Anglo Saxon placenames.

Fig 4), (below): Extent of Norman Castle building in Pembrokeshire (wikipedia).

Fig 5). (bottom of page, left): Field pattern south of Ottery St Mary 1843 (courtesy East Devon AONB)

Fig 6). (bottom of page, right): Field pattern at Coshleston, Pembrokeshire

A new angle on the age of the English settlements might be sought in the field patterns that accompany them. A much lengthier article is needed to make a full description of these features and the problems associated with this aspect of landscape history, but it is immediately clear that the parallel arrangement of long strip shaped fields is a prominent feature south of the Landsker and far less so north of it. In one case there is a striking similarity between the settlement pattern of Ottery St Mary and that of Coshleston in



Pembrokeshire (see figs 5 and 6 previous page). It is too large a leap to assume a common provenance on this basis alone but with the placename evidence in support, a little more study may reveal an 8th or 9th century English landscape dominant in this area.

The Manorbier field pattern is an unusual example of the 'strip field' genus, and has much in common, in appearance at least, with the reaves on Holne Moor and elsewhere on Dartmoor's eastern fringe. These have been discussed at length by Andrew Fleming in a widely known and lengthy investigation that suggested they were the result of a global revision of the landscape in the 2nd millennium BC. Fleming's evidence has subsequently been closely scrutinised, and the jury is now back out on the provenance of the reaves, so it is hardly ground-breaking to suggest there may be a match with Manorbier. I hasten to add that I haven't looked at all the literature critical of Dr Fleming's position (or read the new edition of his 'reaves' book) so I can't set out a more considered view, but the prospect is a tempting one, and the ease of surveying the modern landscape in Google Maps gives an immediate way into this kind of research, even if a more resilient outcome often requires much additional historical research. The similarity of appearance might point to either a survival of a Bronze age field system into the modern period, or a different age for the reaves.

The difficulty of distinguishing and defining the variety of shapes and patterns which are described by the terms 'open', 'subdivided', 'co-axial' and so on has not been properly tackled yet. There are considerable variations among the forms of surviving ridge and furrow, and even greater variation it seems among enclosures presumed to have had open field origins, of which Ottery offers an example. The picture is a complex one (well there's a surprise) and variations to suit local customs of tenure, topography and agriculture must all have played a role. The easy part of solving this question is offering a view on how to do it. The hard part is the inexorable slog through mountains of data, which, with new technology, is possible but still requires the work of many hands.

The issue of strip fields, their appearance, locations and origins, has been around since the early years of the last century when H.L. Gray published his "English Field Systems" (1915). Speculation continues on this topic (cf. this article!) but the evidence, although compelling in certain instances, is still lacking in fine detail, and has not yet found its silver bullet.

Chris Wakefield

## Robin Stanes

The death of Robin Stanes in mid January is a matter of great sadness - for his family, of course - but also for anyone in Devon who cares for local history

Robin set out to become a historian, and went to Oxford in 1941 to do just that, but left in 1942 to join the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve to help out with the war effort, service which included time on the infamous Arctic convoys to Russia. Returning to Oxford after the war, he was still driven by immediate concerns about the future of the country, and switched his course to Agriculture in order to be able to help with the post war recovery.

In 1952 he bought Scarswell farm in Slapton in South Devon, and began life as a farmer, discovering history all around him, even in the new 'cutting edge' farming techniques he had learned at Oxford (which turned out to be centuries old standard practise in Devon). Even as a full time farmer, it was difficult for him to resist some rekindling of historical activities.

For fifteen years he tried to combine farming and history, but eventually the farming had to be left behind, with considerable regret I suspect. Although history became his life, he never lost the kinship and interest he felt for the Devon farming community. As recently as 2005, with hands-on farming forty years behind him, he could write in the introduction to 'Old Farming Days':

*"Like so many farmers before me, I have ploughed and harrowed, spread dung, sown grass and kale seed from a fiddle, cut hay stooked corn, made ricks and thrashed them and shifted many thousands of bales and struggled with heavy sacks of barley. I have dug sheep out of snowdrifts, tended lambing eyes at midnight in winter and delivered entangled lambs and calves. I have had cows and sheep die on me without warning. I have been knocked for six by a newly calved heifer, and once I had to restrain an angry Jersey Bull by his nose ring for an hour or so. This is what farmers have been doing for centuries and they still do it today; it is not just a job, it is a way of life"*

In the mid 1960s, having rediscovered his true metier, the rest of his life is... well... history. He went into teaching, doing his own local historical research, publishing his work and promoting the cause of local history in Devon.

This last is worthy of a closer look. It was our great good fortune that Robin came to Devon to farm in 1952 and fell in love with its romantic landscapes and its distinctive history, much of it characterised by cultural dislocation from the rest of the country. At the same time he found it lacking a county wide body fostering research into that history - a situation he set about rectifying.

That proved to be easier said than done and it took many years of work before the Devonshire Association could be persuaded that local history would be better served by a new and different kind of organisation which would operate along different lines and attract different people. It would also have a stronger educational role, which reached outwards to recruit new supporters doing new local historical work.

The DHS, I believe, is Robin's crowning glory and fitting testimony for a historian



who wanted to share his pleasure in history as widely as he could.

I can't claim close acquaintance with him, but I met Robin a number of times, beginning in the early 1980s on East Devon CND marches when he championed the cause of history in the face of nuclear annihilation with his unique placard "Historians Demand No End of History". He was an honorary life member of OSMHS and our guest speaker on a couple of occasions, when he held forth on the the Prayer Book Rebellion and the English Civil War, both of these from notes that occupied, I recall, a scrap of paper the size of a post-it sticker. I also had a couple of extended discussions with him in 2008 about the preparations for and results of our archaeological investigation at Goveton Farm. When I got up to leave at the end of the second of these sessions, I thanked him for making time for me. "That's alright" he replied "I love history, and I love talking about it. Come again!".

There are plenty of people who have similar tales. Ask for help and you get it. On one occasion he said "you have to DO history as well as read about it" and if you were trying to do it, he would offer and unconditional helping hand. That was Robin's trademark - he wanted to collaborate, for the sake of the history - nothing else. That philosophy set the tone and is still the driving force at DHS - its 40th anniversary celebratory publication says as much.

I am not properly qualified to offer a full appreciation of Robin's own work as a historian, but I suggest the following. If you study Devon local and landscape history, you cannot avoid W G Hoskins and Harold Fox; two Devonians who tower over the discipline. Although I'm sure he would resist the idea, I think Robin should be remembered as being of equal stature. His closely textured appreciation of the daily realities of farming, set out so lucidly in his books and articles, should be clearly in mind while reading the work of the other two. Brilliant though they were, neither Hoskins nor Fox were farmers, and their pronouncements on farming matters will inevitably suffer as a result.

The passing of a historian is a double loss. We lose the person and we lose the history they haven't been able to tell us. Robin Stanes' legacy is substantial though - a series of thoughtful and absorbing publications and an organisation to move local history forward in the way that Robin thought it should - as a shared enterprise in which everyone contributes what they can and everyone benefits from the outcome.

Chris Wakefield



# The Battle for the Land of Canaan

**The current upsurge in concern over development in and around Ottery is nothing new. If we look back just a few years into local history, we find the same scenario - local people fighting the bureaucrats to achieve something worthwhile for their community.**

Our story of Ottery's 'Land of Canaan' begins with this photograph (right), taken c.1906 in Silver Street, Ottery. The London Inn and the Devon & Cornwall Bank (now Lloyds TSB) are on the right of the picture.

Where the NatWest bank stands today is the shop-front of Manleys printers, and we see the owner Edward Manley on the steps with his infant daughter Dorothy, who would grow up to become the mother of Valerie Venner.

Valerie remembered her grandfather Edward Manley telling her that from the late 1890s he, and other local worthies and businessmen, campaigned for many years to acquire land at the end of Hind Street as a recreation field and Public Park for the town.

No one can be sure exactly when this area first became known as the biblical 'promised land', the 'land of Canaan'. The name appears in an indenture of 1756, but is probably much older than that. There is mention of it in Dalton's book on the College as one of the sites for the two annual fairs held in Ottery (the other was at Paradise). These were medieval in origin.

What we do know is that from the turn of the last century until his death in 1935, Edward Manley, together with fellow businessmen, initiated clubs and organisations for the wellbeing of the people of Ottery. During those years, there was hardly a fete, concert or social event which was not linked to the name E. J. Manley. In 1904 he was a founder member of the Ottery St



Mary Choral Society. His granddaughter Valerie Venner was also a member for many years.

After a life-time of service to the community, Valerie passed away in 2011.

Her husband, Peter, recalls playing games with his young pals on the land at the end of Hind Street in the 1930s. The field was popular with youngsters who more or less adopted it as their recreation area. There was no other facility within the town for children's games, and many townsfolk felt it would be the ideal place for a public park.

It was owned by the Coleridge family who rented it to a local butcher. He was not over-fond of the young trespassers who, when they spotted him approaching, would quickly scarp across the mill stream until it was safe to return. In fact, the name 'Land of Canaan' became meaningless to generations of youngsters who had tagged this popular plot 'landy-canon.'

Valerie and Peter continued the family tradition, devoting their lives for the betterment of Ottery. Valerie was a Town Councillor for some years, sitting on a number of steering

committees, and by the 1970s she and Peter had become founder-members of 'The Amenities Association', an action group which was to play a huge part in the acquisition of the Land of Canaan as a recreation area for the town.

By the mid 1970s, this field was ripe for development. It was acquired by Devon County Council who planned to develop part of it as a much-needed car park. The rest of the land was earmarked for social housing.

Was the town about to lose its promised land after all?

Not if the Amenities Association had anything to do with it!

By 1977 revised plans, supported by East Devon Council, proposed selling 1.9 acres for housing development, 0.4 acres for a car-park, plus a small area of mainly flooded land for public

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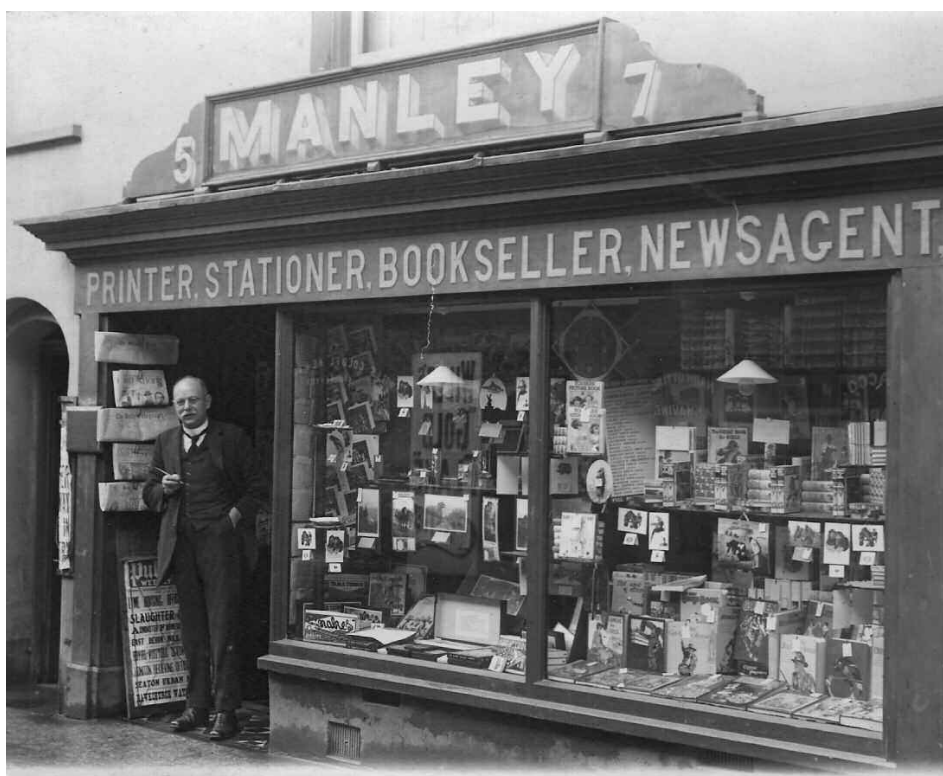
amenity. Again the locals voiced their anger about the plans, yet within months new plans were announced to sell to a private developer.

The Amenities Association became the pressure group within the town to rescue the Land of Canaan from proposed housing development. Petitions were signed, letters addressed to the local MP, numerous council meetings were held at local, district, county and regional level – which in turn generated mountains of correspondence.

Argument and counter-argument identified a need for a children's playground close to the town centre, against a strong case for the much needed housing. There was dismay amongst many at the potential loss of the town's park land, which needed to be weighed against the requirement for a medical centre to serve the wider community, plus the urgent need for a purpose-built fire station.

There was also the problem of access to the new development which could only be approached via the Square and Hind Street. The earlier demolition of the Five Bells pub in Mill Street, close to Raleigh House, had opened up the prospect of a link road through to Hind Street across the Land of Canaan with its planned car park.

Both Mill Street and Hind Street carried two-way traffic at this time, and the new link road to be known as 'Canaan Way' would present the town's first opportunity for a one-way



**Photo: Edward J. Manley.** As his printing and stationery business prospered, Edward moved to larger premises further down Silver Street. He died in 1935, a highly respected Ottergian and lifetime campaigner for 'The Land of Canaan'. The newsagents shop still carried the name 'Manleys' until very recently.

system to alleviate a growing traffic problem.

What of the battle to rescue the 'promised land' for the people of Ottery? In the end common sense prevailed. Thanks in no small way to a huge amount of public pressure co-ordinated by the Amenities Association, the hard-fought campaign was successful.

A new Coleridge Medical Centre in Canaan Way is a testament to the determination of five doctors in the Ottery practice. They purchased their portion of the 'promised land' and by

1984 had built their new medical centre with open-plan reception and waiting areas, seven consulting and examination rooms, separate accommodation for nurses and health visitors, and with its own car park.

Ottery's Retained Firemen have their fire station which houses their appliance, training and recreation facilities, and their own vehicle park.

The town has its long-stay car park, tree-lined and expertly landscaped, and has achieved at last its long-awaited Public Park which now provides a landscaped open amenity space for relaxation, contemplation of poetic splendour on Coleridge's Poetry Stones and at the far end in a quiet corner of their 'promised land', a Children's Recreation and Play Area for the safe, supervised, enjoyment of our young persons.

Mission accomplished!

**ROBERT NEAL**

## Gerard Coleridge

We are sorry to record the passing of Gerard Coleridge, for some years a member of the Society, and a direct descendant of Samuel Taylor Coleridge. He had been unwell for some time. We send our deepest sympathy to his wife Lila and family, and to his sister Rosemary Middleton, a long time member and keen supporter of Ottery Heritage.

## Anthony Deeming

We are saddened by the news that 'Tony' Deeming has passed away; he was a loyal member of the Society who regularly attended our meetings and functions until he fell ill some months ago. The funeral service took place at St Anthony's church, Ottery, on Wednesday January 16. We send our deepest sympathy to his wife Sandra and their family.