

Typical of a 'marine cottage orné,' **Fairlynch Museum** was built in about 1811 for ship-owner Matthew Lee Yeates. The house is Grade II Listed, with, unusually, a double-wing staircase.

Other exhibitions in 2014

Learn about Budleigh Salterton's smuggling past from our **Cellar** display. Paintings by Joyce Dennys and other artists are on the **Ground Floor**, where you will also find the newly-refurbished **Priscilla Carter Room** with its fascinating displays of Geology, Archaeology and Natural History.



The **Carter Library** is on the **First Floor**, as is the **Costume Room**, where this year's theme is 'Fashion in the 1920s.' Of special interest is a dress shop scene of the period. The workroom has costumes from the Susan Ward Collection. Other attractions include men's underwear and a male corset worn by 1920s opera



singer Lauritz Melchior. See children's toys in the 'Hidden Treasures' exhibition including Muffy, the Fairlynch bear. The **Lace Room** shows various types of lace and lace-makers' equipment. You are welcome to browse through folders in the **Local History Room** dealing with Budleigh's history: topics include schools, architecture and World War

Two. Also in the **Ground Floor Exhibition Room** is a display on the Budleigh Salterton branch line **Railway**.

HOW TO FIND FAIRLYNCH 27 FORE STREET

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON DEVON EX9 6NP TEL: 01395 442666 www.devonmuseums.net/fairlynch Registered Charity No: 306636



Fairlynch occupies an imposing position on a bank overlooking the junction of Fore Street and Marine Parade. Visitors with disability welcome, but there is no lift. Limited local access parking. The Garden is a showpiece of the town.

> Opening times: Easter to September 2.00 - 4.30 pm daily except Mondays

'The Great War at Fairlynch' exhibition has been generously supported with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund

Join the Friends of Fairlynch!

Ask a steward, or download a form from our website

FAIRLYNCH



MUSEUM AND ARTS CENTRE BUDLEIGH SALTERTON

Unique thatched museum depicting the local history of Budleigh Salterton and surrounding area

'THE GREAT WAR AT FAIRLYNCH'

A special exhibition about life in the Lower Otter Valley during the 1914-18 World Conflict

FREE ADMISSION



1914-18: Local Memories of a World Conflict



In our Exhibition this year we honour those whose sacrifice is recorded on the various war memorials of the Lower Otter Valley: Newton Poppleford, Colaton Raleigh, Otterton, East Budleigh and Budleigh Salterton.

We also pay tribute to those who returned home, and to many who just had a connection to one of the villages because their next of kin lived in the area.

We are trying to give some impression of what was happening in this immediate area and also, from letters written at the front, what life was like away at war.

We already had some wartime artefacts in our collection: shoes, toys, books and clothes of the period, but we have been lucky to have, donated or on loan, a Devonshire Regimental brooch, service records, photographs and letters.





Discover the Great War story of Cecil, our own Fairlynch Bear. It's believed that he was carried as a lucky token in a knapsack during both the Gallipoli and Flanders campaigns. The medal he proudly wears is a 5 cent Canadian coin dated 1902.



The Fall In at Budleigh Salterton railway station: off to fight for King and Country in the Great War

A great deal of new research has been done by the Museum's Local History Group, and others, using online family history and military websites to enhance their already large collection of local records. Minutes of local Tradesmen's Associations, Budleigh Salterton Football Club, the East Devon Golf Club, and other sources have contributed to the information collected for this Exhibition.

One of many local heroes was Colonel Christopher Pepys DSO, OBE, MC, whose family lived at Knowle in the parish of East Budleigh. He was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in Northern Italy on 27 October, 1918. His two brothers John and Francis had been killed in action within a few months of each other in 1914.



Budleigh writer and artist Joyce Dennys designed this celebrated recruitment poster for Voluntary Aid Detachment nurses. Other examples of her work as an illustrator in books published in the 1914-18 period are on display in the Exhibition. They include *Our Girls in Wartime* and *Our Hospital ABC*.





Men of the Royal Army Medical Corps parade on Station Road in Budleigh Salterton

Did you know that Budleigh had a Convalescent Home and a VAD Hospital?

If you have information about wartime conditions and families of the 1914-18 period in Budleigh Salterton and the villages of the Lower Otter Valley we would be very pleased to hear from you.







NEWSLETTER SPRING 2014 27 Fore Street Budleigh Salterton Devon EX9 6NP Tel: 01395 442666

Email: admin@fairlynchmuseum.co.uk www.devonmuseums.net/fairlynch

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14 High Street, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6LQ Open Monday – Saturday 9.00am to 5.00pm For more information telephone Richard on 01395 444020

Editorial

A sad centenary



After the 'Sea, Salt and Sponges' exhibition of 2013 comes a museum display on a very different theme.

Yet there are connections. The 19th century German zoologist Ernst Haeckel was featured last year as a colleague of Budleigh scientist Henry Carter. Among other things he is noted as the first person to describe the 1914-18 conflict as a world war. And I was intrigued to learn from the exhibition that Carter's writings about the tribes of Arabia may well have inspired T.E. Lawrence in his campaign against the Turkish enemy in the Middle East.

Going back to the Antarctic exhibition of 2011-12, it's worth remembering that Captain Scott's widow received many letters during the Great War assuring her that her husband's story had helped them cope with the adversities of trench life and battle. And of course former local resident Murray Levick himself earned the gratitude of many hundreds of veterans for the medical help that he provided to victims of gassing and trench foot.

The grimmest connection lies in humanity's use and abuse of science and technology. What a contrast between the optimistic belief in the value of science expressed by Henry Carter and his fellow Victorians and the way in which scientific knowledge was used for the cruellest of ends between 1914 and 1918.

The Great War resulted in the deaths of over 150 people associated with the Lower Otter Valley. From Newton Poppleford, Colaton Raleigh, Otterton, East Budleigh and Budleigh Salterton they volunteered to defend Britain against what they saw as an aggressive and uncivilized enemy. Many more people emerged from the conflict mentally and physically scarred.

Away from the front line, residents of the Valley worked together for the war effort. In museums throughout the world the story of the 1914-18 conflict and its effects will be told over the next five years. Fairlynch is proud to make its own contribution to that great and thought-provoking story.

Recent news

A new President



We are delighted that Joy Gawne has accepted our invitation to be President of the Museum, as reported in the Autumn 2013 newsletter.

As one of the Museum's founders back in 1967 she has maintained a keen interest in the affairs of Fairlynch and regularly attends committee meetings.

Over the years she has been involved in recruiting and organising stewards, and of course in the costume department, having been responsible for bringing together many of the original items of clothing which make up the Museum's fine collection. She still finds great satisfaction in trying to solve the many intriguing mysteries thrown up by the study of local history.

Jim Milverton

The most important position in any Board of Trustees is that of Treasurer, writes Museum Chairman Roger Sherriff.

"Fairlynch has been very fortunate to have a Treasurer like Jim, seen here appropriately enough next to a Fairlynch donations box. As the consummate professional he has managed the Museum finances using sound judgement and his extensive knowledge. After over six years in this position he is leaving the Museum's finances well and truly in the black. We will miss his wise counsel and gentle good humour and we wish him and Rose well for the future."

We hope to say a formal farewell to Jim at the AGM on Monday 19 May at 7.00 pm in the Peter Hall.

Fairlynch needs Friends!

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of a newly designed leaflet about the Friends of Fairlynch, which includes an application form for new members. We hope that you enjoy reading it. Please think of someone you know who might enjoy becoming a Friend, and pass the leaflet on to them.



We're supporting Fairlynch!

Our new Membership Secretary Alan Huddart would like to thank everyone who completed the new Gift Aid form. The Gift Aid funds that we receive are an important part of the Museum's revenue: last year they amounted to £875. Friends' subscriptions were due in February; Standing Orders are normally taken on the first day of that month. In future we will not be sending out membership cards.

Book the date: Saturday 28 June at Fairlynch!



Many will remember the book sales that Priscilla Hull held in her house with such success. We thought it would be good to hold another sale but in Fairlynch on Saturday morning 28 June.

Of course to make it a success we need BOOKS! In good condition please. And CDs and DVDs. We shall also need helpers, beforehand, on the day and afterwards, and to collect books and – if anyone has space? – to store the many we hope to receive. Fairlynch opens on Sunday 6 April and books etc can be left there from that date.

Friends! This is your chance to make the day a resounding success! Start searching your book-shelves now for those books you haven't looked at for ages and can bear to part with and set them aside for Fairlynch. Tell your friends too.

Thank you all and look forward to seeing you on the day.

Ann Hack (446429)

An evolving landscape: a joint Winter Talk



Both Fairlynch Museum and the Otter Valley Association are concerned with the history and geography of the same area. Jointly presented by the two groups, a talk by a couple of experts about how people and economic activities over the centuries have produced today's landscape seemed to be a sensible idea. Indeed the morning event on Saturday 15 February attracted a large audience of interested local residents.

David Daniel is well known both as a speaker and as a local resident with strong roots in the area. He gave a masterly sketch of the varying importance of different industries in the Lower Otter Valley from earliest times. Salt-making, fishing, lace-making, agriculture, the wool trade, shipping and smuggling all featured. A comparison between Budleigh Salterton and the rest of the Valley emphasised the growth of domestic service and hotels in the town, reaching a high point in the early 20th century: Budleigh Salterton, concluded David, should be noted for its Edwardian rather than for its Victorian landscape features.

Dr Sam Bridgewater is the recently appointed Conservation Manager for the Pebblebed Heaths, administered by Clinton Devon Estates. As a trained botanist he has a special interest in features of the local landscape which have encouraged special forms of wildlife such as the Silver-Spotted Blue butterfly, seen above, and the Dartford Warbler, for which the area is noted. However he referred to developments of a very different character such as the military camp on Woodbury Common which during World War Two had a population of 2,000. The flood maps which he used to illustrate his talk gave an insight into how the River Otter might one day revert to its natural course rather than be kept in bounds artificially as it has been. But no clear answer was given concerning possible pollution from the disused refuse tip which might occur as a result of such a development.

A date for the diary

The next jointly presented talk by Fairlynch and OVA will be given by the former Budleigh resident Meg Peacocke on Monday 13 October at 7.30 pm. It will be based on her memories of the town during World War Two. As a published poet and sister of the late Sir Richard Rodney Bennett, Meg should prove to be an interesting speaker for a wide range of listeners.

Honouring the participants of World War 1



Men of the Royal Army Medical Corps parade on Station Road, Budleigh Salterton, in 1914

Fairlynch Museum's Local History Group write:

In our Exhibition this year we are honouring those whose sacrifice is recorded on the war memorials of the Lower Otter Valley: Newton Poppleford, Colaton Raleigh, Otterton, East Budleigh and Budleigh Salterton. We also pay tribute to those who returned home, and to many who just had a connection to one of the villages because their next of kin lived in the area.

We are trying to give some impression of what was happening in this immediate area and also, from letters written at the front, what life was like away at war.

We already had several artefacts in our collection: medals, shoes, toys, books and clothes of the period, but we have been lucky to have, donated or on loan, a Devonshire Regimental brooch, service records, photographs and letters that have been very useful in putting this exhibition together.

A great deal of new research has been done by the Group, and others, using online family history and military websites to enhance their already large collection of local records. Minutes of local Tradesmen's Associations, the East Devon Golf Club, Budleigh Salterton Football Club and other sources have contributed to the information collected for this Exhibition. We have also been fortunate in that several people have been willing to talk to us about their families' activities during 1914—1918.

Did you know that Budleigh had a VAD Hospital, and a Convalescent Home? Please come along to see the Exhibition. We hope you won't be disappointed.



Right: Colonel Christopher Pepys DSO, OBE, MC, whose family lived at Knowle in the parish of East Budleigh, was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in the attack on the left bank of the Piave in Northern Italy on 27 October, 1918.

Left: Budleigh writer and artist Joyce Dennys designed this celebrated wartime recruitment poster for Voluntary Aid Detachment nurses.

Below right: Newton Poppleford War Memorial

Should you have any information on the life and families, in or around Budleigh Salterton and the Lower Otter Valley, at that time we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Please contact: Margaret tel: 01395 443769 Email: mbrett@aultbe.co.uk or Sheila tel: 01395 443197 Email: sheila@sheilajelley.co.uk

Can anyone one please help with information about a W. Mutters?

We are delighted to report that our Exhibition has been awarded £6,300 by the Heritage Lottery Fund.



HLF's £6,300 for Museum's WW1 centenary project

This substantial award has been made through the Heritage Lottery Fund's 'First World War: then and now programme.' The project will enable local people to preserve the memories and heritage of those who lived through the 1914-18 era. Volunteers will collect memorabilia, as well as family tales passed down, to help them build a clear picture of what life was really like. The information gathered will be exhibited in the Museum, digitally recorded and an on-line accessible archive

will be created. Commenting on the award, Chairman Roger Sherriff said: "We are thrilled to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund for this project and will be working with schools and community groups to mark this important centenary in this area."



A Stitch in time for the Centenary



The Heritage Lottery Fund award includes an opportunity for creative embroidery. The idea supported by HLF is to invite members of the community and visitors to Fairlynch to contribute to an embroidery project on 'puttees' – these are the woollen strips of material worn by soldiers in the trenches, wound around their lower legs. In wartime emergencies, puttees were used to make improvised dressings (perhaps padded with sphagnum moss collected and bagged on Woodbury Common).

The HLF project would see embroidered puttees being displayed at the Museum or in local shops.

A number of suggestions have been made for images or words that could be embroidered: names from the Rolls of Honour, images of flowers, texts from poems, images of prized objects or loved ones, or, for instance, images of weapons, a map of the Maginot Line. There are lots of interesting examples of the use of embroidery in contemporary art. A forthcoming exhibition at the Thelma Hulbert Gallery in Honiton www.thelmahulbert.com shows the work of Jenni Dutton, an artist from Somerset, on a theme of 'Recollection'. Seen above is her 'Mum with red scarf', a piece of embroidery in which thread has been cleverly used as a symbol in relation to memory loss. If you would like to join this project and embroider a puttee, please contact Lyn Cooke or Martyn Brown on 01395 445171 or lyncooke50@btinternet.com or martynbrown55@yahoo.com Not all museums are from the same mould

Unlike national institutions such as the V&A, pictured here, volunteer-run museums like Fairlynch operate on a relative shoestring, frequently running at a loss because of the cost of maintenance both of the building and of the environmental conditions needed to conserve artefacts. Mould grows on organic materials when the relative humidity remains above 65% for any length of time. It can stain and disfigure artefacts and even penetrate the structure of an object. On the advice of RAMM Conservation Development officer Helena Jaeschke the Museum now has three Mitsubishi dehumidifiers thanks to a grant of £950 from the Lady Neville Charity administered by the Skinners' Company. The dehumidifiers will play an important role in our conservation strategy.





"Conservation in museums is a complex issue," says Fairlynch Trustee Trevor Waddington, seen left, a retired Royal Navy engineer officer who has run a clock conservationrestoration business since 1995. "A satisfactory temperature for humans is not the same for exhibits."

The Skinners' Company Lady Neville Charity aims to provide grants for charitable organisations working in areas including local heritage projects. So thanks to technology,

to alert volunteers and to generous support from institutions like the Skinners' Company our Museum is making sure that its treasures will remain in good condition and be enjoyed by visitors for generations to come. Average readings of temperature and relative humidity (RH) in the Exhibition Room for the period 25 November 2013 to 7 Jan 2014 were 16.7 degrees C (target band 10-21deg). RH was 57.1% (target band 40-65%).

"This is encouraging," Trevor commented. "I think heating levels are being kept lower than in the past with thermostatic radiator valves at lower settings. This should result in reduced gas consumption. The readings also show that the dehumidifiers are working well."

The dehumidifiers will bear the logo of the Skinners' Company, above right



Female Fashion in the 1920s



That's the title of the 2014 Costume exhibition. Costumes curator **Iris Ansell** outlines some of the features which characterized the 'flapper' and the 'Bright Young Things' in the period which followed the Great War.

Fashion is not just the whim of a few designers, who decide what will be worn the following year, but reflects social customs and technical changes.

The decline in class distinction, so very marked since the end of the Great War 1914-18, meant that fashion was now for the millions and not the hundreds.



Technical changes were introduced with the rise of British and American designers. Where once everything came from France, the British creation of 'tailor made' garments marked the beginning of the French decline.

After the Great War Britain was a very sombre place. The many casualties inflicted, and the loss of so many young men, and those returning unable to find work, had an effect on the postwar years. The early Twenties reflected this.

Skirts however were shorter, mainly because women had been doing men's work during the War.

The general feeling in the Twenties was one of youth in a new world, believing that no wars would ever again be fought.

Among the main features, apart from skirt length, was the dropped waist for dresses as well as for outdoor wear.

Artificial silk for dresses was widely used; gone were a lot of the heavy fabrics previously used.

Underwear was also silk and light, typified by the arrival of the cami-knickers. A youthful boyish figure was the one to attain. Gone were the curves of the Edwardians with their boned corsets; in fact if one were slim enough corsets were done away with altogether, except for a corset that pulled one in and flattened the bust, all to achieve a boy's figure, as in this early 1920s photo of actress Norma Talmadge.

Likewise the clothes took on a mannish look, with trousers and shirts and ties. Bobbed hair completed the look.

In the Mid-Twenties clothes were becoming scanty; in fact the mannequins of the day were referred to by one commentator as "enchanting, sexless, bosomless, hipless, thighless creatures." But these extremes in fashion belonged to the glamour dresses and dance frocks.

The day outfits, especially the 'tailor-mades' presented a more practical, almost a severe note: in fact the day costume looked almost ten years the senior.

The result was to heighten the youthful appearance of the wearer, when dressed for the evening: the days of the 'Bright young thing' had arrived.



Bright colours, and light fabrics were used for evening, day clothes were a little more sombre in colour.

Long ropes of pearls or beads, worn day or night, were popular, along with hair jewellery.

The 'slave bangle', a bangle worn above the elbow, made its appearance in the late twenties. Cloche hats covered most of the hair with 'kiss' curls showing.



Hair was bobbed and 'Marcel waved' using tongs the style was named after François Marcel, the 19th century French hairdresser who invented the process in 1872. The 'Eton crop', seen left, was a style so short that very few could carry it off successfully.

Large Spanish embroidered shawls with long fringes were worn as evening wraps and little neck scarves for daytime.

Fans were enormous, for evening only, usually of ostrich feathers, but were gradually to die out. Stockings were either lisle - a type of cotton fabric - or artificial silk and wool mix, dark colours for day and very pale for evening.

Shoes had medium 'Louis' or curved heels in patent leathers or calf leathers, silk or beaded for evening. Handbags were small and beaded for evening.

Eyebrows were plucked and new ones painted on, and lipstick was bright red. And a craze for exotic perfumes from France such as those by Coco Chanel was in vogue.

These fashions were part of a general trend which varied from year to year, but towards the end of the Twenties with the arrival of the great Depression and storm clouds looming over Europe once again, fashion quietened down.

Waists started to appear again along with bosoms. Skirts remained short, along with short hair.

The Twenties stood for 'Great Gatsby' years, Art Deco, working women and fun.

The 1930s brought a more sombre approach: the 'Bright Young Thing' had grown up.



Lace comes home to Budleigh



We've all heard of Honiton lace. But of course it wasn't all made in Honiton. The term was used to describe a craft which became famous due to the ornate sprigs and complex patterns which were created separately and then sewn into the part of the lace piece known as net or grounds.

In past centuries many women in East Devon villages like Otterton and East Budleigh found that lacemaking provided an important source of income. By 1841 at least 240 of them in Otterton were engaged in the delicate work. A Mr and Mrs Lawrence opened a lace shop in Otterton in 1823, and another later in Sidmouth. By the end of the 19th century there were 230 lacemakers in East Budleigh alone.

Left: Georgina Beare with a special wedding bouquet

For many people both in Britain and in America lacemaking continues to be a fascinating hobby. A locally made piece has now found its way back across the Atlantic.

"Last year we received a donation of mainly Honiton Lace made by a former resident of Armitage Road in Budleigh Salterton at about the time that Fairlynch opened in the late 1960s," explained Fairlynch Museum lace expert Margaret Williams. The lacemaker, a Miss Winifred Vincent, pictured right, gave the lace to her niece Georgina Beare who lived in the USA. Many years passed. Georgina always remembered where the lace had been made and knew of Fairlynch Museum's fine collection. "As she no longer had room to display it at home she kindly offered to bring her aunt's lace to Budleigh



when she visited the UK as she thought it rightfully belonged here, in the Museum," said Margaret Williams. "Among the items is a beautiful piece that Mrs Beare used in her wedding bouquet when she married in the late 60s."

The lace will be on show in the Lace Room at Fairlynch this year, from Sunday 6 April at 2.00 pm when the Museum re-opens.

What on earth do Friends of Fairlynch get up to in their spare time?



Friend of Fairlynch and children's author Jan Oke was one of about a dozen volunteers involved in the High Peak archaeological dig near the coast path between Sidmouth and Budleigh Salterton. Being a member of the Devon Archaeological Society, she responded to an advertisement in its newsletter and found

herself working alongside professional archaeologists in a group of half a dozen volunteers keen to gain experience of digging into thousands of years of history. The hill camp was first occupied in the Neolithic Period between 6,000 and 4,000 years ago. The site had been previously excavated in the 1960s when a jadeite axe head had been found.

Photo credit: Sue Dymond

The 91st Stewards' Meeting at Fairlynch

New stewards were welcomed at the meeting. Chairman Roger Sherriff explained new developments at the Museum, stewards' issues were discussed and there were preview of this year's exhibitions. "Very impressed by the Priscilla Carter Room", "looking forward to an exciting year at Fairlynch" and "so nice to see the children at work on the Museum quiz" were just some of the comments made by stewards. Contact Henriette Feltham (446761) for information on how to join them.

Are you reading this newsletter in black and white?

I can tell you that it looks much better in colour!

Just email the Editor mr.downes@gmail.com and ask to receive it online, if only to see if I'm right. You won't be disappointed. You may well decide that you prefer to receive all future copies online.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 3 April 2014 Exhibitions Preview.

All Friends of Fairlynch are invited to come and enjoy a glass of wine at the Preview of this year's exhibitions on Thursday 3 April between 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm. Sunday 6 April 2.00 pm Museum re-opens, including Saturdays! (Closed on Mondays) Monday 19 May 7.00 pm Fairlynch Museum AGM in the Peter Hall.

President Joy Gawne

Fairlynch Trustees

Chairman Roger Sherriff E: rogerfairlynch@gmail.com Secretary Michael Downes 01395 446407 E: mr.downes@gmail.com Treasurer Nick Speare 01395 443944

Angie Harlock 01395 567316 Lesley Roden 01395 443482 Glenn Sismore-Hunt 01395 446452 Trevor Waddington OBE 01395 443978

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