



THE SALTY TIMES

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NEWS FROM FAIRLYNCH MUSEUM'S LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



Editorial: Cricketing, the art of Joyce Dennys, Sir Walter Raleigh, slavery, Huguenots, the Railway, Reg Varney... Just some of the items that have turned up recently on the Local History desk. Whoever said museums were boring? Some of these subjects may be discussed in our first serious meeting at 10.00am on Friday 23 October at Fairlynch.



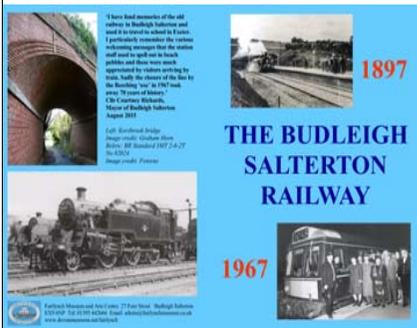
PUPILS' RAIL LIFE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

A group of nearly 70 children from St Peter's C of E Primary School toured Fairlynch on Wednesday 7 October. The theme of the visit was 'Changes within living memory.'

Yettington residents Colin Yeats and Roy Letten were on hand in the ground floor Exhibition Room to tell the pupils about rail travel in past times. Both Colin and Roy worked on the Budleigh branch line railway until it was closed in 1967.

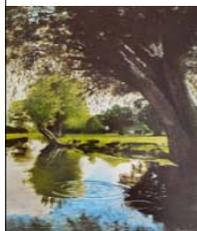
The visit almost coincided with the launch of a new edition in colour of the Museum's best-selling title *The Budleigh Salterton Railway*.

Memories of the railway are still cherished by local residents, and could be part of a revitalised display in two years' time to mark the half century since its closure.



CENTENARY TRIBUTE TO 'OUR LITTLE CLOWN'

Former Budleigh resident and entertainer Reg Varney spent many happy years in retirement in Budleigh, and is still remembered with affection both by locals and by his thousands of fans world-wide. His daughter has agreed to lend items from an extensive collection of memorabilia for display next year. Born in 1916, Reg Varney suffered from a congenital heart defect, and the exhibition, staged in association with the British Heart Foundation, will include some of Reg's paintings, one of which is seen here; he was a talented artist.



Monday 11 July, his birthday, will be marked by a special event. Naturally it's hoped that this will involve a vintage bus. Robert Crawley, Colaton Raleigh resident and Chairman of the West Country Historic Omnibus And Transport Trust, is advising us.



A REFUGEE'S TALE FROM THREE CENTURIES AGO

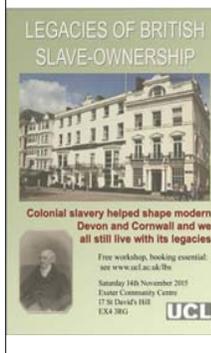
Vicar's Mead in East Budleigh was once home to a Frenchman. Daniel Caunières, a Huguenot forced to flee from Louis XIV's France, was vicar of All Saints Church from 1689 to 1702. It's a fascinating story, noted by Dr T.N. Brushfield in 1894, and deserves further investigation.



CATCHING SOME FISHY STORIES

Group member Nick Loman is looking forward to seeing the history of fishing in Budleigh displayed at the Museum.

This photo is one of many in Nick's collection which will be used to explain to visitors the importance of a once-flourishing local industry.



FROM SLAVERY TO SPONGES

This poster, displayed on the Museum's new noticeboard, prompted some more research into local families associated with slavery, following Dr Roger Lendon's publications on the subject in Ovapeda <http://www.ovapedia.org.uk/ovapeda>

An early start was made by former Group member Sheila Jelley. She drew attention to Budleigh resident John Campbell (1766-1841). It seems that Campbell was the benefactor who helped the young Henry John Carter and future FRS to gain the education which allowed him to become Budleigh's most eminent scientist.