



## Bringing local history to life

### From the editor



Pupils approach St Michael's Mount at the Cornwall book launch  
Photography by Jamie-Lee Jenkin and Rebecca Nappin

We have lots of news from our Learning Programme in this issue, including articles on our outreach project in Cornwall and our schools project in Herefordshire. We've also provided an overview of our important architectural and archaeological projects. Look out for more in-depth items in future editions. We have updates from across the counties, including the exciting news that our third paperback, *Bristol: Ethnic Minorities and the City 1000-2001* has now been published. Best wishes for 2008!

### From the project manager

At over half way through the project, we're reflecting on what we've achieved and learnt so far. The county planning meetings are part of this process and have been a good chance to catch up with progress.

We now have a series of three books published by Phillimore, with two more in press and six to follow in the new year. To improve our editing service, VCH and EPE publications have been combined under the management of Kerry Whitston, assisted by Jessica Porter.

The Learning Forum in November highlighted two more schools projects, for which you'll see the resources on the web in the new year, with much credit due to Aretha. Our first outreach activities took place in Cornwall when the University of the Third Age participated in an arts project. I've just returned from Exmoor's fascinating Archaeology Forum organised by Rob Wilson-North of the National Park. A series of excellent papers began with Mary Siraut from Somerset

VCH, who is completing the Exmoor book. Our Exmoor volunteer project culminated in the detailed recording and analysis of four historic farmsteads, showing best practice in historic conservation.

Without the dedication of volunteers and staff, none of this would have been possible. Over the year, we've said good bye to a number of colleagues, and now extend our thanks to Stephen Lubell from the central office and Jayne Kirk and Maurice Howard in Sussex. Welcome to Sandra Dunster who has replaced Andrew Hann in Kent.

We've only got two years left! Priorities for the coming year include closer working with VCH colleagues, setting up new projects, and developing the websites to ensure the sustainability of EPE.

Enjoy the Christmas break.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Explore website. See the new material on [www.ExploreEnglandsPast.org.uk](http://www.ExploreEnglandsPast.org.uk) and let us know what you think.

### In this issue

#### page one

From the editor

From the project manager  
*update from Catherine Cavanagh*

#### page two

Kent volunteer celebration event  
*presentations and exhibition of volunteer work*

New team members  
*introducing Jessica Porter and Sarah Bedell*

Cornwall book launch

*Bishop of Truro leads pilgrimage*

#### page three

Bristol paperback now published  
*an update from the Bristol Team Leaders*

Exmoor archaeology forum

*EPE research highlighted*

News from the VCH

*an update*

'Learning outside the classroom'

*how EPE got involved*

#### page four

Meet the team

*Aretha George, Education & Skills Manager*

Leadbury school project

*learning about Tudor life*

Cornwall outreach project

*working with Penlee House*

#### page five

EPE and the historic built environment

*our architectural projects*

Learning Forum 2007

*sharing our successes*

Sussex snippet

*volunteer research revealed*

#### page six

Oxfordshire update

*update from the Oxon Team Leader*

Volunteer case study

*Eira Makepeace, Bristol*



## Kent volunteer celebration event

Guests browse the volunteer exhibition



On Saturday 27 October over 60 people gathered at the University of Greenwich's Medway campus to celebrate the success of the Kent volunteer programme. This was an opportunity to mark the end of the current project, 'People and work in the Lower Medway Valley, 1750-1914', and for departing Team Leader, Dr Andrew Hann, to thank the volunteers for their support over the past two years. It also proved the ideal occasion for him to pass on the baton to his successor, Dr Sandra Dunster, who will be working on a second project, focusing on the history of the Medway towns.

After an introduction from Dr John Dunne, Head of History at Greenwich, Andrew Hann spoke about the positive outcomes of the EPE Kent project. As well as generating publicity for the VCH in Kent and producing an impressive amount of research, the project has brought together a dedicated group of volunteers, whose contribution has been crucial to the success of the venture.

Three of the volunteers then spoke about their involvement in the project. This included a presentation from Linda Brinklow on her research at the newspaper collections at Maidstone Library and a talk from Roger Smoothy about his work producing photographs from 100 year old negatives found at Halling School. Dr Andrew Ashbee spoke about his work as co-ordinator of the census group and about his involvement with the village survey in Snodland.

Architectural consultants John Vigar and Dr John Newman then said a few words about the village survey work they had supervised. John Vigar noted the important role the volunteers had played in both fieldwork and follow-up work in the archives. Finally, Sandra Dunster spoke about her new project, encouraging all present to get involved.

The event closed with a wine reception laid on by the University of Greenwich, allowing everyone the chance to mingle and view the exhibition of project work.

## Cornwall book launch

The Bishop of Truro leads the pilgrims across the causeway



The Right Revd William In d, the Bishop of Truro, launched the first of our Cornwall paperbacks at an event at St Michael's Mount and the Folly Field, Marazion, on Saturday 29 September.

The day began with pupils from Camborne Science and Community College, who have been involved in the EPE school project, retracing the footsteps of medieval pilgrims from Ludgvan Church to St Michael's Mount where they had lunch before complet-

## New team members

### PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Jessica Porter has joined us as Production Assistant, providing support to our Publication Manager, Kerry Whitston, across both VCH and EPE publications.

Jessica has been working in education since 2006 and previously trained to be a teacher. She is a Classics graduate and is studying for an MA in History. In her spare time she plays violin for Barnet Symphony Orchestra.

### EVALUATOR

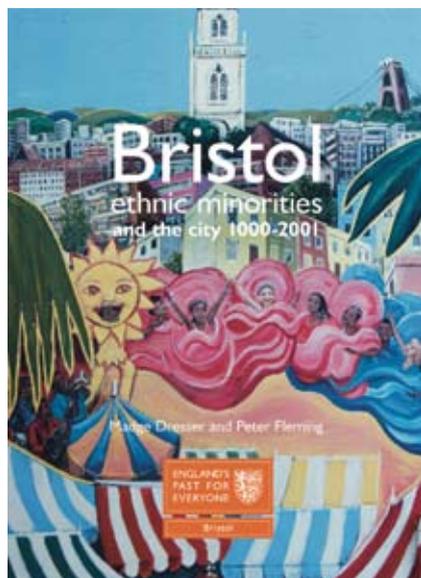
Sarah Bedell has been appointed as the evaluator for the EPE Learning Programme. Sarah's role will include planning an evaluation framework and strategy for the learning programme, with reference to the current systems in place. She will also support EPE with continuous evaluation and make recommendations for future VCH work, using models developed through EPE.

Sarah's five steps will be to agree the key aims and objectives for the learning programme; create a framework to support individual projects; collect and collate the outcomes of the individual projects; analyse the results; and to report on the results and outcomes.

A review report of completed projects will be available from early 2008. Sarah is a resource for our projects, so if you are working on the EPE learning programme, please feel free to provide feedback to her by emailing [sarah@krazykat.org.uk](mailto:sarah@krazykat.org.uk)

ing a treasure hunt. Just after 3pm not one, but two Bishops, accompanied by other clergy and honoured guests, including the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Lady Mary Holborow, the Mayor of Marazion, Councillor Britten and Lord St Levan, lead the pilgrims back across the causeway to Folly Field, Marazion, where Bishop Bill well and truly launched the book. It was a fantastic event: the sun shone throughout the day, the sea was calm and lots of books were sold!

## Bristol paperback now published by Madge Dresser & Peter Fleming, Team Leaders



The Bristol book cover

We are pleased to say that our paperback, *Bristol: Ethnic Minorities and the City 1000-2001* has now been published and will be formally launched at Bristol's beautifully refurbished Old Council House on 12 March 2008.

After all the research by ourselves, Edson Burton, Joe Hillaby and Forward Maisokwadzo, and our volunteers, and the sterling work done by EPE's editorial team, it is good to be able to share the results. We are beginning to give talks about our research and the interest it is generating is palpable. This week, for example, we enjoyed an enthusiastic response from an audience of 120 sixth formers at Bristol's Queen

Elizabeth Hospital, whose school was actually built on the site of Bristol's medieval Jewish cemetery. A number of educational and outreach projects concerned with ethnicity and the city's past have contacted us to learn more about our research and, as academic advisors to the new Museum of Bristol, we see much potential for further sharing our findings with the public. Having worked closely with English Heritage photographer James O Davies, we were thrilled to learn that his photograph of the Imam at one of Bristol's earliest mosques was recently short listed in a competition run by the National Portrait Gallery in London and is currently on display there.

## Exmoor Archaeology Forum

On Saturday 1 December 2007 the 7th Exmoor Archaeology Forum drew 130 guests to the recently restored barn near Dunster church.

After a welcome from Rob Wilson-North, Dr Nigel Stone of Exmoor National Park Authority gave an introduction. Michael Pitt then treated us to an account of the successful restoration of the barn as a valued and much-used community hall.

Mary Siraut gave an illustrated talk on aspects of Exmoor settlements including short-lived Landcombe farm, Molland and the Buckingham family. John Thorpe then provided an overview of the four farmsteads he had surveyed for the EPE Exmoor project. In particular he discussed the investment in farming in the mid 19th century and the later change and adaptation of those buildings.

Isabel Richardson then gave a talk on the National Trust farm buildings on Exmoor.

After coffee and cakes the keynote speaker was Ian Constantinides, director of St. Blaise Limited, a company set up 25 years ago specialising in the repair of historic buildings, who gave a very entertaining and thought provoking talk entitled 'Conservation - why bother?'

In the afternoon we had a number of short talks on the impact of development of historic buildings by Jonathan Rhind, the landscape setting of historic buildings by Caroline Garrett and the history and restoration of the roof of Dunster castle by William Wake, Stephen Bond, and Mike Heaton.

After tea and more cakes the company reluctantly dispersed.

## News from the VCH

On 31 October over 100 guests gathered at the Royal College of Surgeons to attend our annual Marc Fitch lecture, this year given by Professor Linda Colley. A most enjoyable lecture was followed by the chance to view the exhibits in the College's Hunterian Museum. This was not for the squeamish, particularly on Halloween!

In February we will be celebrating 75 years of the VCH at the Institute of Historical Research. An evening reception, special seminar series and celebratory book are planned.

Our thanks to Madge Dresser and Robin Studd who retired from the VCH National Committee this year. We welcome new members, Professor Hicks, Dr. Angus Winchester and Dr. Julian Munby.

## Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto

Aretha was recently asked to be a representative of the Heritage Sector Partnership for the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto.

The Manifesto was launched in November 2006. It brings together a coalition of more than 500 organisations, including local government and private and voluntary sectors, with the aim of providing every young person

with a wide range of high quality learning experiences, outside the classroom.

There are eight 'sector partners' including Heritage. The Heritage Sector Partnership has an active role to push forward and advise on the manifesto guidelines and packages.

The England's Past for Everyone schools programme offers good examples of

how pupils at Key Stages 1 – 3 can benefit from exploring their local history outside of the classroom, and in partnership with Heritage organisations. The Manifesto is being supported by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

For more information please visit [www.teachernet.gov.uk/learningoutsidetheclassroom](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/learningoutsidetheclassroom)



## Ledbury school project

As part of our Herefordshire school project 80 Year Four pupils at Ledbury Primary School have been studying life in Tudor Ledbury.

Drawing on research provided by the EPE team and architectural expert Duncan James, educational consultant Carolyn Olney devised a series of activities looking at themes such as the experiences of rich and poor and the practicalities of building and furnishing Tudor homes.

The pupils spent an afternoon exploring the town, visiting the church to see the tomb of one of the wealthy families, and then visiting their grand house, now known as Ledbury Park. They viewed the wall paintings in what is now the Town Council office but in the later sixteenth century was the home of the Town Bailiff, Richard Skull. The pupils also visited the old grammar school, now the Heritage Centre, to examine the family tree of the Ferret family, farmers near Ledbury.

These outings were followed by a day of activities in school. The children, all dressed in Tudor costume, looked at original wills with the Senior Archivist from Herefordshire Record Office and then wrote their own wills using quill and ink. They also learnt about everyday life in Tudor Ledbury in an activity delivered by 'The History People' and had the chance to use wattle and daub.

The educational resources for this project will be made available on the EPE website in early 2008. Herefordshire Heritage Services intend to incorporate the activities into their regular programme of events for schools.



Pupils enjoying wattle and daub work

## Meet the team

### Aretha George - Education and Skills Manager



Aretha having fun at the Kent volunteer celebration!

I graduated from De Montfort University, Leicester, in 1997 with a BA (Hons) in Fine Art. I have spent over 10 years working across the arts, heritage and cultural sector, transferring and developing my skills as project manager, policy maker, fundraiser, curator and artist.

In September 2005 I joined EPE as Education and Skills Manager and, in 2007, successfully completed my MA in Arts Policy and Management.

My principle role is to manage the learning programme; volunteers,

schools and outreach. I am responsible for ensuring volunteer training and participation on every project; the delivery of schools projects working with pupils aged 5-14 to show how local history research can creatively be used across the curriculum; and spreading our message beyond our key audiences through creative outreach projects. This means juggling 28 projects all at different stages across the ten EPE counties. It is also my job to develop and deliver a five year strategy and an annual learning forum in London.

There have been far too many successes of the learning programme for me to pick out one or two. With the development of the School Learning Zone on the EPE website nearly completed and ready to host school resources, five school projects starting and four volunteer projects on their way, 2008 looks set to be another challenging and very exciting year!

## Cornwall outreach project



Tamsin and Rebecca preparing a stencil

Our Cornwall outreach project took place at Penlee House Gallery and Museum. Five participants from the University of the 3rd Age, Lands End & District took part in the project, designed and led by artist Tamsin Pender.

Artefacts from the Museum's collection were chosen to introduce themes based on the history of the area including language, fishing, trade, smuggling and art and craft, with an over-riding theme of light. These included an 18<sup>th</sup> century ceramic Chill lamp, used for burning

pilchard oil; and copper pilchard stencils, used to mark the tops of pilchard barrels for export. Participants used these artefacts to prompt stories and decorate copper foil match box covers and design and create their own copper stencils.

Once they had drafted their designs the group were able to choose colours to enhance their ideas. For example, one participant decided to make the sails of his lugger the deep rich brown which was particular to the local area. Another participant gave careful thought to the colours of the flame and the oil in her design, which was particularly successful in embodying the themes we had been considering.

We celebrated the end of the project with a group photograph outside in the sunshine. The group took their stencil designs home with them and it is hoped that a temporary exhibition will be shown at the Gallery in 2008.



## EPE and the historic built environment

An Exmoor reconstruction drawing by Keystone Consultants



The historic built environment plays a key role in the EPE programme. Architectural and archaeological consultants have been commissioned to provide reports for each project, which will feed into the EPE paperbacks, Explore website and schools materials. The process is managed by our Heritage Environment Research Manager, Matthew Bristow.

Eleven architecture projects have now been completed and, in four cases, edited into our paperback books. Consultants used include local buildings historians, specialist technical consultants and professional archaeological units.

In Derbyshire, Trent and Peak Archaeological Unit examined the buildings and landscape of the Bolsover colliery villages while, Wessex Archaeology, with assistance from heritage consultant Paul Drury, investigated Parham house for the Sussex project. Jayne Kirk, the Parham author was also able to make use of a geophysical survey, dendrochronological dating, a roof truss survey and a specialist to date the paneling in Parham's Long Gallery.

In some cases using a local expert was more appropriate. In Codford the Wiltshire Buildings Record worked with local historian Sally Thomson to produce a fully interpretive survey of the Woolstore. Andy Foyle produced a detailed gazetteer of places of worship in Bristol and a phased map of sites which informed the text in the Bristol paperback. Vernacular architecture expert Duncan James analyzed the major post-1600 timber-framed buildings in Ledbury and in County

Durham Peter Ryder produced surveys of the two major medieval churches and material on the 14<sup>th</sup> century castle of Hylton. In Cornwall, volume author Nicholas Orme reinterpreted a number of 19<sup>th</sup> century church plans, which were redrawn to indicate altar sites and phases of building and buildings consultants Eric Berry and Nick Cahill surveyed a merchant's house in Mousehole.

An important outcome of the architectural projects has been the links made with volunteers. For example, in Kent volunteers surveyed a number of villages involved in the cement industry, supervised by consultant John Vigar. This material was then turned into a chapter for the Kent paperback, by architectural historian John Newman. For the Burford project, Oxfordshire Building Record's David Clark acted as both Architectural Consultant and Volunteer Team Leader to produce an account of every building in Burford. This work helped form the tenement survey, which will be produced in the paperback and also appear on the Explore website. In Exmoor Keystone Historic Buildings Consultants used volunteer recording work as a basis for surveying four 19<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads in the National Park, producing survey material which has resulted in a series of English Heritage reconstruction paintings, showing how the farmsteads operated.

Reports received from the consultants have been of the highest quality and extremely relevant to other research carried out for the books. This experiment has been refined into a successful model which the VCH is keen to adopt more widely in future research.

## Learning Forum 2007

The third annual Learning Forum was held on Thursday 22 November at the Institute of Historical Research.

The forum provided an opportunity to showcase our school and volunteer projects to a wider audience, including representatives from government, museums and archives.

The morning session focused on the work of the volunteers, with presentations from Oxfordshire (Burford project) and Exmoor. Both highlighted the successes and challenges of the projects, as well as considering continuation issues.

Representatives from the Cornwall Religious Sites and Herefordshire school projects then spoke about their work. Afternoon discussion groups focused on heritage, continuation and evaluation.

The forum report will be available from the EPE website in the New Year.



Volunteer Heather Homer at the forum

## Sussex snippet

Victor Heal, the architect who restored Parham House from the 1920s, was something of a mystery until Lyndy Kessell, a volunteer on the project, tracked down his family. Lyndy has fed her findings into the project, including photographs provided by Heal's daughter Louise Bennett. Find out more on our Explore website.



Victor Heal in Home Guard uniform, 1940



## Oxfordshire Update by Simon Townley, Team Leader

Oxfordshire Team Researcher Antonia Catchpole chats to visitors at the Henley History Day



We continue to make exciting progress on both our projects, one focused on the Cotswold town of Burford and the other on Henley-on-Thames.

The Burford volunteer project officially ended in March, with a hugely enjoyable round-up day in the town. The Burford Probate Group shows no sign of letting that stand in its way, however, and looks

set to continue well into the future. Burford work is gradually being added to the EPE Explore website, and our EPE paperback (Buildings and People in a Cotswold Town) is about to go to press.

Over in Henley two small volunteer groups are looking at Henley wills and censuses. Tackling wills requires an intensive crash-course in 17<sup>th</sup> century

handwriting, which got off to an inspiring start with three sessions run by Mary Hodges (who set up the Burford group). Meanwhile EPE researchers Robert Peberdy and Antonia Catchpole are getting to grips with the source material, focusing for now on 17<sup>th</sup> century malting and Henley's medieval origins.

As always partnerships are crucial. In October we took part in a Henley History Day in Henley Library, organised with colleagues from Oxfordshire County Council's Heritage Services (to which the Oxfordshire VCH belongs). Over 400 visitors passed through the doors, and the morning saw an enthusiastic visit by local primary school children. A similar event in Burford is under discussion, which could showcase our EPE Burford work.

Last but not least, partners are now in place for the Oxfordshire EPE Education Project. Drawing on work from both Henley and Burford, we are working with Henley River & Rowing Museum and Mabel Prichard Special School in Oxford to deliver a project during 2008.

More on that in a future EPE News.

## Volunteer case study: Eira Makepeace, Bristol

Eira Makepeace, Bristol volunteer



I am retired and live in Bristol. I was the head of student affairs at the University of the West of England. I have since run a homeless students project and now run a preparatory workshop for graduates wishing to enter medical school.

I am very interested in family and social history and I have found a Bristol

connection to my Quaker ancestors. I like short-term projects but didn't want to join a society. Madge Dresser (Bristol Team Leader) introduced me to EPE and it looked really interesting.

EPE has given me a chance to become more familiar with the local record office and to read old newspapers. As an immigrant myself, I have been able to find out more about other emigrants to Bristol and about my adopted city. I have researched 18<sup>th</sup> century Welsh apprentices by looking at wills; and how race and ethnic origin were portrayed in Bristol newspapers in the 1960s and 1970s. I have brought diligent research and reading to the project and I have been able to suggest improved ways of working. There has been plenty of variety and it is always nice to meet new people.

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Please send all enquiries and newsletter contributions to [melanie.hackett@sas.ac.uk](mailto:melanie.hackett@sas.ac.uk)

