



## DAWLISH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

# Newsletter

July 2013

Website: [www.dawlishhistory.org.uk](http://www.dawlishhistory.org.uk)

*Dear Members,*

*I regret to advise that my computer failed totally a couple weeks ago. I was advised by a couple of people that they would receive the Newsletter by email. Unfortunately I do not have their email addresses; perhaps they can advise me again....*

*Our Newsletter is getting more expensive to circulate by mail now that the post office has raised charge. If you do not live in Dawlish you can view the newsletter on our website at [www.dawlishhistory.org.uk](http://www.dawlishhistory.org.uk), or if you wish your own copy please send your email address to me at [d.wain@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:d.wain@tiscali.co.uk). Those without computers will still have theirs sent by mail.*

*Members in the Dawlish area will have a copy posted through the front door. We have a new member to organise and circulate newsletters—Mavis Stuckey. A revised members list is being prepared and other members will help with the local delivery.*

*Our next outing will be to Ugbrooke House on 16th July at 2pm. If you wish to attend you will have to contact Tricia Whiteaway on 01626 866927 as soon as possible.*

*Regards,  
Derek Wain*

**Our next meeting will be on  
Tuesday 6th August, at The  
Manor House.**

**A talk on Torbay Life Boats  
by  
Alan Salisbury**

**at 2.30pm**

### Visit to Hacombe – 14<sup>th</sup> May

On a very wet Tuesday afternoon 10 members of our group met in the church at Hacombe – which is dedicated to St Blaise – the village no longer exists but the church still holds regular services. Sie Stephen de Hacombe built the church on his return from his 5<sup>th</sup> Crusade in 1233. The church continued through the female line who married into most of the nobility of Devon Lercedekne, Courtney and then Carew. Vice Admiral Sir George Carew was drowned on the Mary Rose – this is commemorated by a small wooden cross made from timber from the ship. There are horseshoes nailed to the south door to commemorate a wager between Carew and a Champernowne as to who could ride their horse furthest into the sea at Torquay – the winner Carew had the horseshoes nailed to the south door of the church.

Another feature of the church are 14<sup>th</sup> century floor tiles; there are 29 different designs all thought to have been made locally. Much of the church has had to be covered with sheeting due to the presence of bats also a tiny hole in the pulpit was the nest of a wren.

There was so much to see but the time had come to head towards Combeinteignhead where a friend of Tricia's had provided a fantastic cream tea plus chocolate cake and fruit cake (all home made); it helped us to forget the pouring rain and wind outside. It was a pity that Tricia who had done all the hard work organising the lifts etc; another thankyou to the drivers who got us there inspite of the weather.

*Mavis Stuckey*

### Those were the days !

It is always good to get information from visitors or former Dawlishians and just a few weeks ago a missive with photos of Dawlish from the 1950s and 60s arrived in the post. They were from Mr John Hartnell whose family have Daw Vale Creamery that many locals will remember was in Piermont Place. There was a Dawlish Gazette cutting of 1956 regarding the funeral of a local man, Mr William Homeyard as follows. "Photograph of the unique wreath - replica of the town-porter's barrow -



William Homeyard's wreath

at the funeral of the late Mr William Homeyard who was town porter right up to the day of his death, at the age of 78. He had endeared himself to many residents and the wreath, which was made by Mr A W Hartnell of the Daw Vale Creamery, at a nominal cost, was the idea of Mr A. W. Harrison. The inscription reads: "To the memory of a grand old character, from all his friends at the Grant Hotel." The wreath was 4ft 6ins in length and had the town porter's cap resting on the top. Report of the funeral is on page three. It is unlikely that another porter will be appointed."

Although the cutting said he was 78, however on further research it was discovered he was only 62 and that his name was actually James W Homeyard and that he had been born in Crediton. At the age of 7 he was boarding with his widowed father in that town, then ten years later he was working as a cattleman at Shobbrook Farm, Crediton. It is not known when he came to Dawlish but whenever that was it seems he offered his services to the town with his hand-cart becoming a local character, and in recompense the town gave him a grand send-off.

### A Labourer's Tale

Among the many papers given to us by the Museum is a photocopy of an original document that has nothing to do with Dawlish. It does, however, have connections with a village in which I lived for a number of years - Combeinteignhead, some five miles away miles away. It is an examination dated 15 February 1772, of a man who was not born in this village but wanted to live here, and should he need benefits, then they would decide who should pay. It shows Ills life, his travails and travels.

His name was Philip Bond who had been born around 1750 in Down St Mary (20 miles north of Exeter) and who was apprenticed at a young age (9?) to Mary Wreford of that village until he was 12 when she died. He was then taken up by the new tenant William Roach and stayed five years "for his meat, drink and cloathing". From there he went to Chudleigh but worked only one week before going to Highweek and lived with Mr Hayward for a month, after which he went to Tormoham (Torquay) with Gregory Adams for six weeks.

He then went to Combeinteignhead and worked for Thomas Gasking a farmer as weekly servant for one month and then went to Ashcombe "and made a bargain with James Lacey for a year at one shilling and eight-pence (8p) per week and he served a year, then made another bargain for another year at one shilling and nine-pence, serving nine months before separating from his master by consent." He went back to Combeinteignhead to work for Francis Hamlyn, farmer, for one month for one shilling and sixpence, then in July 1769 he made another agreement with Hamlyn for one year at five pounds a year (just under 2s a week) which he lived under until January 1770 then with the consent of his master signed to sail to Newfoundland for one shilling and sixpence a week until 7<sup>th</sup> April 1770 when he sailed for Newfoundland and he continued in that trade for two seasons.

He signed this document with a mark (a simple scratch not even an X) along with the justice of the peace, William Kitson, JP whose descendants have kept the career of solicitors in South Devon ever since. Thomas Gasking farmed the neighbouring land near to the house where I lived in the 1960/70s.

This document shows that labourers were not tied to a vil-

lage, did move around and had a degree of decision however lowly. As an apprentice he was given food and clothing and a roof over his head for the hard life of a farm labourer, then he received wages whilst probably living at the farm, although he could not get far on it, yet many families lived on a similar wage. The villages around the port of Teignmouth provided fishermen for the increasing trade with Newfoundland and Philip Bond spent a couple of seasons there before returning to Combeinteignhead to marry in 1771- and probably continued to live and work there. Was Farmer Bond of Westborough Farm in Combeinteignhead in the 19<sup>th</sup> century one of his descendant?

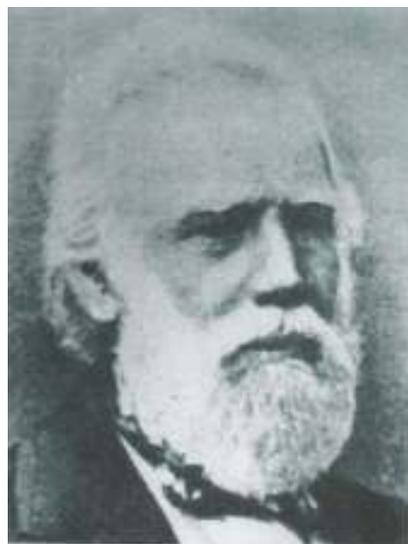
By Tricia Whiteaway

### South Australia

I received an email recently from a person who is a member of South Australia Museum. He was requesting a copy of 'More Dawlish Folk' however I sent him the chapter re George Fife Angas (below), a person who went to South Australia to help develop the area back in the 1850s.

George F Angas was born in 1879 in Newcastle came to Dawlish in 1832 with wife and two sons. He was involved in founding the National Provincial Bank in 1833. They lived in Park House in Priory Road off Strand Hill. They only stayed until 1839 when George F returned to London with his family.

The two sons were sent off to South Australia to manage the father's investments. In 1851 George Fife arrived, with his wife, in South Australia to find that his son had built a



substantial home for him called Lindsay House near the settlement which became known as Angaston.

A few years later in 1866 George resigned from legislature for health problems. His wife Rosetta died a year later and then in 1879, two weeks after his 90th birthday George died and was buried in Angaston.

The person in the Australia Museum hopes to write a biography of George French Angas, his son, who was an artist and naturalist. The book 'More Dawlish Folk' claims that there is more information in DLHG records. Just hope I can find it!

Derek Wain