

Thursday 3rd October 2019 at 7pm

Haytor Granite, A Celebration

An illustrated talk by Stuart Drabble,

The Haytor Granite Railroad on Dartmoor opened in 1820 and paved the way for the commercial extraction of the stone. To celebrate the bicentenary of this achievement, Stuart Drabble will discuss the history of the Haytor granite industry on the moor, and the people who ran it; given that the quarries were worked by several individuals and business organisations, intermittently, for a little over one hundred years, before falling silent for the last time in 1921. Stuart will also identify and illustrate some of the buildings and structures which were built with supplies of Haytor granite. This latter point is particularly welcome, being sadly lacking in previous accounts of Haytor granite working.

Stuart Drabble lives in retirement in South Devon with his wife and two dogs, and has been the founding Secretary of the Stover Historic Landscape Trust since 2012. He has a passion for heritage buildings and estates of the Georgian and Victorian periods. Stuart graduated in Building Technology from the University of Manchester in 1967 and shortly after became a Chartered Builder. After working in construction, private practice and in two County Architects Departments, he became Business Manager at Stowe, near Buckingham in 1984 and re-directed his career into estate management, finance and administration. Stuart's published papers include 'Templer & Parlby – Eighteenth Century Engineering contractors' and 'Stover Park in the Great War'.

Tickets £5 each

or £15 to attend all 3 lectures remaining in 2019

To purchase tickets please contact Abi Gray on 01548 830832 or
office@dra.uk.net.

Payment may be made in cash, by cheque payable to 'The Fenwick Charitable Trust', or by card over the telephone and using our online terminal. When requesting tickets via email, please include your name, your telephone number and the number of tickets you require. You will receive a unique link to the online payment terminal to submit your details.

All lectures are held in the lecture room of the DRA, in the grounds of Shilstone House near Modbury. The car park is accessible from 6:30pm, when doors open, and free refreshments are available in the exhibition gallery. There is ample free parking, and blue badge holders can pre-book a space near the building.

Tuesday 22nd October 2019 at 2pm

Guided Tour of Shilstone House

Led by resident archaeologist **Abi Gray**

Nestled amidst the rolling hills of the South Hams countryside is Shilstone House, a family home with a remarkable and extensive history. The site, in the parish of Modbury in South Devon, contains an array of architectural and archaeological features representing almost 6000 years of human endeavour. At the heart of the site is Shilstone House, a former Domesday manor which overlays evidence of late prehistoric occupation. Formal gardens surround the dwelling and include lawns, terraces and a medieval walled garden as well as the only known seventeenth century Italianate water theatre and associated water gardens in the UK making the site nationally important.

This guided tour of Shilstone House and grounds will last approximately one hour and thirty minutes and will be followed by tea and cakes at the Devon Rural Archive. Guests will explore the history of the site through its surviving archaeology and rare architectural features before seeing the results of a near fifteen year project to restore the house. There will also be a chance to view artefacts from the site in the exhibition gallery.

Tickets are £15 (includes a tea and cakes) and booking is essential.

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Thursday 7th November 2019 at 7pm

The Vikings in the South West

An illustrated talk by **Derek Gore**,

There is little doubt that seaborne warriors from Scandinavia penetrated the West Country in the later Anglo-Saxon period, since contemporary written accounts tell us so. They raided for silver, gold and slaves. They demanded ransoms and tribute and some of their leaders had political ambitions, and wanted power in England. Vikings were also traders, craftspeople and settlers who mingled with the existing population and became indistinguishable from them. Their cosmopolitan outlook and their far-flung contacts influenced art in stone and metal, and their language and culture were also highly influential. In this illustrated talk Derek Gore will discuss the evidence for their influence and activity in the South West.

Derek Gore is an Honorary Fellow of the University of Exeter, having retired from the Department of Archaeology in 2010. While there he specialised in teaching the Viking Age in the British Isles and Europe, and also taught many continuing education and distance learning classes over twenty-five years. He has written a number of articles about the Vikings, and contributed to an edited volume *Danes in Wessex: The Scandinavian Impact on Southern England, c.800 – c.1100*, published in 2015.

Tickets £5 each

or £10 to attend both lectures remaining in 2019

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Thursday 5th December 2019 at 7pm

Sabine Baring-Gould & his search for the folk songs of South Devon

An illustrated talk by **Martin Graebe**,

Shortly before his death, the Devonshire-born cleric, writer and antiquarian, Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924) wrote: 'To this day I consider that the recovery of our West Country melodies has been the principal achievement of my life.' He inherited the Lew Trenchard estate in Devon to become both squire and parson of this little parish. It was in 1888 that a chance remark at dinner prompted his hunt for old songs in the area around his home. From Lew Trenchard he travelled around Devon and Cornwall to meet the singers in their pubs and their cottages and to coax them to share their old songs. As a leading novelist and writer he brought the folk songs of the West Country to a wider audience through his publications, lectures, costume concerts and the first folk opera, *Red Spider*, based on one of his novels.

Martin Graebe has been fascinated by Baring-Gould for many years, but the re-discovery of a large quantity of his personal papers in 1992 prompted him to re-evaluate Baring-Gould's work on folk song. He has uncovered a fascinating collaborative project between Baring-Gould and the musicians, singers and ordinary members of the public in Devon and Cornwall. He also looks at his relationships with other folk song collectors such as Lucy Broadwood, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Cecil Sharp.

Tickets £5 each

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All lectures are held in the lecture room of the DRA, in the grounds of Shilstone House near Modbury. The car park is accessible from 6:30pm, when doors open, and free refreshments are available in the exhibition gallery. There is ample free parking, and blue badge holders can pre-book a space near the building.