

Sep 2016

The past two months have been an exciting time for the history group. We had a once in a lifetime opportunity to see the excavations in the Abbey south transept, Helier Exon being our guide. We have been given documents by Peter Traskey in the US, and a suitcase of goodies from the late Jane Butler, 9 The Street, donated by her nephew. This is keeping us busy cataloguing and recording. We also mounted a small display of our work in progress in the south aisle of St James for the Casting the Net exhibition, this raised a lot of interest and we have been in touch with more people as a result. The display will remain in the south aisle for the time being.

Stewarding at the CB 300 exhibition has been interesting too. The stewards were given a presentation by John Phibbs of his latest thoughts on the CB landscape, and the exhibition itself with a 15 minute video also presents new information. The visitors have been interested in Milton Abbas and its history and we have made many new contacts who may become members, and learned new facts of importance. Hopefully everyone in Milton Abbas took advantage of the half price tickets that were on sale in the Post Office, and viewed the exhibition.

Organising the Radio Solent recording of memories of the drought of 1976 has taken up a lot of some members' time too. It was broadcast on Breakfast in Dorset on Friday 29 July.

Our project on the social history of the Old Town of Middleton is now underway and two meetings of the research team have taken place. We now have twelve committed members working on this project. We have started researching the names on the survey of 1770, and investigating the history of the rural poor and the poor laws of the period. Anyone interested, or having ancestors in Milton Abbas please get in touch, we would be particularly interested to learn more about land tenure and leasing in the 17th and 18th centuries.

We are really looking forward to the first meeting of the new season on:

Wed 7 Sep, 19:30 Reading Rooms

All are welcome to see what we are up to.