

# Tavistock

## SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY

Established  
1799

NEWSLETTER  
SUMMER 2019



The Ballad of Lucy Sands

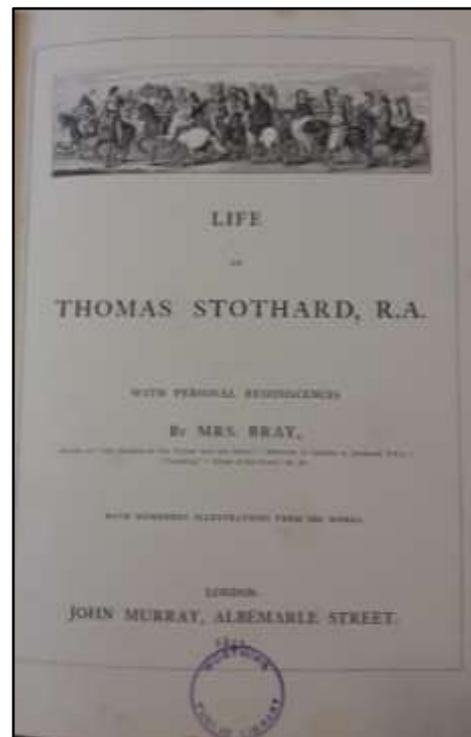


# Volumes Return Home

We are delighted to see some old volumes returned

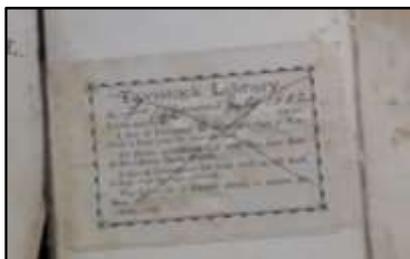


A number of newly acquired volumes to add to the shelves of the Reading Room recently include some which had previously graced our collection. In particular this copy of the Life of Thomas Stothard by his daughter-in-law Mrs Bray of Tavistock. Born Anna Eliza Kempe in 1790, she first married the artist's son Charles, who was killed three years later, falling from a ladder in Bere Ferrers church while sketching the stained glass. A baby daughter, born a month later, died in infancy. Anna Elize later married the Rev. Edward Atkyns Bray, one of our founders. He died in 1857, she lived on until 1883.



This volume was taken originally into the collection in 1882.

Thanks to the eagle-eyes of our Librarian Ruth.



## News from the Reading Room

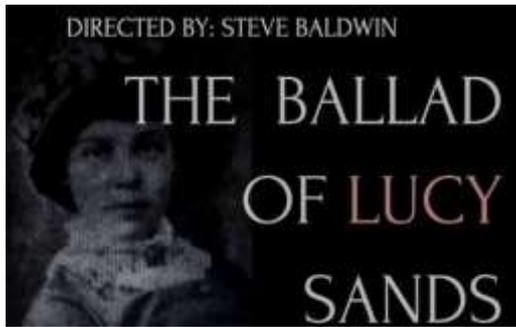
Christopher Pancheri has been working quietly in the background restoring the Reading Room Fireplace, having spent many hours sanding and painting. We are really grateful to him for his dedication to the job.

The Library curtains have been repaired and can now be drawn open and closed using the pull-cords which Bill Blowey has renovated with his trademark patience and ability to turn his hand to all things!

We now have acquired a collection of Transactions of the Devonshire Association from another library and these volumes are in better condition than ours so we have been able to replace the older copies with hardbound new ones. The former copies have been sold to recoup our outlay in obtaining the newer editions.

Simon would welcome any pictures, book reviews on recent acquisitions in the library, articles stories etc for the next Winter newsletter so do please get in touch with him if you would like to submit anything or get involved at either [simondell1958@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:simondell1958@yahoo.co.uk) or mobile 07845 176870





## THE BALLAD OF LUCY SANDS

On June 23rd last the Reading Room became the set for a gothic murder melodrama, with filming also taking place in the adjacent former Magistrates Court as well as outside in Guildhall Square.

The Ballad of Lucy Sands is the true life story of a young Irish orphan named Lucinda, brought with James - her brother - from Belfast to live with her grandmother and aunt in the northern Cumberland town of Workington in 1876. Lucy lived in the town for 5 years, she was far from being classed as your conventional Victorian young lady. Independent, fearless, an attitude and a temper from hell! One cold evening, December 1st 1881, she left her home at no 2 Christian Street to walk out with her friends, Maggie, Jane and Mary, she never returned back home that night. Lucy's body was discovered 3 months later on the 1st March 1882, stashed under a pile of old road cobbles by the side of the busy main road that lead out of town, the Northside. Her murder shook the very fabric of Victorian society, the news of her murder spread across the empire. For weeks the papers were reporting the girl's murder, and for weeks later they reported the unfair trial of her murderer! This film is the culmination of 7 years of research by Steve Baldwin

## Visit to the new Plymouth Proprietary Library Friday 17th May

Members were warmly invited to join in a visit and guided tour of the newly-opened Plymouth Proprietary Library which is now located in Stoke in Plymouth. The Proprietary Library is one of Plymouth's oldest historic institutions, founded in 1810. It was originally situated in a John Foulston-designed building at the centre of the City in Cornwall Street, but was bombed in World War Two and moved to a pleasant mid-Victorian house at the top of North Hill after the war. In 2018 it relocated to the old church in St Barnabas Terrace Plymouth.

The collection consists of 20,000 volumes ranging from 18th century literature to contemporary fiction and non-fiction. Also biographies, diaries and letters, travel, local history and the Windham Collection of Royal Naval historical papers.

While our members do not have automatic access rights to the this Plymouth library, any member with a particular research need would be welcomed for a prearranged visit



## Trees of the City

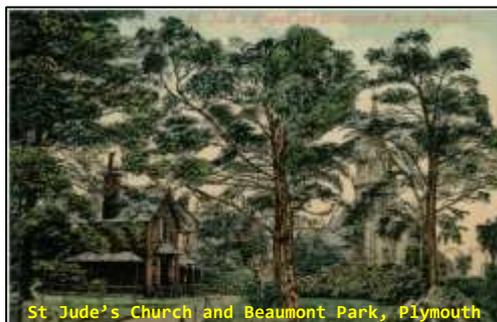
(Submitted by Annie Jenkin)

Shipwrights, carpenters  
and craftsmen chose  
their wood most carefully.

Rolling pins and wooden spoons  
were honed from sycamore  
because it has no odour.  
Wood carvers valued lime  
as it could be intricately carved  
into piano parts or harps.

Anglo-Saxons used beech -  
shaving it thinly -  
serving as writing parchment  
and early archers preferred  
ash for their arrows  
with yew for their bows.

Naval shipwrights used English oak  
and Widey oak made good wine  
casks or house timbers. But the first  
artificial limbs came from  
the light weight of horse chestnut.



St. Jude's Church and Beaumont Park, Plymouth

Walnut is still highly prized  
by cabinet makers  
but gunsmiths used walnut  
for gun-stocks, absorbing shock  
it does not splinter.

Before cast iron,  
water pipes came from  
the closely grained elm  
and copper beech steamed  
bent to shape, to create curves  
for rocking chairs or cradles.

Plymouth has these trees  
and more, so as you wander  
around the parks, or drive  
through avenues, take another look  
and see them through different eyes.

## Recreation of Concert Lecture Tour of 1889: Tavistock UNCLE TOM COBLEY & ALL as explored by Dr Todd Gray MBE

Tavistock, 7.00pm on 13 Sept., in the parish rooms, with the Devonshire Association  
(Tavistock Branch & Music Section), & Tavistock Subscription Library, featuring Marilyn  
Tucker & Paul Wilson, tickets £5 at the door

**Spirited, Surprising & Enlightening: hear in words and song the full story of Devon's anthem**



130 years ago 'Widdicombe Fair' was brought  
out of the public house and into concert halls  
and drawing rooms. It became the county's  
favourite song.

The celebrated Concert Lecture Tour of 1889 is  
being reinterpreted in eight villages, towns  
and cities across Devon. For the first time the  
fascinating history of this ancient song will be  
told and audiences will be reintroduced to  
more than 50 variants, most of them long  
forgotten and some after hundreds of years.

Todd Gray will also launch his new book -  
*Uncle Tom Cobley & All* during the first of  
these events.