

Tavistock

SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY

Established 1799



NEWSLETTER

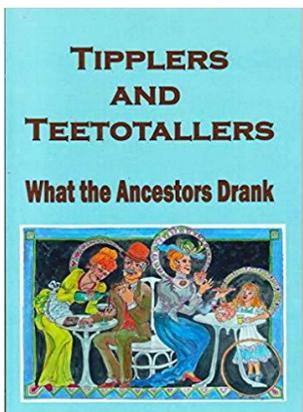
FEBRUARY 2020

REMINDER:

Your support of TSL during 2019 has been much appreciated and we write to invite you to continue your support in 2020.

Amount of membership subscription for year January 1st 2020 – 31st December 2020 Individual **£14**; Family (2 adults + family members under 18) **£21**; Family plus (2 adults + family members 18 and over) **£21 + £7** per 18+ member; Top up donations always welcome

New Books in the Library include:



We continue to receive a good variety of new books in the library with a number specifically covering the Tamar Valley. The Librarian, Ruth Blowey's personal favourite is Lynda Mudle-Small's *Tipplers and Teetotallers: What the Ancestors Drank* looking at life in villages in Calstock/Callington area.

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated books this year, we have received 275 books to be retained within the library plus many more that are in the sale section in aid of Library funds.

We would be pleased to receive any books on subjects within our scope.

News from the Reading Room

The Go Gothic event in Tavistock on 19 October 2019 was a success with a number of visitors to the library. Lynne Hatwell writes '... Two Victorian writers, who displayed Gothic flair and were both best-selling authors during their lifetimes, are associated with Tavistock and its surrounding area.



The first is Mrs Anna Eliza Bray, who lived in the vicarage in the town. She was inspired by the area's heritage to write a series of novels including *Fitz of Fitz Ford: A Tale of Destiny* (1830). Her publication *A Peep at the Pixies, or Legends of the West* (1854) was used by her cousin Christina Rossetti as source material for her most famous poem, 'Goblin Market'



The second is author Sabine Baring-Gould, who was Vicar of Lewtrenchard. His chilling Gothic tale 'Margery of Quether' (1884) is set near Heathfield close to Tavistock. It opens on Christmas Eve when the main character has to ring the church bells at St Michael de Rupe, Brentor (first mentioned in 1193 and described by Dr James Younge, in c. 1680 as "*Brent Tarr is a church on a very High hill I believe nearest heaven of any church in England...*").

The Subscription Library contains a number of works by both authors.

Proposed Visit to the Plymouth Synagogue Tuesday 17th March 2020 10am-1pm

Plymouth Synagogue is the oldest Ashkenazi Synagogue still in regular use in the English-speaking world. Built in 1762, it is listed at Grade II*. The Jewish community settled in Plymouth in the mid-18th century, its members coming from Central Europe, mainly Holland and Germany and largely stemming from one family, Emden. By 1745 they were holding regular services in their homes, later in rented rooms. In 1759 they planned this Synagogue and in 1762, they were granted a lease, which was held for them by a non-Jew, Samuel Champion, as the legality of Jews holding leases was doubtful. The Congregation bought the freehold in 1834. The only major alteration to the building since its creation was the extension in 1864 of the Ladies Gallery with the addition of the North and South wings.

We are invited to take part in a private tour of this unique building by the caretaker, Jerry Sibley. There will be tea and cake available. The tour will last about 2 or 3 hours so you might be on your feet for some time. Although there is no specific charge for the visit it is suggested that we make a voluntary donation of £5 per person to contribute to the work of the community and also to give a donation for the tea and cake offered. If travelling direct the address is Plymouth Synagogue, Synagogue Chambers, Catherine Street, Plymouth PL1 2AD. Please note parking is limited and too short a stay in the Catherine Street car park so it is suggested we park in the Drakes Circus Multi-storey car park and stroll across from there.

If car sharing, it is suggested that we meet at 9 a.m. in the large and free 'Cattle Market car park' on Pixon Lane, Tavistock, below the Market Inn Public House. . If anyone can offer a lift or car share please let Simon know. Would those wishing to go please book a place with Simon Dell by email via simondell1958@yahoo.co.uk or by 'phone on 07845 176870.

A sheet will also be in the library for names of those wishing to attend.



Proposed Visit to the Devon Rural Archive, Modbury Tuesday 21st April 2020 11am-3pm

Launched in 2006, this archive provides a useful resource on predominantly Devon history primarily focussing on building and landscape heritage. We have booked a tour of this unique archive, meeting first in the exhibition gallery for coffee, before being given an introductory talk on the archive followed by a chance for people to explore the archive itself. A sandwich lunch with tea and coffee will follow and then a period of private browsing within the library. The charge will be £10 per person for a minimum of 10 people and a sheet will be in the library for names of those wishing to attend.



If car sharing, it is suggested that we meet at 10 a.m. in the large and free 'Cattle Market car park' in Pixon Lane, Tavistock, below the Market Inn Public House. If anyone can offer a lift or car share please let Ruth know. Would those wishing to go please book a place by adding your name to the sheet in the library or email Ruth Blowey, the Librarian at bill-blowey@hotmail.co.uk. Catering numbers and details of any dietary requirements need to be confirmed, in writing, by Tuesday 14th April 2020.

For those who wish to go on a separate guided tour of Shilstone House and garden, please note that this tour needs to be booked separately as soon as possible and the charge will be £16 per person.

Proposed Visit to Tapeley House and the gardens at Bideford Thursday 16th July 2020 11.00 a.m.

Few houses can have been built with such tantalising views. Grade II* listed Tapeley Park, built in 1702 and remodelled in the 19th and early 20th centuries, sits in a commanding position overlooking Devon's Torridge Estuary, the pretty town of Bideford and across to Lundy Island in the distance. We have been invited to take a private tour of this unique building with the owner Hector Christie, who inherited the house in 1988 from his aunt Rosamund, who famously gardened, chased after visitors for their entrance fee and did the teas single-handed – all while carrying a parrot on her head. When Hector was 19, it became clear to their father that younger brother Gus would be the man for the other family estate, Glyndebourne in East Sussex, and Hector for the farm in Devon. Although the latter's journey has been fierier, he's managed to turn Tapeley around to its current, refreshing and inspiring form. It is worth noting that Tapeley House has one of the country's leading collections of William Morris furniture.

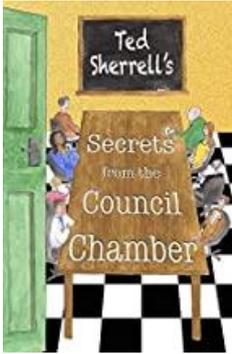
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It takes just over an hour to get to Tapeley from Tavistock so we should arrive in time to have a coffee and relax in the tea rooms before the tour.

A sheet will also be in the library for names of those wishing to attend. **NB** There is a minimum of 20 people in order to visit the house so please consider adding your name to the list.



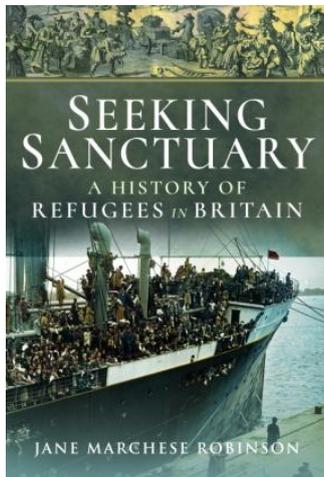
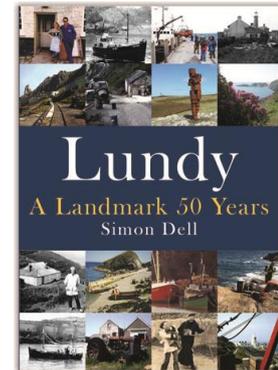
New publications by members of the Library



Secrets from the Council Chamber by Ted Sherrell was published in September 2019 by United Writers Publications at £16.95. It is a down-to-earth look at the highs and lows of local government, giving a wry insight into the workings of the council chamber. Ted Sherrell provides a knowledgeable and humorous view of the conundrums that local councillors have to face as part of their duties as elected members of the local government council.

Lundy - A Landmark 50 Years, is a new publication by Simon Dell, available to buy from his website <https://simondell.co.uk/product/lundy-a-landmark-50-years/>.

The book celebrates the period of significant change and improvement since the 1960s thanks to the work of The Landmark Trust when The National Trust purchased the Island. This and all the other books written by Simon are available to buy from this website. Simon has kindly donated a copy to the Library, for which we thank him.



Seeking sanctuary, a history of refugees in Britain will be published by Pen and Sword in September 2020. It is written by Jane Marchese Robinson, a member of the Tavistock Subscription Library. It tells the story of people who sought refuge in Britain from persecution elsewhere from the 16th century onwards. Of interest is the fact many people came to the West Country. Huguenots from the west coast of France came to the towns of Plymouth, Exeter, Bideford and Barnstaple. Their skills in weaving, metallurgy and clockmaking boosted the economy of these towns. During the First World War some 250,000 Belgians fled here from the advance of the German tanks. Devon was the first county to receive the refugees and over time the Belgians stayed in many towns and villages. There is a plaque from the refugees in Tavistock Guildhall.

Jane became interested in the subject having worked as the manager of Refugee Action in Plymouth and subsequently discovering that her grandmother was a refuacee from Belaium.”

Jess would welcome any pictures, book reviews on recent acquisitions in the library, articles stories etc for the next newsletter so do please get in touch with her at jessfmaslen@gmail.com if you would like to submit anything or get involved

