

Dawlish

Dawlish is located within Teignbridge local authority area. Historically it formed part of Exminster Hundred. It falls within Kenn Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 1424 in 1801 4584 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In the valuation of 1334 it was assessed at £02/18/00. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £13/12/08. In 1641/2 365 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Dawlish Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place-search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Dawlish area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 102/15,16
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 102SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX960767
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX97NE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 031
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 192
- Geological sheet 339 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Dawlish (SC0559) as included in the Library's illustrations collection. Other images can be searched for on the local studies catalogue.



Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Dawlish takes its name from the little stream that now flows through the town, recorded as *Dofisc*, "black stream," in a Saxon charter of 1044. The original village grew up nearly a mile back from the coast, for reasons of safety, and the parish church will be found here. Dedicated to St. Gregory the Great, and an ancient foundation, it is today a rather disappointing 19th century building. The nave was rebuilt 1824-5, the chancel in 1875. Only the red sandstone tower is of any age (14th century). The nave, in an early 19th century version of Gothic, is pleasing with its slender columns and bowed ceilings. There are some late 18th century mural tablets and many of the early 19th century, including two by Flaxman on the S. wall. Most are unctuous and Victorian, but they have their own soothing flavour.

Dawlish began to attract summer visitors in the early 1790s. Among others, Charles Hoare, the banker, was attracted by its climate and scenery. In 1800-4 John Nash built Luscombe Castle for him, about 1 m. W. of the church, combining the external appearance of "our ancient baronial fortresses" with all modern comforts inside. The grounds were laid out by Humphrey Repton, and command fine coastal views. The chapel was unfortunately added by Scott in 1862. Nash also built the villa of "Stonelands" in 1817, (Richardson and Gill, *Regional Architecture* 127, 133.) which became the home of Sir John Rennie, the eminent architect and engineer.

From about 1803 onwards the ground between the old village and the sea was being "landscaped," the stream straightened and broken by artificial waterfalls, and houses built along the N. side of the lawn. This street, the Strand, was practically completed by 1809, and still keeps a period flavour of Jane Austen, who knew and liked Dawlish very much. So also did Dickens, who placed the birthplace of Nicholas Nickleby here. In Old Town Street are the Manor House (c. 1800) and Brook House (c. 1800), and a relic of old Dawlish in a house dated 1539. At the upper end of the town is much excellent mid-Victorian villa architecture (e.g. Barton Terrace). In 1846 the railway came. Brunel was obliged to take his line along the sea-front (plates 6,7), but he carried his railway across the mouth of the Dawlish valley on a small granite viaduct in the Egyptian style leaving free access to the beach, and built an ornamental station which is itself a nice period-piece to-day.

The railway did not bring large crowds to Dawlish, nor did Dawlish set out to attract them. Within the past generation, however, it has become more widely known, both as a delightful place to live in and as a place for summer holidays. It is now a bright, cheerful little town of some 7,500 people, and has grown faster than any other Devonshire resort in the past twenty years.

At Cofton was anciently a chapel dedicated to St. Mary, first heard of in the 14th century it fell into disuse after the Reformation, until Dr. George Kendall, the noted Calvinistic preacher, who had been intruded into the rectory of Kenton and was ejected in 1662, took it over for his own use. There is a memorial to him in the chapel, which was rebuilt (Charles Fowler, architect) in 1839. Cockwood is a picturesque hamlet near the chapel, on the shore of the Exe estuary. It probably originated as a fishing place in the 13th century.

Dean Prior

Dean Prior is located within South Hams local authority area. Historically it formed part of Stanborough Hundred. It falls within Totnes Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 495 in 1801 529 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 145 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Buckfastleigh Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Dean Prior area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 120/2
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 120NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX730635
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX76SW
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 20
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202
- Geological sheet 349 also covers the area

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Dean Prior is a parish with no village, on the SE. skirts' of Dartmoor. The church (St. George) is disappointing: a large barn-like building, mainly of 15th century date but

considerably altered in the 17th, and enlarged and much restored in the 19th. The font is Norman. Dean is famous, however, for its association with Robert Herrick, who was vicar here 1629-47 and 1662-74 (he was ejected under the Protectorate and reinstated under the Act of Uniformity) and wrote all his poetry during his earlier tenure of the living. He and his maid, Prudence Baldwin, are buried in unmarked graves in the churchyard. Herrick hated Dean and Devonshire, but his poetry is full of local scenes and above all of the wild flowers that grow so luxuriantly in the woods and hedge banks. The small hall, parlour, and kitchen of his vicarage remain, incorporated into the back of a more modern house. Near the church is Dean Court, said to have been built by Sir Edward Giles (1566-1637) whose monument, with an epitaph by Herrick, is the most interesting part of the church.

2012 addendum - The Church building with its prominent position beside the A38 Devon Expressway is currently kept in good repair, with a small parking area at the back. The bell tower boasts a 'Devon Six' set of bells regularly used for competitions. A stained glass window, plaque and small etched window commemorate the poet, Robert Herrick (and his maid Prudence Baldwin) making it a place of pilgrimage for poetry lovers. Traditional forms of worship (Book of Common Prayer & King James Bible) are celebrated most Sundays.

Denbury

Denbury is located within Teignbridge local authority area. Historically it formed part of Haytor Hundred. It falls within Moretonhampstead Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 330 in 1801 303 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £02/02/03. In 1641/2 112 adult males signed the Protestation returns. It is recorded as a borough from 1286. A market is recorded from 14 cent..

A parish history file is held in Newton Abbot Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Denbury area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 115/2
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 115NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX823689
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX86NW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 031
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202
- Geological sheet 339 also covers the area

A fair is known from: 14c.-1792. An extract from **The glove is up! Devon's historic fairs**, by **Tricia Gerrish**, by kind permission of the author.

Denbury Fair

LOCATION: Between A38 and A381, near Newton Abbot (c. 3 miles) and Ashburton
ORIGINAL CHARTER: 1285 Charter granted by King Edward I to the Abbot of Tavistock: Robert Champeaux (Campell). 3 day fair at festival of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 8th September.

A GLOVE FAIR

Denbury is recorded as a borough in ancient records. A yearly fair was granted to the Abbot of Tavistock by King Edward I for the borough of Denbury in 1285, and confirmed in 1318. There is, however, a suggestion that Denbury Fair goes back to the Scandinavian autumn festival, and that it was later 'christianised' into a fair at the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Lysons mention a cattle fair on 11th September in 1822; the old 8th September fair date is listed by Owen two years later, for cattle and soap.

Interestingly, a report in the Western Times in 1879 claims that, following the 1752 calendar change, Denbury Fair moved to 19th September, the date on which it was held in that year.

According to various sources, Denbury Fair lapsed in the 1880s and during World War I, was recorded again in about 1934, and appeared in a list of Devon fairs current in around 1960.

Cattle sales were an important part of this fair. When an epidemic of rinderpest hit the country in 1866, it was closed, and may have fallen into disuse, for an attempt was made in the 1870s to 'revive' it. Soap was also a feature in the early 19th century, and cheese became a speciality in the early 1900s.

According to a correspondent to the Western Antiquary in 1880, Denbury had a glove ceremony. A large white glove, said to have been sent by King Edward (who gave the charter) was always exposed 'in a conspicuous place.' Fair day was the fixed day for paying rents. In its heyday, carriages bearing the arms of the Carews and other county families were to be seen approaching Church Town, where the Denbury Fair was held. It was also, by local superstition, the last day for gathering hazelnuts. After 19th September, they became 'slip-shell.'

The people of Denbury are believed to have taken the custom of charter fairs to Labrador's Newfoundland fisheries. A fair was celebrated there on the same date, with similar ceremonies. Many Irish Roman Catholics also worked at the fisheries, and, in the belief that all fairs are celebrated on saints days, commented 'what a grand old man Saint Denbury must have been.'

The fair's last known site was in an eight acre field behind the Manor. A ceremony involving Old Mother and Old Father Denbury seems to have been very popular in its

latter years. A couple of mature age were chosen, and chaired in procession round the borough. Old Father Denbury traditionally carried a scythe. At the 1935 fair, it is recorded that effigies represented the two characters.

Denbury is one of many fairs which has dwindled into oblivion. It was stopped by the Great War, and was never the same afterwards. Amusements did not keep pace with the times: a complaint which incidentally was first levelled in the 1870s, when very few people visited and it was described as being 'a duty for the gentry.' Perhaps when the gentry became reduced in number, there was nothing to sustain it.

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Denbury is an ancient village in the parish of Torbryan, taking its name from the strong earthwork which crowns a lofty igneous rock to the SW. It is "the fort of the men of Devon" (*Defnas burh*), a name which may well commemorate a stronghold where the Dumnonii held out for a time against a Saxon advance from the head of the Teign estuary. The fort consists of an elliptical, ramparted area, with an outer court on the W. side, and with two large mounds in the main camp. (It has never been excavated and its date is unknown: it may conceivably be of two distinct periods.

Denbury belonged to Tavistock Abbey in 1086 and possibly earlier. It was granted a market in 1286, and given the status of a borough with a portreeve some time in the 14th century (See V.H.C., 589-90 for a fuller description) but never became more than a village. The church (St. Mary) is a cruciform building with a battered tower, all of early 14th century date and pretty certainly the church dedicated by Bishop Stapeldon in 1318. (Reg, Stapledon, 137) The fine 12th century font remains from an earlier church.

Denbury House is an Elizabethan mansion. There is some good 16th and 17th century building in the village; several houses have massive chimneybreasts on the street, a characteristic feature of certain Devon villages.



Devonport

Devonport is located within Plymouth local authority area. The population was 23747 in 1801 63917 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. Plymouth Dock was renamed Devonport on 1st January 1824, and absorbed by Plymouth in 1914.

You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Devonport area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX455555
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX45NE
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 201

Illustrations

The image below is of Devonport as included in the Library's illustrations collection. Other images can be searched for on the local studies catalogue.



Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), to be included by kind permission of the copyright

Devonport. She [Celia Fiennes] saw the very beginnings of Devonport, then called simply Dock. Work had begun on a new naval dockyard here, at the mouth of the Tamar, in 1690: the first ship had used the dry dock in June 1695. When she saw it - having gone by water from Plymouth, the road being so bad - it looked 'like a little town. The buildings are so many, and all of marble [limestone] with fine slate on the roofs, and at a little distance it makes all the houses show as if they were covered with snow, and glisters in the sun, which adds to their beauty'. This was the beginning: within a hundred years Dock was to become the largest town in all Devon, surpassing even Exeter. The wars killed Exeter's commerce, but the naval base of Dock flourished, the dockyards extended farther north along the river front, and street after street went up outside the dockyard wall. (Hoskins, Devon, pp114115).

Diptford

Diptford is located within South Hams local authority area. Historically it formed part of Stanborough Hundred. It falls within Totnes Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 578 in 1801 502 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 157 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Kingsbridge Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

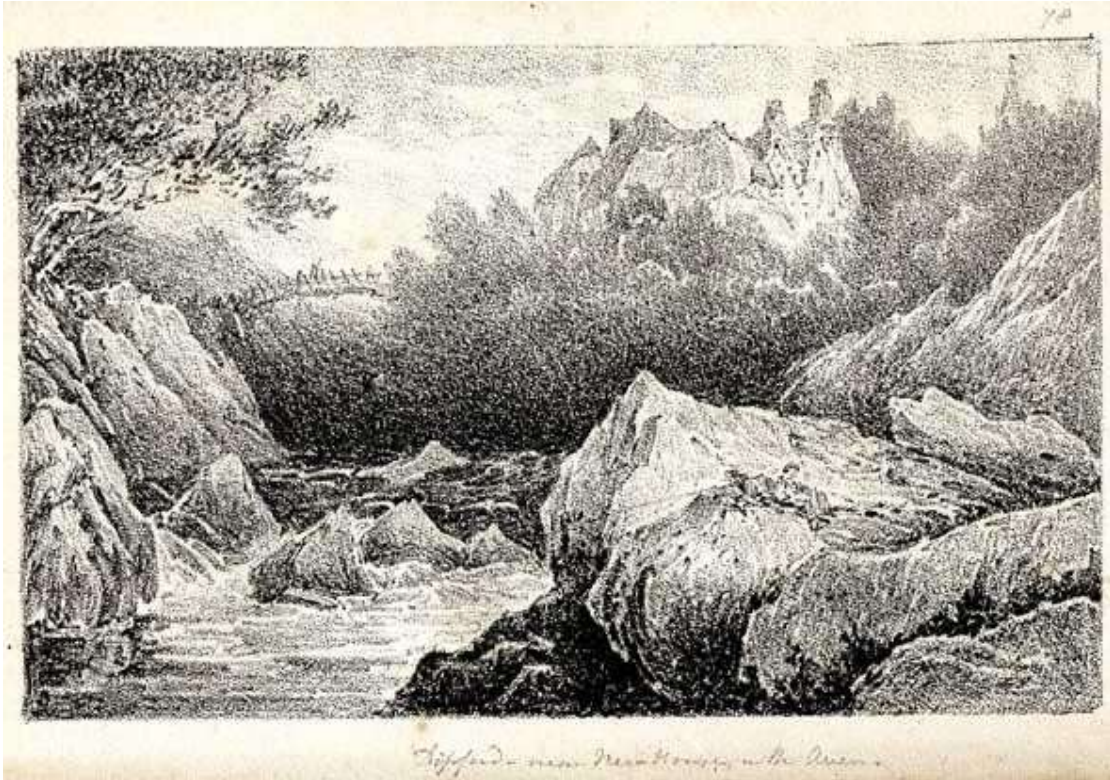
The image below is of the Diptford area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 126/2
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 126NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX728568
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX75NW
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 20
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202
- Geological sheet 349 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Diptford as included in the Library's illustrations collection. Other images can be searched for on the local studies catalogue.



Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Diptford contains a number of ancient estates, of which Beenleigh, Curtisknowle, and Farleigh were all Domesday manors. Crabadon became a "mansion" in medieval times. There are considerable remains of 15th and 16th century work, and a typical South Hams porch and doorway. At Diptford Court, the ancient court-house is now occupied as a farmhouse. Gara Bridge, over the Avon, on the old main road from Dartmouth to Plymouth, is probably not older than the 16th century.

The church (St. Mary) is mainly 15th century work, restored in 1870. It is one of the few Devon churches to possess a medieval spire.