

## **Newspaper Collections**

### **Introduction**

Devon Archives and Local Studies Services hold microfilm copies of a number of newspapers published in Devon, as well as hard copies of some unfiled Devon newspapers. We also provide free access at our two centres, to some of the websites which offer scanned, digitised copies of newspapers online.

### **Newspapers held by Devon Heritage Centre, Exeter**

These newspapers were formerly held at the Westcountry Studies Library in Castle Street, Exeter, and the list which we currently have available online has been updated since they were moved to Devon Heritage Centre.

The list of newspapers held by Devon Heritage Centre includes only the filmed newspapers in the collection. Where films are available, access to the originals is not normally possible. Newspapers are extremely fragile and survive in very few copies, so the originals must be safeguarded as archival items for the future.

#### **A**

The Alfred; West of England journal and General Advertiser 1815 - 1831  
Ashburton Western Guardian 1902, 1904 – 1906 (Missing ?)

#### **B**

Brice's Weekly journal 1720 -1731 (loose issues).  
Buckfastleigh Western Guardian 1903 - 1907

#### **C**

Crediton and North Devon Chronicle and West of England Advertiser. July 1881 - 1891 (continued as the Crediton Chronicle and North Devon Gazette).  
Crediton Chronicle (formerly the Crediton Chronicle and North Devon Gazette) 1909 – 1913 (continued as the Crediton Chronicle and North Devon Gazette).  
Crediton Chronicle and North Devon Gazette (formerly the Crediton and North Devon Chronicle and West of England Advertiser). 1891 - 1909 (continued as the Crediton Chronicle).  
Crediton Chronicle and North Devon Gazette (formerly the Crediton Chronicle). 1913 – 1930 (continued as the Crediton Chronicle and Taw Vale Gazette).  
Crediton Chronicle and Taw Vale Gazette (formerly the Crediton Chronicle and North Devon Gazette). 1931 – 1943 (continued as the Crediton Gazette, East Devon Herald and County Press).  
Crediton Gazette, East Devon Herald and County Press (formerly the Crediton Chronicle and Taw Vale Gazette). 1944 – 1950.

#### **D**

Dawlish Gazette (formerly the Dawlish Gazette General Advertiser, Visitors and Local Directory for Dawlish and District). 1898 – 1950, 1986 – 1987, 1989 – 1996, 1998 – 1999.  
Dawlish Gazette General Advertiser, Visitors and Local Directory for Dawlish and District. April – December 1897 (continued as the Dawlish Gazette).  
Dawlish Times 1869 – 1876, 1878 – 1896, 1898 – 1903  
Devon and Exeter Gazette (including Devon and Exeter Daily Gazette). 1885 – 1921, 1923 – 1941.

Devon Evening Express. 1872 – September 1904.  
Devon Weekly Times. 1861 – 1884, 1886, 1888 – 1903.

## **E**

Exeter and Plymouth Gazette (See Woolmer's Exeter and Plymouth Gazette)  
Express and Echo. Oct 1904 – Aug 2011  
Exeter Leader. 1986 – 1999.  
Exeter Flying Post 1763 - Apr 1917

## **F**

Flindell's Western Luminary (See Western Luminary)  
Football Express. 1906 – January 1927, February 1929 – April 1952.

## **H**

Hartland Chronicle. 1896 – 1907.

## **M**

Mid Devon Advertiser (Newton Abbot) 1914 - 1975

## **N**

North Devon Journal. 1824 – 1825 (part), 1934 – 1987.

## **O**

Okehampton Gazette and Advertiser. September 1910 – September 1913.  
Okehampton Post. 1921 – 1944.  
Okehampton Post and Launceston Weekly News. 1945 – 1950.  
Okehampton Times. 1986 – 1998.

## **P**

Postmaster or Loyal Mercury (Exeter). Nov 1720 – Sept 1722, May – Sept 1723, Sept 1724 – Apr 1725.  
Protestant Mercury or the Exeter Post-Boy. Oct – Dec 1715, Jan – Sept 1717.  
Pulman's Weekly News and Advertiser (Crewkerne) 1859 – 1879  
Pulman's Weekly News and Advertiser (Yeovil) 1886 - 1899

## **R**

Richards Topsham Herald and General Advertiser / Richards Weekly Advertiser. 1863, 1873, 1875  
(incomplete).

## **S**

Sherborne Mercury. 1737 – 1867.  
Snips Weekly Budget / Western Weekly Budget. April - October 1909.  
South Devon Weekly Express. October 1907 – September 1954, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1965 (discontinued).  
Syle's Barnstaple Herald and General Advertiser. 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> August and 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> October 1825.

## **T**

Teignmouth Post 1886 – 1950  
Tiverton Gazette 1858 – 1950 (For missing reels try Tiverton Library.  
Totnes Times. 1909 – 1935, 1987 – 1989, 1993 – 1998.  
Totnes Times and Dartmouth Gazette. 1870 – 1881.  
Totnes Times and Devon News. 1882 – 1895, 1898 – 1908.  
Trewman's Exeter Flying Post. (See Exeter Flying Post)

Note: The Devon Heritage Centre has a card index to Trewman's Exeter Flying Post which is arranged by subject covering the period 1763 - 1885. Card indexes are also available by surname for the period 1763 - 1830. This title is also included between 1800-1900 only in two online newspaper websites:- [Nineteenth Century British Library Newspapers](#) and British Newspaper Archive. See our webpage on [Historic Newspapers Online](#) for more information.

## **W**

Weekly Express. (Chudleigh) July 1855 – 1895, 1899 – 1906, January – September 1907.

Weekly Times Aug 1827 – Dec 1828.

Western Express. March 1877 – January 1878, October 1889 – May 1890.

Western Express and Torrington Chronicle. 1912 – 1919.

Western Luminary. March 1813 – 1830.

Western Morning News. January 1848, 1885, June 1961, 1975 – Jan 2013 (incomplete).

Western Times. August 1827 – February 1987 (incomplete).

Woolmer's Exeter and Plymouth Gazette. 1792, 1793, 1798 – 1800, 1802, 1809, 1810 – 1842, 1845 – 1886 (incomplete).

## **Using newspapers on microfilm**

Films of newspapers are held at Devon Heritage Centre, Sowton, Exeter. They are held in cabinets in the searchroom, and staff can assist you to find the film you want. We have a number of reader-printers in the searchroom, which you can use to view these films and print off articles if you wish.

Devon Heritage Centre also houses the card index to the Trewman's Exeter Flying Post, which was formerly in the Westcountry Studies Library. The Trewman's Exeter Flying Post was published from 1763 to 1917 and is indexed on cards under subject, place and property up to 1885 and under name up to 1835.

## **Ordering printouts of filmed newspaper entries**

Our photocopy service can only provide printouts of articles from filmed newspapers, if the title or name of the newspaper, a date and a page number [e.g. from an index] is provided.

Our specific records check service can offer a search for a specific entry where the title or name of the newspaper, and a date is provided. The whole newspaper for that one date can be searched for one article through this service. Charges apply to this service. Please see our Charges page for more information.

We do not offer a newspaper research service, where a newspaper cannot be specified and a date of publication of the newspaper is not provided. If you cannot provide a date and a title or name of a newspaper and require a search to be made, you will have to contact a private researcher, who can visit our searchroom and do the search for you. We can also provide a list of private researchers on request, by email or post.

## **Using unfiled newspapers in hard copy format**

Unfiled newspapers held by Devon Archives and Local Studies Services are now all held in strongrooms at the Devon Heritage Centre, Sowton. For information about current access to unfiled newspapers, contact local studies staff at [devonarchives@swheritage.org.uk](mailto:devonarchives@swheritage.org.uk).

## **Newspapers held at North Devon Local Studies Centre**

Newspapers at the North Devon Local Studies Centre at Barnstaple are held by the Local Studies Library and the North Devon Athenaeum, which are both part of the centre and share the same floor of the library building. Most are on microfilm. Some of the titles held at this centre are specific to North Devon and are not held at Devon Heritage Centre at Sowton, Exeter as well.

### **Current titles include**

- North Devon Journal 1824 to date (Index for 1850 - 1895) (see below re use of index on British Newspaper Archive website)
- North Devon Gazette 1983 to date
- Holsworthy Post 1986 - 1996, 2000 to date

### **and historic titles include**

- North Devon Herald July 1870 - Feb 1941 (except 1873, 1890, 1907) (then amalgamated with North Devon Journal)
- Western Morning News 1975 to date
- Bideford Gazette 1856 - 1986
- North Devon Advertiser 1981 - 1995 (may not be wholly complete) (then amalgamated with North Devon Gazette)
- Sherborne Mercury 1737 - 1826, 1844 - 1845, 1849
- South Molton Gazette July 1872 - 1950 (except 1877, 1887, 1897, 1912) on film; 1976 - 1993 in hard copy; then amalgamated with Mid Devon Gazette)
- Mid Devon Gazette 1993 - 2001 (then amalgamated with Tiverton Gazette)
- Western Flying Post 1737 - 1826, 1844 - 1849
- Ilfracombe Chronicle 1869, 1876 - 1893, 1911
- Ilfracombe Observer and North Devon Review April 1884 - June 1893
- Lynton and Lynmouth Recorder 1880 - 1895, 1899 - May 1903 (except 1882, 1885, 1891, 1894)
- Syle's Barnstaple Herald and General Advertiser January - August 1826

As most of our newspapers are in microfilm format we strongly recommend that you ring in advance of your visit to book an appropriate reader without which these titles cannot be viewed

British Newspaper Archive online access

Local titles available via the British Newspaper Archive website include the North Devon Journal 1824 - 1950; Western Morning News 1921 - 1950 and Western Times 1827 - 1950. Please see main Barnstaple Local Studies page for terms and conditions.

You can also use the British Newspaper Archive website on your home computer, prior to your visit to use our North Devon Journal films, to find items of interest and the relevant date and page references, as it is free to use up to the "pay to view" point.

The North Devon Athenaeum also holds its own archive of the North Devon Journal newspaper. This newspaper has been published for nearly 200 years. The North Devon Athenaeum holds the original copies of the newspaper's first year of publication (1824-25) and a complete run of original papers from 1853-1980. They also hold microfilms of the papers from 1824 to 1988 - after this date, the local studies library on the same floor holds filmed copies. The Athenaeum also holds several indexes to the newspaper and thousands of images, many of which have never been published. To find out more about what is held please visit the North Devon Athenaeum website.

### **Newspapers held at Torquay Library**

Torquay Library is run by Torbay Council, which since 1998 has been a unitary authority, distinct from the county of Devon. Its reference library section holds local studies materials, newspapers and indexes relating to the history of Torquay and surrounding areas. However, because archive collections relating to Torquay are housed at Devon Heritage Centre at Sowton, Exeter, and many of our visitors are researching families and places in the Torquay area, basic information about the Torquay Library's newspaper holdings are included here.

Among the newspapers held in Torquay Library's reference section are the Torquay Times, Herald Express, Torquay Directory and South Devon Journal, Brixham News, Torbay News. For other titles held there, contact Torquay Reference Library on tel: 01803 208305 or email: [tgreflib@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:tgreflib@torbay.gov.uk) .

The reference library also holds a card index to newspaper articles, and a death notices index which contains indexed entries from issues of the Torquay Times, with some coverage of other local newspapers, and work is continuing; the index also covers a small, but growing, number of obituaries. It is arranged alphabetically by surname.

The Torquay Library's Local News Card Index is an online index to major articles in local newspapers, now available on the Torbay Council website. The Herald Express and Western Morning News are included in this index, but where articles have been traced in other newspapers e.g. The Brixham News, Mid Devon Advertiser and Totnes Times, these too have been indexed. The online index is only a finding aid – the actual articles are not scanned online, but may be held in the Torquay Reference Library on microfilm or in unfiled, hard copy newspapers. The index has both current and historical content and mainly covers the geographical area of Torbay, but also indexes some articles relating to the South Devon area.

### **Newspaper cuttings files**

These were compiled by local studies staff and are held in local studies collections at Exeter and Barnstaple.

The following files, held in the local studies collections under the care of Devon Heritage Centre, contain newspaper cuttings. They are now located at Devon Heritage Centre at Sowton, Exeter.

- Parish cuttings files,
- Biography cuttings files
- Business cuttings files
- Other subject-based cuttings files. These contain information on various subjects relating to Devon (there is no index to the subjects covered). They contain mostly pre-war (WWII) newspaper cuttings, but some subjects have been updated with post war cuttings.
- Family history files, organised by surname, also include newspaper cuttings and other material, such as pedigrees.

North Devon Local Studies Library at Barnstaple keeps files of newspaper cuttings and references relating to towns and parishes in the North Devon area, and cuttings files relating to subjects of local interest.

### **Newspapers held at Plymouth Central Library**

Plymouth Central Library is run by Plymouth Council, which since 1998 has been a unitary authority, separate from the county of Devon. Many of the local historic newspapers for the Plymouth and South Devon area are held in the History Room (the local studies library room) at Plymouth Central Library, Drake Circus, Plymouth. Most of this newspaper collection is on microfilm.

A card index exists for some newspapers, including the Western Morning News and the Western Evening Herald.

For a list of the newspapers held there, visit the History Room webpage and scroll down the page.

The facility is small, so booking a microfilm reader is essential. Phone 01752 305903 or email [library@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:library@plymouth.gov.uk).

The reference library holds other local Plymouth newspapers, including The Evening Herald on microfilm from 1895 to date and online through Newsbank from 2008; the Western Morning News on microfilm from 1864 to date and online through Newsbank from 1999, and bound copies of the Plymouth Sunday Independent from 1925. Indexes are available from the 1960s. Since January 2000 many articles from the Western Morning News and Evening Herald have been indexed on the library's online catalogue.

Plymouth Central Library also provides free access to some online newspaper websites. For more information visit the Plymouth Central Library website.

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Website: [www.swheritage.org.uk/devon-archives](http://www.swheritage.org.uk/devon-archives)

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