

Shirwell

Shirwell is located within North Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Sherwell Hundred. It falls within Shirwell 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 513 in 1801 338 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 95 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Barnstaple 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 Shirwell 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 9/12
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 9SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS597374
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS53NE
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 09
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 293 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Shirwell 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:

Shirwell is an old village, which gave its name to a hundred. The church (St. Peter) is a much-restored 15th century building. In the chancel is an effigy, believed to be that of Blanche St. Leger, day of William Bouchier, Lord Fitzwarren (d. 1483). Above this tomb is a monument to Anne Lady Chichester (1723). A branch of the Chichesters lived at Youlston from Henry VII's time to the early 20th century.

Youlston is an 18th century house. Youlston Old Park, 1 m. S. of the village, is presumably the site of an earlier house. Plaistow Barton was a Domesday manor.

Shobrooke

Shobrooke is located within Mid Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of West Budleigh Hundred. It falls within Cadbury 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 686 in 1801 557 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 168 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Crediton 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 Shobrooke 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 67/3
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 67NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS863011
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS80SE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 114
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 191
- Geological sheet 325 also covers the area

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

Shobrooke lies in quiet, unspoilt country, with many fertile "red-land" farms. It formerly had several prosperous gentry and yeoman. The church, (St. Swithin) was drastically restored and enlarged in 1879-80, when the S. aisle was added. There is, however, a good Norman S. doorway (c. 1160) in Thorverton stone. Shobrooke Park

was formerly called (Little) Fulford. It was bought by Sir William Periam (1535-1605), chief baron of the Exchequer, who built a house here. This was pulled down c. 1820 and a new house built (by Hakewill) called Shobrooke Park. The house became a school, was gutted by fire in 1947, and is now desolate.

West Raddon was one of several good houses in this parish. It was a domesday manor, and in Henry VIII's time was bought by the Westcotes. Thomas Westcote, the Antiquary, was born here in 1567, and wrote his *View of Devonshire* here. A good deal of Westcote's house remains, the W. wing being largely 15th century work, the rest rebuilt in the 18th century. Raddon Top (772 ft.) is a landmark for 20 miles around. Westcote tells us that there was an earthwork on the summit, practically ploughed down even in his day. The views from here are superb, even for Devon.

Shute

Shute is located within East Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Colyton Hundred. It falls within Honiton 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 558 in 1801 461 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website.

A parish history file is held in Axminster 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 Shute 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 71/12
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 71SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SY252975
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SY29NE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 029
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 193
- Geological sheet 326 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Shute 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:

Shute was the home of the Bonvilles. The powerful antagonists of the Courtenays during a considerable part of the 15th century. It eventually came to Sir William Petre, principal secretary of state to Mary. His descendant Lord Petre, sold it in 1787 to Sir John Pole Bart., who signalled his purchase by building Shute House in 1787-90. This house, with fine rooms of the period, is now a girls' school.

The Poles, had however, been in possession of Shute under long leases since about the middle of the 16th century. The arms of William Pole, who was buried at Shute in 1587, appear on the gate-house of the old mansion. This house, now known as Shute Barton, was partly demolished in 1787, but much early work remains, including the fine gate-house, c.1550.

Shute church (St. Michael) was originally an early 13th century cruciform building, with N. and S. transepts and a central tower, and much work of this period has survived. In the 15th century the N. transept was extended to form a complete aisle to nave and chancel, and the S. transept widened. The fittings of the church are all commonplace Victorian. In the N. chancel aisle (the Pole Chapel) is a fine marble statue of Sir William Pole. (d 1741) in the costume of Master of the Household to Queen Anne. Other Pole memorials are in the S. transept. Some good armorial glass (dated 1673, 1808) is to be seen in the N. aisle.

Sidbury

Sidbury is located within East Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of East Budleigh Hundred. It falls within Ottery 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 1233 in 1801 1076 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £19/18/06. A market is recorded from 14 cent..

A parish history file is held in Sidmouth 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 Sidbury 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 82/7
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 82NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SY138917
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SY19SW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 030
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 192
- Geological sheet 326 also covers the area

Illustrations

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



A fair is known from: 14 cent.. [It is intended to include the local section from The glove is up! Devon's historic fairs, by Tricia Gerrish, by kind permission of the author].

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

Sidbury is a large village in warm and fertile country. From the hills on three sides of the village magnificent views are to be had, especially over the sea from Portland Bill to beyond Berry Head. And far into Dorset. Roncombe Gate, formally a meeting place for the smuggling traffic from Beer, Branscombe and Salcombe, is one such viewpoint.

The village takes its name from the early Iron Age hill-fort to the SW., now known as Sidbury Castle. It is a kite-shaped earthwork, with a double rampart and ditch, and an entrance at the narrow NW. end. 1,300 ft. long internally, and 400 ft. wide at the maximum, it is the largest earthwork in the district.

Sidbury church (St. Giles) is one of the most interesting in Devon. Restoration work on the chancel in 1898-9 revealed a Saxon crypt underneath, the precise date of which is unknown. The structural history of the Norman and later church may be summarised as follows: (a) an early 12th century church of nave and chancel only, of which considerable parts remain; (b) a W. tower and N. and S. aisles added late in the 12th century; (c) the chancel lengthened c. 1260-80, and N. and S. transepts either added or remodelled; (d) a substantial reconstruction in the mid 15th century,

in which the aisles were rebuilt, the walls of the nave raised and fine wagon roofs inserted throughout the church, new windows inserted at various points in the church and a new font put in. Some extensive repair work was carried out early in the 17th century by John Stone, freemason (probably the father of the famous Nicholas Stone), whose tomb dated 1617 is in the S. wall (outside) of the chancel. In 1843-5 the Norman tower was taken down and rebuilt to the old design; the spire was added in 1895.

There are several interesting buildings in the parish. The Porch House in Sidford is dated 1574, and there are other houses worth looking for in this village, and on the road to Sidbury village. Manstone Farm has some considerable remains of old work, some of medieval date. Sand Barton, 1 m. NE. of the church, is first mentioned c. 1175. The present house was built by Rowland Huyshe in 1594-1600 and is a good example of a late Tudor mansion. Court Hall has some Elizabethan work. Buckton and Harcombe farms are both mentioned c. 1200 in the and chapter archives at Exeter.

Sidmouth

Sidmouth is located within East Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of East Budleigh Hundred. It falls within Ottery 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 1252 in 1801 4033 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £13/05/06. It is recorded as a borough from 13 cent.. A turnpike was established in 1816. A market is recorded from 14c.-1822.

A parish history file is held in Sidmouth 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 Sidmouth 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 94/2,3
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 94NW,NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SY126880
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SY18NW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 030
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 192
- Geological sheet 326 also covers the area

Illustrations

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



A fair is known from: 1792. [It is intended to include the local section from The glove is up! Devon's historic fairs, by Tricia Gerrish, by kind permission of the author].

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

Sidmouth is one of the most attractive seaside towns on the S. coast of England, framed in a narrow valley opening on to the sea, and sheltered E. and W. by tremendous red sandstone cliffs that rise to over 500 ft.

For centuries it was a small market and fishing town. Risdon, in the early 17th century, calls it "one of the especiaest fisher towns of the shire," but the fishery had much declined by the early 19th century. Fortunately, visitors had begun to discover the mildness of its climate and its beautiful scenery, and from the 1780s onwards it was increasingly patronised, even during the winter. The Napoleonic Wars gave a great stimulus to the town by closing the Continent to the upper and upper-middle classes, who began to settle at Sidmouth and to build themselves "cottages" in every sheltered spot. These "cottages" now frequently converted into hotels are a delightful feature of Sidmouth architecture. Sidmouth remained "select" throughout the 19th century. Its shingle beach did not attract families with children, it did not set out to offer other "attractions"; the railway came late (1874) and even then stopped far short of the town. For all these reasons Sidmouth has preserved its early 19th century character to a high degree.

Knowle Cottage (now the Knowle Hotel) was typical of the kind of building that created modern Sidmouth, though more opulent than most. It was built by Lord le Despencer in 1805, a thatched building of about 40 rooms, in ten acres of

ornamental grounds, with a suite of drawing-rooms nearly 100 ft. long. (Mogridge, A descriptive Sketch of Sidmouth (c.1836) 45-6 Woodlands Hotel was built as a "cottage" by Lord Gwydir, Salcombe House was occupied by the Marquess of Bute, and Woolbrook Glen (now the Royal Glen Hotel) was occupied during the winter of 1819-20 by the Duke and Duchess of Kent and their infant daughter Victoria. Sid Abbey is early 19th century Gothic.

Besides these and numerous other "cottages" scattered about the vale, a number of terraces of lodging-houses were built between 1800 and 1820, when the population of the town more than doubled. Fortfield Terrace, Clifton Place, York Terrace, and Elysian Fields are characteristic of this period.

In the old town are Georgian houses and shops. The Unitarian chapel in the High Street retains its 18th century pulpit with sounding-board, gallery front, and clock. Among the ancient buildings of the parish are Woolcombe House (now the Sidmouth Museum), which has a medieval hall with an open timber roof; and Manstone, which is substantially a 15th century stone house altered in 1589.

The sea-wall was first built in 1835-8: before that there was simply a paved walk along the shore; but attempts to make a harbour at the same time failed. After 1840 Sidmouth grew much more slowly: possibly Torquay was becoming the more fashionable in mid-Victorian years. Sidmouth is thus not much disfigured by late Victorian brickwork. In recent years it has attracted wider attention as a holiday centre and as a place to retire to, and is now growing perceptibly. As a contrast to the aristocratic and genteel history of Sidmouth in the 19th century one might read Stephen Reynolds's *A Poor Man's House* (1908), a faithful picture of a Sidmouth fisherman's household and life, and of the life of ancient native Sidmouth, persisting beneath the veneer that has been imposed on it during the past 150 years. The atmosphere and feeling of the book are, to a Devonian, absolutely right.

The parish church (St. Giles or St. Nicholas) was rebuilt, except the arcades and the 15th century tower, in 1859-60, and is devoid of interest. All Saints' church was built 1837-40. St. Francis's church at Woolbrook, consecrated in 1938, is one of the last works of Caroe whose most notable work is perhaps St. David's, at Exeter. The Old Chancel, near the parish church, was erected in the 1860s by the local antiquary P. O. Hutchinson from the demolished materials of the parish church, which he tried in vain to save from "restoration." He wrote a valuable history of Sidmouth in six MSS. volumes, now in the Exeter City.