

Cemetery Records

Introduction

Most of the cities and large towns in Devon now have public cemeteries and a few have crematoria. These are separate from the graveyards associated with parish churches in towns and rural parishes, which are called 'parochial graveyards or parochial cemeteries'. The earliest public cemeteries were opened in the first half of the 19th century, as parish churchyards filled up, and the urban populations grew.



Exwick Cemetery, St. Thomas, near Exeter

These public cemeteries are generally known as 'non-parochial cemeteries', and are usually administered by the local City Council, Parish Council or District Council. Devon Heritage Centre and the record offices at Barnstaple and Plymouth do not hold the burial registers and graveyard plans for most of these public cemeteries and crematoria. Instead, the majority of the records are held by the local authority or organisation concerned.

Some (but not all) of these have their own web-sites containing information on the location of cemeteries, and how to get in contact prior to a visit. A few websites also include an index to, or a transcription of, their cemetery burial registers. The Devon Family History Society is also undertaking a digitizing programme for the burial registers of several public cemeteries.

Deceased Online – a commercial website at <http://www.deceasedonline.com> - contains information from the burial records of an increasing number of public cemeteries and crematoria in Britain. Digitised records on the site originate from local authorities and the National Archives, with the latter including some closed parochial and non-conformist graveyards. The website includes a list of cemeteries and crematoria whose registers are part of the Deceased Online database. Devon records on Deceased Online include

- Cullompton Cemetery (run by Cullompton Town Council)
- National Archives records of removal of graves and tombstones from disused and closed Devon burial grounds and cemeteries, for:
 - Central Methodist Hall Graveyard, Plymouth (1802-1902)
 - Holy Trinity Church, Exeter (1831-1903)
 - Quaker Burial Ground, Plymouth (1762-1925)
 - St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Barnstaple
 - St Peters Church, Stoke Fleming (1842-1856)

Cemetery registers, transcripts, indexes and burial board records at the Devon Heritage Centre, Exeter and North Devon Record Office

Most of the non-parochial cemetery registers, other cemetery and burial board records, and burial transcripts and indexes held at the heritage centre are listed here. In a few cases microfilm (with a MFC reference) or a CD-Rom of the original registers are held at the heritage centre. Records held at North Devon Record Office have a reference beginning with NDRO.

Note that many of the collections mentioned below do not include registers; cemetery registers - in some cases those dating from the early 20th century – are still usually held by the Council or organisation concerned. In some cases the Council has provided a burials database for you to search online.

- Bideford: Old Town Cemetery (ref: NDRO 2379A/Z/20)
- Bideford: Public Cemetery (ref: NDRO 2379A/4/1-8)
- Bradninch Burial Board (ref: 1978A)
- Bucks Mills, St Anne's Churchyard and Cemetery - register transcript on CD (ref: 7607Z)
- Christow Cemetery - papers (ref: 3225A)
- Colyton Burial Ground - registers of graves and burials (ref: 1585F/1/Z/1; MFC/79/1-15)
- Cullompton Burial Board (ref: 74B/APB/1-7)
- Culmstock Cemetery – deeds and papers (ref: 5792A)

Exeter Cemeteries - Registers

- Bartholomews Yard (MFC169/1)
- St Bartholomews New Cemetery (MFC/169/1-3)
- Exeter Higher Cemetery (MFC/169/3-5)
- Exeter St Thomas, Cowick Street (MFC/169/5)
- Exeter St Thomas, Exwick Road (MFC/169/5-6)
- Exeter St Leonard (MFC/169/6)

Exeter Cemeteries – Other records

- Topsham: burial fees account book (ECA Cemetery accounts/30-31)
- Exeter, Polsloe and Exeter (Old) St Thomas (ECA Cemetery accounts/32-40)
- Exeter St Thomas, Exwick Road World War 1 War Graves 1914-1919 (DRP/13)
- Society of Friends burial ground (ref: 874D/9)
- Exminster Cemetery – registers and other records (ref: 5902A/PX/4/1-6)
- Ilfracombe: war graves (ref: NDRO 2458A/B/12)
- Kingswear Cemetery - registers and other records (ref: 8746A, 7802A)
- Northam Cemetery – registers and other records (ref: NDRO 3978A/1/6-7)
- Tavistock registration district - index to burials, West Devon (MFC/149/1-14)
- Tedburn St Mary Burial Ground – registers and other records (MFC/158/1-6)
- Teignmouth Cemetery - burial registers (DFHS CD-Rom in searchroom)
- Tiverton Burial Board – registers and other records (ref: R4/1/0/Z and R4/1/1/Z)
- Torquay Cemetery - registers and other records (ref: 4241C; MFC/169/6-10)
- Torrington/Great Torrington Cemetery (ref: NDRO 2558A -2/54/1-2, B1022/1-4)
- Totnes Burial Board (ref: 1579A/20/1-21)
- Uplyme Burial Board (ref: 8910A/4/B/1-2)

For more information on the history and location of Devon's cemeteries, see the Research Guide titled **Cemeteries in Devon**.

Councils and other organisations holding cemetery registers - General contact details

Dartmouth Town Council

Responsible for Dartmouth Cemetery

Contact address: Council Offices, The Guildhall, Victoria Road, Dartmouth, Devon TQ6 9RY

Tel: 01803 – 832281

Email: office@dartmouthtowncouncil.org

East Devon District Council - Responsible for Sidmouth, Sidbury and Seaton Cemeteries.

Contact address: Knowle, Station Road, Sidmouth, Devon

Tel: 01395 - 517411 (ext 2726)

Website: <http://eastdevon.gov.uk/cemeteries/>

Exeter Cemeteries - later records

Exeter City Council Bereavement Services and Cemeteries - Responsible for Higher Cemetery, St Marks Avenue, Heavitree; Exwick Cemetery, Exwick Road, Exwick; Topsham Cemetery, Elm Grove Road, Topsham

Tel: 01392 265370

Email: bereavement.services@exeter.gov.uk

Website: <http://exeter.gov.uk/people-and-communities>

Mid Devon District Council - Responsible for cemeteries at Tiverton and Cridton.

Tel: 01884 234382

Email: bereavementservices@middevon.gov.uk

Local contact addresses:

- Burial Records Office, 7 St Peter Street, Tiverton
Tel: 01884 - 255255
- Burial Records Office, Council Office, Market Street, Cridton
Tel: 01363 - 773755
- Tiverton Town Council, New Hall, Barrington Street, Tiverton
Tel: 01884 – 2535404

North Devon District Council - Responsible for Marlborough Road Cemetery in Ilfracombe and Bear Street Cemetery, Barnstaple

Address for grave searches: Cemetery officer, North Devon Council, North Devon Crematorium, Old Torrington Rd, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 3NW

Tel: 01271 345431

Email: cemeteries@northdevon.gov.uk

Plymouth Council - Responsible for Efford Cemetery, Weston Mill Cemetery, Longcause Cemetery and Ridge Cross Cemetery

Email: cemeteries@plymouth.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk>

Ford Park Cemetery Trust - Manages Ford Park Cemetery in Plymouth

Postal address: Ford Park Cemetery Trust, Ford Park Road, Plymouth PL4 6NT

Tel: 01752 665442

Website: <http://www.ford-park-cemetery.org/>

Tavistock Town Council - Responsible for Tavistock Cemetery

Contact: Cemetery Administrator, Tavistock Cemetery, 119 Plymouth Road, Tavistock, Devon PL19 8BY

Tel: 01822 612799 (cemetery administrator)

Email: cemeteryoffice@tavistock.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.tavistock.gov.uk/council-services/cemetery>

Teignbridge District Council - Responsible for cemeteries at Dawlish, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot and Teignmouth

Contact address: Cemetery Section, Green Spaces, Forde Road Offices, Forde Road, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 4AD

Tel: 01626 215850

Email: greenspaces@teignbridge.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/cemeteries>

Torbay Cemeteries

The cemeteries at Torquay and Paignton are managed by Westerleigh Group Ltd, working in conjunction with Torbay Council.

Contact address: Torbay Cemeteries and Crematorium, Hele Road, Torquay, TQ2 7QG

Tel: 01803 327768

Email: info@torquaycrematorium.co.uk

Website: <http://www.torquaycrematorium.co.uk>

Torrige District Council - Responsible for cemeteries at Bideford, Holsworthy, Northam and Torrington

Contact address: Cemetery Services, Torrige District Council, Riverbank House, Bideford, Devon EX39 2QG

Tel: 01237 428700

Email: cemeteries@torridge.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.torridge.gov.uk/property>

Crematoria in Devon

Devon Heritage Centre holds some records related to Torquay Crematorium only, and this collection doesn't include registers of cremations. For information about cremations which took place in a Devon crematorium, please contact the crematoria listed below:

Exeter and surrounding areas

Cremations take place at the Exeter and Devon Crematorium which opened in November 1963 and is now run independently by Dignity Funerals.

Contact address: Exeter & Devon Crematorium, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 6EU

Tel: 01392 496333

Website: <http://www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/crematoria-and-cemeteries/>

North Devon

The North Devon Crematorium is a joint service provided by North Devon Council and Torrington District Council.

Contact address: North Devon Crematorium, Old Torrington Road, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 3NW

Tel: 01271 345431

Email: crematorium@northdevon.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.northdevon.gov.uk/business/bereavement-services>

Plymouth Crematorium, Efford - Opened in 1963 and managed by Plymouth Council.

Contact address: Plymouth Crematorium, Efford Road, Plymouth PL3 6NG

Tel: 01752 306104

Email: cemeteries@plymouth.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk>

Weston Mill Crematorium, Plymouth - The Weston Mill Cemetery opened in 1904. It was originally known as Devonport Borough Cemetery. The crematorium opened in 1967 and is managed by Plymouth Council.

Contact address: Weston Mill Crematorium, Weston Mill Cemetery Lodge, Ferndale Road, Plymouth PL2 2EP

Tel: 01752 306104

Email: cemeteries@plymouth.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk>

Torbay Crematorium

The crematorium is located in Torquay and is managed by Westerleigh Group Ltd, working in conjunction with Torbay Council.

Contact address: Torbay Cemeteries and Crematorium, Hele Road, Torquay, TQ2 7QG

Tel: 01803 327768

Email: info@torquaycrematorium.co.uk

Website: <http://www.torquaycrematorium.co.uk>

Tel: 01803 327768

Torbay Cemeteries and Crematorium records held at Devon Heritage Centre are in two uncatalogued deposits belonging to the Torbay Cemeteries and Crematorium collection [ref: 4241C]. Those relating to the crematorium are as follows:

Collection 4241C [acc: 7366]

Indexes to cremation registers, Torquay Crematorium, 1956-1991

Cremation fees book, Torquay Crematorium, 1965-1989.

Collection 4241C [acc: 7359]

Papers and correspondence, building of crematorium, 1951-1954

Proposed purchase by Torbay Borough Council, 1974-1975

Paignton and Torquay Cemeteries and Crematorium undertaking, 1975

Leaflet, visit of Cremation Society of Great Britain, 1976

Draft position statement, Cemeteries and Crematorium Section, Borough Engineers Department, Torbay Council, 1979

Programme, opening of modernised crematorium, Torquay, 1986

Plans, graveyards, buildings and extensions, Torquay Cemetery and Crematorium, 1939-1992

Photographs, negatives, Torquay Cemetery and Crematorium, 20th century

East Devon Crematorium - Opened in 2011 and is just off the A30 Daisymount junction, between Exeter and Honiton. It serves a large area of East Devon and West Dorset, stretching from Exmouth to Bridport. Contact address: East Devon Crematorium, London Road, Strete Raleigh, Whimble, Devon EX5 2PT
Tel: 01404 823017
Website: <http://eastdevoncrematorium.co.uk/>

Devon Heritage Centre
Great Moor House
Bittern Road
Exeter
EX2 7NL

01392 888700
devonarchives@swheritage.org.uk
Website: www.swheritage.org.uk/devon-archives

South West Heritage Trust is a charity and a company limited by guarantee registered in England.
Registered office: Somerset Heritage Centre, Brunel Way, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, Somerset TA2 6SF
Company number: 09053532 Charity Number: 1158791 VAT Registration Number: 197221592