Localities mentioned in Urith

Stone row, Merrivale

SABINE BARING-GOULD APPRECIATION SOCIETY

Plume of Feathers, Princetown

Newsletter 83 February 2017
The Aims of the Sabine Baring-Gould Appreciation Society

The aims of the Society are to enable those interested in the man and his work to share their enthusiasm and spread the interest among others. These aims are to be achieved by means of Newsletters, a membership list, website, Annual Gathering at venues with some association with Sabine Baring-Gould, and publication of the Transactions.

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SABINE BARING-GOULD was born on 28th January 1834 in Exeter and died on 2nd January 1924 at Lewtrenchard

- Hugely influential collector of folksongs at a time when such songs were being rapidly forgotten.
- Prolific novelist. Among the ten best of his time?
- Folklorist. Magpie collector of anecdotes, practices, beliefs.
- Archaeologist. Pioneer of over 60 excavations on Dartmoor.
- Loved and respected pastor to a widespread Devonshire community.
- Reconstructor of buildings - he made enormous changes to both house and church at Lewtrenchard.

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Editorial

Now is the time to start thinking about our 2017 Annual Gathering which will be held at Princetown, with a theme of Dartmoor and its affect on Sabine. The date is fixed for the weekend of Sept. 29th-Oct. 1st. Some provisional details of the programme appear on p. 8, including a list of accommodation in and around Princetown. Full details of the event will appear in the June Newsletter.

Front cover

The Plume of Feathers, Princetown, where the Committee meeting, and the Friday and Saturday evening meals will be held.

Rear cover

(Upper) Localities mentioned in the novel Urith which will be discussed at the meeting.

(Lower) Standing row at Merrivale, one of the many archaeological remains that can be found in this area, and hopefully to be seen by us.

Deadline for Newsletter 84: 15 June 2017
SB-G in 1917

David Shacklock

Following the death of Grace the previous spring, Sabine’s own life seemed to fade out. This is underlined for instance by Ron Wawman’s stark comment with reference to the Family Bible - ‘no entries for 1917’. Roger Bristow’s Bibliography contains only one entry for the year, the 36th Barrow Report for the Devonshire Association’s Transactions, for which SB-G can only claim partial authorship. As far as writing goes, it has been said that he expended most of his efforts on the Reminiscences, which of course did not see the light of day for a number of years – and then only two of the three volumes proposed.

The parish was largely looked after by his curate Gilbert Arundell, who had joined him in 1910 and succeeded him as incumbent in 1924. He was a member of the Arundell family who had inherited the ‘manor’ of Lifton in 1755 and had built Lifton Park in 1805. The now famous and flourishing Arundell Arms Hotel had formerly been a coaching inn known as the White Horse.

The family had been Bordeaux merchants of Huguenot stock when they came to south-west England in the eleventh century, and then extensively colonised East Cornwall and West Devon. Among them were a number of titled and episcopal scions. Gilbert appears to have married in 1904 one Teodora Isabella Bellamy of Stoneycroft, Lancashire. He passed the Lew Trenchard living back to the Baring-Gould family in 1946, himself living to the age of ninety. He was a noted sportsman in his day, excelling at cricket and shooting especially. For a time he lived on the estate at Rampenstein, known as ‘The Ramps’.

Hints of Sabine’s concerns emerge from the few items of correspondence that have survived. In the autumn, began the series of letters that continued to the end of his life between himself and Evelyn Healey, which had evolved out of a visit she had made to Lew Church. Ron Wawman has an interesting discussion of this subject in his article in the Transactions vol. X.

In January and March, a couple of letters to Mary mention that John had joined the Flying Corps, and that Edward had been home on leave prior to his posting in the Middle East. At the end of the year, he was ‘delighted’ to welcome the visit for Christmas of his youngest daughter Grace (Mrs Calmady-Hamlyn) and her two children and their nurses, as well as the above-mentioned John who had been five months in hospital after being severely wounded in Flanders. It was of course a particularly bad year in the war, and the news from the front only added to Sabine’s sense of depression. He was certainly not alone, although at times he may have felt it.
The following article appeared recently in *The Dalesman* (I am afraid that I do not have the date, nor do I have a record of who sent me the article—my apologies to whoever it was).

**Take a Pew** by Tony Shepherd

At the back was an ancient chest, and being curious I lifted the lid and was surprised to find a worm-eaten solid wooden half bell. I thought no more of it until many years later I came across a story in a 19th Century book by Sabine Baring-Gould called *Yorkshire Oddities*. Sabine Baring-Gould had a long and colourful life, but for a while was Vicar of Dalton near Topcliffe (which he called ‘Dalton int’ muck!’). While there, he came across a story about Dean Waddilove who was known to be particularly fond of port.

One day, a group of lads were looking for birds’ eggs and climbed up on to the Leper Chapel roof. A passer-by saw them and, in their haste to escape, one of them slipped, and to save himself from falling, grabbed hold of the bell rope. To his amazement, it made no sound and as he looked at it he could see it wasn’t the valuable medieval bell, but a cheap wooden replica. Rumours soon went round that Dean Waddilove had sold the old bell and replenished his port cellar.

A little later, some boys were scrumping apples in the Dean’s garden. The Dean himself caught the collar of the ringleader and laid into him with his stick. *O stop Mr Dean, stop*, cried the boy, *It was my father who made the bell*. Apparently, the Dean let him go at once.

But in 1877, the then Dean, Dr Freemantle, came across the tale that Baring-Gould had told, and wanted to put the record straight. *I have made it my business* he wrote to ascertain the correctness of the story, as it has excited a good deal of feeling in the minds of some of the old residents here. *We have found a bell which was sent from the Deanery at least forty years ago and which has been in the crypt of the Cathedral ever since. It is exactly the same size as the wooden bell which we have recovered from a heap of cinders.*

So, Dean Waddilove didn’t sell the bell after all. What was the reason for the wooden one? It’s yet another secret the Leper Chapel holds to itself. If only stones could speak, what truths might be revealed.
Sabine’s sideboard

Non-member Ken Baxter found the SBGAS details on our website and sent in the following snippet about Sabine’s sideboard:

This was in the house of my late sister at Yeolmbridge near Launceston, and I saw it when visiting her in about 1974/75. As far as I can recall, it was very heavy and I seem to remember 7 faces of important people carved on the front. The writing on the back of the photograph was my late mothers:

Marjorie’s sideboard, 300 years old. Rev. Wrote ‘Onward Christian Soldiers’. This was from his home. Now our Marjorie has it.

Ken does not know the current whereabouts of the sideboard, one of Marjorie’s grown-up children may know more.

SB-G References (Dec. 2016)

David Shacklock

Erik Routley – The English Carol – Jenkins 1858 – p. 18 re Intro to Chope’s Carols for Use in Church (1894); p. 50 on SB-G’s note in the Cherry Tree Carol in Chope; p. 109 ‘the devoted mediaevalist’; p.181 ref SBG’s Intro to Chope (1875); p. 184 ‘the good parson of Horley Bridge’; p. 212 ref the Basque Carols; p. 258 mini-biog (ref.p50); p. 261 re Chope (ref.p. 182)
Christopher Somerville – Britain & Ireland’s Best Wild Places – Allen Lane 2008 – p. 241 Grimsound; SB-G ‘local rector and archaeological savant’

Continued on p.16
Annual Gathering Princetown  Sept 29th– Oct 1st

Details for the 2017 Annual Gathering are taking shape. Whilst we do not yet have a finalised programme, the speakers will include Becky Smith with an analysis of the book *Urith*, Roger Bristow on the setting of SB-G’s Dartmoor novels, Richard Scrivener on mining on Dartmoor (some of you will probably remember Richard from the *John Herring* gathering), Jane Marchand on Dartmoor archaeology with a short trip onto the moors (weather permitting) to see some of the many Dartmoor archaeological remains (see rear cover), Bill Murray on the Dartmoor singers, and Martin Graebe on *Dartmoor Idylls*.

**Friday evening:** Plume of Feathers, Princetown; Committee meeting (6-7pm) followed by evening meal

**Saturday:** Princetown Community Centre during the day (Coffee/Lunch/Tea); Plume of Feathers for evening meal

**Sunday:** Community Centre (Coffee/Lunch).

The Princetown W.I. will be doing the catering for us as follows:

**Saturday**
- Mid morning. Coffee/tea biscuits
- Lunch. Homemade quiches, green salad and homemade potato salad (vegetable quiche as vegetarian option)
- Afternoon Tea. Apple/Blackberry crumble and cream/custard

**Sunday**
- Mid morning. Coffee/tea biscuits
- Lunch. Beef or chicken casserole, new potatoes, green beans (butter bean casserole as vegetarian option)
- Fruit salad, cream

The W.I. costs for the Saturday and Sunday are £15 pp per day.

Accommodation in and around Princetown, Dartmoor

The list of accommodation below includes hotels, pubs and B&Bs of varying sizes, standards and prices. PLEASE NOTE, I am not making any recommendations for any one establishment – it is up to you.

**The Plume of Feathers,** Princetown, 01822 890240, has 10 en-suite rooms: £55 single occupancy; £90 double occupancy.

**Prince of Wales,** Princetown. 01822 890219

**The Oratory,** Princetown. 1 family room/suite

**Duchy House Guest House,** Princetown . 01822 890552, 5 en-suite rooms

**Tor Royal B&B Guest House,** Princetown. 01827 230239. Several double, single and twin en-suite rooms

**Yellowmead Farm B&B,** Princetown 01822 890004. 1 ensuite double room and 2 rooms with a shared bathroom; also self catering-

**Cherry Brook,** Two Bridges, 01822 880260, 7 rooms

**Moorland Garden,** Yelverton, 01822 852245. 40 en-suite rooms.

**Barnabas House,** Yelverton, 01822 853268. 6, mostly en-suite, rooms

**Two Bridges Hotel,** Two Bridges, 01822 892300, doubles from £150 pn.

**Prince Hall,** Two Bridges, 01822 890403

**East Dart Hotel,** Postbridge, 01822 880213, 9 en-suite rooms from £39 pp per night

**Lydgate House Hotel,** Postbridge. 01822 880209, 7 en-suite rooms; doubles from £95; singles from £49.50
Further light reading for the Gathering

A Book of Dartmoor, 1900
Dartmoor Idylls
Guavas the Tinner, 1896
John Herring, 1883
Kitty Alone, 1894
Margery of Quether, 1884
Sixpence Only, 1899
Urith, 1890 (see rear cover for localities mentioned in text)

The Exploration of Grimsound. First Report of the Dartmoor Exploration
Committee. 1894. Report & Transactions of the Devonshire Associa-
tion, Vol. 26, pp. 101-121 [Read by SB-G].
Hut Circles at Tavy Cleave. 1894. Report & Transactions of the Devon-
Prehistoric Remains on Dartmoor (Sabine’s Presidential Address). 1896.

Sabine Baring-Gould: The Man Who Told a Thousand Stories

Told a Thousand Stories is now in production, and should be available
by Easter, and perhaps some weeks prior to that, if all goes well. It is a
limited edition (500 copies) in hardback, over 500 pages long, and has
over 20 illustrations. The cover price is £22.00, but SBGAS members
and their friends can have it for £20.00, post free. You can send orders
for it now, with or without payment. Cheques payable Praxis Books - but
I hope to set up a Paypal account specifically for it, and will enclose de-
tails with the book for those who haven't paid. There are no other outlets
from which to obtain it. No, not even Amazon. The cover price can be
kept reasonably low if I don’t have to give half the proceeds to a book-
seller. If these sell out, there will be a paperback to follow - from the
usual places, and quite expensive!

The Ely and Littleport Riots in 1816

The year 2016 is the bicentenary year of the Ely and Littleport Riots. Ray
Scott points out that 10 chapters of Cheap Jack Zita (1893) are connected
with these riots and it is possible that Sabine gathered some of the infor-
mation on the riots first hand. The following is taken from a little com-
nemorative booklet entitled The day the Fen Tigers revolted.

‘A farm wagon drawn by four black horses lumbers towards the city of
Ely. Four muzzle loading punt guns, each eight foot long and loaded with
a pound of swan shot, stick fore and aft out of the wagon like the long
guns in a battleship turret.

Behind the wagon march along the rugged peaty road, a hundred or more
rough fenmen in highlows, moleskin waistcoats, round otterskin hats, car-
rying guns, scythes, pitchforks, turf beackets, seven foot long eel spears,
hedge-hooks and bludgeons, all roaring riot and rebellion.

A parson stands half-clad in the vicarage doorway, a loaded pistol in his
hand, while his wife and children fled in their nightclothes through the
dark.

Meanwhile, the small fen town of Littleport is in the hands of a drunken
mob. Windows are shattered, doors are beaten down. Women screaming.
Shops pillaged. The graveyard littered with broken glass and china. Beer
is being ladled out from buckets. And the cry goes out from a hundred
threats. We want Henry Martin! Kill Martin! Kill Martin!

The picture ends with five wretched fenmen, whose greatest crime was
that they rioted because their children starved, swinging in the wind, while
another batch of their mates were battened down on their way to the con-
vict settlements of Australia.

When the smoke blew away from the bloody field of Waterloo, peace
blessed the land and hunger gripped the bellies of the poor. Work was
scarce. Food was short. Many a fenman’s wife cooked a mess of comfrey
and white nettles with a boiled swede to still the whimpering of her miser-
able children.

Wages were eight to nine shillings a week in that year of 1816. Flour
rocketed to 103 shillings a quarter. The price of bread was prohibitive.
Meat was dear as gold. One family in the Isle of Ely, father, mother and
seven children were so starved that it is officially recorded that All the meat consumed in a year was three pounds of pork and a sheep's pluck.

Many of the fen farmers were almost as hard hit. They could neither pay their rent nor their rates. The men worked on the roads for half-a-crown a week. Some begged from door to door. Others just starved.

Henry Martin, a Littleport farmer, a petty politician, a parish tyrant, was forever prating that the miserable allowance made by the parish officers to the starving poor was sufficient for their needs.

Thus it came about that on the night of May 22 1816 armed rebellion was born in the Globe Inn, Littleport [demolished 1962]. Robert Johnson was the landlord. About 60 men of the old dour fen breed muttered of white-faced clambering children, starving wives, sky-high price of bread – and the iniquities of Henry Martin.

Landlord Johnson recorded that the rebels expected that night to be joined by other men from Othery and Denver on the Norfolk border. They did not turn up, but a man named Cornwall blew a lighterman's horn and hundreds of people flocked together and the mischief soon began. Wiles' shop and Messrs Mobbs, Dewey, Sindall, Little and Speechley were broken into and wrecked. Speechley died soon after.

The vicar, Mr Vachell, tried to read the Riot Act. He stood at the doorway with a loaded pistol and threatened to shoot the first man to enter. He did not do so, and with his family fled to Ely in his nightclothes. The mob swarmed over his house and smashed the furniture and threw the china and dish covers against the gravestones in the dead of night, creating such a noise as was never forgotten by those who hear it. Henry Martin, the prime cause of all of this, bolted before they stormed into his house and sacked it.

Meanwhile, the parson and his half-clad family arrived in Ely while the rioters were robbing houses and people in Littleport. The city was thrown into panic.

Early that morning the rioters, with their farm wagon armed with punt guns had marched on Ely. Mr Metcalfe, an Ely magistrate, met the mob on horseback and, although the punt guns were swivelled on him, reasoned with them with great courage.

Now, men, what do you want? Let's hear the cause of the trouble he asked.

We want the price of a stone of flour a day, Master. Our Missusses and kids are starving.

You shall have it he replied. But let's have no riot and rebellion. Turn about and go back to Littleport. And I'll see that justice is done.

Some turned back. Others yelled Come on, let's go and have a randy at Ely. Metcalfe addressed them from the White Hart. The mob cheered him and fired of their guns. Then the roughs of Ely rioted through the streets with hatchets and bludgeons robbing publicans, brewers and bakers. Rickwood and Cooper the bakers were robbed. Mr Edwards of Mortlock's Bank was forced at pistol point to hand over £50. Then the wagon set off to Littleport at 2 pm loaded with loot, barrels of beer and punt guns.
In no time about 80 rioters were arrested and about £400 of stolen goods were recovered.

For weeks afterwards, soldiers scanned the fens hunting the rebels. One fenman, Billy Buckingham, who lived in Sedge Farm in a lonely house, hid four runaways. When he saw the troops, he pushed the men under the bed, grabbed a bunch of stinging nettles and dashed them into the faces of his wife and six children and himself. When the soldiers said they were going t search the house, Billy covered in rashes and pimples, with his six children, yelling their heads off, asked them not to make a noise as his wife was dying of smallpox upstairs and he reckoned that the kids and himself had got it too. The soldiers went quicker than they came. The four runaways escaped.

Two other soldiers invaded the cottage of Bob Dewey in Wellmere Fen while Bob and his mate were digging a 12-foot trench in the river bank a quarter of a mile away. They raped Dewey’s wife, got drunk on rhubarb wine, and when Dewey and his mates came home they found the wife in hysterics and the soldiers dead drunk.

She wanted to die; Dewey said You’re not the one who is going to die. Forty years later, when the river bank leaked again, workmen opened the trench to ‘puddle’ the bank once more. They found two skeletons where the leak was. The clay had not been ‘puddled’ over them.

The upshot of all this was a ruthless trial in Ely on Monday, June 17. Twenty-three men and one woman were condemned to death. Five men only were executed; the rest were either transported or sent to prison. It is significant that the citizens of Ely, who had been most active in fighting the rioters, petitioned the Home Secretary to reduce their sentences – without much result.

The truth is the men were desperate, half-starved and drunk when the excesses were committed. They murdered no-one. A few years hard labour at the most would have been the just sentence for the worst of them.

The written confession of the Condemned Rioters

We your poor unfortunate suffering fellow creatures, beg leave to present the public with this our dying acknowledgement of the justice of that sentence, which has condemned us to die for the violent outrages we have committed, ad hope it will be a warning to all, who may see, or hear of us, the avoid the like course. We acknowledge and confess our sins in general, and we must sincerely beg of God to pardon our sins fervently hoping and trusting that God Almighty will, for the sake of the all-atoning merits of the Redeemer, receive our precious and immortal souls into his favour, though we have delayed their interests to this late hour; most earnestly entreating that the Almighty may grant us all our sufferings in this world, and none in the next. We most sincerely warn you all to avoid those sins which have been the cause of bringing us here.

By all means avoid irreligion and vice of every kind, particularly that of swearing, drunkenness, Sabbath breaking and that of shameful neglect of the means of grace, the only means through the merit of Christ, of our soul’s salvation. We sincerely recommend to you, that you attend the public worship of God, particularly on the Lord’s day, and most sincerely pray that all our friends and relations will not put off their repentance to a death bed, lest that God whom they have neglected to serve while in health and strength, should say to them at last, as he does to every neglecter of salvation – ‘Because I have called, and ye refused: I have stretched out my hands and no man regarded: but ye have yet set at nought all my counsel and none of my reproof; I will also laugh at your at your calamity, and mock when your fear cometh.

Signed
John Dennis
Wm Beamiss
Thomas South
George Crow
Isaac Harley

Witness Benj. Barlow, Gaoler

N.B. The above was distinctly read to the prisoners and signed by them on the morning of their execution just before they left the prison
Continued from p.7


Sam Richards & Tish Stubbs – *The English Folksinger* – Collins pbk 1979 – pp. 26&47 The Months of the Year; pp. 66&77 The Leg of the Mallard; pp. 68&78 Did You See My Man?; pp. 92&119 I Wish That the Wars were all Over; pp. 113&121 Young Rumble-Away; pp. 127&139 I'll be no Submissive Wife; p128&139 Go from my Window; pp. 166&Paul Jones [2nd page nos = notes]

John Betjeman – *Lovely Bits of Old England* – Aurum 2012 (selected writings from *The Daily Telegraph* – p. 2. 14 Cruel Coppinger/In the Roar of the Sea


Colin White submitted the snippet below:

On a recent round of University Challenge, the first question posed referred to (and pronounced correctly) Sabine as composer (sic).

**BARING-GOULD TITLES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

This list is constantly expanding, and older titles are gradually being left out, to save space. Almost certainly there are omissions. Bossiney Books and Llanerch are regularly producing books by or including SB-G. By far one of the biggest publishers of SB-G material is Kessinger Publishing (www.kessingerpub.com) - over 62 titles are currently available, although some of the 'titles' are in fact chapters from some of SB-G's books. If anyone knows of additional titles, please let the Editor know.

*Bar Baring-Gould. Paperback. Praxis Books £5.00*

*Through Flood and Flame. Paperback. Praxis Books £8.50*

*Winefred. Paperback. Praxis Books (very few left) £6.50*

*Red Spider. Paperback. Praxis Books £5.00*

*Mehalah. Paperback. Praxis Books £8.50*

*Guavas the Tinner. Paperback. Praxis Books £7.50*

*Bladys of the Stewponey. Paperback. Praxis Books £8.50*

*Court Royal. Paperback. Praxis Books £10.00*

*John Herring. Paperback. Praxis Books £12.50*

*Margery of Quether. Paperback. Praxis Books £6.00*

*Nebo the Nailer. Paperback. Praxis Books £6.00*


*Five Devon Seafarers. Taken from SB-G's Devonshire Characters. Bossiney Books. 2000. £2.99*

*Six Devon Rogues. Taken from Devonshire Characters and Strange Events. Bossiney Books. Paperback 2000. £2.99*


*Queen of Love. Gloucester: Nonsuch Publishing. £6.*


*An 89-page Bibliography is available from the Hon. Editor.*