

COLYTON CHAMBER OF FEOFFEES

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Registered Charity No. 1169081



ESTABLISHED 1546

Please reply to:

The Bailiff

Town Hall Office

Market Place

Colyton EX24 6JR

7 December 2021

History made at Colyton Chamber of Feoffees meeting this evening



History was made this evening at the regular monthly meeting of the Colyton Chamber of Feoffees with the appointment of two new Feoffees one of them a woman.

Lucy Dack is the first lady to be selected as a Feoffee since the Chamber was created in 1546. The second new appointee is Ryan Smith. They replace Dr Mick Askew and Tony Hibberd who have retired.

Andrew Parr, outgoing Chairman of the Chamber of Feoffees, welcomed them both to the Chamber. He said: *“The Feoffees are very pleased to welcome Lucy Dack and Ryan Smith to the Chamber. Both are well known members of the Colyton community and will bring a great deal of local knowledge and expertise to the Feoffees.”*

Lucy Dack, who is landlady of the Kingfisher public house in Colyton said: *“I am honoured and delighted to be asked to become the first lady Feoffee.”*

Ryan Smith who is a builder and locally born and bred said: *“I am really honoured to become a Feoffee and will look to do my best for the community.”*

Notes to Editors

The Chamber of Feoffees was established in January 1546 after King Henry VIII granted a Royal Charter which remains a prized possession of the Feoffees to this day.

In 1539 King Henry had executed his cousin Henry Courtenay, Marquis of Exeter, for treason and seized his estates. Some years later local worthies went to the King and petitioned him to buy back some of the estates. Henry agreed subject to the receipts from these lands being used henceforth for ‘good, godly and commendable purposes’ on behalf of the local community. The Chamber was given a number of responsibilities including running local markets and organising a ‘court of pie poudre’ (literally ‘dusty feet’) at them – a form of on the spot justice.

For hundreds of years, until the municipal reforms of the second half of the 19th century, the Chamber of Feoffees provided effective local public administration in Colyton Parish, instigated public services and delivered charitable acts. One of its first acts was the creation of Colyton Grammar School in 1546. Over the centuries it has introduced an early water supply to the town, established a fire brigade and street lighting. Throughout its history the Chamber made donations to the needy of the Parish for the purchase of food, fuel, blankets and seed potatoes. Today there is an increasing emphasis on making donations to young people to facilitate academic and career enhancing pursuits.

The Chamber appointed its first lady Bailiff in 2013.

Sarah Charman

Bailiff