

Present: Brian, Ed, Anna, Ian, Peter

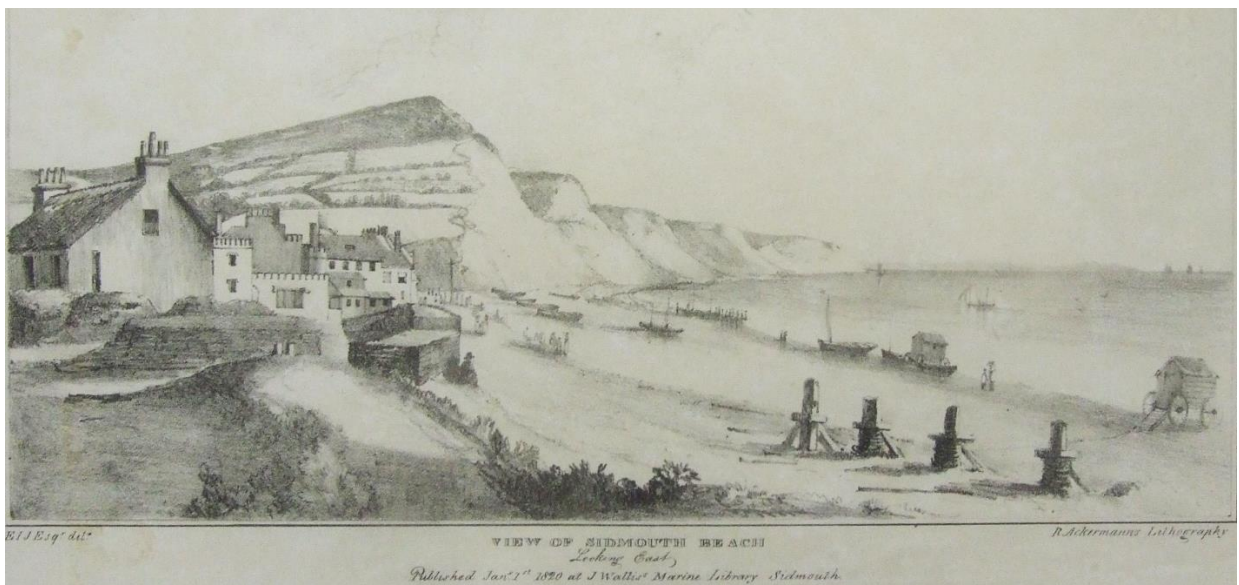
Brian started the meeting by following up on some items from the last meeting.

Regarding Peter's interest in the history of the fort, he selected three photos from the Sidmouth's Prints book that showed:

In Butcher's 1817 guide, the crenelated wall and archway entrance outside Belmont.



In 1820, Wallis published a sketch showing the remaining earthworks showing where the fort had been.



In 1846, the extension of the crenelated wall as far as what is now the Fort Café – the photo shown here was taken a little later in 1865, but is essentially unchanged.



Regarding Anna's interest in James Cunningham, Brian noted that the Mr Cunningham who owned Witheby, and after whom is named Cunningham's Lane, sold it to a Mr Cave in 1880. It seemed plausible that this was the same Mr Cave who bought the manor of Sidbury from a James Cunningham in 1853 and hence it might be the same Cunningham. It was suggested that the matter could be resolved by inspecting the censuses.

Ian reported that he had visited Whimble Museum, which was very nicely set out and well worth a visit. He also said that they have a very active History Group. Anna mentioned that Seaton Museum has two builder's ledgers spanning 20 years which include entries for work done at "houses" belonging to Sidmouth Brewery. The jobs span the years 1910-1931 and the "houses" include The George in Seaton and the Ship Inn at Axmouth. The brewer billed for the work was George Vallance (see entries nos. 274 and 287). This was Georeg, son of George Vallance senior, the founder of Sidmouth Brewery in the late 1870s, who had died in 1908.

Ed reported that, apparently, history can, in the right circumstances, be rewound. In the case of the restoration of the salt marsh at the mouth of the River Otter, all of the salt marsh species observed by Cullen, in his 1849 *Flora Sidostiensis*, and which have been lost in the interim, have now returned – plus seablight, which he did not record.

Post meeting note from Anna: Seaton museum have a "codd" bottle from C.Solman's Sid Vale Mineral Works – the same as one discussed by the group in 2019.

Brian concluded the meeting with a trailer for his talk to take place at the SVA HQ at 2:30pm on Thursday, October 10th, on the great storm of 1824 when the Chit Rock was destroyed, along with much of Sidmouth. Fortunately, there were no fatalities in Sidmouth, whereas further east, where the Chesil Bank was overtopped, several people were killed. It was recorded that the Chesil Bank there was 6.7m above high tide level, implying a very high sea. It was remarked that conditions of comparable severity must have been required to build it that high.

Next meetings, all at 12, Church Street

Monday 11th November, 7pm

Monday 20th January, 7pm

Monday 10th March, 7pm

Monday 12th May, 7pm

Monday 13th July, 7pm