



**Review of ‘Devon Historical and Hysterical’ by  
Maggie Duffy <http://www.maggieduffy.co.uk/>  
Exmouth Pavilion April 7<sup>th</sup> 2022**

Throughout a wonderful mix of songs, stories and poems it was very clear that Maggie had gained inspiration from Devon’s rich heritage of folk lore and legend. She admitted that she wasn’t a star pupil of history at school, however it was certainly evident that Maggie had an ear for a good story. Maggie entertained us with many local tales which she incorporated into her work ensuring that oral history was recorded and shared with us; so essentially a ‘true’ historian.

Her knowledge of life in Brixham past and present came to the fore in a number of her pieces. ‘Brixham Belle’ written by Maggie was one example of the story behind a building which became known as - ‘Ye Olde Coffin House’ centring on the tale of a father who said he would rather see his daughter in a coffin than wed a certain Captain Roundsell. We learnt about the very unusual coffin shape of this 18<sup>th</sup> century building in King Street built by Captain Roundsell as a marital home to annoy the father; he did in fact wed the daughter |

Maggie’s rendition of a number of humorous poems were warmly received by our u3a audience who enjoyed the well-spoken words, with the emphasis just right. It was so good to hear the laughter from a very appreciative audience.

Maggie captured and maintained our interest with many incredible tales one such being a stormy night in January 1917 when the Devon fishing village of Hallsands collapsed into the sea. The entire village was destroyed together with the livelihoods of its people. For decades the fishing village of Hallsands and its stunning coastline had been at the mercy of the forces of nature and although the storm played its part in destroying the villager’s homes it was most likely due to greed and deception. An engineering company had secured the rights to dredge shingle from along the coast from Hallsands to Beesands without any consultation with the villagers and the dredging altered the landscape and in essence destroyed the resident’s homes. Fortunately all the residents survived but many homes were lost and Maggie’s evocative rendition of her ‘Hallsands’ was exquisite and set the mood for this dramatic song.

Overall we were treated to a magical session; beautiful singing, well told stories and poems and lovely guitar playing. A fantastic vocalist devoted to her craft. Thank you Maggie!

**We welcome Maggie back for ‘Pot Pourri’ on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>  
April 2023**



**Review by Christine Chittock, Chair and Speakers’ Coordinator**

**Photo of Maggie with guitar courtesy of Maggie Duffy**

**Photo of Maggie with Christine Chittock by Maurice Chittock**