

Devon village petitions over legacy

More than half the population of the East Devon village of Buckerell has signed a petition to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral asking them to fulfil the terms of a legacy from the late Mrs. Anna Wolsey Harris.

Mrs Harris, a local historian, who claimed descent from Cardinal Wolsey, died in 1963, aged 82. She left her six-bedroom home, Splatthayes, in the centre of Buckerell, to the Dean and Chapter with £3,000, and stipulated that it should be used as a home for retired clergy.

Because of the size of the house and its poor state of repair, it was not suitable, and the Dean and Chapter have applied to the Charity Commissioners for leave to sell it.

IN THE PARISH

Villagers at Buckerell have asked the Dean and Chapter to fulfil the terms of the legacy within the parish itself and not somewhere else in the diocese.

The Rector of Feniton-with-Buckerell, the Rev. E. G. Bussell, said: "I and my two churchwardens headed the petition, which was signed by 120 people. Only two people refused to sign and they could not care less."

Meanwhile the villagers are anxiously awaiting news about the property, which is rapidly deteriorating.

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