

News

Volume 5 Issue 6



Letter

Spring 2009



'Let's Look at a Church' No.53 – All Saints Bawdeswell

'I remember seeing one of the plane's wheels, on fire rolling down the street towards us.' The vivid memory of a witness, then a girl of eight, to the destruction on the night of November 6th 1944, of All Saint's, Bawdeswell, predecessor of the present building, by a de Havilland Mosquito which crashed on the church while returning from an operation over Germany sadly causing the deaths of both crew members but miraculously not injuring anyone on the ground. A memorial plaque in the present church and a wooden cross which stood on the old bell tower yet survived to stand now in the churchyard remain to mark the event.

Bawdeswell has a long history, an important Roman road ran through here connecting the Fens to the coast near what is now Great Yarmouth, and there have been at least four churches on this spot including the present one. It is thought that there was a small oratory on the site as early as the 10th century although the Rectors of Bawdeswell who were incumbents of a larger medieval church which followed it are only recorded back to William de Meesdone in the year 1313 shortly before the supposed time of Geoffrey Chaucer's Reeve or land-steward described in *The Canterbury Tales* as 'a slender choleric man (who lived) beside a town men clepen Baldeswell.' This medieval church was just as unlucky as the one destroyed by the wartime accident. In 1739 as the then rector recorded in his burial register the largely flint tower collapsed through the roof ruining the structure of the building which was replaced with a simple pseudo-classical edifice, without a chancel, paid for by the sale of the four bells from the original church. The new church had a brick tower which unfortunately proved no stronger than the one it

had replaced as this only lasted until 1828 when it too fell down. By 1843, the 18th century church, presumably still minus its tower, was in such disrepair that the money was raised to commission John Brown to build a new one of brick and flint having a nave with south porch, transepts, and bell-cot containing one bell. This Victorian structure was completed in 1845 but, as we have seen, lasted less than a hundred years.

Approaching the present church, which was designed by J. Fletcher Watson of Norwich, we were immediately reminded of ones we had seen in New England until closer examination revealed the uncut Norfolk flints of the walls arranged in an attractive herringbone pattern. The North American look of the church rather than a more contemporary design is apparently because the architect wished the building to blend in with the predominantly Georgian style of the other buildings in the street. Just inside the doorway with its Tuscan columns and red mahogany double doors, there is a photographic display showing the church's construction which took place 1953-5 but what first takes the eye is the rather effective blue barrel ceiling covered in eight pointed stars. Also near the doorway is a modern stone font with a relief showing Christ the Good Shepherd and this combined with the 'gothic' chandeliers and other similar touches makes the overall style of the interior appear somewhat eclectic although not unpleasantly so. On the north side, is a quite impressive three-decker pulpit and at the west end, a digital electronic organ newly installed to replace an earlier Edwardian pipe organ whose pipes still remain. Returning to the rear of the church to examine fine iron bound oak chest made from wood salvaged from the previous building we pass the pews which are also of oak and are said to be designed by a Swedish professor to an ergonomic plan offering superior comfort for the seated members of the congregation – no excuse for sleeping during sermons though! On the inside of each pew end can be found carved initials of those who built All Saints. Also worth examining in detail are the six old Rhineland glass roundels in the main windows which depict biblical scenes. Leaving, we stand in the grassy churchyard, turn to once again view the building as a whole and have a last look at the tower with its computer controlled Millennium clock and short weathercock topped spire which completes this interesting little church and is a focal point from many parts of the village.

The original parish registers are held at the Norfolk Record Office (Cat. Ref. PD155) and comprise Baptisms 1557-1872, Marriages 1557-1837, Burials 1557-1890 and Banns 1754-1968. Microform copies of these are available for research but Banns only run to 1900. Archdeacon's and Bishop's Transcripts cover Baptisms 1600-1885, Marriages 1600-1837 and Burials 1600-1885. Also available at the Record Office are various items from the Parish Chest including a Bawdeswell Tithe Apportionment and map for 1844 and a Curate's List of Parishioners for 1842.

Roderic & Denise Woodhouse

A few words from your Editor ...

Hello – a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of the Society Newsletter. Please keep on writing, lets make the Newsletter an exchange of ideas and information, I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you also for the messages of appreciation received, for the Society, the Publications and the Newsletter.

Format for Newsletter Contributions Preferably typed using Microsoft Word or Works, then please email the file to me at Familyhis@aol.com or post in on a CD/floppy disk or handwritten, to me at the address on the back of the Newsletter.

Deadline for inclusion in the next Newsletter April 10th 2009.

Kate Easdown

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT-Food in Family History

Today, with ever-easier access to records it has never been a better time to find the information needed to 'write' our family histories. However, one of the difficulties that remain is to put our words into context. This was brought home to me when a pre-Christmas leaflet came through the door from the District Council, designed to educate me on reducing waste and recycling, over the Christmas period.

Within the text it stated that *'it has been estimated that up to a third of all food we buy in the UK ends up as waste'* Certain that this was not the case in my household, I pointed it out to the 'Lady of the House'. She agreed and suggested that we have minimum waste because we were of the 'War Generation', when ingenuity was needed to just get enough to eat and waste was virtually non-existent. This, of course, is not strictly true, we are not old enough to have experienced problems of acquiring food. We were but 'wartime children' - it was our mothers who had the task of feeding us. But I don't remember ever being actually hungry - we simply ate differently, were less fussy and expected far less than today's children.

When writing our histories we should mention normal activities, and what could be more normal than food, the most basic of human requirements? No matter in which period of history we are referring to, it took up so much time and it involved everyone - either as a producer, preparer or eater. It really cannot be ignored.

Returning to those war years, it is almost unbelievable how our parents and/or grandparents managed without domestic refrigeration, supermarkets with full shelves, bar codes, 'sell by' and 'best before' dates etc.

But one thing is certain they would not have needed this advice in the leaflet regarding shopping:

1. Always prepare a shopping list and stick to it
2. Try to buy local products, with minimum packaging
3. Check 'use by' dates

These things would have come naturally and I doubt whether they would have needed the recipe on the leaflet 'How to make a tasty desert from leftover Christmas pudding', either. As to the last line 'Rescue your leftovers and abandoned veg with some tasty recipes from www.lovefoodhatewaste.com', even if they had a vague notion as to what that meant - it would have been sheer science fiction.

No, things 'aint what they used to be'. We really should make an effort to get our own experiences written down while we can, for the benefit of our grandchildren and subsequent generations.

TFG

A VISIT TO NORFOLK 2008

Four years ago I sent for a copy of my Grandmother Mary Ann Moore's Birth Certificate and I found out her mother's name was Sarah Grummitt ~ an unusual name, I thought. I knew my Grandfather George Moore came from Swardestone in Norfolk so I started searching the Norfolk register. I found Sarah and family were from Gressenhall, this is when the bug got me!

I contacted St. Mary's Church, Gressenhall enquiring if there were any people with the surname Grummitt in the Church records. Rev John Belham wrote back saying there were 74 entries and I could purchase a hardback copy of the Church records transcribed by Jennifer Purple.

I bought a copy and ever since it has been a constant source of interest to me not just for the information it provided about my family but also for what it had to say about the other inhabitants of Gressenhall. As a result of my research my Norfolk tree extends to 149 members and in July this year in I visited Gressenhall together with my husband and some old friends.

The evening we arrived the Mid-Norfolk Family History Group were holding their monthly meeting in Dereham and I called in to meet some of the people who

I have had contact with over the past year. It was good to put faces to names and also to thank them for the help they have given me. We retraced our steps and had an excellent meal at The Swan in Gressenhall where we were made very welcome.

The following day when we were seeking the key to St Mary's Church, Gressenhall I discovered that John Belham had retired. However, his successor Rev. Kevin Blogg and his wife not only provided the key but invited us in for coffee and cakes.

When we got to the church we found a group of ladies were preparing St Mary's for a wedding later that day, and it turned out that one of the group had actually known Stephen Grummitt (a local carpenter who lived in Bittering Street) when she was a young girl. When we returned the key, Kevin Blogg said John Belham would be officiating at the wedding and we would be most welcome to attend.

The church was crowded when we arrived but a steward immediately ushered us in and found somewhere for us to sit. It was a very moving experience looking down the aisle from the font where so many services for my ancestors' christenings, marriages, and funerals had been held.

According to the census the majority of the Grummitts lived in Bushy Common ~ which was not the easiest of places to find! In order to be certain we had arrived in the right place I knocked on a cottage door and, once again, was invited in for refreshments by total strangers. Overall I think the warmth of our welcome in mid-Norfolk is what will stay with me longest.

On doing more research when I arrived home I found that in 1861 Bushy Common had been a thriving community with some 21 cottages, with 73 inhabitants living there. As well as the agricultural workers' cottages and two farms there was Wood House, home of Mr Philip Fields a landowner. Sam Pickle lived at Gibble Bridge and one John Hastings, aged 46, lived at Sparrow Green with a income of 350 guinea per year.

The one other person of note in the area was Ashley Spurgeon (56). He was a Magistrate living with his family and 3 servants and I wonder if he could be related to the preacher Spurgeon.

The only disappointing event was that in spite of two attempts we were unable to obtain the key to visit Wendling Church where my g.g.g. Grandmother Mary Poll had originated.

A disappointment to be sure, but not enough to seriously detract from a marvellous few days in Norfolk.

JEAN COX

WOKING, SURREY

FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS AT MNFHS MEETINGS

**18th February - "Another Strange Coincidence by Tony Blackburn
"Family History for Grandchildren" by Graham Rudd**

18th March - "I Was There! 1947/8 Victory Parade" by Don McLean

**15th April - "Funny Blood got me into Family History!"
by Anne Simmonds**

**20th May - "Wills and Administrations" by Gill Blanchard
"Dereham War Memorial" by Pat Skiittrall**

WEBSITES YOU MAY FIND USEFUL

www.kentfallen.com – Kent memorials are organised by area, with further links to the memorials, which reveal photos, transcribed names and biographies that the hard-working volunteers of the Kent Fallen project have researched.

www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk – 40 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ. Foundling Hospital Archives are held by London Metropolitan Archives.

www.ulladulla/info/historia/ffstory.html - learn more about Australia's First Fleet. It features a detailed history and useful links to find out more about Australia's European founders.

www.rootsireland.ie – births, baptismal, marriage, death and census records.

www.naval-history.net – complete Royal Navy and Royal Marine casualty lists from pre 1914 to 2008, including both World Wars. These are listed both alphabetically and chronologically by ship.

www.nrm.org.uk/research/railway/relatives.asp - National Railway Museum.#

www.1911census.co.uk – details of 1911 census.

www.ukniwm.org.uk – United Kingdom National Inventory of War Memorials provides details of 55,000 war memorials in Britain.

www.logainm.ie – Placenames Database of Ireland.

<http://www.iwmcollections.org.uk/> could be helpful to members who are looking for context of military connections.

Thank you Sue Vickerage and Graham Rudd

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Member 680 – Mr H Hxxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

LILLEY	All	Any
BRISTER	All	Any

Member 681 – Mr N Wxxxxx, -----, -----, -----, -----
-----@-----

WATSON	Lt Fransham/Wendling NFK	19 th C
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Member 685 – Mxxx E Dxxxx, -----, -----, -----,
----- -----@-----

EDWARDS Mabel & Elizabeth Dereham NFK		17 th – 18 th C
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Member 687 – Mr D Rxxxx, -----, -----, -----

WEALES William	Gressenhall/Colkirk NFK	b 1835 d 1887
ELLIOTT John/James	Nth Tuddenham NFK	c 1780
ELLIOTT Martha	Nth Tuddenham NFK	b c 1791
RAPER Susanah	Kings Lynn NFK	1861

Member 688 – Mr G Oxxxx, -----, -----, -----,
----- -----@-----

OLLEY	NFK & YKS	1700 – 1900
WELLS	NFK	1500 – 1900
BOUGHEN	NFK	1500 – 1960

Member 689 – Ms P A Fxxxx, -----, -----, -----,
----- -----@-----

FERRIS George	WIL	19 th – 20 th C
SHERWOOD David & May	WIL	18 th – 20 th C
NEWMAN Frank	WIL	19 th – 20 th C
SMITH Eliza	Lower Winchendon BKM	18 th – 20 th C
SPICER Thomas	Lower Winchendon/Haddenham BKM	18 th – 20 th C
BLOOMFIELD Ernest	KEN & YKS	20 th C
BLOOMFIELD Peter James	YKS & NZ	20 th C

Member 690 – Mrs S Nxxxxx, -----, -----, -----, -----

-----@-----

PHILO	Swaffham/Dereham NFK	17 th – 19 th C
PHILO	LND	18 th – 19 th C
SYMONDS Francis	Dereham NFK	17 th C
BOCKING	Holme next the Sea NFK	18 th C
WALTON Ann	Dereham NFK	18 th C

Member 691 – S McMxxxxx, -----, -----, -----, -----

-----@-----

KNOCK	NFK	Any
SEMMENCE	NFK	Any
MARGETSON	NFK	Any

Member 692 – Mxxx Cxxxxx, -----, -----, -----, -----

-----@-----

LEEDER	Wrampingham NFK	18 th C
LEEDER Benjamin	Thursford NFK	19 th C
THILTHORPE	Dereham NFK	18 th C
HALLIDAY/HOLLIDAY	Scarning NFK	18 th C
GODDARD Ann	Dereham NFK	c 1696
GIBBS Martha	Wrampingham NFK	c 1771

Member 694 – Mr A Txxx, -----, -----, -----, -----

-----@-----

TYE	Beetley NFK	1730 – 1840
TWIGG	Gressenhall NFK	1730 – 1840
MAKINS	Swanton Morley NFK	1730 – 1840

NEW MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO SCOTTISH FAMILY HISTORY

ScotlandsPeople have announced that they are to launch ***Discover My Past Scotland***, the first online magazine dedicated to Scottish family history and heritage.

jThe monthly magazine can be found at <http://www.discovermypast.co.uk> and is available on subscription.

HELP WANTED ... AND FEEDBACK

Please send any replies to me, Kate by email (familyhis@aol.com) or by post to my address on the back page of the Newsletter

Help wanted by Michael Rudd who lives in the North East

My interest in mid-Norfolk stems from trying to find out more about the RUDD family in Reepham/Hackford. My 5 X great grandfather Martin/Martten RUDD, buried 1778 at Hackford; my 4 x great grandfather Martin RUDD, baptised 1741 at Hackford; and my 3 x great grandfather Edward RUDD, baptised 1787 at Hackford (moved to Norwich by 1813).

1. I went to Reepham a few years ago, and saw Rudd's Lane, but have not been able to find out when this lane was named, and after which RUDD (quite a common name in the area).
2. Also, I apparently missed the 1778 headstone.
3. Edward was a bricklayer by 1813; is there any information about brickmaking, kilns, pits, etc. in the Reepham area in the late 18th, early nineteenth centuries?
4. I am still stuck on the marriage of Martin/Martten RUDD, perhaps to Alice RUDD (!?) their first child Mary seems to have been baptised September 1739 at Hackford. Alice was buried 1 February 1784, aged 83, "Widow of Martin (late Alice Rudd)"

Any help with any of these would be greatly appreciated; I will try and re-visit the area (I live in the North East of England) if there is anything concrete to see/photograph/research on the spot.

A question from John Clarke

This proves a point in asking older relatives about their life experiences and what they know of their ancestors. I received from my Cousin A diary and tapes of my Aunt, She being my Fathers Sister. The content was very interesting and although some I knew, there were bits and pieces that gave me new directions and interesting facts that amazed me. The intervening years between census dates can be quite surprising, I have now found that my Grandfather George Clarke had a traveled life since being born in Clapham, His Father James a Blacksmith born in Castle Acre moved to London and joined the Police, returned to Norfolk with his family. Hence George being in Norfolk and Apprentice to a Harness maker in Castle Acre, then worked in Aldborough, married an Alby Girl. My Aunt born in Aldborough.

1891 census the family in Aldborough, 1901 census they are in Great Yarmouth,

George a Harness maker for Lacons Brewery. Now here is my first surprise between those dates they lived in West Earlham Norwich, I believe 12 Mill Hill that is the only George I can find in 1892/4, still having to trace his employer.

Now that is Georges bit of mystery, His wife Hannah Marsham-Sistern had relations named Pegg my Aunt said on the tape recording and she also mentioned the Pegg's had started one of the first pleasure boat companies on the broads,, which is still to be investigated as to where, near Yarmouth she said. This brings me to another search, is there any reader/researcher that has or knows of Catherine M Pegg circa 8.3.1823 date of birth? Or Alfred Pegg Boat builder circa 10.1.1861.

The other names in her diary are Alice Knight and Emily Knight these I believe may be of London origin through Jame's Wife Caroline Spice. A Walter Johnson he is buried at Burnham Deepdale and a Winifred K Bradfield circa 4.6.1894 could be married to a Robert Grint.

Any researcher who could help please,

And Mr K R Dolby asks for help with some old photos

Photo Mysteries

In my quest to unearth more about my family history I have unearthed 2 photos of my grandmother Venna Freda Dolby (nee Poppy), now with all my grandparents and father dead and gone I can't identify the family in them.



The first photo is of a family gathering in Motum Road, Norwich, in the summer of 1944. I have identified my father (little boy at the front) and grandmother but the rest I have no idea, can anyone help identify them please?

The second of the photos is of my grandmother and 3 of her friends. Are they still living? Who are they? My grandmother is in the centre of the picture kneeling.



I think the photo was taken in the 1930's and help would be appreciated.

... and feedback from queries in the last issue ...

George Dodman.

I cannot help with memories of George Dodman, the sweep. But I have often looked at the 'sweeps' sign on the wall of the house and wondered who he might have been. May I suggest that Patricia Taylor widens here appeal by requesting a similar letter be printed in the Dereham Times, e-mail the Editor at terry.redhead@archant.co.uk

And a shortened version (perhaps leaving out the details regarding the Dereham sign) to the Wymondham & Attleborough Mercury, which is a free newspaper with wide distribution, e-mail the Deputy Editor at tim.warner@archant.co.uk

1) Station Villas and Dereham Railway

Sue, have you considered knocking on the door and asking if they know why their house is called 'Station Villa'? I didn't realise that Dereham (East Dereham) even

had a railway as early as 1861. But readers may be interested to know that according to *Wikipedia* the railway came to Dereham in September 1848 with a line to Kings Lynn. Originally operated as the *Lynn & Dereham Railway*, it soon became part of *East Anglian Railways* and in 1851 a subsidiary of the *Great Northern Railway*. It fell victim to Beeching's cuts in 1967 and finally closed in 1969. In 2005 the station was reopened by the *Mid-Norfolk Railway* as a heritage enterprise and runs services to Wymondham..

2) I'm sure that I have written about the evacuees in Dereham before in these pages - with details taken from a Dereham School Log Book. In my attempt to find the source I came across the account by Leonard Ivory from *WW2 Peoples War*, which I thought, might have a wider interest and have copied verbatim.

Tom Garland

EVACUATION FROM DAGENHAM TO EAST DEREHAM

Here is my brief account of my evacuation from my home in Dagenham to East Dereham in Norfolk. There were evacuees who left their homes prior to the outbreak of the 2nd World War. The children from Fanshawe School in Dagenham were of this group.

We resumed school from the summer holidays on Tuesday 28th August 1939. It was my first day in the Senior School. We had intelligence tests prior to being allocated to our Form but none of my class group was ever to see our Form or Class Master. During the latter part of the morning the Headmaster — one Mr Allen — attempted to broadcast to the school over the somewhat unreliable radio system our reporting instructions for the following day. We had to be at our school complete with clothes, gas mask, school cap and food at 4.30 a.m. on 29th August.

Some several hundred children from the infants, junior and senior schools assembled and at 4.30 a.m., in two ranks we marched from the school along Parsloes Avenue which was lined with parents, mainly Mums who, for some reason were crying. To us children this meant nothing, as we did not realise the full significance of the situation. We each had a luggage label with DAG 16 printed on it and two to three miles later we found ourselves at Thunderer's Jetty (Ford Motor Company Dock) where I boarded the "Golden Eagle" ship and our parents were left behind us as they were instructed at Parsloes Avenue.

Our ship took us to Great Yarmouth and we were accommodated at the North Denes Junior School right on the sea front. The days were very sunny and a marvellous time was being enjoyed by us all — bathing, beach games, good food

and lots of fun (Thursday 31st August to Saturday 2nd September). Then Sunday 3rd September we all had breakfast and were told that we were not to go bathing in the sea, no questions asked. At about 10 a.m. we were gathered in the hall, sang a few hymns and some national songs and our masters and mistresses that accompanied us from Dagenham thanked the local Headmaster and staff for their generous hospitality and, after three cheers, we then had a cup of tea and a biscuit. It was then that I was informed that the War had been declared by the Prime Minister (Sir) Neville Chamberlain.

In the London areas things started to move in arrangements for transporting (other) evacuees. We were in Norfolk with the last part of our journey to come. No time was lost. Before we had any time to think, all of us were marched to the coaches that had arrived from out of the blue and again told to **STAND STILL, DON'T MOVE AND NO MESSING ABOUT!!** I remember seeing the infants boarding the coaches and it was time that I realised what Evacuation was all about. Standing near one of the coaches waiting for her teacher was a little girl of about five years old. Suddenly she just broke down and cried — how sad it all was. Our time came to board the coaches and, as we boarded, we were given a box containing Corned Beef, Condensed Milk, Evaporated Milk, Chocolate and Plain Biscuits, two bars of Chocolate, Barley Sugar Sweets and a bottle of Lemonade and finally a kiss from a lady that provided me with the victuals, for she was a member of the W.V.S. I worked it out that her mouth must have been sore after giving us a hug and a kiss for 200 or so senior boys. We didn't look like senior boys because we wore short knee length trousers.

After a hot and sticky journey we alighted at a playground (very small) by the Bishop Bonner School at East Dereham. There we were herded like cattle whilst men and women came along and chose their charges. "Two boys please about 8 years", "I don't want girls", "I'll have a couple of lads 11 years upwards- they can help out on the farm" or "Does he or she wet the bed?" "What school are they from, I prefer a Grammar School child" and so it went on. From 3 p.m. the numbers were dwindling fast. As each child or children were, on finding a foster parent told by the masters "Behave yourself, no misconduct, you will be told where to attend school, do what these kind people ask of you." "Right/" "Then off you go". Some children did not have kind foster parents as was originally thought.

My friend and I were called by my Headmaster and instructed to "Go along with this gentleman, behave yourselves and remember the good name of your school". The gentleman (as indeed he was) took our carrier bags of belongings, put them on his cycle and walked us to his home. There I was to stay for three or more years. After meeting his wife, a lovely person, he sat us down and asked if we could write (what does he think we are?) Good, then here is a postcard and two ½ penny stamps. The address is:- Mr. and Mrs. Bennett, 24 Theatre Street, East Dereham,

Norfolk. After writing to our parents he went to post the cards whilst we were treated to a bath, followed by a tea, then at 7.45 p.m. we were put to bed. Needless to say at 9.30 p.m. there were still a few children tramping the street trying to be accommodated. This was most sad to see these children walking the town trying to find a billet. I learnt the next day that all had been found a place; the last child had been billeted at 11 p.m.

Evacuation to me was the happiest years of my childhood but it has its problems inasmuch that the question of divided loyalties and instability arises and it takes a lifetime to overcome it; after all in those years I was taught to become independent, to work for a wage (errand boy for ten shillings a week) and the better values in life.

Leonard Ivory

WW2 People's War is an online archive of wartime memories contributed by members of the public and gathered by the BBC. The archive can be found at 'bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar'

NBI SEARCHES – SPECIAL OFFER

During the month of March 2009 National Burial Index (NBI) searches carried out by Mid-Norfolk Family History Society will be free to Mid-Norfolk Family History Society Members under the following conditions:

- Applications will be accepted by post or email but the results will be sent to you by email.
- Applies only to applications received during the month of March 2009.
- You may request searches of any number of names.
- If you want the results by letter then the normal charges will apply (£1 per name for members).

Search requests to me please ... familyhis@aol.com or if by letter, to my address, which you will find on the back cover of this Newsletter.

Kate Easdown

FORTHCOMING FAMILY HISTORY EVENTS

Norwich Family History Fair

29th March 2009

St Andrews Hall, St Andrews Street, Norwich

The Family History Event

Will be on Sunday 3rd May 2009 10am to 5pm

At

Barbican Centre – Exhibition Hall 2

Golden Lane, London EC2Y 8DL

Visitors' Tickets ... £8.00 each

Societies, Stands, Lectures and Lots More ...

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? LIVE

The live event format of the hugely popular BBC TV series

**Who Do You Think You Are? 27 February – 1 March 09 at
London's Olympia**

The Federation of Family History Societies is giving you the chance to buy two tickets for £20* – that's a saving of £20! To claim this special offer, simply call 0844 412 4629 or visit www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.co.uk and quote FFHS241

**£2 transaction fee applies. 2 for 1 offer ends 20th February 09. On Door standard entry tickets priced at £20 each. Workshops and theatres are included in the ticket price but entry is provided on a first come first served basis and is subject to availability.*

Bucks Family History Society

will be holding its Open Day on Saturday 25th July 2009, 10am to 4pm

at the Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury (south east of town between A413 and A41). Many attractions for Bucks researchers including full Bucks FHS library and databases, guest societies and commercial suppliers. Free admission and free car parking at the school.

Doncaster & District Family History Society

2009 Family History day
will be held on the 24th October 2009
more details nearer the time

BMD from the GRO

Researching and obtaining Birth, Marriage and Death certificates, can be a nightmare if you are uncertain how you can enter into this area of research.

The General Register Office is now a part of the Identity and Passport Service
That is a section of the Home Office.

General Register Office:

address is PO Box 2 Southport Merseyside PR8 2JD.

Tel 0845 603 7788

Web www.ips.gov.uk/gro

Email. Certificate.services@ons.gsi.gov.uk

That is the easy part; you now know where you can obtain those vital documents, what comes next?

To obtain a certificate one must supply all the relevant details, for that particular person or event.

Phone, Write or email the GRO asking for the Application form/s, for the certificate you require.

You will receive the form/s and a Fees list for the cost; these vary from the type of certificate and the service to supply it. Once you have applied you given a Customer account number, this you enter on all forms or correspondence with GRO.

At this stage I will impress it is VITAL you make sure the information is correct and any additional information is entered in the Additional References section. When I apply I always send a copy of any relative documents, in the case of Birth I send a copy of the Marriage certificate. I found this was vital. They can make errors I have two certificates they supplied with the wrong parents occupations, and that is after I had supplied the information that stated the fathers occupation. This causes a problem and you have to contact them; they will however refund part of the cost, although I believe they should have returned all of the cost as it is their performance that fell down.

Now the tracing part I had to trace 4 children of the 6 that my Great Grandparents had, knowing the entries in the census, and that 4 had died, I wrote out a timeline to assist in what years to search, this is a great help when you are looking at four quarters in records.

Using one of the BMD research websites, you will have a bit of searching in the relevant quarters for the Christian name and the district. In my case they were married in Wandsworth and I knew all births were there. Having found a likely birth on the sheet it gave me the Volume and page in the parish records, a copy of this sheet I would print out and send with the form, as in the example with this article, the top one is 1856 the other 1862. GRO would send me the certificate, if the entry did not match my form information they would write and tell me and reimburse my fee less the search charge.

You could of course do all this form information on their website; I do not recommend it, as you cannot send additional information.

John Clarke

COMPETITION CORNER

Thank you everyone who entered the Winter Newsletter Competition, the winner was Martin Livie from Norfolk.

The correct answer was put into verse by Tom Garland

When uncle Bill died Victoria was only eighteen,
Very young, but she immediately became queen.
She married Albert, her cousin, at twenty-one
And they begat five daughters and four son.

Typhoid made her a widow at just forty-two
But she reached eighty-one before her time was due
The answer to the question, the clues are all done -
Her reign ended, when she died, on the **22nd Jan 1901**

The question for the Spring competition is

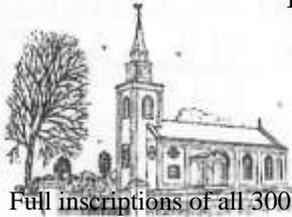
Much has been written about the reign of Queen Elizabeth I – but who was her mother?

Answers to Kate please by 14th April 2009 email (familyhis@aol.com) or post (address on back cover of this Newsletter), or bring your answers to the meeting on 15th April and hand them to Sue when you sign in. Correct answers will be put into a bag and drawn at the April meeting.

There is one prize, which is the winner's choice of any one of the Society publications, including postage, which will be sent to the winner's address.

Open to members only. One entry per member. Please include your membership number with your entry.

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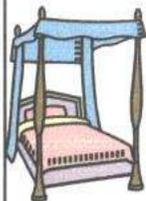
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Visiting Norfolk to do some research?

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We have a limited number for sale, first come first served, at £2.00 per book, which includes postage to an address in the UK.

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Please write to me, Kate Easdown, for a copy and make cheques payable to “Mid-Norfolk Family History Society”.

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