

Journal of the  
**East Surrey  
Family History Society**

www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

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The deadline for the June Journal is 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 1st May  
*All contributions should be sent to the Editor, whose contact details appear opposite*

## From the chairman

So, 2014 is here, arriving with a bang and a *whoosh* of fireworks on the South Bank of the Thames, on East Surrey's northern border. Did you see the display at New Year? Magnificent!

The South Bank and Waterloo have long been centres of entertainment, enjoying freedom from the constraints imposed on the Cities of London and Westminster. It was originally a marshy area and only really developed when a bridge was built over the Thames. This was called Strand bridge initially but was renamed Waterloo on its opening in 1817, in honour of the Battle; and this was followed by Waterloo station in 1848. A very interesting area for family history too, as I discovered with one of my ancestors who lived next to Waterloo station in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century until expansion of the railway lines forced him to move!

I hope you have included family history research in your New Year resolutions as we have a full programme of interesting talks and events planned for 2014 at all five Group venues. Remember you can go to any of the meetings and if you need help finding the venue please contact the Group Secretary. Contact details are on the Meetings pages of this Journal or see the Meetings page on the web site ([www.eastsurreyfh.org.uk](http://www.eastsurreyfh.org.uk)). Don't forget the Society is on Facebook too!!

A major event is the East Surrey Family History Society Conference and AGM on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 10am -3pm, at Bourne Hall, Ewell, KT17 1UF. This is titled *Surrey – a County of History*, and features three very interesting talks followed by the Society AGM. There are more details inside this Journal but if your ancestors were poor, lived in Epsom or exist in the Surrey records on the Ancestry website (so that's nearly everyone!) you should find something of interest for your research.

In an echo of times past in 1914, *your society needs you!* I know we all have many calls on our time and other priorities often limit our contributions but I'd be grateful if you could think hard about helping our Society. We urgently need a Secretary for the Society and a Meetings Secretary for the Southwark Group. Please speak to a Committee member at a Group meeting or at the AGM for further information about these interesting and rewarding positions.

Best Wishes for 2014!

## Your Society needs YOU!

Sue Adams, our Honorary Secretary, has to stand down at the next AGM as she will have completed five years on the committee. We are therefore looking for any member who would be interested in taking over this role. The duties include:

To prepare the agenda then record and circulate minutes for committee meetings six times per year and the AGM once a year

To answer general enquiries and to forward queries to the appropriate person

We are also looking for additional members to serve on the committee, so why not put your name forward?

No qualifications are required; just an interest in family history and the Society. The Committee meets six times per year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of alternate months starting in January. For convenience, the meetings are held at the URC, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, which is a central location with good bus, train and tram links as well as parking.

If you need any more information then please get in contact with me, Sue Adams, at [secretary01@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary01@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk) or speak to any Committee member at meetings.

## 2014 Renewal Subscriptions

*Ann Turnor, Membership Secretary [827]*

A note of thanks to all members who have been very prompt in paying their 2014 renewals. It is much appreciated as it enables me to make sure our database is correct and up to date as early in the year as possible. It is also appreciated when members let me know of any changes to their email addresses.

**If any member has so far not paid this year's subscription, this will be the last journal to be received.**

Another thanks also to members who very kindly send a donation, for which we are extremely grateful and for all the signed Gift Aid contributions. These really do help the Society and the committee would like to add their thanks to mine.

# Group meetings

## March

- |    |  |                 |           |
|----|--|-----------------|-----------|
| 6  | Tracing your medieval ancestry<br><i>Michael is an author and professional genealogist</i>   | Michael Gandy   | Sutton    |
| 8  | John Evelyn: his diary and Surrey history<br><i>The talk discusses the Surrey born diarist and horticulturalist. Since its first publication by William Bray in the early 19th century, Evelyn's diary has been a key source for scholars and local historians of Surrey</i> | Isabel Sullivan | Richmond  |
| 18 | Coram's Children –<br><i>The story of the Foundling Hospital; how it became noted for its art and music at the time of Hogarth and Handel together with details of the lives of the children</i>   | Jane King       | Croydon   |
| 26 | Why Piccadilly?<br><i>The origins of place names in London illustrated with maps and people</i>  | John Neal       | Lingfield |

## April

- |    |   |              |           |
|----|---|--------------|-----------|
| 3  | Tracing ancestors who fought in the two world wars<br><i>Simon is a freelance researcher and writer who worked in the National Archives for 30 years. He was an archivist at the Society of Genealogist and was Editor of the magazine Family History Monthly</i> | Simon Fowler | Sutton    |
| 14 | Deptford to Battersea – researching ancestors from the South Bank & East Surrey<br><i>Expert help with Surrey research from our President – professional genealogist, lecturer and author</i>   | Paul Blake   | Southwark |
| 23 | Both sides of the Law – prisoners and policemen   | Ian Waller   | Lingfield |

## May

- |    |  |                |           |
|----|--|----------------|-----------|
| 1  | Pleasures and Pastimes of Victorian Britain<br><i>What our ancestors did in their spare time. Ian is an author and professional genealogist. He is Vice Chairman of AGRA and a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists</i> | Ian Waller     | Sutton    |
| 10 | Members' Meeting<br><i>Friends, family and non-members always more than welcome!</i>   |                | Richmond  |
| 20 | How far did your ancestor travel?<br><i>Migration within the UK before the advent of the railways</i>  | Celia Heritage | Croydon   |
| 28 | Potholes, Pigs & Paradise<br><i>A country woman's memoir of wartime service in the WAAF and marriage to a one-legged fighter pilot</i>   | Penny Harris   | Lingfield |

## June

- |   |  |             |        |
|---|--|-------------|--------|
| 5 | Organising your research material<br><i>John is a lecturer specialising in IT and Family History</i> | John Hanson | Sutton |
|---|--|-------------|--------|

- |    |  |               |           |
|----|--|---------------|-----------|
| 9  | Death & Resurrection: Lost London Burial Grounds   | Alec Tritton  | Southwark |
|    | <i>together with information on "Body Snatchers" – some 'Resurrectionists' have been found in local parishes. Alec's longstanding interest in researching &amp; teaching family history has led to his current Chairmanship of the Halstead Trust &amp; past Chairmanship of the Federation of Family History Societies &amp; the Guild of One-name Studies.</i> |               |           |
| 17 | Parish Records   | Ian Waller    | Croydon   |
| 25 | The East India Company - foundation of Empire  | Janet Bateson | Lingfield |

## July

- |    |   |                 |          |
|----|---|-----------------|----------|
| 3  | Tracing living relatives and missing people   | Geoff Swinfield | Sutton   |
|    | <i>Geoff is a professional genealogist. He is a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists</i>   |                 |          |
| 12 | European upheaval and the timetable to war  | David Carter    | Richmond |
|    | <i>There can be few of our families that haven't been touched by the effects of the Great War. 100 years on, we take a look at the sequence of events that took place during that glorious summer of 1914</i> |                 |          |
| 15 | Shopkeeper ancestors  | Sue Gibbons     | Croydon  |
|    | <i>Sue was formerly the Librarian at the Society of Genealogists</i>  |                 |          |

## August

- |   |  |              |        |
|---|--|--------------|--------|
| 7 | Grandma's Tales: learning from our ancestors   | Chris Pocock | Sutton |
|   | <i>Chris is Secretary of the Sutton Group of ESFHS and helps to run a family history drop-in group in Sutton</i> |              |        |

- Croydon: United Reformed Church (small hall), Addiscombe Grove, Croydon CR0 5LP  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday (except August and December); 8.00 p.m.  
Secretary: Liz Moss 020 8686 8962 [croydon@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:croydon@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)
- Lingfield: Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield RH7 6AB  
4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday (except August and December); 2.30 p.m.  
Secretary: Rita Russell 01342 834648 [lingfield@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:lingfield@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)
- Richmond: Vestry House, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond TW9 1SA  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of alternate months; 2.30 p.m.  
Secretary: David Carter 020 8642 6437 [richmond@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:richmond@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)
- Southwark: Southwark Local History Library, behind John Harvard Library, 211 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1JA  
Second Monday of alternate months; 12 noon (except August when the meeting dates will vary – see the Journal and the Society website). There will be no meeting in December.  
Secretary: Sheila Gallagher [southwark@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:southwark@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)
- Sutton: St Nicholas's Church Hall, Robin Hood Lane, Sutton SM1 2RG  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday; 8.00 p.m.  
Secretary: Chris Pocock 020 8642 6789 [sutton@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:sutton@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)

*Doors usually open 30 minutes before the start of the meeting. Please check the Society website [www.esfhs.org.uk](http://www.esfhs.org.uk) for future meetings and last-minute alterations.*

# East Surrey Family History Society

## Open Day and AGM, Saturday 26 April 2014

Surrey – A County of History

A free event at Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 1UF

Speakers, ESFHS Help Desk and Bookstall plus displays and help from:

- Epsom & Ewell Local & Family History Centre
- Banstead Local History Centre
- Caterham & District Local History Centre

10.00 Doors open

10.25 Welcome from Chairman

10.30 Julian Pooley FSA, Surrey History Centre

*A Burden on the Parish: Sources for the History of Poor Relief in Surrey*

11.30 Break

11.45 Russell James, Ancestry.co.uk

*Surrey Records on the Ancestry website*

12.45 Lunch

*Visit the Help Desk and other stalls.*

1.45 Jeremy Harte, Curator Bourne Hall Museum

*At the Sign of the King's Head: Restoration Epsom*

2.45 Break

3.15 AGM of East Surrey Family History Society

4.00 Doors close

For more information visit our website: [www.esfhs.org.uk](http://www.esfhs.org.uk)

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available throughout the day.

There is a café at Bourne Hall, and other places to eat close by in Ewell Village.

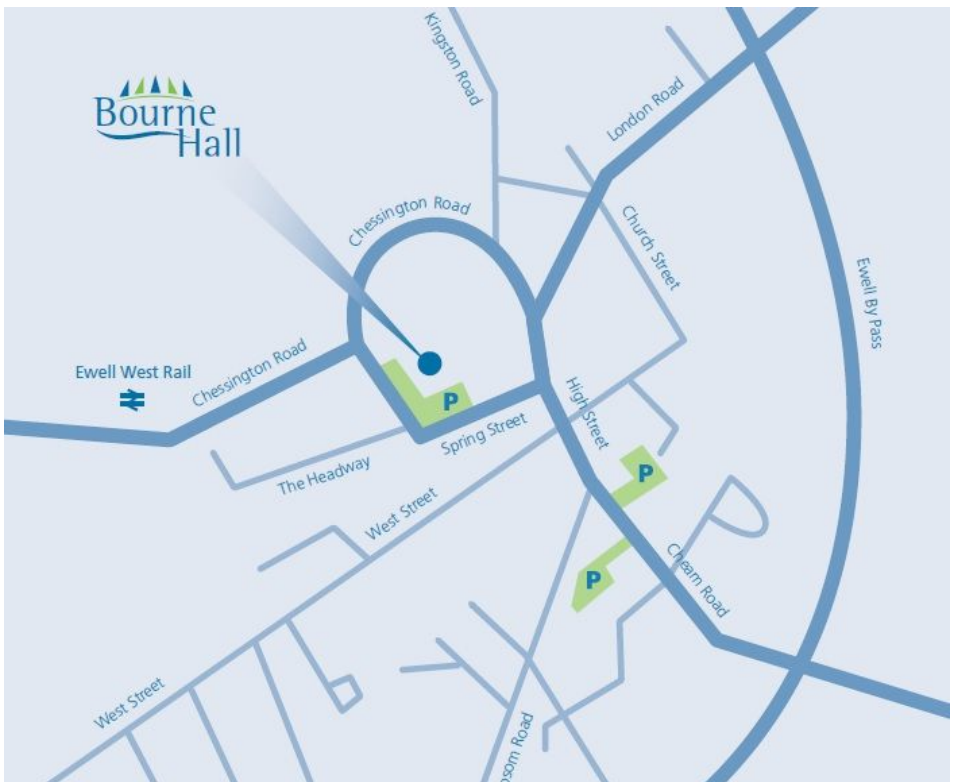
Bourne Hall is 5 minutes' walk from Ewell West train station (direct trains from Waterloo, Clapham Junction, Wimbledon, Dorking and Guildford).

Pay and display parking is available in Ewell, including at Ewell West station (£2 for all-day Saturday parking). Please note that parking at Bourne Hall itself is limited to up to 4 hours.

The following buses stop at Ewell Village:

Bus number 293: Ewell Village to Morden tube

Bus number 406: Ewell Village to Kingston or Epsom.



# A Champion brick wall

*Mary Gill (3 Nightingale Road, CR2 8PS; 020 8405 0598)*

Although I tell myself that all lines of descent are equally important, it still troubles me that I have made so little progress on the one from which I take my maiden name – **Champion**.

The problem lies with my great-great grandfather George Champion.

The 1841 census shows George as age 40 living in Weymouth Street Newington St Mary, Southwark. It states that he was born in the county (then Surrey) but it also states that his wife Hannah was born in Surrey, when I know she was born in Mile End (London), while his children are shown as being born out of county, when all but the eldest were born and baptised in Newington (Surrey). I am therefore a little sceptical about the accuracy of this information.

George and his wife, Hannah Williamson Rawson **Gray**, were married by licence at St Peter's Walworth on 7 February 1830 and both described as 'of this parish'.

I have checked the 1831 census and Newington/Walworth parish records for Champion's in general and George Champion in particular, but have failed to find any evidence to suggest that he was living there prior to his marriage. There is certainly no record of any baptism. In fact very few Champions appeared in the parish records before the 1830's.

This elusive ancestor had the temerity to die on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 1851 – just over 2 months before the census on 6<sup>th</sup> June. So, of course, I have no record of where he was born.

I have obtained his death certificate, which gives his age as 53, suggesting he was born about 1798 (rather than 1801 as implied by the 1841 census). Given that ages on that census are rounded to the nearest five years, I assume that the death certificate is a more reliable guide.

If the 1841 census is correct, and George was born in Surrey then the most likely baptism I have found is a George Champion, born 8<sup>th</sup> May 1796 in Putney, the son of William Champion and Susannah. This is two years too early, according to the death certificate, but such discrepancies are not unknown. The problem is that although this could be my George, I have no evidence to support such a conclusion. I have researched the Putney Champions as far as I can, but nothing



proves a link to my George. One thing that might suggest a connection is that my George had a daughter named Susannah. She could have been named after his mother.

My great-great grandfather did leave a will, it is very short, but does include reference to an insurance policy with the Monarch, or Licensed Victuallers Life Office. George was a butcher, but it so happens that the father of George Champion of Putney, a former butler, was the landlord of a Public House in Putney. However, knowing next to nothing about Victorian Insurance Companies I have no idea if this has any more significance than if I had a policy with Scottish Widows, when I am neither Scottish nor a widow.

My next piece of circumstantial evidence concerns a notice in the Times relating to the death of George's brother-in-law, Daniel Rawson Gray of Whitechapel. The solicitors handling the case were called Champion and Jutsum -surely too much of a coincidence I told myself. Champion is not a particularly common name.

The Champion half of the partnership turned out to be a Charles Champion probably born about 1815 in West Ham. All efforts to trace this Charles's roots failed to uncover anything to suggest a connection to my family. But, another coincidence is that the Jutsum half of the firm of solicitors came from a long line of butchers – and my George was a butcher.

I have researched various Champion families shown on the 1841 and 1851 census returns for Southwark all to no avail. I found a Charles Champion living in Hackney who had daughters Cecelia Eliza and Eliza Caroline, where my George Champion had daughters named Cecelia Ann, Caroline and Eliza Mary (as you can tell I was now clutching at very thin straws indeed.) Charles born 1776 could, (just about) have been my George's father, except that I could find no record of such a son. In any case it would not have helped because I have no idea where Charles was born either since he died in 1844.

In fact every Champion line I researched, that showed any promise at all, petered out in the late 1700's leaving no trace of its origins.

Please can anyone suggest any records that might help me to resolve a brick wall that has stood in my path for the last 15 years?

## Military records *(continued)*

*Peter Thompson [3642] peter\_thompson\_genii@yahoo.ie*

Thomas joined the Army in 1865, about the time his brothers were finishing their service. I found his Army Records at the National Archives. He had joined the 12th Dragoon Guards on a 12 year engagement. He served nine years in India, in the same areas and towns as his brother Walter.

The most interesting fact about Thomas was that in 1868, he was convicted for Felony. His Army Record showed that his pay was stopped because he was serving 3 months hard labour in a Civilian Prison.

In Confl. Awaiting trial 30 Mar 1868 22 April 1868

Tried and imprisoned in Civil Prison for Felony

23 April 1868 - 22 June 1868

Although he had this conviction he continued to serve in the Army, later he was allowed to extend it for another 12 years, 24 years in total. He married Annette Chapman on the 22 Aug 1878 in Plaistow, Essex, and left the Army on the 23rd February 1889. The 1891 census shows Thomas in Swindon, aged 42 a General Labourer. The last evidence of Walter was his death in Edmonton London March quarter 1895.

## William Thomas Pilgrim

The above Pilgrims had another brother George, who was my great grandfather. My grandmother Minnie Rees (née Pilgrim) use to tell me about her younger brother William who was killed in Belgium during WW1

William was born 30 August 1887 in Thornton Heath, Croydon, Surrey. I couldn't find William Pilgrim's death on the Commonwealth War Grave Commission website [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org), but eventually found him when one member of the family told me that he had joined up using his mother's maiden name of Beams. Without this information there was no hope of finding his records

An article in the local paper, the *Croydon Advertiser*, dated 17 August 1908 gave the clue as to why William joined up. The article was about the West Surrey Regiment who was on a recruitment drive in Croydon. Seeing the glamour of the

soldiers in their uniforms suggested adventure and regular pay. He tried twice to join up in the Regiment but was rejected each time. The reason being was that at school as a 5 year old, he had an accident which left him with a chronic swollen knee, and therefore he had been rejected on these grounds. So he asked his mother whether he could try again using her maiden name, this time he was accepted

During WW2, German bombing destroyed the building where Army Records were held. Many of the records were destroyed but some were saved although badly burnt, these records were restored and eventually copied, [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) has this collection on their website. At last William's records were found.

William joined the West Surrey Regiment on the 16th September 1908 a month after the Regiment paraded in Croydon. His Attestation papers said that his religion was Wesleyan, but of interest was that he had lied about his surname and therefore lied about the rest of the family, his mother and sisters surnames all had to be Beams, even though all his sisters were married.

I was amazed when reading William's Conduct Sheet; he was never out of trouble throughout his whole career from 1908 until his death in 1914.

Absent without leave

Absent from the Tattoo

Improper conduct in the town (i.e. drunk)

Disobeying Orders

Abusive language to senior personnel

In one instant he volunteered to be in Guard Detention covering 111 days confined to barracks; and so it goes on, the list is very long. The information on his Character Reference Sheet was blunt and to the point: - Insubordinate, Industrious, Intelligent and Clean

The West Surrey Regiment served in Bermuda, Gibraltar but at the outbreak of WW1, they were sent to the front line in Belgium, and very early in the war the Regiment was involved for the battle of Gheluvent. William was killed on the 29 October 1914, he has no known grave and his name is recorded on the Menin Memorial, this information was on the Commonwealth War Grave Commission website.

The War Diaries for the West Surrey Regiment can be found on the The Long Long Trail website; it details the battle on the 29 October 1914 and at the end of the day 12 men were killed, 60 wounded and 20 missing from the Regiment, William would have been one of the missing as he has no known grave. The War Diaries of the Worcester Regiment describes the dreadful battle and the losses on both sides in more detail.

## **The Bow family**

Albert and Arthur Bow both fought in WW1. Their mother was Monika Bow (née Hauser); she was German. She must have had mixed feelings for her sons to be fighting against her own kith and kin. The [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) website helped to track down these two lads.

## **Albert**

Albert was born in Southgate in north London, the family moving about the London areas as the father Samuel Bow was in the London Metropolitan Police, ending up in Brixton south London. The only evidence that Albert was in the Army was his record on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website.

## **Albert Bow Driver**

Army No L/36743 "D" Battery, 187th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. He died 3 June 1918 was buried in the Gwalia Cemetery, near Poperinghe, Ypres.

During a battle the wounded would be taken to hastily set up field hospitals, a tented area in a field. The dead were buried near to the tent area, hence all the small cemeteries dotted around France and Belgium.

As [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) had transcribed WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1918 a search revealed that Albert Bow a Driver of the Royal Field Artillery was awarded the Victory and British Medals posthumously, he died on the 3 June 1918. This is all that I can find out about Albert, although there is one source that strongly suggests that he is the correct person; the [www.1914-1918.invasionzone.com/forums/index.php?](http://www.1914-1918.invasionzone.com/forums/index.php?) website is about the 187th Brigade Royal Field Artillery:-

The 187th Brigade RFA (Fulham) a war raised unit formed at Fulham in 1915 consisting of A, B, C and D Batteries. The Brigade arrived in France in 1916 and stayed until 1918.

Fulham in south London is only a few miles from Brixton where Albert lived, so the circumstantial evidence is very high, that this is the correct person.

## **Arthur Thomas Bow**

Just before Albert's death in June 1918, Arthur was called up for military war service enlisting on the 12 April 1918 joining the Royal Horse Artillery. Many of the town bred lads had no connection or knowledge of horses, but were taught to ride them and to look after them, and Albert and Arthur were no exception.

Surprisingly, Arthur's army records were listed in [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); therefore he had been a regular at some point. The first set of Records was for his WW1 service, the second set of Records was for his regular service. At the end of the war Arthur was demobilised, but decided to re-join as a regular soldier on a short service engagement. These records throw up some interesting information. When he was called up for WW1 service his medical was good enough for him to serve on the front line in France; but on signing on as a regular in January 1920 the medical staff missed the fact that he was deaf! In 1921 Arthur complained that "he could not hear the commands on the parade ground". It was then established that he had had chronic deafness in one ear since he was a child. He was discharged on the 25th June 1921. Arthur married in 1936 and died in 1975.

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## **Essex FHS Conference**

2014 sees the 40th Anniversary of the Essex Society for Family History and also of the Federation of Family History Societies, and to mark these occasions the Society is holding a Conference entitled "Dig for the Past, Look to the Future" from the 29th to 31st August 2014. Further details can be found on our website [www.esfh.org.uk](http://www.esfh.org.uk).



*the* **2015**  
**Genealogy**  
**Conference**

**a return to**  
**the sources**

*29-31 August 2015*

*Beaumont Estate*

*Windsor*



[2015genealogyconference@east Surrey fhs.org.uk](mailto:2015genealogyconference@east Surrey fhs.org.uk)

# **The 2015 Genealogy Conference: a return to the sources**

East Surrey Family History Society's 2015 major genealogy conference is to be held at the Beaumont Estate Estate, near Windsor, on 29-31 August 2015.

This exceptional event will welcome international speakers of the highest standard at a magnificent venue located by Windsor Great Park. Beaumont Estate boasts a superb 4-star hotel – with fabulous bedrooms, a pool and fitness centre, and exceptional food – combined with an outstanding conference centre and stunning grounds.

This will be three days not to be missed by any genealogist, family or local historian. East Surrey FHS hopes to be able to welcome delegates from all parts of the globe.

To register your interest and to receive more information as it becomes available, with details of special offers, please email:



**[2015genealogyconference@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:2015genealogyconference@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)**

# Buckinghamshire Family History Society

## Open Day

Saturday 26th July 2014, 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at the Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH. Further information, including a full list of organisations attending, can be found at [www.bucksfhs.org.uk](http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk).

Research facilities will include our names database (over five million entries) and Parish Register, People, and Places libraries. Parish Register transcripts and other research aids will be on sale. Expert advice will be on hand, with guest societies from around the country, local heritage groups; suppliers of data CDs, maps, software, archival materials and much more.

Admission is free, with free parking at the venue.

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## Yorkshire FHS Open Day

Yorkshire Family History Fair will take place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June at York Racecourse, Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

For further information please see [www.yorkshirefamilyhistoryfair.com](http://www.yorkshirefamilyhistoryfair.com).

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## Crystal Palace subway

*Sue Giovanni (07956 861052)*

At the moment Friends of Crystal Place Subway are trying to contact as many people as possible in South London with an interest in local issues and heritage. The reason for this is that we are running a community lead heritage project that will record the memories of people who have used the subway in the past. This may have been as an air raid shelter, a place to play or even for parties.

I am one of the researchers working on the project, and thought that some of your members may remember the subway or have an interest in the heritage of Crystal Palace. If you would like any further information please contact me or visit our website at <http://www.inspiredbythesubway.org.uk>.



## Dates for your diary

ESFHS will be attending the following events with our Help Desk and a selection from our Bookstall.

- Saturday 17 May 2014 11.00am – 5.00pm Nunhead Cemetery Open Day, Linden Grove, London, SE15 3LP [www.fonc.org.uk](http://www.fonc.org.uk)
- Saturday 11 October 2014 10.00am – 4.00pm Suffolk Open Day, Family History Fair & AGM, University Campus Suffolk, Neptune Quay, Ipswich IP4 1QJ [www.suffolkfhs.co.uk](http://www.suffolkfhs.co.uk)
- Sunday 12 October 2014 10.00am – 4.00pm Hampshire Genealogical Society Family History Fair & Open Day, Everest Community Academy, Oxford Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9FP [www.hgs-familyhistory.com](http://www.hgs-familyhistory.com) Please note this is a change of venue for this year to replace Horndean
- Saturday 1 November 2014 10.00am – 4.30pm West Surrey 40th Anniversary Family History Fair & open Day, Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking, GU22 9BA [www.wsfhs.org/pages/index.php](http://www.wsfhs.org/pages/index.php)

If you live in an area covered by any of these events then we would be very pleased to have your help on the day. Please contact Brenda at [events@east Surrey.org.uk](mailto:events@east Surrey.org.uk) These are only a few events which we know that we will be attending, more to follow.

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## Tech Topic – Enlarging a web page

If a web page is difficult to view because it is too small then why not enlarge it?

To ZOOM IN, increasing the size, press and hold Ctrl while pressing +  
To ZOOM OUT, decreasing the size, press and hold Ctrl while pressing -  
To RESET SIZE back to normal, press and hold Ctrl while pressing 0

To control the zoom using a browser menu option, go to the View tab in Internet Explorer or Firefox, for Chrome click on the 'hamburger' symbol on the top right corner of the window.

## What's in a name?

ALLTIMES, ALLWOOD, APPLEBEE, BEARDSSELL, BELLCHAMBERS, BOUGHTFLOWER, CHRISTMAS, FOURACRE, FUTVOYE-GOLD, GROOMBRIDGE, GROUNDWATER, HELLEGINCAMP, HOCKADAY, HOGSFLESH, HORNBLow, IGGULDEN, IRONMONGER, IZOD, LAZARUS, L'OISEAU, NAPPER, OPpy, PARSONAGE, POBGEE, POIROT, ROADNIGHT, SADLER-COOPER, TRIPTREE, WINTERFLOOD, XERXES, ZETTLE.

An interesting variety of surnames: some may refer to an occupation, others to a place or an event or perhaps there are other explanations.

But what links all of these names? Answer: they were all randomly selected from the 2013 Directory of Members' Interests (DMI). We are now coming to the time when the 2014 DMI will be produced and it is an opportunity for all members to update their name interests.

To check on names already on the list and add/change entries then visit our website and click on the **Members** link in the sidebar. If you don't have access to the internet then write to Peter Grant, Members' Interests Co-ordinator, at the address shown inside the cover of this Journal.

The closing date for entries to be received for the main DMI is the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. However supplements will be published during the year which will include any subsequent updates and additions.



BH/14

# Folkestone & District War Memorials

*Janet Powell (01233 750321 or [secretary@folkfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@folkfhs.org.uk))*

Folkestone & District Family History Society is researching the families as appropriate for a family history society of the men on the Shepway (Folkestone & District) many war memorials. By this we mean their parents, siblings, occupations, where they were born and lived. Some of course were married and left children without a father so we are including this where possible. This is as opposed to the really helpful Kent Fallen web site which mainly concentrates on their military history.

We are researching these, mainly using Ancestry, Find my Past and the free sites BMD.org.uk, the Commonwealth war Graves Commission site (CWGC.org.uk) . We are writing these up and intend to produce a folder for each memorial or in the case of the Folkestone Leas memorial several folders. These will be displayed in the Town Hall, Library, Churches, village halls, etc.

To accompany the histories we are trying to take photographs of as many of their graves and memorials as possible though this will only be possible for the UK, France and Belgium. We have managed to obtain photos from the Jerusalem War Cemetery from a friend who was visiting and hope other more distant venues may be covered this way. For example is any one intending to visit Malta, various Greek places or even India?

We are also hoping that relatives may have photos of the men which can be included. This is one of the main reasons for this request. Obviously many of the men were not from the immediate area & families will also have moved away so please do look and see whether you have a photo among your treasures. If you haven't the means to do so we can scan them and return the originals to you with an extra copy if desired.

We could do with assistance with the actual research as there are over 1500 men involved.

To summarise, we would ask for photographs of the graves or memorials, photos of the men and assistance with the research.

If anyone would like to assist us in this rather ambitious project please contact me.

# Let this be a warning!

*Roger Allwood [9458]*

Through the National Archives I was able to find an 'untraceable' relative, William Scott Allwood, who had died abroad in the Navy (although not on active service) in Malta in 1895. I was also informed that it was unlikely that a death certificate would have been issued for a military death abroad.

I saw a company [ukgrocertificates.co.uk](http://ukgrocertificates.co.uk) who said they could research and produce overseas death certificates for approximately £27. I thought this was expensive for a probable failure, so I emailed them. They quickly replied, saying a refund less expenses would be made for a non-production of a certificate, so I completed the application. This was in early May and before the end of the month I received an email from them with the news I expected together with the details of a refund to be made within the next few days.

Nothing happened so over a period of time I wrote an email, filled in their online query form, completed their 'satisfied' customer form and in the end managed to find an address and wrote to their MD. No reply to any of these.

I then wrote to the Whodoyouthinkyouare magazine with my tale and received an immediate response from the editor who said she would write to them for a response. They replied saying a refund had been made at the end of May which I confirmed was untrue. There were no details of whether the payment had been cleared and no explanation as why my communications had been ignored, other than they had had internet problems. WDYTIA said their explanation was inadequate and unless they dealt with my refund my letter was to appear as the 'star' letter in their next monthly publication, which was about to go to press.

Needless to say a cheque was in the post immediately.

Their website is very slick with a Union Jack; they offer a wide range of services, have a huge list of satisfied customers, and can easily be mistaken for the official GRO website. In fact they have had an ASA ruling against them for imitation.

The money involved was small but it was the principle that mattered. I think in future one should not be duped by websites like these. It pays to look for the sites that have .gov or .org domains.

# Lest We Forget

*Gordon Briggs*

*24A Tollgate Avenue, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 5HR {gordon.briggs@talk21.com}*

May 2012. The invitation to the annual commemoration of the Battle of Britain at the National Memorial Trust in Capel-Le-Ferne, near Folkestone, comes from the close friend of my 4<sup>th</sup> cousin Mary. Tony was one of the only pilots to have flown in both Fighter and Bomber Commands during World War II. The invitation is accompanied by a site plan, on which are marked a Hurricane, a Spitfire and Bob the Dog. After a childhood spent buying Airfix kits with tooth fairy silver, I recognise only two of the exhibits.

I'm a baby boomer, and so have no personal connection to the Battle of Britain, but my Aunt Margaret served in the WAAF during World War II. As a child, I was told that the reason Margaret had never married was that she had been engaged to a pilot, who was killed during the war. I remember seeing a photograph of a young man in RAF uniform at my Aunt's house in Coulsdon.

Fifty years later, as Margaret's executor, I have some boxes containing her personal effects that I haven't had time to go through. After a trip to the garage, I find myself knee deep in papers, letters and photographs. An hour later, not only have I found the photograph, I have a letter, written in 1937, with name, rank and RAF squadron details. My next trip is to Google, which takes me to a forces war records site. The story is told in stark bullet points. Surname - Newbatt. Rank - Sergeant. Incident Date - 17.05.40. Incident Details - Lost without trace. Fate - Killed. Squadron - 82. Aircraft - Blenheim. Stationed at - RAF Watton. Location Duty - Gembloux.

Fate seems to be leading me through this journey into the past. I email my cousin Mary with the information I've uncovered, which she forwards to a friend who is the historian for 617 Squadron, the Dambusters. Expecting to have little to add to the story, he pulls down from his shelves the book he considers most likely to provide more information. Marking a page in the book is a copy of the loss card for Blenheim bomber P6893, the plane piloted by my Aunt's fiancée, Reg Newbatt. Mary's friend must have obtained the copy as a sheet of scrap paper (old photocopies are recycled at the RAF museum for note taking), and filed it in a relevant book. The marked page has a photograph of P6893 with its crew, and an account of the disastrous operation during which it was lost.

On May 17<sup>th</sup> 1940, the 12 Blenheims of 82 squadron, each with a crew of 3, set out to attack a German armoured column advancing through Belgium. A fighter escort from Tangmere failed to materialise after a mix-up over timing. The squadron encountered anti-aircraft fire and was then attacked by 4 swarms of Messerschmitt 109s. Only 1 British aircraft returned to base, and that was so badly damaged it had to be scrapped. Of the remaining 11 Blenheims, 10 were shot down and 1 was lost without trace.

The Battle of Britain memorial day dress code suggests that guests wear the medals and decorations of their relatives on the right hand side of their jackets. Amongst my Aunt's personal effects is a small cardboard box O.H.M.S. Official Paid. It contains her war service medals, still in their paper wrapping, the ribbons separately packed. I attend the Battle of Britain commemoration wearing them. There is a parade of serving personnel and 10 of Churchill's "Few", to whom so much is owed by so many, including my host. The parade is followed by a memorial service, at which I remember my Aunt, Flight Lieutenant Margaret Briggs, WAAF, from Coulsdon, Surrey, and although I never met him, I remember Sergeant Reg Newbatt, RAF, from Betchworth, Surrey. Neither was one of the Few, but both were amongst the many who also sacrificed so much. A Hurricane and a Spitfire from the Battle of Britain memorial flight put on an unforgettable flying display. A tour of the site reveals that Bob the Dog is a statue of a squadron dog.

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## **LCC Garden Estates for the Working Classes of London**

*Anne Ramon*

This very interesting talk was given to the Richmond Group in January by Martin Stillwell. The Garden Estates were blocks of new homes built by the London County Council to provide independent living for poor families in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and rents were charged at what we now call 'affordable' levels.

Martin reminded us of the reality and the public mind set towards poor people at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century:

- being poor was your own fault
- no social security, no pensions, no paid holiday. No work, no pay.

- the Poor Law rules were still punitive
- the Workhouse was the only offering and only available to those born within the vestry borders.
- in the 1890s a family man needed to earn 19 shillings a week, every week, to keep his family; and of this 50% went on food, 30% on rent and 10% on beer (you couldn't safely drink the water)
- you needed to live near where you worked.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century Metropolitan Board of Works passed their responsibility for housing to the new LCC, London County Council, established in 1889. The LCC had inherited a set of laws which recognised the need for better housing for poorer people such as the Common Lodging Houses Act of 1851; the Labouring Classes Lodging Houses Act of 1851; the Cross Acts of 1875; and in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Housing of the Working Classes Act 1903 and the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909.

The LCC was 'Progressive' in attitude and aligned to the Liberals. They were keen on social reform but they were not empowered to fund the construction of the Garden Estates on the rates. The new estates had to be self-financing with recovery of costs through rents, typically over a 60 year time period, managed across the portfolio of LCC estates. The initial building cost was funded through Treasury Loans at 2.5 to 3% interest but the cost of the slum clearance prior to construction could be charged to the rates however.

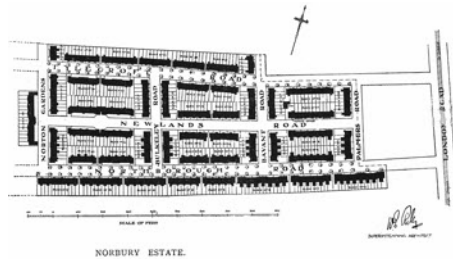
Garden 'Estates' were the sub-suburban equivalent of Garden Cities (e.g. Letchworth) and Garden Suburbs (e.g. Hampstead). They were rows of new houses and roads near railway stations and bus routes which the residents could use to get to work.

Martin told us about a number of estates, including two in East Surrey: Totterdown Fields in Tooting, which was completed in 1916 and the Norbury Estate in Croydon, completed in 1922.

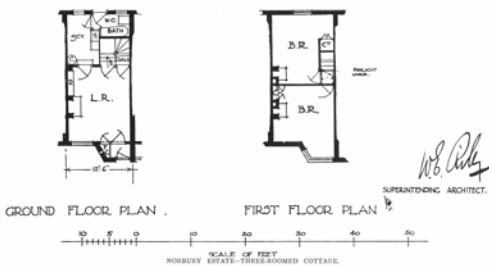
Totterdown Estate comprised 12 blocks of houses over 38 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres which cost £44, 238 in 1900. There were 1299 cottages designed to house 8788 persons, and four shops. The number of people was calculated at two people per room, excluding the scullery and children under 5 years of age, so the building cost was

£45 per person. This estate was making a 7.9% profit in 1913. Totterdown became a Conservation area in 2008 and is still owned by Wandsworth Borough Council though most of the houses are now privately owned. Look out for these road names: Derinton Road; Blakenham Road; Cowick Road.

Norbury Estate, near Norbury Station, was built on land that included the clay workings that made the bricks for many garden estates. It was located beyond the tram routes to London but residents could commute by bus to Croydon. The estate comprised 36 acres, purchased in 1900 for £18,000 and used 13 million bricks from the local brickworks. A total of 5640 people could be housed for a build cost of £41 each. It was also making a profit of 5.4% in 1913. Look out for these road names: Northborough Road; Tilecroft Road; Bavant Road; Dairy Road; Palmers Road.



The new residents didn't have to be Council employees, they just had to pay the rent and obey the rules which included no sub-letting and no taking in of washing, because free hot water was provided to all residents. This must have been a problem for the tenants as squeezing in your friends and relatives and doing laundry work helped supplement low and unreliable incomes.



The Garden Estate houses were well built and survive today as Martin illustrated with fascinating 'Then' and 'Now' photographs. His studies have concluded that the rents were 'fair' but often higher than the target tenants could, or would, afford and that the housing was functional rather than stylish.

Perhaps you live in one of these houses now, or was brought up in one? I'd be delighted to hear your memories.

Source: LCC publication 'Housing of the Working Classes in London' published in 1913 by Odhams Limited.



# News from Surrey Heritage

*Julian Pooley, Surrey History Centre*

A particularly busy year at Surrey History Centre culminated in the publication of over ten million Surrey Electoral Register entries on the family history website Ancestry.co.uk. Beginning in 1918, when women were first given the vote, and running through to 1945, they are a crucial source for family historians trying to find where their interwar ancestors lived. As we begin to commemorate the Great War and its impact upon the social fabric of Surrey, this will be a particularly useful resource for assessing the effect of the conflict upon our ancestors.

Other records to appear online soon will include electoral registers 1832-1915; the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment enlistment registers 1920-1946; the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment transfers in registers 1939-1947; Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment World War II Honours Indexes [1939]-1946; the East Surrey Regiment enlistment registers 1920-1946; the East Surrey Regiment transfers in registers 1924-1946; and 21st - 24th Battalions the London Regiment Nominal Rolls of Officers 1914-1919; as well as Brookwood Hospital Woking, Registers of Admissions 1867-1900; Holloway Sanatorium, General Registers 1885-1899; Calendars of prisoners at the Surrey Sessions and Assizes 1848-1902; Freeholders Lists 1696-1824; Land tax records 1780-1832 and Licensed victuallers registers 1785-1903.

You can search for your Surrey ancestors on Ancestry free of charge at any Surrey Library and at Surrey History Centre in Woking. If you have an Ancestry subscription, you can also view the records in the comfort of your own home, no matter where you live.

## **Richmond Poor Relief Records Go Online**

Over 103,000 names of people applying for poor relief in Richmond Poor Law Union between 1870 and 1912 are now searchable, free of charge, on Surrey History Centre's website, <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistorycentre>.

As part of an on-going project to index all surviving Surrey Board of Guardian Poor Law records, a team of four volunteers have given over 800 hours of their time to index the first 91 registers of the Richmond Board of Guardians

Application and Report Books. The results will be invaluable to family, local and social historians.

Richmond Union encompassed the parishes of Richmond, Kew, Petersham, North Sheen, Barnes and Mortlake. These fascinating books are a rich resource for the lives and experiences of people applying for poor relief in the area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. They provide information on their immediate family, their occupations, addresses, ages and the reasons why they need to apply for help. Sometimes there is even information about family members who are not applying for relief, for example, references to desertion by spouses or individuals in gaol. The indexes can be searched either by name or parish and the indexes include the date of application and the age of applicant.

The indexes will go live on 20 February 2014 to coincide with the opening of the Who Do You Think You Are? Live exhibition at Olympia.

If your ancestors appear in the application and report books, why not visit Surrey History Centre to see if you can discover more about them? We hold the census for Surrey (which includes the parishes in the Richmond Union), parish registers, rate books and a wide range of other sources for the family and local historian.

If you would like to join our team of volunteers to help us prepare further indexes to the records in our care, please contact us at [shs@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:shs@surreycc.gov.uk).

## **To Journey's End and beyond: the Life and Legacy of R C Sherriff**

We are delighted to report that Surrey History Centre has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant to commemorate the First World War's greatest playwright. R. C. Sherriff's great play *Journey's End*, is set in a British dugout on the eve of the German offensive of March 1918. As a junior officer in the East Surrey Regiment, Sherriff spent four gruelling months on the Western Front until he was wounded at Passchendaele in August 1917. Sherriff's papers, housed at Surrey History Centre and to be catalogued as part of the project, include the hundreds of letters he wrote to his parents and friends from Flanders. He later drew on these letters in the writing of '*Journey's End*' which remains a key part of the literary legacy of the Great War. The funding will also enable us to will work with The RC Sherriff Trust, Kingston Grammar School and schools in

the Borough of Elmbridge to bring Sherriff's own experiences on the Western Front to a wider audience, through a newly commissioned play and dramatic workshops. Volunteers will have the opportunity to learn archive conservation and packaging skills to make the precious records accessible to the public.

## **A County remembers**

We are also excited to announce that we have received initial support from the HLF for our ambitious project '*A County Remembers: Surrey in the Great War*'. The project is at the heart of the county's commemoration of the First World War and the quest to understand how the war changed the face of Surrey and the lives of its residents.

The award will enable us to employ a consultant to further develop the project, publicise it to schools, community groups and other potential partners and participants and, most importantly, prepare a bid for HLF funding for the main project which will run for the full 5 years of the commemoration of the war, 2014-18. The application was in competition with many other projects, so our first-round pass is a recognition that the outline proposals presented in the stage 1 bid are very much on the right track.

If our stage 2 application is successful, the main project will lead, collect and publish online community-based research exploring all aspects of the impact of the war on the county and the stories of those who served in the armed forces and those who contributed on the home front. People of all ages and backgrounds across the county will be inspired to come together with the common aim of creating a global, interactive, accessible and enduring digital resource telling Surrey's story during the war years.

At the heart of the full project will be a new website recording the stories of Surrey's towns, villages, organisations and individual men and women who experienced the war, both those who survived and those who fell. This constantly expanding and developing resource will enable people to explore, and understand the impact of the war on the county. Contributors of all ages, backgrounds and levels of experience will discover the thrill of exploring and understanding the past as they investigate original records, letters and newspapers to add content to the website. As people are inspired to investigate the impact of the war on their families and communities, memories and

memorabilia of the war, in danger of disappearing with the passage of time, will be captured for posterity.

With the support, enthusiasm and energy of current residents of Surrey and those with former links to the county, the project will create a fitting tribute to the sacrifices and suffering of their forebears of 100 years ago who endured the first global, industrial war in human history.

## **Recent archive accessions**

We have taken in a particularly wide range of material since my last report. Those of particular interest to Surrey family historians include:

St Mary's, Ewshot: baptism register, 1886-1962, marriage register, 1890-2007, burial register, 1886-2013; confirmation register, 1928-1974; banns register, 1918-1989; service registers, 1967-1991; two terriers and inventories, 1933-2000; bundle of faculties, 1946-1957 (9245/-)

St Mary's, Fetcham: photographs and rubbings of ledger stones of Dame Jane Glover, Thomas Foster and Peter Warburton, with copy faculty for the re-ordering of the church, 2013 (FETadd4).

St John the Evangelist Church, Hale: marriage registers, banns registers and service registers, 1980-2013; St Mark's Church, Upper Hale, service registers, 1980-2009; St George's Church, Badshot Lea: marriage register and service registers, 1986-2012, (9250/-)

St Mark's Church, Upper Hale: Parochial Church Council minutes, files, plans and parish magazines, 1960-1999 (9262/-)

St Mary the Virgin, Horsell: additional records, 1908-2009 (9148add)

All Saints, Lightwater: additional parish records, including registers of baptisms, marriages, banns, confirmations and services, 1928-2013 (9260/-)

St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood: parish records including baptism, marriage, burial and service registers; vestry and PCC minutes; parish magazines and plans, 1887-2013 (9267/-)

St Peter's, Walton on the Hill: additional parish records, 1925-2003 (9256)

St Luke's Church, Whyteleafe: baptism registers, marriage registers and burial registers, 1866-2000 (9247/-)

Guildford Diocesan Registry: records including faculties, 1927-96; clergy files, 1927-74; letters, 1928-61; muniment papers, 1823-1991; marriage affidavits, 1930-74; office papers, 1927-62; sequestration papers, 1968-70; visitation papers, 1927-62, (9274/-)

Godalming United Church and predecessors, Godalming Methodist Church and Godalming United Reformed Church: additional records, including annual accounts, meeting minutes and newsletters, 1950-1978 (9257/-)

We have also received school magazines of The Grove School, Hindhead, 1982-1991 (6773add7), an account books of Lipscombe Farm, Knaphill, 1865-1884 (9249/-) a very early grant of land relating to Robert de Rydingersth of Cranleigh dated 1317 (9255/) and estate maps of property in Ockham, Clandon, Ripley, Long Ditton and elsewhere owned by the Earls of Lovelace of Ockham Park: 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century (9271/-)

The growing interest in military history and in the experiences of our ancestors in the conflicts of the twentieth century is also reflected in recent accessions, such as copies of photographs and other documents relating to the service and death of Sgt Cecil Robert Newman, 2nd Battalion, The Queens Royal West Surrey Regiment, c.1908-1915 (QRWS/30add/34); an account of the wartime experiences of Private Norman David Thomas, 2/7th Battalion Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment: during service, 1944-1947 (QRWS/30ad33) and diaries and papers of Major Charles J Armour, MC, B Company, 2/5th Battalion, Queen's Royal Regiment:, 1943-1948 (QRWS/30ad35).

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## Website round up

<https://familysearch.org/techtips> - The well known FamilySearch organisation have a comprehensive section on technology tips for 'genealogists and family historians'. Menu headings include: 'How To ... and Tips', 'Learn About', 'Learn to Buy', 'Applications and Tools'.

One item that caught my eye was 'Going Digital at the cemetery'; although the article is from July 2011 and technology has advanced since then, the basic ideas

are still relevant today. One concern is whether the Techtips pages are going to be maintained, as they are not dated beyond 2012 and the page style is that of the previous version of the FamilySearch website. After a look round, I found the FamilySearch TechTips Blog Archive at <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/techtips> which seems to have taken up from where the previous one left off, although without all of the previous topics.

[www.bargemen.co.uk](http://www.bargemen.co.uk) - This site has research on the history of Thames sailing barges, barge builders and the watermen and lightermen who worked along the river. There are family names, sailing barge names and histories which can be downloaded as PDFs. An entertaining section is a page with Pathé films and songs from the olden days of barges.

Other pages and links cover Norfolk and Suffolk and information about local wherries, wherryman and their families can also be found.

It looks like the site has not been updated since 2012 but that doesn't detract from the information that is available.

The usual health warning applies to the following two sites i.e. don't accept any new information that appears to be true until you have checked the sources and confirmed it for yourself. Remember not to provide personal data (date of birth etc.) for any living person.

[www.gencircles.com](http://www.gencircles.com) – This is described as a community-based genealogy site. It is free to use and allows you to search their Global Tree database for information and load GEDCOM format family tree files onto their web site. Well known family tree software programs will allow the export of your data to GEDCOM format.

Once a file has been uploaded, their technology helps your research by comparing your data against that of other uploaded files and then showing matched ancestors from these files. It also shows the genealogical information that is missing.

[www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com) – similar to gencircles but with a more modern design it claims to be the largest family network with 1.4 billion profiles, 24 million family trees and 185 million photos. A family history program, apparently without any advertising or spyware, can be downloaded for free from the website. Lots of help and advice are available and as a bonus there is a section with an assortment of genealogy humour.

# News from Sutton Local Studies Centre

*Kath Shawcross  
Borough Archivist & Local Studies Manager, London Borough of Sutton*

The exciting news this quarter from Sutton Local Studies and Archives is that we are about to put our own archives catalogue online. The background work is being carried out as I write this so I'm hoping it will be live in March sometime. It will include our newspaper index. I'm afraid this isn't historical – it only dates from 1998 but we've found that it is a valuable tool for anyone living in Sutton and to date it has only been available for staff to search.

Like every other local authority in the country we are making plans to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WW1. In Sutton the commemoration starts off with an exhibition about the Western Front at Honeywood Museum in Carshalton. This will run from late July until October. During November and December there will be an archive exhibition in the Europa Gallery, Central Library looking at the local response to WW1. We have original letters from soldiers who enlisted – some came back, others didn't. We have a WW1 diary from local inhabitant Viola Bawtree – some of you may be familiar with her WW2 diary that was published by the Surrey Record Society two years ago.

Viola's brother Ivan was a photographer and worked for the War Graves Registration Unit in France – we are lucky enough to have access to his war time diary and some of the images he took. And of course we will be highlighting the photographs of David Knights-Whittome a Sutton and Epsom based Edwardian photographer whose collection includes hundreds of soldiers and nurses. We'll be looking at the Bell Ringers of Benhilton and the Men of the Wrythe. Looking at a different point of view we are working with the Peace Pledge Union to bring to light the story of conscientious objectors in Sutton. There are many stories to be told and the commemorations will continue over four years. The Sutton Writers Circle are producing one act plays based on the archive's letters so keep an eye out for those and other cultural events associated with the exhibition. Programme information will be available in printed form and on the Internet – watch this space.

Interesting finds this past quarter: Sutton's legal services are merging with three other boroughs and as part of their move and great clear up two very useful maps have come to the archives:

A map of the Petre estates of East and West Cheam dated 1785. The map is actually a copy from a document at The National Archives and will prove valuable as our Museum & Heritage Service work on the Whitehall Lottery Bid.

Sutton Enclosure Map and documentation – we have always had a copy in the Local Studies & Archives Centre so imagine my surprise when I discovered our Legal Services had an original map and the documentation accompanying it. Very happy as are several local historians.

Please note our weekends open from end of Feb-Jun 2014: 22/23 Feb, 8/9 Mar, 22/23 Mar, 5/6 Apr, 19/20 Apr, 3/4 May, 17/18 May, 14/15 Jun and 28/29 Jun. Full details on our website at [www.sutton.gov.uk](http://www.sutton.gov.uk).

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## Newspaper collection

*Richard Heaton [rjheaton@hotmail.com]*

I have been using newspapers for family history since the 1980s , and have collected thousands of original papers and digitalised several thousand (including over 5000 pages of the Police Gazette).

I was presenting for a local family history society, and thought it would be a lot easier if I could point researchers to one site to find out what has been digitalised online and where to find it. So a couple of weeks ago I pulled together all I was aware of, shared it with some other groups who added a couple more sites, and the evolving collection (I believe accurate to August this year) has now over 2500 references – but if anyone is aware of others I'd be interested to hear from them.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dutilleul/BritishandIrishNews.html>

Collections Included are : 17th and 18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers; British Library 19th Century Newspapers; 19th Century British Library Newspapers Part II; Ancestry ; British Newspaper Archive; Cambrian Indexing Project; Googlenewspapers ; Highland History & Culture; Internet Library of Early Periodicals ;Irish News Archive; Jewish Chronicle Archive; Lastchancetoread; London Gazette Archive; Manx National Heritage; Newspaper Archive; Slough History Online; Times Digital Archive; Sunday Times Digital Archive; Financial Times Digital Archive; Guardian Digital Archive; Scotsman; UK Press Online; and Welsh Newspapers Online (Beta).



# Notes from Southwark

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Not long ago I came across a published family tree for Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, the eminent scientist. Its principal purpose was to show how he related to Gerard Manley Hopkins, the poet. The entire tree descended from a couple who lived in Walworth (or Newington) in the 18th century. A broad tree of that sort can cover a great many districts and include people of remarkable disparity in status and a variety of occupations. From time to time I try to research the ancestry of the woman who was nicknamed the 'Countess of the Old Kent Road'. She was conventionally known as Mrs. Charlotte Amelia Bracey-Wright (1841-1939), but through her mother she could legitimately claim the French title of Comtesse de Lormet. Her maiden name was entered as Woodhouse but she apparently claimed to be related to P. G. Wodehouse, the novelist. Her father's death was registered in the name of Wodehouse, and that was before P. G. was famous. P. G.'s ancestry is published, as he was related to the Earls of Kimberley, who duly appear in the standard peerage volumes. The countess, who lived for decades at 549 Old Kent Road, has required research, but it was soon clear that she also had rich forebears. Her father owned a mansion in Hertfordshire and was a Deputy Lieutenant of Staffordshire, implying ownership of property there as well. He was also an armiger. So far I have found no link, and the pattern of Christian names does not allude to the Kimberley line. But any link may be very far back, and so work continues.

My greatest task in 2013 was to complete my long-intended history of the Elephant and Castle. It was published in July by Amberley Publishing under the title of *Elephant and Castle: A History*. The book concentrates on what I call the district's heyday from about 1840 to 1940, when it was at its liveliest and of obvious economic importance. The Elephant and Castle included the old parish church of St Mary, Newington, which appears in a great many family trees. Its churchyard remains at the Elephant, but the present church stands a quarter of mile south in Kennington Park Road. The Metropolitan Tabernacle, the extraordinary Baptist church first built for Charles Haddon Spurgeon, has stood on the same site at the centre of the Elephant since 1861. Pubs, shops, the South London Music Hall, the Elephant and Castle Theatre, the Trocadero Cinema, the Horse Repository, the two Tube lines, churches and great characters are all

represented. The book may be bought from me for £14.99 (plus £2 for postage and packing).

I have lately much revised some old notes of mine, entitled *Surrey and Southwark*, which list the main uses of the name of Surrey in Southwark. [I am prepared to send a copy of the list electronically to anyone who applies by e-mail; and in paper form to those who supply a 9" x 6" SAE together with an extra 2nd-class stamp to cover copying.] The first entry in the list is Southwark's Old English name, *Suthringa Geweorc*, which means 'the defensive work of the people of the southern province', and that province was Surrey. The name appears in a document of the early 10th century called the *Burghal Hidage*, which lists *burhs* or places fortified against the Vikings. Southwark's inclusion almost certainly derives from King Alfred's capture of London in 886. He reinstated the ancient walls of Roman London and must have set up another burh south of the river to defend the river-crossing. He certainly built two burhs on opposite sides of the River Lea in 895. So we might claim King Alfred as Southwark's founder. As it happens, there is a statue which represents him in Trinity Church Square. It was put there, in front of the former Holy Trinity Church, by the Corporation of Trinity House. Alfred was chosen because he was traditionally regarded as the founder of the Royal Navy, and Trinity House was (and still is) a maritime organization.

I have to show interest in all parts of Southwark, and many places beyond, but Rotherhithe has always had a special attraction for me. Over the years I have found that most of its leading families in the 1800s were related. For example, Edward Hawks the shipbuilder (died 1844) had a son, Robert Shafto Hawks, who became the joint vestry clerk of Rotherhithe with his brother-in-law, James J. Stokes. The latter in turn married Agnes, daughter of John Beatson the ship-breaker (who broke up the *Temeraire*). John's brother, William, emigrated to New Zealand and I have only just got in touch with one of his descendants. One day, I shall compile a huge tree to show the full story. I was amused last year to find the marriage in a neighbouring district between members of two rope-making families. They were, after all, experts in tying the knot!

Lastly, my customary offering of a strange name: Affability Box, in the parish of St John, Horselydown, in the early 19th century (which was kindly supplied by Peter Shilham). In fact, there appear to be three individuals with the same name, two by birth and the third by marriage. It reminds me of an earlier entry in this series: *Affable Battle in the 17th century*. How can a battle be affable?

# Sutton Police Station

This document was found at the ESFHS Research Centre in Lingfield.

In the year 1827 there was at Sutton a Station of the Second Division of the Bow Street Horse Patrol. The Patrol formed around the year 1777 policed the main "Turnpike Roads" in and out of London. They came under the jurisdiction of the Bow Street Magistrates and complemented the famous "Bow Street Runners" and the Foot Patrols who operated in the central area. The Patrols were the brain child of the Fielding brothers. The novelist Henry, assisted by his blind half brother John, who was Knighted in 1761 and succeeded him at Bow Street and proceeded to put into effect some of the ideas expounded by Henry. The Horse Patrol was transferred to the newly formed Metropolitan Police in October 1836 and formed the nucleus of the "Mounted Branch".

In 1864 Sutton Police Station formed part of 'P' or Camberwell Division. It was a Sectional Station of Carshalton Sub-Division and was split into two beats. The strength was two Sergeants, eleven Constables and one horse. The Mounted Sergeant had to perform 3 hours duty at the Station, and patrol on horse or foot 9 hours out of every 24, and have the care of his horse.

On the formation of three new Divisions, W or Clapham, X or Paddington and Y or Highgate, Sutton was one of several Stations transferred to form the new W Division. The address of Sutton Police Station in 1884 was: High Street, Sutton.

In October 1886, Superintendent 'W' Division drew attention to the inconvenience and inadequate facilities at Sutton Police Station. The Superintendent reported in August 1887 that the station was small and cramped and must at no distant date be reconstructed or rebuilt. In September 1894 certain modifications especially to the drainage system at the Station were carried out. By March 1905 the situation had become acute and Home Office forwarded to the Commissioner from the Receiver recommending that additional ground, space or a new elite should be required with a view to the provision of a new Police Station for Sutton.

On 29 June 1905 a letter was received from the Secretary of State at the Home Office approving the purchase of a freehold property known as "Sutton Court" at a price not exceeding £2,650 as a site for a new Police Station at Sutton. The purchase was completed on 10 October 1905. On 29 August 1906 Home Office

sanctioned the sale of a portion of the Police site at Sutton, facing Sutton Court Road, to Sutton Standing Joint Committee for the sum of £800. The parcel of land was required for the provision of a Court House at Sutton for the use of the a Court House at Sutton for the Justice of the Epsom Division.

#### “Buildings and Fixtures”

‘W’ – The new Police Station at Sutton is to be taken into occupation and business commenced therein, 7<sup>th</sup> inst.

The lodging assessment will be as follows:-

Married quarters (1 set) ..... at 10s. per week

“ ” ( “ ) ..... at 4s. 6d per week

10 unmarried men .....1s. per week

#### “Divisions”

The boundaries of ‘P’, ‘W’ and ‘Z’ Divisions were revised on 12 October. Thornton Heath Station was closed and Streatham and Wallington Stations were transferred from ‘W’ to ‘Z’ Division. Sutton was designated a Sub-Divisional Station of ‘W’ with Epsom and Banstead as its Sectional Stations. Notification received at Station from the local authority on 19 October 1933 that henceforth the address of Sutton Police Station would change from No. 1 to No. 6 Carshalton Road West.

The station which was erected in 1908 was improved in 1936.

#### “Revision of Boundaries”

The Secretary of State authorised a re-organisation of the Force designed to relate police boundaries to the new local authority boundaries created by the London Government Act, 1963. The new local authority and police boundaries were implemented on 1 April 1965. Sutton (ZT) was designated a Sub-Divisional Station of ‘Z’ Division with Wallington (ZW) as a Sectional Station, both situated in the new London Borough of Sutton.

#### ‘Z’ District – New Epsom Division

With effect from 1 January 1980, Epsom and Sutton Divisions will be amalgamated. The new Division will be known as Sutton Division, with its

headquarters at Epsom Police Station. Sutton Police Station will be designated a Sub-division retaining charging facilities.

Further information about the Metropolitan Police can be found at The Metropolitan Police Heritage Centre, Empress Approach, Lillie Road, SW6 1TR [www.metpolicehistory.co.uk/met-police-heritage-centre.html](http://www.metpolicehistory.co.uk/met-police-heritage-centre.html). They hold Police Orders reference PO.

The National Archives [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/) also holds documents relating to the Metropolitan Police reference sequence MEPO.

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## How to find East Surrey FHS on Facebook

*Anne Ramon*

There is an East Surrey Family History Society Facebook page now which carries short news items, photos, links to interesting posts from relevant and well respected sources like the Surrey History Centre and the Society of Genealogists, reminders about Society meetings and tips about East Surrey sources for Family History. Mostly light weight and chatty and no substitute for the Journal and Society meetings, but we hope you will find it interesting as well as entertaining.

If you would like to see the Page and get the updates, you will need a Facebook account, which is free; to get this you must be over 13 years of age and have a working email address.

You should be offered a Sign Up box. Enter your First and Last Names (Facebook expects you to use your real names – and it checks for, and will block, *Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Elvis Presley* etc.). Enter and carefully re-enter your email address – this will be the one Facebook will send a confirmation message to. You need this email to complete the log on process. Make up and enter a password (you can use numbers, letters and punctuation) and remember to NOTE IT DOWN. Birthday detail can be accurate or not; Facebook uses it to check you are over 13 years old and then uses the date to tell your Friends your birthday is coming up. Then click *Sign Up*.

If everything is OK you will see a second Sign Up box which is a security check to ensure you are a human!! You will see two words in a variety of typefaces and

sizes. Re-type these in the box below with a space between them. You may want to read the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy first, then Click on *Sign Up*.

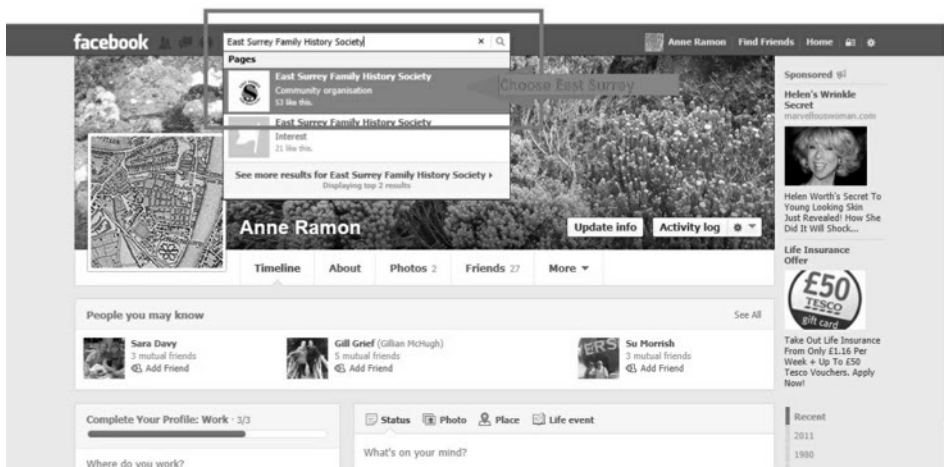
After a period (up to 3 hours possibly) you will get a confirmation email from Facebook. Follow the instructions in this (I can't quite remember but maybe you just have to click on an underlined link in the email) and that's it. You are then on Facebook.

NB After you are fully set up it is possible to add another name you have been known by (eg maiden name). Other users searching for that name may find you this way. Click on *Account* on any Facebook page, and then *Account Settings*. Enter the additional name in *Alternate Name* field.

Find Friends like East Surrey Family History Society by entering their name in the search box in the blue strap line. As you type Facebook will home in on the possible options. The Society one you want has the green and black logo. Click on it, and the Society page will open. Scroll up and down and click on the photos to see how it works, and please click the 'Like' button at the top right above the photo albums.

If you have any concerns about this please speak to or email a committee member.

Good luck!



# Can you help?

## Email error

Please note that the email address shown for Judy Woodlock at the foot of page 43 in the December Journal (Can you help? – Lansdown) should be woodlock7@bigpond.com (without the '.au').

## King

*Angela Incigneri [angelain@bigpond.net.au]*

After the mention of Bell Ringers in the December Journal I began to wonder if there was anyone who could help me with a query.

My grandfather, John James King, was born in 1887 in Mariners Buildings, Rotherhithe. He was a smallish person and as an adult was even the first choice for a cox on the PLA rowing team as he was the lightest man they could find. It is unlikely, therefore, that he was bigger than average as a child.

Our family tells of how he was asked to ring the church bell at Queen Victoria's Jubilee (or possibly death). The Jubilee was in 1897 when John was 10 and her death was in 1901 when he was 13. I would have considered that a 10 year old child would not have had the strength to ring a church bell but I thought I was told that it was at her Jubilee.

The church in question would almost certainly have been Holy Trinity in Rotherhithe, which lost all its records in the bombing. Has anyone any thoughts on which event was more likely? Naturally, I would also be interested in hearing from anyone who has connections to this family.

## Puttock

*Karen Sayers [9463]*

My ancestors, the Puttocks, lived in Shere in the early to mid-nineteenth century. In the 1851 and 1861 censuses they are recorded as living in Shere Street, but I

## Can you help?

can't find a record of this street. Was this a shorthand name for Upper Street and Gomshall Lane? In the 1861 census they are living at no. 141.

Can anyone help with this?

## Widow Welch

*Beryl Galbraith nbgalbraith@gmail.com  
170 East 48 Avenue, Vancouver BC, Canada V5W 2C8*

I wonder if anyone has heard of the Widow Welch, of 'Widow Welch's Female Pills' fame?

The Widow Welch invented these pills just before 1750 and they were sold over the counter in the UK, Australia and Canada for the next two hundred years. The 'Widow' was my five-times great grandmother, but as yet I have not been able to find any information about her. I know a lot about the pills, but absolutely nothing about the lady who created them! I wonder if anyone could help?



Have you come up against a

## **Brick Wall?**

Send your request for help to the Editor, whose contact details appear on the inside front cover, for publication in the next issue.