



East Surrey Family History Society

e-Newsletter No 1 January 2013

Happy New Year and WELCOME to the first issue of your Society's new **e-Newsletter!**

We want to keep you up to date with what's happening in family history in East Surrey and share hints and tips on researching our family histories. Our focus will be on news items, particularly about our area, but we will welcome contributions from all our members. We hope you will find the **e-Newsletter** interesting and useful!

E-Newsletter will appear monthly, mid-month and, when we have managed to set up a secure and effective email service (!), it will be emailed to all currently subscribed ESFHS members for whom we have an email address. We hope you will enjoy reading it but if not, you can unsubscribe from the mailing list at any time.

Remember to let us know if you want us to use a different email address. Please see the 'Administration notes' at the end of the newsletter for further information.

Previous month **e-Newsletters** will be posted on the ESFHS web site.

Don't worry, you will still receive your ESFHS Journal each quarter, and this will continue to provide well researched and good quality articles as well as the Society programme of meetings, Members' Interests and More!

And Don't Worry! The Society's Web site www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk will still be maintained at its usual very high standard and will remain the primary source for the latest information about the Society, its holdings, the research services, Society and other publications for sale, links to other resource holders etc.

This is only our first issue and we're keen to know what you would like to see in **e-News**. If you have any comments or contributions, please email these to: enewseditor@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

ESFHS UPDATE

Have you renewed your membership for 2013? Don't miss out on our Journal and the regular meetings at five venues across East Surrey! If you need help please contact the Membership Secretary at membership01@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Forthcoming ESFHS meetings include:

CROYDON – Tuesday 19th February at 7.45pm Shirley & Addington – Ray Wheeler Part local and part Family History

LINGFIELD- Wednesday February 27th at 2.30pm - Suffragettes and the Oxted bomb - Janet Bateson

RICHMOND – Saturday March 9th at 2.30pm - Child employment in 19thC Kingston - Dr Helen Goepel

SOUTHWARK – Monday February 11th at 12.00 noon - Music & Musicians in Southwark and Lambeth, from Vauxhall to Crystal Palace - Len Reilly.

Len is Archives & Library Manager at Lambeth Archives and was formerly on the staff at Southwark Local History library

SUTTON – Thursday February 7th at 7.45pm - John Hanson - Understanding the FamilySearch Website John is a lecturer specialising in IT and Family History

See the Journal or the website www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk for location details.

AND



East Surrey FHS will be attending the **WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE LIVE** show at **Olympia** on **22-24 February 2013**. Please come and say hello. The bookstall will have a large range of East Surrey related publications for sale and our Helpdesk team and Database will be available to help you find your East Surrey ancestors.

Further details can be found on the WDYTYA website

www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com/

Croydon Archives UPDATE

Have you heard about the threatened cuts in funding for Croydon Archives? The budget proposals can be seen at

<http://www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/minutes/cabinet/2012/10dec12a>

In budget options, page 17, the third item under children, families and learning, reads: "reduce council's role in facilitation of culture – including reducing the archive service to a statutory minimum". This will be put out for consultation, but planned implementation is financial year 2013/4. The proposals include reducing the number of posts by three which, if approved, may result in the closure of the local studies & archives. Your Committee e-mailed Councillor Pollard asking for this proposal to be reconsidered and a number of members have submitted response forms recommending the same. The Councillor's reply to our email is shown below. We await further news!

Thank you for your views on the changes to Croydon Council's culture budget agreed by Cabinet before Christmas.

I have received a number queries and comments in recent days concerning reported budget changes that the council has announced in relation to the local studies and archive service. What I want to be very clear about is that only about a quarter of the savings that we are looking to make relate to local studies and archives. Approximately £75k of the reduced budget comes from our decision to not fill two vacant posts that are no longer required in the culture team. As far as local studies and archives are concerned we have made no firm plans as yet as to how we will meet our savings target. What I will however emphasise is that the council does fully appreciate how valuable a resource this is to its users and the borough, and for that reason we are looking carefully at options that will minimise the operational impact of the financial decision.

I have distilled the enquiries down into a number of 'frequently asked questions', which are answered below.

Q. Why are we looking to find efficiencies in our cultural services budget?

A. The savings are necessary because the council's income is falling sharply at the same time as many costs are rising. About half the council's income comes from Government grants and this will fall by half (in real terms) over the period 2010-2015. The balance of our income comes from council tax: with this frozen for much of that period, but inflation still eroding the spending power, this portion of our income is also falling in real terms. This means we have to make significant cutbacks to be able to set a balanced budget. Partly because of the recession, and partly because of the effect of a rising population of both older residents and children, expenditure is rising on many social care services which we are required by law to provide. Even if we manage these services ever more efficiently, we still have rising costs and a declining income to deal with. This saving goes a little way towards correcting that and there is really no area of the council's expenditure which is exempt from having to make savings at this time.

Q: What are the changes proposed to the support that the council gives to local cultural activities?

A: Two officer posts have been vacant for some time now. The staff who held these positions had been employed to work on matters relating to the cultural Olympiad and the council's restructure of its overall culture service. As both of these functions are now historical we will not be re-recruiting to the roles, and as such will be able to make savings in the region of £75k per annum.

Q: What changes are proposed to the local studies and archive service?

A: No firm proposal has been made as yet, however we are seeking to save approximately £30k from the existing budget in this area as a contribution to the council's overall need to make financial efficiencies. We are committed to retaining as much of this valued service as possible and we are in the process of considering a number of options that may be able to keep the local archives as accessible and ensure that new acquisitions can be properly catalogued.

Q: How can I contribute to the consultation on these proposals?

A: In spite of what was reported in the newspapers, there is no formal consultation process for these cultural services changes at this stage. Right now the council is looking at the detail behind a wide range of budget proposals that were submitted to the cabinet in December. We are however always interested in hearing from customers and those people who have a vested interest in our services, and any ideas or opinions that are put forward to me in relation to this matter will be seriously considered.

I will write again to everyone who has contacted me to offer me their views on this matter when there is more detail to disclose on the specific changes. I hope that this will be before the end of January.

Regards

Cllr Tim Pollard

Deputy Leader (Comms) & Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Learning

London Borough of Croydon - Sanderstead Ward

Tel 020 8251 8500 councillor@timpollard.co.uk

Useful websites for Family History

The National Archives produces a list of useful English and Welsh web sites. Here are some 'General family history Websites' you might like to try:

www.familysearch.org

worldwide resources

www.cyndislist.com

more than 290,000 links to genealogy sites worldwide

www.genuki.org.uk

Portal for UK and Ireland genealogy sites

www.rootsweb.com

Free resources including databases, newsgroups and mailing lists

<https://wiki.familysearch.org>

Family Search wiki site with details of sources worldwide

www.sog.org.uk

Society of Genealogists library resources and catalogue

Let us know how you get on with these sites and if you have any tips for fellow members!



GENUKI Do you know this web site?

www.genuki.org.uk/

I used GENUKI to find out more about the family history societies covering 'London'. London is a complex area, shared between a number of family history societies. East Surrey FHS's area includes part of south London but it's not easy to remember which modern suburb 'belongs' to which family history Society. How can you find out easily which parish/area is covered by which family history society? I found this page on the GENUKI web site:

<http://homepages.gold.ac.uk/genuki/LND/fhs.html> (Press CTRL and Click to open the web page from this link)

The list shown gives the relevant family history society for each parish/area for those parishes which fall within Greater London and does not necessarily list all areas covered by a particular society. See the key below.

ES [East Surrey FHS](#)
EofL [East of London FHS](#)
HILL [Hillingdon FHS](#)
L&NM [London & North Middlesex FHS](#)
NWK [North West Kent FHS](#)
W&D [Woolwich & District FHS](#)
W&C Westminster & Central Middlesex FHS - now included in [London & North Middlesex FHS](#)
WEST [West Middlesex FHS](#)

The list was last updated in 2009 so please double check any entries with the Family History Society indicated. If you know a better or more up to date list, let us know...!

Television Programmes and podcasts

The BBC has begun a new series of Coming Home, based on celebrities with connections to Wales – Catherine Jenkins is surprised to discover she is following in her great grandmother's footsteps on Friday's BBC1 Wales episode

The Imperial War Museum has released podcasts 23: the first day of the Somme and 24: Tanks on the Somme

Web site Update

Be careful! You have to subscribe, and pay, to use some of these web sites. If you need any help or advice please speak to a Committee member at any of the Society meetings. To open a site, click on the blue address then press both the CTRL key and click (Enter) on your keyboard simultaneously.

The National Archives www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ have:

- *Included Dorset in their Manorial Documents Register*
- *added the fourth tranche of colonial administration records*

Ireland's National Archives has placed a new website for genealogy online at <http://www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie/>. The following are available free:

- *Census of Ireland, 1901 and 1911*
- *Tithe Applotment Books, 1823 – 37*
- *Soldiers' Wills, 1914 – 1917*

FindMyPast www.findmypast.co.uk/ has added:

- *Historical local newspapers from 1710-1950, with more to follow*
- *Doncaster parish records*
- *Irish petty sessions court order books*
- *Roman Catholic directories 1836 & 1837 to its Irish site*
- *Some more Northern Territory records to its Australian site*

TheGenealogist www.thegenealogist.co.uk/ has added

- *1950-1970 Death indexes*
- *More Army and Navy Lists*

Ancestry www.ancestry.co.uk/ has:

- *Announced a new site, Newspapers.com which appears to be only US papers*
- *updated merchant seamen Masters and Mates Certificates 1850-1927*
- *Added Dorset births and baptisms, marriages and banns, deaths and burials 1813-2001 and Catholic Liverpool records 1754-1988*

Origins.net www.origins.net/ has added:

- *Middlesex & London baptisms & burials 1538-1909*

DeceasedOnline www.deceasedonline.com/ has added:

- *Scottish Memorial Inscriptions back to 1632 from 13 sites, plus Islay's Kildalton and the Highlands'*

BC Archives (British Columbia) are midway through putting birth, marriage and death record images online at <http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy/BasicSearch>.

FamilySearch <https://familysearch.org/> has added:

- *Manorial Documents 1241-1976 for Kent (Family History Centres only)*

FamilyRelatives www.familyrelatives.com/ has added:

- *British Officers POW 1914-1918*
- *Officers died in the Great War 1914-1919*
- *The Bond of Sacrifice – 4,000 biographies of British Officers who fell in WWI*

Help us

We hope you have enjoyed reading this **e-Newsletter**, please let us know what you thought of it and how we can improve it. Email newseditor@eastsurreyfh.org.uk.
