



We have regular meetings at Croydon, Lingfield, Richmond, Southwark and Sutton



East SurreyFamily History Society



Part of Tyne Cot memorial, Belgium

Journal

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East Surrey Family History Society

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Researching WW1 relatives	27
Tracing back down the tree	6

The deadline for the December Journal is 10.00 a.m., 1st November All contributions should be sent to the Editor, whose contact details appear opposite

Group meetings

September

7 Treasures of the SoG Sue Gibbons Sutton
Major, largely unique, collections and accessing them

9 The Impact of Online Family History Companies

on Archives David Thomas Richmond

Report on Research and Discussion

19 Funeral Records Emma Sparre-Slater Croydon

A talk about the history of funerals and Francis Chappell (now part of Dignity), and the few funeral records they have from the past

27 Coroners' Inquests Kathy Chater Lingfield

October

5 Victorian Lady Travellers Dr Judy Hill Sutton

9 Discover Discovery Audrey Collins Southwark

Discovery – the key to the treasures of The National Archives, and more: Audrey is the Family History Records Specialist at the National Archives and will be talking about their on-line catalogue of records held at TNA and other archives

17 Surnames Celia Heritage Croydon

25 Members' Memento meeting Lingfield

A chance to share something that has contributed to your family history and to hear tips from others who have managed to break down a brick wall

November

2 I've lost my ancestors before 1837 Celia Heritage Sutton

11 Film Archives for the Family Historian Kathy Chater Richmond

Pictures - film - photographs

13 Visit to the Parliamentary Archives Southwark

There may be one or two places on a waiting list. Contact the Southwark Secretary

Group meetings

21 Codpiece to Calvin Klein Paul Blake Croydon

22 You may wish you had never started this! Ian Waller Lingfield

Record keeping do's and don'ts

December

7 Entertainment in Elizabethan England Sarah Doig Sutton

Music, dance, literature, sport and pastimes

This meeting will be followed by our Christmas social gathering

11 Christmas Lunch Southwark

Contact Southwark Secretary

January

13 Christmas meeting

Richmond

Bring along a family letter from yesteryear

24 Visit to the SoG Southwark

Group visit to the Library of the Society of Genealogists. Numbers

are limited: contact the Southwark Secretary

Croydon: United Reformed Church (small hall), Addiscombe Grove, Croydon CR0 5LP

3rd Tuesday (except August and December); 8.00 p.m.

Secretary: Liz Moss 020 8686 8962 croydon@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Lingfield: Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield RH7 6AB

4th Wednesday (except August and December); 2.30 p.m.

Secretary: Rita Russell 01342 834648 lingfield@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Richmond: Vestry House, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond TW9 1SA

2nd Saturday of alternate months; 2.30 p.m.

Secretary: Veronica McConnell 01372 363015 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: Hilary Blanford 01634 685219 southwark@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Sutton: St Nicholas's Church Hall, Robin Hood Lane, Sutton SM1 2RG

1st Thursday; 8.00 p.m.

Secretary: Gillian Alford 020 8393 7714 sutton@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Doors usually open 30 minutes before the start of the meeting. Please check the Society website www.esfhs.org.uk for future meetings and last-minute alterations.

A question of age

John Coppen [5401]

The new GRO website [www.gro.gov.uk] has two search facilities: one gives the mother's maiden name for the birth indexes for the period 1837-1916, and the other gives the age of death from 1837.

The ability to find the mother's maiden name for the early births has been hugely helpful to me in filling gaps in children where they exist for a couple or, indeed, in finding the mother's maiden name where it was unknown but you have some 'certain' children. For this I applaud the GRO.

However, use of the GRO's 'age at death' when searching the death indexes is fraught with danger, more particularly the deaths of infants, which are completely unreliable. I had numerous instances where burial records showed that the infant was e.g. 7 weeks or 11 months old at death but this was being stated by the GRO as being 7 years or 11 years old. Images from their own index pages would show 'age at death' as 0 but the new site would show it as some other number, usually from 1 to 11 but could be e.g. 18 if the age at death was recorded as 18 months.

I have discussed this with the GRO at some length but they appear unable to rectify the underlying problem:

"The GRO digitised records were created from a scan of the original quarterly copies of birth and death registration records held by the Registrar General. From the scanned images a subset of the data was then keyed in order for records to be identified and retrieved. It is this subset of data, and not the existing microfiche indexes, which was used to create the online historical indexes and provide additional index information such as mother's maiden name and age at death where it was captured. There was no automatic electronic character recognition used in capturing this data. Whilst for some infant deaths we are aware that the age at death was recorded as seen, we are unable to automatically identify these from the information data captured, or from the microfiche indexes, without reviewing every death record."

So my advice is: if the 'age at death' seems not to fit with your other evidence, consider that the age might be in weeks or months rather than years.



Tech Topic – Search inside a website

Brian Hudson

Not all family history websites have a search facility: one such example is familydeeds.org (the subject of the Website Round-up in this issue). There is, however, a way to search inside this website by using Bing, Google or Yahoo and probably any other search engine. The magic part of this is the use of the operator *site*: which restricts the search to within the specified website.

If, for example, you wish to search for any reference to 'george smith' within the familydeeds.org website then the instruction typed into the address or search box should read

site:http://familydeeds.org george smith

Make sure that there is no space between site: and the website name.

The http:// or https:// portion of the website URL does not need to be used, but it doesn't do any harm if you include it.

It is better to use more than one word in your search to help narrow down the results. Searching for 'george' or 'smith' would be too general.

Pressing the return key gave three results in Google, five in Yahoo and Bing. Yahoo also gave two other suggestions whilst Bing had seven allegedly related searches.

The results will select the page on which the search name is located; however, it does not go to the exact location. Use Ctrl F (PC) or Command F (Mac). A similar 'find on page' feature is available on mobile devices.

Suffolk Family History Society

Family History Fair and AGM

Saturday September 30th, 10:00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at the University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building, 19 Neptune Quay, Ipswich IP4 1QJ. There is free parking nearby.

The Fair will feature two Topline Speakers, and a Computer and Search research help area with friendly help and advice. "Ask The Expert " area. Stalls Stands and Displays. Society A.G.M.

Entry is free.

For more information go to: http://suffolkfhs.org.uk.

Peter Heather

An email was received recently from Canada with details of a letter and photo sent by a father to his son in a German prisoner of war camp in 1943. The letter had been left in a Bournemouth hotel many years ago and had been picked up by a member of staff for safe keeping. Attempts at the time to find the owner had failed and the Society was asked if we could make one final attempt to reunite it with descendants of the family.

The Advice and Research Centre at Lingfield gets many requests for help from people tracing their ancestors, but increasingly we are getting requests such as this to find living relatives. Working back towards the present day involves a slightly different approach from the traditional one we are all used to, not least because many of the records that would be useful are still closed to the public, and so it might be useful to set down how we went about this case and the sources used.

The only useful information we had to go on was on the envelope. The father, F G **Archer** of 77 Croxted Road, Dulwich, SE1, was writing to his son, Flt.



Sgt. John F Archer at Stalag 4A in Germany. There was nothing in the letter itself that was of help. The first step was to search 77 Croxted Road on the 1939 Register (*FindMyPast*) but the father was not at that address. However, a search for F G Archer revealed Frederick G Archer, apparently a lodger, at 118 Croxted Road. We now knew the father's first name, his date of birth (8 November 1880) and that he was a draper.

A search of the Prisoners of War, 1715-1945 (*FindMyPast*) records found Flight Sergeant John Archer among a list of RAF prisoners being repatriated in May 1945, but without further information. We then turned to trying to find John's birth and the marriage of his parents. This was complicated by not knowing his mother's name, as she was missing from the 1939 Register, and she was not mentioned in his father's letter.

For John to be in the RAF in 1943 he would have to be at least 18 and probably under 40, so his birth would be between, say, 1903 and 1925. As his father was born in 1880 he would have married no earlier than 1896. Using the Marriage Index (*FreeBMD*), a search for Frederick Archer produced too many hits, but a refined search for Frederick G* Archer (the * being a wildcard that would find all names starting with G or just the initial) produced just 17 results.

The surnames of the wives for entries from 1912 are shown and they were noted down. In the case of earlier marriages, the potential wife's surname was noted after clicking on the entry, there being two possible surnames in most cases. Turning to the Birth Index (FreeBMD), 23 births of John F Archer between 1903 and 1925 were found. Again, the mother's maiden name is shown after 1915 and was noted. For births before then, the new GRO Online Index (General Register Office) was used to find the mother's surname. Usefully. this new index also gives the second name of the child.

The surnames of the wives and mothers were compared and three matches were found. In two cases the place of marriage and place of birth were widely separated. Not impossible of course, but in one case the location was Lambeth District for both. The marriage was in 1911 to Kate Williams and the birth of John Frederick just two years later in 1913. Rather than applying for the marriage certificate, the London, England, Church of England Marriages & 1754-1912 Banns. (Ancestry) was searched and the marriage found. Confirmation that this was the one looked for came with Frederick George Archer shown as a draper and living at 172 Croxted Road, Dulwich. Kate was 29,

which meant that she had been born about 1882.

We now had the full names and ages of John and his parents and his father's occupation, so where to go now to find descendants?

It was back to FreeBMD to search for a marriage for John and any possible children. There was one marriage of a John F Archer that stood out and that was in 1935 to Mary Champion in Lambeth District. Searching then for Archer children with a mother called Champion, produced two girls and a boy between 1936 and 1946. The children were all born in Watford, but that was not necessarily a problem. There was a good chance that all three children were still alive and living in the UK, so I searched for a marriage for the youngest daughter W L Archer. I found her marrying A H in 1969, also in Watford, and then giving birth to two children a few years later.

Looking on UK Electoral Registers 2002-14 (*FindMyPast*) for W___ L___ H___, I found just one, in Hemel Hempstead, not far from Watford, and living at the same address was A___ and their son. As they were shown still there in 2014 I wrote and explained that I was trying to reunite the letter with John's family. And there the story should have ended, reuniting a long lost letter with a

grateful family and as a demonstration of how it is possible to trace living descendants. However, it turned out to be an example of the false trails that can lie in wait.

W___ quickly wrote back to say that her father was a different John Archer who had been in the army and not the RAF. From her account of the family it became clear that her father and his brothers were from Harrow but her father's birth had not been registered, which accounts for me not finding him.

So it was back to seeking further information about John Archer. There were no other marriages for John and it seems that he remained a bachelor and so he had no descendants. I therefore decided to look for other relatives. perhaps via any siblings of John. Looking again at the birth indexes, I searched for any other Archer children born with a mother originally called Williams. There was just one born in Lambeth District, Eric R Archer born in 1918. A marriage search from 1934 onwards soon produced a marriage in 1946 to Patricia **Coleman** in Surrey. But the marriage was short-lived, as Eric Archer died in 1947 at Brompton Hospital. The England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966, 1973-1995 (Ancestry) shows his address as 13 Rutford Road, Streatham

and his widow as Patricia Madge Archer, while the UK and Ireland, Find A Grave Index, 1300s-Current (*Ancestry* linking to *Findagrave.com*) shows Lieutenant Eric Rowland Archer of the Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment being cremated at South London Crematorium. A check on the birth indexes confirmed that there were no children born to the couple.

The England & Wales. Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2005 (Ancestry), which covers a greater period than FreeBMD's site, was searched. I had previously found John's father Frederick's death in 1946, the year after John was returned to the UK. There were a few possible deaths for a Kate and for a John Frederick Archer but one of each stood out, in 1967 and 1984 respectively, as they were both in Bournemouth. where the letter had been found. One of the useful aspects of Ancestry's site, when looking at a record, is the 'Suggested Records' that appear alongside. There is no guarantee that these relate to the same person, but can provide a lead. In the case of John's death, there were links to three records. The Great Britain, Royal Aero Club Aviators' Certificates. 1910-1950 (Ancestry) revealed that John was issued

with an Aviator's Certificate in 1946 as he was an RAF pilot and gave his address as Rutford Road, Streatham, the same as his brother Eric. I had already searched the British Phone Books, 1880-1984 (*Ancestry*) and found Kate Archer also living at the same address in Rutford Road between 1947 and 1952.

The probate record gave a date of death and an address in Bournemouth but nothing else new. But the note of a death notice in the Times newspaper gave, via Times Digital Archive (Surrey Libraries online reference), the fact that John Frederick Archer was the "dear son of the late Kate Archer" and details of the funeral directors. No other relatives were mentioned. I wrote to the funeral directors, who still had their records of the funeral, and they were able to confirm that the funeral was arranged by a bank as John's executors and that there were no relatives.

So after all that it proved impossible to return the letter to the family, but it did mean that the Society was able to offer it a good home in our small archives and the search procedures mentioned in this article might make it easier for members to trace their own relatives who otherwise live 'undiscovered'.



The Chairman's Address

Mark Hughes

Following the Open Day and AGM earlier in the year I started to think about the role of family history societies.

On the committee, we regularly discuss the membership numbers and we have, like many other societies, been losing numbers. This is of concern as, ultimately, a family history society is all about its members.

So, in this day and age of the internet is there a place for family history societies and what are they for? I need look no further than the minutes of the very first meeting of the East Surrey Family History Society, where the then Secretary, Miss Watkins, wrote "the needs of the society as being for fellowship and genealogical work". For me, the key work here is "fellowship".

Television programmes like "Who Do You Think You Are?" make finding information look so easy. All we need to do is go to a library, or an archive, and the information will be handed to us.

The rise of Internet information websites such as Ancestry also gives us

the illusion that everything is available and correct. However, we know that this is not the case. In Ian Waller's talk on what has changed in the last 40 years of family history research, at the Society's Open Day, he highlighted two major flaws with this. The first being that not all information has been digitised. Yes, there is a lot that has been, but there are still vast amounts that have still to be. The second is that there are translation errors and that only reference to the original documents will resolve.

How will a family history society resolve these issues? On their own they won't. But the idea of fellowship is key. For without fellowship we are on our own, with no one to help or to bounce ideas off. No one to suggest looking in different and new places. People who understand the problem, but can see it from a different angle. If we lose family history societies we will lose our most valuable resource.

YOU.



Married – or not?

The following was sent to the Editor from a reader who wishes to remain anonymous

A marriage is . . . when the

couple make their vows, not

when the register is signed

I am not a member of your Society, but a friend passed a copy of your December 2016 Journal to me recently. On page 26 Mr Albert Barnhurst asks about the validity of a marriage if the register has not been signed. I hope my understanding of the position, set out below, might be helpful.

A marriage is legally contracted when the couple make their vows to each

other, not when the register is signed. At the end of the service or the ceremony the priest or registrar pronounces that the

couple are husband and wife. They then proceed to sign the register. The witnesses are present primarily to hear the vows, not to sign the register.

Signing the register does not legalise the marriage: it is not obligatory to have a certificate. I bet not many early 19th century couples did! In the case quoted, if George Farthing and Ann Barnhouse said the vows correctly in front of the priest and the witnesses, and she then dropped dead they would still have been married and George would be a

widower, even if neither had signed the register. A bit dramatic I know, but it makes the point! Actually, her signature or mark was probably just forgotten for some reason.

In this country the validity of a marriage, if queried, is a matter for the Courts, not for the Church or other organisation that performed the service or ceremony; so there is no need to

_ bother the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Of course, we ultimately have no way of knowing if any

of these old marriages actually happened, or if they were 'legal', but I guess most of them were, and the signatures in the register are reassuring. We family historians must take the evidence on trust.

Incidentally, a Civil Partnership is made legal by the couple signing the paperwork in front of witnesses, and no vows are required.

I hope these comments will be helpful.

A Clerk at Somerset House

Veronica McConnell

In 1837 the Registrar General of Births, Marriages and Deaths had set up his office in the North Wing of Somerset House, on the south side of the Strand in London. Birth registration with the state began on 1 July 1837. The birth was registered in the birth district and at the end of each quarter the local registrar sent a copy of all entries to the Registrar General. The Somerset House office held all Birth, Marriage and Death certificates in England and Wales; indexes to these are now at The National Archives.

In this office one of my gtgrandfathers began his career; it would last about 40 years. His appointment to the Civil Service was announced in the Pall Mall Gazette of 12 October 1869. Elihu Burritt **Lane** was to be an index compiler in the General Register Office (after limited competition).

In the 1871 census Burritt's occupation was shown as 'Clerk in H.M. Gen. Register Office Somerset House London'. He was 22 years old, had left his home town of Christchurch in Hampshire, and was lodging in Surbiton, near the church where he had recently been appointed organist. Burritt must have been a 'Victorian' commuter, travelling each day on a London and South Western Railway train into Waterloo Bridge Station (becoming officially 'Waterloo Station' in 1886), then walking across Waterloo Bridge. Perhaps, if the weather was inclement, he would take an omnibus over the Thames. An 1850 Hand-Book of London tells that the 'Waterloo omnibuses (marked 'Waterloo') run from the northeast extremity of the Regent's Park, down Regent-street, Strand, and over Waterloo Bridge to Camberwell-gate'.

By the time of the 1881 census Burritt had married, fathered a child, been widowed within a month of the birth, and had married again. His motherless young daughter was being brought up by one of her maternal aunts, who had not had children of her own. Burritt had left Surbiton where he had met and married his first wife, and set up his new family home in Penge. He was now organist at a church in Anerley.

A page from an Almanack of 1882 lists the personnel of the General Register Office. Burritt is listed under 'Index Compilers and Statistical Abstracters'. There are fourteen men listed: Burritt is the tenth on the list. The appointment of Samuel Pearce, whose name follows Burritt's, to an 'index compilership' was announced on page 9 of the Pall Mall Gazette of 16 October 1869, just four days after Burritt. Right up to 1908, Samuel's name follows Burritt's in the list of index compilers it seems there was no 'jumping the

A Clerk at Somerset House

queue'. Samuel, occupation 'Assist, Register Office', born Stoke Newington, aged 18 at the time of the 1871 census, was the son of a man who was a Cashier. The family of eight, parents and children aged 25 down to 9 years, were living together in South Hornsey. By the time of the 1881 census Samuel Pearce, occupation 'Civil Service Clerk Gen Reg Office', had married, had young children and was still living in Stoke Newington. At the top of the 1882 staff list was Sir Brydges Powell Henniker, the third Registrar General. Information on the various Registrar Generals can be found in a file called The Registrars General 1836-1945 (pdf) from the Office for National Statistics.

By the time of the 1891 census Burritt was living in Stoke Newington, his occupation given as 'Clerk in the Civil Service and Music Teacher', and he was at the local again organist Congregational Church. His wife, Emily, had borne him several children but just three girls survived the dangers of infancy and grew to adulthood. One of Burritt's aunts is listed as visiting this census night, perhaps helping out as Emily was away from home. I cannot but wonder if Burritt had learned about Newington from Stoke colleague Samuel Pearce, or if it was just coincidence. Samuel, 'Govt clerk

(General Reg Office)' had now moved out to Edmonton.

In the 1893 Almanack Burritt had moved up the seniority of Entry Compilers and Statistical Abstractors. For some years, in his spare time, Burritt studied hard, and obtained his Bachelor of Music Degree and in this year's Almanack list the initials Mus. B. appear after his name. By 1895, Burritt was the fifth man listed under Index Compilers and Statistical Abstractors.

In the Electoral Registers of London, Elihu Burritt Lane is listed in Deptford Ward, Borough of Lewisham, from 1898 until 1903. By the time of the 1901 census Samuel Pearce, 'Civil Servant Gen Reg Office' had been widowed, and one of his daughters was keeping house for him in Southgate.

Burritt next moved his family to Redhill/Reigate. Again he would have been travelling each day by train to London to his work at the GRO at Somerset House. This time the move was occasioned by his appointment as Organist at Redhill Congregational Church.

In 1910 Burritt and Emily moved to West Sussex with their two younger daughters, when he was appointed organist of Steyning Parish Church. I wonder if Burritt missed the daily journey to the office, for I feel sure he

A Clerk at Somerset House

must have retired by this time. Or was it a relief to be able to use his time for all his other interests?

How busy Burritt, my gt-grandfather, must have been strikes me again and again. Even in retirement, as well as his organist duties in Steyning Burritt served as a local councillor and continued his Masonic Interests. These were the days before 'Beeching' and there was a train station at Steyning, with trains each day to central London, Burritt would still have travelled up to London from time to time. He was much involved with Trinity College of Music, holding a position on the Senate of the College for some years. For many years, as well as the organ playing and working with the church choir in whichever parish he was currently living in, Burritt taught music theory and harmony at the college as well as privately from his home, both face to face and by correspondence. Then there was the work it must have taken to pass the exams for his MusBac degree.

In the 1911 census, in Steyning, Burritt Lane was described as 'Civil Service Pensioner and Organist'.

Without the Cuttings Books that Burritt kept, in which he pasted newspaper cuttings about his activities and also about interesting happenings back in his native Christchurch, much of his life would have melted away into the mists of time. I inherited one of these books, via his eldest daughter, and for some years regretted that it ended in the 1890s. Then last year on a visit to some cousins, I discovered that a second book exists, having been in the possession of another of Burritt's daughters and her descendants.

During the 1970s, long after the years when Burritt worked there, the General Register Office left Somerset House. In 2017, www.visitlondon.com describes Somerset House as a major Arts and Cultural Centre, 'an inspiring space for art, culture and creative exchange'.



Internet Sites used: Ancestry.co.uk, Newspaper database on Findmypast.co.uk, Google, victorianlondon.org and Wikipedia.

New members

- 10504 Mr Malcolm Scriven,6 Cecil Close, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9QP :: mpscriven@hotmail.com
- 10505 Mrs Sarah Hughes, 59 Golders Gardens, London NW11 9BS :: lindylou333@outlook.com
- 10506 Mr Tony and Mrs Carolyn Lucas, 23 Clements Road, London SE167 4DW :: tonyslucas@btinternet.com
- 10507 Mrs Gillian Pantling, 5 St James Avenue, Sutton, Surrey SM1 2TQ :: gpantling@hotmail.co.uk
- 10508 Ms Hilda Allsop, 28 Quintilis, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 7QQ :: hildsall51@hotmail..com
- 10509 Mr Brian Dedman, 76 Mansfield Drive, Merstham, Redhill, Surrey RH1 3JN :: brian.dedman@ntlworld.com
- 10510 Ms Wendy Boyton, 87 Sunnymede Avenue, West Ewell, Surrey KT19 9TH
- 10511 Mrs Janet Webb, 1 Sharpe Close, Warwick CV34 5BY :: janetwebb1941@gmail.com

Amendments and corrections to name/address

- 3696 Revd Francis Reid, St Peter's Residence, 2A Meadow Road, London SE8 1QH
- 9735 Mrs Rosemary Radley, 42 Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead, South Croydon CR2 9EA
- 3574 Miss Judith Russill, The Lodge, Rhydlewis, Nr.Llandysul, Ceredigion SA44 5RE :: judithrussill@aol.com
- 7389 Miss Ros Poulson, Bakers Lane, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath RH17 7LU :: r.poulson@outlook.com

Change of email address

- 3185 Mr Barry Jones :: <u>barrington844@btinternet.com</u>
- 9210 Mrs Julia Johnson :: gogardenia@outlook.com
- 8179 Mrs Jeanette Day :: 123jeanette123@gmail.com
- 3764 Miss Doreen Heywood doreen.doreenheywood@outlook.com

Surname interests in Surrey

BOXER	Bermondsey	19c	10506
BROWN	Charlwood	18c	10510
COPPARD	Nutfield	E18c	10494
CROUCH	All	18-19c	10510
DEVON	All	All	10505
HARTFIELD	All	18-19c	10510
HAYWARD	Bermondsey	18-19c	10506
HUGHES	Nutfield	18-19c	10494
HUGHES	All	18-19c	10510
HUMPHRIE(Y)S	Mitcham	18c	10510
JOICE	Godalming	All	10510
JOYCE	Guildford	All	10510
KING	Southwark	18-19c	10510
KING	St Saviours	18-19c	10510
KING	St Place	18-19c	10510
KING	St George	18-19c	10510
LANE	All	pre 20c	10505
LOADER	Guildford	17-19c	10510
LOADER	Stoke	17-19c	10510
LOCK	All	18-19c	10510
PARSONS	Charlwood	18c	10510
SCOTT	Southwark	18c	10510
SCOTT	Lambeth	18c	10510
SCOTT	St Mary Newington	18c	10510
SCOTT	Merton	18c	10510
STAGG	Southwark	L19-20c	7924
TARINOON	All	ALL	10505
TUYNNE	All	ALL	10505

Surname interests in other English counties

BOAK	Oakingham	BRK	16-19c	10510
BOAK	Binfield	BRK	16-19c	10510
BOXER	Folkestone	KEN	18-19c	10506
BROCK	All	DEV	ALL	10505
CAWLEY	Westerham	KEN	18-19c	10506
DARTNALL	All	ALL	ALL	10505
DEVON	All	MDX	ALL	10505
GOLDSMITH	All	SFK	18-19c	10510
GOLDSMITH	All	ESS	18-19c	10510
HALL	Bethnal Green	MDX	18-19c	10510
HALL	Oakingham	BRK	17-18c	10510
HALL	Binfield	BRK	17-18c	10510
HARRIS	Shoreditch	MDX	19-20c	10510
HEATH	All	ALL	ALL	10505
HENDERSON	Gateshead	DUR	19c	10506
LUCAS	Old Weston	HUN	Pre 19c	10506
LYNN	All	ALL	ALL	10505
MINTER	Great Horkesley	ESS	18-19c	10510
MINTER	Little Horkesley	ESS	18-19c	10510
MONTAGUE	St Leonard, Colchester	ESS	18-19c	10510
MONTAGUE NEWMAN	St Leonard, Colchester Biggleswade	ESS BDF	18-19c 18c	10510 10506
NEWMAN	Biggleswade	BDF	18c	10506
NEWMAN PAGE	Biggleswade Ludlow	BDF SAL	18c 18-19c	10506 10506
NEWMAN PAGE PEDDER	Biggleswade Ludlow Toddington	BDF SAL BDF	18c 18-19c 18-19c	10506 10506 10506
NEWMAN PAGE PEDDER PINSENT	Biggleswade Ludlow Toddington All	BDF SAL BDF DEV	18c 18-19c 18-19c ALL	10506 10506 10506 10505
NEWMAN PAGE PEDDER PINSENT PITE	Biggleswade Ludlow Toddington All	BDF SAL BDF DEV MDX	18c 18-19c 18-19c ALL ALL	10506 10506 10506 10505 10505
NEWMAN PAGE PEDDER PINSENT PITE PLAYER	Biggleswade Ludlow Toddington All All West Ham	BDF SAL BDF DEV MDX ESS	18c 18-19c 18-19c ALL ALL 18-19c	10506 10506 10506 10505 10505 10510
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Surname interests in other countries

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Information relating to membership is supplied by Ann Turnor, the Society Membership Secretary; that relating to surname interests by Peter Grant.

Contact details for both Ann and Peter appear on the inside front cover.

Julian Poolev

An annual fixture in my diary is the gathering together of user figures and statistics for our report to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA). These figures are useful indicators for the ways in which our services are used by the public. I was delighted to find that the number of people using our searchroom has slightly increased from 3,660 in 2015-16 to 3,778 in 2016-17. This is a fraction of the nearly 10,000 people who were using us when we opened in 1998, but many of those were regular repeat visitors using the IGI, census returns and parish registers on microfilm several times a week. As these sources are now globally accessible online, we have lost those repeat visits, but it is encouraging to find that those who did visit us last vear consulted over 18,000 manuscripts. printed books, maps rare illustrations from our strongrooms. Although some 42,000,000 Surrey records are accessible via Ancestry and Find My Past, they represent just 1.5% of our collections and it is great to see an increase in the number of people visiting us to explore the 98.5% that is not visible online.

This may be a direct result of the series of very successful family history courses that my colleague, Jane Lewis, has run this year. The unique selling point we can offer is direct contact with

the original records as part of the course and this inspires those attending to come back and continue to use a wide range of archive and local studies sources for their own research. We have also seen a rise in the number of local groups wishing to visit us as part of a local history project, often HLF funded, so that they can have a tour behind the scenes and see a display of documents relating to their topic of research. Again, these visits are often the launch pad for future individual visits. The same can be said for our work with local universities at Kingston and Royal Holloway; a workshop here led by the tutor and an archivist introduces a new generation of students to the wow factor of coming face-to-face with an original manuscript and they then return to continue that exploration for themselves. This is a key area of change in the way that our services and resources are used by the public.

People enjoy history in different ways and we try to meet these needs through a comprehensive programme of talks, events, study days, family activities, displays, showcases and targeted projects. We put on 31 displays in our foyer, searchroom, in libraries and museums across the county, the UK and even in Europe which were attended by over 91,000 people. This large figure

includes the 35,000 who saw records of the Royal Earlswood Asylum at an exhibition in Bonn about Down's Syndrome and the 34,000 who saw our documents relating to Lord Nelson and Emma Hamilton at a major exhibition at the National Maritime Museum. In addition, we held or participated in 120 talks, family history fairs, study days and other history related events here and across Surrey last year, attended by nearly 7,000 people.

Nearly 170 people are now signed up as volunteers, and they visit Surrey History Centre or work at home (some as far away as New Zealand!) to help prepare detailed indexes of our records. Last year these amazing volunteers gave us 9,515 hours of their time, an average of 57 hours each – for which we are very grateful indeed. The indexes they help us to prepare are available for free on our website but can now also be searched on Find My Past. They include:

- Annual Reports of Reed's School Cobham
- Surrey Poor Law Union minute books
- Dorking Poor Law Union application and report books
- Richmond Poor Law Union application and report books
- Chertsey Poor Law Union admission and discharge books

- Deaths in Surrey county gaol 1798-1878
- Godstone Poor Law Union application and report books
- Guildford Workhouse births 1866-1910, deaths 1887-1914 and infirmary deaths 1933-1939
- Mayford Industrial School admissions 1895-1907
- Patients in the St Peter's Memorial Home in Woking
- Princess Mary Village Homes pupils 1870-1890
- The Royal Philanthropic School at Redhill registers of admission
- Warlingham Military Hospital Chaplain's Department baptisms confirmations and deaths 1917-1919

Surrey History Trust

Many of our customers and volunteers are also members of Surrey History Trust, a charity that supports our work by membership subscriptions. As public spending constraints continue to reduce our budgets, it is hard to over-estimate the value of the Trust's support, both for the acquisition of new material and for financial encouragement for our applications for HLF and Arts Council funded projects.

Acquisitions funded by the Trust in the year 2016-17 have included:

- A postcard from the artist E H Shepard (1879-1976), famous especially for his illustrations for Wind in the Willows and Winnie the Pooh. In it Shepard identifies Foxwarren Park in Cobham as his model for Toad Hall.
- A letter from Daphne du Maurier (1907-1989), in which she reminisces about Slyfield Manor, Cobham, which her parents rented in the summer months of her early childhood (9676/-).
- An album of cartoons and verses by Lucy Broadwood of Capel, a member of the famous piano building dynasty and a noted musician and folk song collector. Lucy presented the album to her mother in 1893, the year her father, Henry Fowler Broadwood died (9716).
- A hand-drawn map of Deepcut Barracks and their surroundings, created in 1918 by Eric Palmer, a cadet officer with the 12th London Regiment, who was learning the science of map reading as part of his officer training. He drew the elaborate map on the blank side of 35 postcards, stuck together, encouraging soldiers and civilians to invest in War Savings Certificates or join the War Savings Association We also acquired Palmer's training notes, covering such

- subjects as how to assemble a Lewis gun or survive a gas attack (9734/-).
- Seven architectural drawings of The Royal Dramatic College, Maybury, Woking, by William Webbe, 1861 (9759/-). The plans had turned up in Hampstead in a car boot sale. The Royal Dramatic College, a home for retired actors, was opened in 1865. It closed in 1880 and in 1884 became the Oriental Institute, founded by Dr Leitner. In the First World War it was acquired by Messrs Martinsyde and turned into a factory for the production of military aircraft.

Surrey History Trust has also provided financial support for our HLF project Surrey in the Great War: a County Remembers. This ever-increasing online resource, which can be found at (http://www.surreyinthegreatwar.or g.uk/) provides amazing information about the ways in which the war impacted on the county and its people. Over 20,000 person records have now been added to it, including Surrey Volunteer Aid Detachment members. conscientious objectors, munition workers, and, of course, thousands of soldiers and sailors who served.

Many of the person records are linked to details and images of nearly 2000 war memorials. We are about to upload over 35,000 references to stories

that first appeared in Surrey Great War newspapers.

The Trust is also supporting our project to celebrate the centenary of women getting the vote in 1918. Surrey was the home of many noted suffragists and suffragettes such as the composer Ethel Smyth and the artist Mary Watts and also saw such notorious events as Emily Davison throwing herself in front of the King's horse at the 1913 Derby and the blowing up of Lloyd George's

weekend retreat on the edge of Walton Heath Golf course. Called *The March of the Women: Surrey's Road to the Vote* the project will include cataloguing of our suffrage related collections, an exhibition, a schools project which will create a radio broadcast on a dramatized suffrage theme, and collaboration with local museums and with Royal Holloway and other national initiatives to tell the dramatic story to as wide an audience as possible.

You can help us by becoming a member of the Trust. Please visit http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistorycentre and follow the links to Surrey History Trust for more details.

Annual closure

Surrey History Centre will be closed for our annual stock-check between Monday 4 December and Monday 18 December. Our Christmas and New Year opening times are as follows:

Tue 19 December to Fri 22 December Sat 23 December to Tue 26 December Wed 27 December to Fri 29 December Sat 30 December to Mon 1 January Tue 2 January to Sat 6 January 2018 open as usual closed open as usual closed open as usual

Forthcoming events

For any of these events, please book online at www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents, in person at Surrey History Centre, or any Surrey Library or phone 01483 518737.

Black Poppies – Britain's Black Community and the Great War Saturday 16 September, 2.00 – 3.30 at Surrey History Centre

Talk and book signing with Stephen Bourne. Tickets are free but booking is essential. Please bring cash if you would like to purchase the book.

Stephen Bourne presents an illustrated talk about his book *Black Poppies*, which has been published by *The History Press* to coincide with the centenary of the First World War. Entertaining and informative, *Black Poppies* explores the military and civilian wartime experiences of black Britons, from the trenches to the music halls. For *Black Poppies* Stephen received the 2015 Southwark Arts Forum Award for Literature.

Autumn meeting of the Surrey Local History Committee Saturday 7 October, 10.45 – 3.30 at Surrey History Centre Speakers include:

- Dr Gerry Moss, Surrey Archaeological Society, Local History from Digital Newspapers
- Seth Cayley, Gale Cengage Learning, The 17th and 18th Century Nichols Newspaper Collection: A New Digital Resource
- Julian Pooley, Surrey History Centre, A Copious Collection of Newspapers: John Nichols and his Collection of Newspapers, Pamphlets and News Sheets, 1760-1865.
- Dr John Price, Goldsmiths, University of London, Stories of Splendid Heroism: researching gallantry using newspaper archives
- Juliet Warren, Surrey History Centre, Surrey in the Great War: Creating and using newspaper indexes for Home Front Research.

Tickets £10.00. It is advisable to book early as places are limited. Morning and afternoon refreshments are included. Please make your own arrangements for lunch. You is recommended to bring a packed lunch as there are no cafés near the Surrey History Centre.

Surrey Heritage Showcase

Saturday 14 October, 10.30 - 2.30 at Cranleigh Arts Centre, 1 High Street, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8AS

Join us for a day of free activities and exhibitions for all the family, to discover more about your local heritage and meet the people who make it happen!

Oral History Training

Thursday 19 October, 10.00 – 4.30 at Surrey History Centre

Join Rib Davis, oral historian with over 30 years' experience and trainer in oral history across the UK and abroad, for this informative training course on oral history.

£50 – tea and coffee will be provided throughout the day but attendees will need to make their own lunch arrangements.

The Family History Show

24 September at Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher, KT10 9AJ Run by the organisers of the Yorkshire Family History Show, the London event is attracting exhibitors and family history societies from all over the UK. Come along to meet our experts at the Surrey History Centre stand. Hot off the Press: Digital Newspaper Archives and Local History.

To book tickets, see http://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/

The Surrey Heritage Annual Lecture

Richard Van Emden, The Road to Passchendaele.

Saturday 11 November, 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Tickets £5.00. It is advisable to book early as places are limited.

Oxfordshire Family History Society Fair

Saturday 7 October, 10.00-4.00 at the Marlborough School just outside Woodstock. Come along to meet our experts at the Surrey History Centre stand.

For further details, see http://www.ofhs.org.uk/fair.html.

Hampshire Family History Society Open Day

Sunday 8 October, from 10.00 a.m., at The Everest Academy in Basingstoke, with a focus on *WWII – Britain at Home*; featuring guest speakers including David Annal and Mark Bayley. Come along to meet our experts at the Surrey History Centre stand.

For further details, see https://www.hgs-familyhistory.com/list-family-history-articles/hgs-events/.

New Accessions

2572add1

Thomas Cecil Farrer, 2nd Baron: additional records including appointment diaries; files relating to local history interests; papers of his father Thomas Henry Farrer; letters concerning the death of KE Farrer (Effie); correspondence of Evangeline Farrer relating to Leith Hill Musical Festival, 1875-1945

3745add1

Thomas Cecil Farrer, 2nd Baron Farrer: papers relating to Farrer genealogical research, including 'Some Farrer Wills', pedigrees and notes, marriage settlement of John Farrer of Ewood, 1721-1930s

8026add2

St John's Church, Dormansland: additional parish magazines, annual report and order of service, 2015-2017

9757/-

The Guest House and other properties in Lingfield: deeds and papers, 1885-1968 9759/-

The Royal Dramatic College, Maybury, Woking: architectural drawings of entrance and great hall by William Webbe 1861

9761/-

Elizabeth Davis (1765-1825) of Gosden House, Shalford: diaries and notebook 1793-1930

9762/-

Mary Wondrausch (1923-2016), potter and artist of Compton: personal papers including correspondence, sketch books and photographs, c.1980-c.2010. The collection also includes deeds of property in Godalming, 1677-1747, and plans of a house at Ockford for Thomas Cooper, 1870 1677-c.2010

9763/-

St Paul's, Woking: additional parish records including PCC minutes and reports, APCM minutes, deanery synod minutes 2000-2010

9766/-

Parkgate lands, Bletchingley, and estates in Banstead including Perrotts Farm and copyhold of the manor of Banstead: copy deeds, valuation and related papers (1407)-

9775/-

Murray Brown (1884-1958), Architect, Farnham: biographical papers and inventory for 'Casa', Old Farnham Lane, Farnham 1914-1980s

9776/-

Long Grove Hospital, Epsom: alphabetical index admission registers 1907-1957 9774/-

North Downs Baptist Association and predecessors: records, 1944-2017, including minutes, year books, directories and other publications; events programmes; and material relating to various individual Surrey churches; Godalming Baptist Church: additional records, 1903-2015, including minutes, annual reports, records relating to church appointments and fabric and property, deeds, publications, press cuttings, lists of members, cradle rolls and orders of service

9778/-

Morden Park Baptist Church: marriage registers, 1962-2007

QRWS/30ad70

Private William Pegram, Queen's Royal Regiment: diary, photograph, papers and medals 1944-1946

Z/677/-

St Mary and St Nicholas, Leatherhead: memorial inscriptions and plans of churchyard c.1960-2015

One George Henry – or two?

Chris Green [4030]

One of my gt-grandfathers (my father's maternal grandfather) was George Henry **Humphreys**. He died when my father was just ten, and so I knew very little about him. However, two family stories passed down to me were (i) George Henry had been born in Montgomeryshire and (ii) he had been orphaned, and brought up by a maiden aunt.

I have the original of George's marriage certificate (1880, Christchurch, Bermondsey), and I have found him in each census after that date. I'm certain they are the correct entries as his wife came from a small village in Essex and that appears on each entry.

The trouble starts with his place of birth shown on each census return. These are: (1881) Clerkenwell; (1891) Ealing; (1901) Reading; (1911) Ealing. The best I can assume from these is that either he didn't really know where he

had been born or, for some reason. didn't want anvone else to know.

So I could trace him back to 1880. but what about the

decades before that? Unsurprisingly, there are many instances of a George Humphries (or Humphreys distinction doesn't appear be significant) in the 1871 census and without a definite date or place of birth picking the right one would not be at all easy. But, I reasoned, there must have been some element of truth in the story that he had been born Montgomervshire – who would choose that purely at random?

So I did what you should never do. and that is start from the other end. To cut a long story short, I have found a George Henry Humphreys of just the right age, born in a village named Llanllwchaiarn (near Newtown) in Montgomeryshire in February 1851. He is shown in the 1851, 1861 and 1871 census returns.

From other research I discovered that his father had died before George reached the age of five. His mother remarried, but she died when George was 11. His stepfather then remarried in turn, and so until the time he left home,

The difficulty I am having is

proving that these two Georges

were the same person

he was living in a family where neither husband nor wife was his natural If that parent. doesn't count being orphaned, I

don't know what does! Quite where the just a story.

One George Henry – or two?

The difficulty I have is in proving that these two Georges were the same person. How did George get from Montgomeryshire in 1871 (where, it seems, he had spent his entire life so far) to Bermondsey in 1880? How and where did he meet his wife, who came from a small village not far from Colchester?

One of the very few photographs that purports to be of George Henry shows him in Army uniform, in his (I guess) early twenties - unfortunately there aren't any details of insignia that may assist in tracing him. However, could he have joined the Army (presumably in Wales) and then been transferred to Colchester. where there were large Army barracks during the 1870s? For some time I rejected that idea, as I believed that any recruit had to 'sign-on' for some considerable time – ten years or more. As George had certainly been living in Montgomeryshire in 1871, and was married in Bermondsey nine years later, this seemed to rule out an Army career.

At this stage I sought the advice of Peter Moulin, who has been writing a series of articles on tracing relatives in WW1 for publication in the Society Journal. He explained that his knowledge of the Army in the 1870s was a little sketchy, but he was kind enough to refer me to the Cardwell Reforms.

These are a series of reforms of the British Army, undertaken between 1868 and 1874 by the then Secretary of State for War, Edward Cardwell. You can read a lot more about them in Wikipedia (as I did) but one of the relevant points about them was that the Army Enlistment Act (1870) allowed men to enlist for just six years (with a further six to be spent in the Reserves). So I had established that it was at least possible for George to have enlisted during the early 1870s and also to have been a civilian by 1880.

Much research still to be done, but once again I'm on my way!



Website round up - http://familydeeds.org

Brian Hudson

This site has a collection of information from old deeds and documents. Based in the UK, as the name suggests it covers the Family Deeds project. We are told that new documents, bought on the open market, are regularly being added and the entries certainly include a wide range of material.

The documents can normally be bought as a full transcription PDF whilst sometimes the original is available for sale. There are also some instances where, for some reason, it indicates that neither the original document nor transcriptions are available.

As there is no search facility, documents are organised in a series of alphabetical indexes using either a name or county. The site recommends that family researchers try the Names Index

first. The summary for each entry contains an outline of the document and then lists of:

- Parties to document
- Other names mentioned
- Document Signed and Sealed by
- Witnesses (with signature to document)

The first column of the result contains the names, and the second 'other information'. A sample check showed that the names had been cross-referenced in the index.

When searching for a name in the list of results it might be quicker to do a search within the page; for this use Ctrl F (PC) or Command F (Mac). A method of searching websites like this that do not have a search facility is described in Tech Topic, elsewhere in this issue.



Journals on offer

I am a former member of the ESFHS and have a number of printed journals that I no longer have room to store. I

June Stacey {flexcombe1923@btinternet.com}

wondered if they would be of any interest to members of the society. They are Volumes 26, 27 and 28 (2003 - 2005).

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Researching Relatives who served in WW1

Peter Moulin [6101]

Sometimes relatives who were born in Surrey served in the armies of Australia, Canada or New Zealand. This is usually because they emigrated before the war and then joined up because they still had a loyalty to their home country. Because these countries were not blitzed during the Second World War, their military records have survived, and you can usually view an individual's entire service record. Canadian records can be found at www.bac-lac.gc.ca.

Thomas Edward Kempson was born in Peckham on 15 February 1896. In 1901 the Kempson family was living at 90 Hartfield Road, Wimbledon: Thomas' father Joseph was 58 and a retired carpenter, while his mother was aged 47. Thomas had two older sisters and an older and a younger brother. His mother died in 1905, and by 1911 the family was still living in Hartfield Road.

When Thomas was 16 he and his older brother Peter both emigrated to Canada, sailing from Southampton to Montreal on board the Cunard ship *Asconia* on 10 June 1912.

Their father died in early 1914, and when war came Peter was the first to enlist on 8 February 1915, in Ottawa. He gave his trade as Gasoline Engineer, and his next of kin as Josephine Kempson, his older sister. Thomas was 19 when he enlisted on 17 July 1915, also giving his

sister Josephine (living at 1 Marlborough Road, Wimbledon) as next of kin. Thomas' trade was Prospector, and he enlisted in Vernon, British Columbia, which is about 200 miles from Vancouver. He joined the 29th Battalion Canadian Infantry (Vancouver Battalion).

From 15 to 25 August 1917 the Canadian Corps carried out an offensive near Lens, called The Battle for Hill 70. The main purpose of the attack was to inflict casualties and draw German troops away from the Battle of Passchendaele, rather than to capture territory. On 21 August 1917 the 29th Battalion took part in an attack, and their War Diary records:

"Weather fine and clear. Our attack commenced at 4.35 am and continued all day. Casualties, 7 Officers killed . . . 58 O.Rs. killed. 7 Officers wounded . . . 183 O.Rs. wounded. 50 O.Rs. missing."

There is a lengthy description of the action in an appendix to the War Diary, which describes how the Germans had attacked just before zero hour, breaking up the Canadian attack on Nuns Alley trench. One platoon of D Company was virtually wiped out. The other companies were fighting in Commotion, Cinnebar, and Nabob Alley trenches, with stiff German resistance. It is not clear which company Thomas was in, but he would have been among the 158 Other Ranks

Researching Relatives who served in WW1

killed or missing. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Canadian Memorial at Vimy.

No description of late 1917 would be complete without mention of the Battle of Passchendaele, and East Surrey resident Edward Leslie Mansell took part in that.

Edward was born in 1893 to Walter and Alice Mansell, one of Walter's 13 children. Alice was Walter's second wife and bore one daughter and five sons, three of whom were to be killed in 1917. Walter ran his own family butcher business in Wimbledon, helped by his wife and two sons, one of whom was Edward. Walter died in August 1915. After leaving school in 1908, Edward joined his father's business until he attested on 17th January 1916, joining the East Surrey Regiment.

He served as a Lance Corporal in the 8th Battalion East Surrey Regiment. In the Battle of Passchendaele, during an attack on 12 October 1917, he was killed by a shell. The War Diary of his battalion contains a damning criticism by the battalion commander οf the organisation of this attack. Orders were changed at the last minute; commanders and NCOs were not able to see maps, so did not know where they were or where their objectives were. To cap it all, the supporting artillery barrage inadequate. Four officers and 52 other ranks were killed, one of whom was Ted. In a letter to his mother, his officer wrote: "He was well liked by all the men who were in close contact with him and by the officers, who tender their deepest sympathy to you. He was doing his work splendidly." In September his mother had heard of the death of his youngest brother, and in December she would hear of the death of his younger brother.

Ted's body has never been identified and he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium (see below).



East Surrey Family History Society

Founded 1977 — Registered Charity No. 286659

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(continued on inside back cover)

The Society **Research & Advice centre** is at Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield. It is open every month (except August and December) on the second Saturday from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., and on the fourth Wednesday from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

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The membership covers two or more related persons living at the same address, although only one copy of the Journal will be sent

All records of membership, including names, addresses, and subscription details, are held on computer. Please inform the Membership Secretary if you do not wish your details to be held on computer and special arrangements will be made.

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Members must quote their Membership Number in all correspondence

The DEADLINE for the next Journal (December 2017) is 1st November