

**Bedfordshire  
Family History Society  
Journal**

**Vol 24 No 3 Sep 2023**



Back-stage View at Woburn

**BEDFORDSHIRE  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

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Registered Charity No. 281677

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**BEDFORDSHIRE  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
JOURNAL**



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## JOURNAL SURNAME INDEX

Below is the Surname Index for this *Journal*, providing you with a rapid way of finding a Surname within this *Journal*. Note that Members' Surname Interests are not indexed.

The Surname Index for *Journals* on the BFHS website will be updated in due course.

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## **BFHS VOLUNTEER VACANCIES**

### **Journal Distribution Manager**

Due to the pending retirement of the incumbent, the above position will be coming vacant shortly and we are therefore looking for a person or persons to take on this duty. A full Role Description is available but the basic duties are as follows:

Collect or receive the journals from the printers.

Print labels to send journals to members.

Send emails with PDF copy of journal to those who have elected to receive them by PDF.

Send emails with PDF copy to Swap Societies.

Receive and record Swap journals and send on to Webmaster.

Receive, check, and record requests for Access to our Members Portal then send on to Webmaster to issue a password.

At present, assembly of labels, journals, stamps, and envelopes for postal distribution is done by a second person.

You will require a computer/laptop with a printer and an internet connection. Time involved is a few hours each month.



### **Funeral Directors' Records Project Leader**

We are also looking for someone to lead our small team working on Funeral Directors' Records. The project involves research into the Funeral Directors of Bedfordshire both past and present, and arranging digitisation, transcription, and indexing of their records to put on our Members Only part of our website.

You will require a computer/laptop and an internet connection. Scanning equipment will be provided by the Society. Time required can be as little or as much as you can give with no set targets.



If you feel you would like to get involved and take on any of these roles, or just help with the transcribing and checking, please email Paul Woodcraft at **[distribution@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:distribution@bfhs.org.uk)**.



## PROGRAMME

**All talks are hybrid meetings taking place physically at Mark Rutherford School (see page 9 for details) and virtually via Zoom. Doors at the school open at 7 pm with the talks starting at 7.30 pm.**

### **Secrets never to be told**

**Fiona Chesterton**

**Friday 8 September 2023 (Note date)**



I worked for many years as a television journalist, editor, producer and commissioning editor, mainly at the BBC and Channel 4. I was born in Leicester, in the English Midlands, in the 1950s. I now live in Cambridge.

My book *Secrets Never to be Told* is an extraordinary story, compellingly told, which unravels a century and a half of family secrets. It reveals how being born illegitimate shaped the lives of two women - one of them, the author. Starting with a letter revealing a mystery inheritance, the author goes on a five-year quest taking her from Victorian Cambridge to modern

Vancouver. She uncovers how her cousin Jessie, born to a Bedfordshire farmer's daughter, emigrated to Canada, one of thousands of female domestic servants exported as 'surplus' women before the First World War. Woven alongside the contemporary detective investigation on the trail of one immigrant's untold story, is that of the author's strange 1960s childhood of social isolation in a Midlands city, obsessed with a world seen through TV - and with the Beatles. Her talk will show how combining digital and real world resources including Victorian and Edwardian photographs and Canadian records helped her bring her family history story to life.

### **Amazing Bedfordians**

**Paul Nicholson**

**Friday 6 October 2023**



Paul Nicholson has a degree in fine art and a wealth of teaching experience in schools and other settings. He has worked on many community arts projects in Bedford over the years, producing more than a dozen public murals. He is a keen photographer and has been documenting the world of graffiti since 1984, becoming an expert on street art in the last ten years.

His talk about amazing Bedfordians features a number of sports stars, explorers, TV stars, an inventor and more, all of whom were born in Bedford. Not all of these people are household names but they all have amazing stories to tell.





## PROGRAMME (cont'd)

### **The Picture Postcard**

**Mark Pardoe**

**Friday 3 November 2023**



Picture postcards were once the best and quickest way of communication. The illustrations were just something to make the card more interesting but thought of something of little worth. However they can now be seen as a, sometimes, vital piece of history. The images record the scene on that day, a scene which has changed and, in some cases, totally disappeared. This talk considers this thought and, hopefully if the lecturer is up to it, demonstrates the picture postcard's place in social history.

Mark Andrew Pardoe was born in 1953 at Nottingham (Britain's most beautiful industrial city). In 1972 he joined the Railway as a cartographer and in a series of fortunate accidents became the Chief Archivist to the British Railways Board. On the demise of the nationalised industry he was given a large bag of money to take early retirement just before his 49th birthday. He is now a freelance archivist and historical researcher. He is a lifelong Notts County supporter and thus never wears red.

### **How to read a church**

**Chana James**

**Friday 1 December 2023**



The Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) is the national charity that cares for historic churches at risk across England. The 357 churches in its care span over 1000 years of history and, although these buildings are no longer used for regular worship, they are all open for visitors to enjoy. Churches are alive with images and symbols and were originally built to be 'read'. In this talk, Chana James, Communications Manager at CCT, will talk about CCT's role as third largest heritage estate in charitable ownership in the UK, some of the projects that the charity has worked on over the years, and how visitors can get more from their visit by understanding how to read a church.

## FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH BEFORE 1837

Ian Waller FSG

*Were you unable to attend the talk given by Ian Waller to the Society on 7 July at Mark Rutherford school, or use Zoom to join the live audience, or catch up by viewing the talk through the Members' Portal of our website? If you missed out, Ian has kindly provided the summary below of his talk.*

Before we start - a precautionary word. No available records before the 1841 census will give a full picture of the population. The various records put together will give a fairly comprehensive picture of the male population of any parish in England or Wales.

### 1801 – 1831 CENSUS

The 1801 census provides information on the number of inhabited and uninhabited houses in the parish and how many families occupied them together with the number of people in the parish and their employment. A similar format was followed for the censuses of 1811, 1821 and 1831 with the addition of further questions. Most of the early returns for 1801-1831 were destroyed with only statistical summaries being published. Surviving returns are now in County Record Offices. These returns usually only name the householder and list the number of people in the house, although occasionally names of the whole population are listed.

The early census included:

1801 - 10th March 1801: number of inhabited and uninhabited houses in the parish and how many families occupied them; the number of people in the parish and their employment; and numbers of baptisms burials and marriages in the previous hundred years.

A similar format was followed for the censuses of 1811, 1821, and 1831, with the addition of further questions.

1811 - 27th May 1811: The enumerators were asked to give more information about the reasons houses were unoccupied, so the prosperity of the district could be more accurately gauged.

1821 - 28th May 1821: A question related to age was asked to assess numbers of men able to bear arms, and to improve the tables on which life assurance was based.

1831 - 30th May 1831: Included more detailed questions on occupations to provide the government with economic information.

*POSSE COMITATUS* - The force of the county

The *Posse Comitatus* was drawn up following the passing of a Defence of the Realm Act in 1798. The Constables of every parish in the country were instructed to list the names and occupations of all able-bodied men between the ages of fifteen and sixty not already engaged in military activities (excluding peers and clergymen). Millers, bakers, and wagon or barge owners were to be specifically identified.



## MILITIA BALLOTS & MUSTERS 1757-1831

In the 1757 Militia Act Parliament directed that militia regiments be re-established in England and Wales. Accordingly, a form of conscription was introduced in which parishes would make lists of adult males and hold ballots to choose some of them for compulsory service. If the chosen men were unwilling to serve in-person they would be required to find other men to serve in their stead as substitutes. In some counties Militia Ballot Lists were not compiled, as sufficient volunteers came forward to fill the militia quotas.

Militia recruitment was organised by the County Lieutenancy, under the control of the Privy Council, and led by the Lord Lieutenant through Deputy Lieutenants and magistrates down to parish constables and tithing men. Most are in Local Record Offices. Those at the National Archives are in WO13 with description books in WO68.

Militia Relief Order - Poor men often enrolled in the militia in return for payments from those who wished to avoid service. Wives and children were often left chargeable to the parish and were eligible under special measures to obtain poor relief.

## RECORDS OF THE POOR

Why look at Parish Chest records? Information on family relationships, relationships between people and places, may be the only surviving record of the lives of ordinary labouring people, providing a way of tracing poor ancestors through their trials and challenges, and may provide details of occupation and can give a vital clue about movement.

What records do we look for? Parish rate books, Churchwardens accounts, Overseers accounts, Apprenticeship records, Settlement certificates and examinations, Removal orders, Bastardy bonds, examinations etc., Vagrancy orders, Parish charity records and Administration records of poorhouses etc.

Vestry Minutes - The vestry was responsible for the election of annually appointed officers and for the setting of the parish rate. Elected officers: Churchwardens, Overseers, Constable, Surveyor.

## LAND TAX ASSESSMENTS

Introduced in 1692, this tax was administered at local level and based on a tax quota for each parish which did not vary. Land tax assessments annually list property owners and their tenants. Most of the surviving land tax assessment records in Record Offices relate to the period 1780 to 1832. Land tax assessment records for the whole of England and Wales (apart from Flintshire) for the year 1798 can be viewed at the National Archives at Kew in series IR23.

The 1798 national land tax assessment could actually be from any year between 1798 and 1806 but has a single return from each and every parish.

## VACCINATION LISTS 1786 onward

The first Smallpox vaccination programme was introduced in 1786 when mass vaccination in areas took place to try and counteract the disease, but compulsory vaccination did not take place until after the Act of Parliament in 1854.

## TITHE APPORTIONMENT

A schedule showing the owner, occupier, and a description of the land in the parish. Three copies of these maps and schedules were prepared, one of which was held centrally by the Tithe Commissioners, one locally in the parish church, and one in the diocesan registry. Most are now in County Record Offices.

## ELECTORAL REGISTERS AND POLL BOOKS

Poll books were published from the late 1600s onwards and into the late 1800s. Poll books also contain qualification for voting and address of the person. They had to be a freeholder of land or house in order to vote.

### Electoral registers post 1832

The registers lists of voters for each parish or township, arranged in alphabetical order within each constituency. Voters are listed in alphabetical order within each parish or township, together with their place of abode, the qualification to vote, the location of the property entitling them to vote, and the names of tenants of the property.

## TAX LISTS

Taxation became increasingly sophisticated during the Victorian period as the continuing wars with France impinged on the import of goods. Smuggling was rife because of the introduction of expensive duties. Window tax from 1697-1851, Hearth Tax from 1662-1689.

Stamp Duties, for example charges on documents such as lawyers articles of clerkship from 1729 or apprenticeships from 1710. Assessed taxes being levied on the owners of luxury items such as coaches, silver plate or male servants. These taxes dated from the mid-late 1700s.

## WHAT OTHER RECORDS CAN BE SEARCHED?

- Estate records and title deeds.
- Fire insurance records and maps.
- Freedom registers and trade guild records.
- Manorial records.
- Military and naval records.
- Immigration and emigration records.
- Bankrupts and debtors.
- Criminal cases.
- Civil litigation and chancery records. □

## OUR MEETINGS AT MARK RUTHERFORD SCHOOL

Our monthly Friday night meetings offer members instructive, interesting, and often amusing talks on subjects that fascinate all interested in history and genealogy in general, and are usually particularly relevant to those with a Bedfordshire heritage. We look forward to seeing you in person.

Where possible, talks held at the school will be live streamed (Zoom log-in details are shown in the members' portal) or made available later on the website in the members' portal, subject to approval by the speaker.

The address of the venue is Mark Rutherford School, Wentworth Drive, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK41 8PX.





## THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

Behind the stately facades of Woburn intriguing ‘backs’ abound. The picture shows the back of two houses facing the Market Square. On the left will be seen a gable of Tudor half-timber work filled in with brick, which survived the great fire in 1724 when a hundred houses were burned down, and also an earlier conflagration in 1595. The last fire was caused by an old lady who after using up the best part of her straw plait threw the remainder in the fireplace. There was a high wind blowing, her thatched roof was quickly ablaze, and disaster to the town followed. But the Georgian rebuilding, still to be seen in most of its glory, enriched Woburn. The buildings shown were at the side of the old brewery, which was pulled down fifty years ago, and which took the place of a chapel and theatre.

This illustration and text are taken from *Our Heritage: A Bedfordshire Sketch Book* drawings by G Alan Fortescue FRIBA, notes by *Touchstone*, published 1943. □

## THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION AS IT IS TODAY

*Paul Woodcraft*



I visited Woburn to try to find the building the subject of the sketch on the front cover. From the text it states ‘two houses facing the Market Square’. This helps and limits the place to the centre of Woburn. I believe the Charles Ross Auction House stands on the centre of the Market Square. I see two options, one along the main street named Market Place. There were three gateways to the back of the line of properties which I was able to get access to, but none fit the sketch. The second option was up Leighton Street which fits the bill. If you look at the photo you can just see the two chimney stacks with four pots on each (not too clear on the photo but clear to the eye on site). I was unable to gain access to view the back as this is a private house and would not be able to publish a photo anyway. On return home, I was able to locate the houses on Google Earth which confirmed this to be the site of the sketch. It is very much today as the sketch of circa 1943. □

## FOSTER HILL ROAD CEMETERY, BEDFORD

*Paul Woodcraft*



On Wednesday 24 May 2023 a small party from our society attended a Walk Talk at the cemetery. It was a lovely spring sunny evening and we had a very humorous talk on some of the residents at the cemetery.

We met at the Chapel at 7 pm and our guide was Adrian Bean from the Friends of Bedford Cemetery Foster Hill Road. After a short introduction about the history of the Chapel Building and Cemetery we looked at a range of graves and memorials from Charles WELLS to M B (Mabel BARLTROP), the founder of the Panacea Society. Adrian had a short story about each of them and the one that sticks in my memory is one that had a nickname after the persons full name. He did not read it out but allowed us to read it and make up our own minds! I am not prepared to type the word but it follows a group of common birds named 'Blue T--s' Her nickname was the last word, she and her family had a good sense of humour.

On a more solemn note. we also looked round the War Graves section which is looked after by the War Graves Commission. There are a number of other War Graves throughout the Cemetery but this area is dedicated to the Highland Regiment

The number of different trees in the cemetery needs to be seen to be believed. There is a Walk Talk on the trees later in the year. The Friends host a number of events throughout the year. Please check their website, [fosterhillroadcemetery.co.uk](http://fosterhillroadcemetery.co.uk), to see the full programme.



The evening was concluded in the Chapel with tea and coffee.

A big 'Thank you' to Adrian and the Friends for kindly hosting the evening. □



## **BEDFORDSHIRE**

### **Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire**

Family and Local History Research (including Probate Transcriptions)  
undertaken by

#### **COLIN DAVISON**

66 Sudeley Walk, BEDFORD

Bedfordshire MK41 8JH

England

Tel: (01234) 364956

Email: [colinndavison@gmail.com](mailto:colinndavison@gmail.com)

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## INTRODUCING OUR NEW LIBRARIAN

*Kathy Fraser*

Hello, my name is Kathy and I have recently taken on looking after the library. Below is a short introduction as to how I became interested in the family tree.

I first became interested in the family tree at around the age of ten whilst creating my family tree for a school project. I needed the details of my grandfather's mother and my father got me to ring him. I was met with a wall of silence and never dared mention the subject again. However, it has sparked a lifelong mission to find her and what happened to her. To date, 48 years later, I have still not found her. But what I have uncovered is a sad story of her abandoning my grandfather when he was 2, putting him in the workhouse, and also discovering that my great grandfather had also abandoned my grandfather and had set up home in London and having another family.

My great grandfather died in 1914 with the War medals and pension paid to the other family, who assumed my great grandmother's name to get the war pension. On a positive note, I have met the other family and now have those medals in my possession. I have also found a distant cousin on my great grandmother's side and we have had lots of trips to Archives offices, visiting areas where the family lived in the late 1890s and even located the house my great grandmother was born in.

When the 1921 census came out I was hoping for some answers but no, the search goes on and feel I will never actually find her. I have even ventured down the DNA route to see if my great grandmother had another family.....I live in hope of finding her one day. So, a short version of a long story but do know that until you find facts do not believe anything and you just do not know what you may find. I have met a distant cousin and it has been great sharing the trip with her and finding more about our family. The odd glass of wine is always welcome after hours in archive offices and strolling around grave yards!

In consultation with the Committee, I have decided to be more selective with items displayed by the Library at member meetings. I will bring out items relevant to the talk of the day and any topical issues such as historical anniversaries. I will also display items requested by members prior to the meeting. Please contact me at [librarian@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:librarian@bfhs.org.uk). □

### REMINDER

The CLOSING DATE for articles to be published in the December 2023 *Journal* is **31 October 2023**.

(Articles submitted near the closing date may not be published until the following *Journal*)

## FROM MAID TO MISTRESS - THE CHAWORTH-MUSTERS' STORY

*Nicola Webb*



The story of JP CHAWORTH-MUSTERS and his wife, Mary Anne, (both pictured above) is remarkable and covered in my book *Love, Duty and Sacrifice*. The family's history can be traced back to 1063 - Viscounts and Peers included - and its main residence, Annesley Hall, in Nottinghamshire has 13<sup>th</sup> Century origins. Though no longer aristocratic, the Chaworth-Musters were classed as 'greater gentry' in the Victorian era, owning nearly 8,000 acres. The heir to the estate, John Patricius (Patrick) Chaworth-Musters was born at Annesley in 1860.

### **Mary Anne's early life**

Mary Anne was born in Newtown, near Henlow, in 1863. Her parents, born locally, were George SHARPE (1832-1901), a wood sawyer, and Mary DANIELS (1831-1915), a straw plaiter. The couple had eight children, with five of the girls being straw plaiters.

After Mary Anne was born, the family moved to 2 Paynes Cottages, Clifton, Bedfordshire. The 1871 census gives a household of nine, with Mary Anne listed as a scholar, aged eight. It is likely that she was educated at the plaiting 'school', where the emphasis was on learning the trade rather than scholastic achievement. The girls would gather in the kitchen of the plait school and work for up to nine hours a day, six days a week, resulting in rotten front teeth, lip sores and raw hands from the sharp-edged, sulphur-bleached straw.

Mary Anne most likely left school aged ten and worked for eight years as a straw plaiter, before moving to Annesley Hall as a junior nursery housemaid around 1881, aged 18. Maids earned around £10 pa in 1891 (£984 in today's money), compared with around £8 pa for straw plaiting. As a maid she would also receive full bed and board, and have better work conditions.

After a 100-mile journey to Annesley Hall, Mary Anne would have been met by an imposing sight - three storeys and multiple wings of solid Victoriana. After a full tour, she was given her new name by Mrs WRIGHT, the housekeeper. From now on, she would be known as Polly. She was responsible for all the maid duties and expected to wait on the other, more senior, nursery staff. Mary Anne rose around 6.30am and would spend all day rushing between the kitchen, scullery (laundering the children's clothes), still room (laying up meal trays) and the nursery - up three steep flights of stairs. She finished around 7.30pm, and was free to chat, sew, read 'Penny Dreadful' magazines or write letters home.

It was not long after Mary Anne's arrival that she caught the eye of 21-year-old Patrick. Employers had the right to instantly dismiss servants for various misdemeanours. If a girl became pregnant, the consequences were dire - dismissed with no character reference, she would struggle to find menial jobs or be forced into the workhouse or prostitution. Knowing this, it is remarkable that Mary Anne risked a relationship with Patrick.

But, risk it she did, and by September 1883, she was pregnant (aged 20) with her first child by Patrick (23). It was a love match and, failing to part them, his parents sent the pair to live in Norway, unwed, but away from 'polite society'. There they led a simple and idyllic country life, with Patrick fishing and Mary Anne tending to the house and her growing family.

### **Lady of the Manor**

Four years and four children later, Patrick inherited earlier than expected. Against all odds, he returned to England and married Mary Anne quietly in March 1888, legitimising their children. The family finally took up residence at Annesley Hall in July 1889, with Mary Anne reluctantly becoming Lady of the Manor, managing the 20 or so servants she had so recently reported to. Over the years, helped by Patrick and his mother, Lina, she succeeded brilliantly in the role, being hailed as the 'Grande Dame' of county society.

Whilst Mary Anne's family flourished, her parents and two of their children moved to 6 Jubilee Terrace, Biggleswade. George and Mary were listed in the 1891 census (aged 59) as 'living on own means'. Retired, it is likely that Patrick was supporting them. Ten years later, in 1901, they had moved again, to Potton Road, Biggleswade. Sadly, for Mary Anne, George died in 1901 (her mother died in 1915).

Happily matched, Patrick and Mary Anne had 11 children - large even for late Victorian times - seven boys and four girls, pictured on the following page. Between 1887 and 1914, Patrick had to sell most of the family's properties and associated lands to stabilise his finances. But he was made a JP, Deputy Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, and High Sheriff, and they were invited to the Coronation of King Edward VII.



**Mr Musters Mrs Musters**

**Lina Bob Ruth Jack Rita Douglas Jim Patrick Elsie Tony Phil**  
**Hovis**

**Annesley, May 1902**



Although still relatively wealthy, the couple's tastes were modest and life continued quietly, socialising primarily with family members. Their last large party was on 2 July 1914, to celebrate the wedding of their fourth daughter, and a little over a month later, on 4 August 1914, Britain declared war on Germany.

### **A family at war**

Six of the couple's seven sons fought in the Great War. All were prolific writers and their letters from the Front are both sobering and poignant. For example, heir, Pat, newly arrived in Ypres in August 1914 wrote:

*I have got here to this most Godforsaken place. I've never seen anything like it. I don't know what will happen to me [he was killed 5 months later].*

The boys were involved in most of the major battles on the Western Front, including Mons, Ypres, Loos, the Somme, Cambrai, Amiens and Arras. Jack served in Turkey and was involved in the appalling slaughter of Gallipoli. All were undoubtedly brave: Jack was awarded a DSO, Phil and Bob received Military Crosses, as did Douglas, who was also awarded an MC Bar.

The war took a dreadful toll on the family. Jack nearly drowned when his ship was sunk. Tony, critically injured by shrapnel in September 1914, was unable to serve and suffered from life-long epilepsy. In January 1915, heir Pat was killed by an allied shell, in a 'friendly fire' incident.

Phil died in July 1917, hit in the chest by another allied shell. Bob was in and out of hospital for two years with TB. In October 1918, he contracted Spanish flu, writing home to say '*Don't worry. I expect I'll be alright by the end of the week*'. Tragically, after over four years at war, his luck had run out, and he died a month before the Armistice, aged only 22.

### ***The end of an era***

The Great War changed everything for the family. Patrick's health suffered from the loss of their sons, and he died in 1921, aged 61. Mary Anne moved to London, dying in 1930, aged 67.

The connection with Bedford remained, as son Douglas met Mary (Molly) BOMFORD-EMERSON, the daughter of a Bedford GP. They married in 1924 and had four children. Douglas died in 1957, aged only 59 and is buried in St Mary's Churchyard, Goldington.

When Jack inherited in 1921, the family's fortunes were much reduced and they struggled through the recession of the 1930s and 1940s. Annesley Hall was not grand enough to be turned into a visitor attraction, so Jack perhaps felt that the only feasible option in 1973 was to sell to The Football Association. Later acquired in the 1980s by developers, Annesley Hall suffered two arson attacks and continues to lie semi-derelict. The desolate house is a sad memorial to a once-great family whose wealth declined with the changing economy and who were ultimately broken by war and loss.

***Love, Duty & Sacrifice: One Hundred years of a Victorian Nottinghamshire family is available in paperback (349 pages, £12.99) and E-book (£3.99) on Amazon by searching for Nicola Webb.***

**Bedfordshire Family History Society (BFHS)**  
**Draft Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting**  
**Held on Friday 9 June 2023 at 7.00 pm**

**at Mark Rutherford School, Bedford and online by Zoom Video Conference**

**Present**

Mark Tresidder - Chairman

Pamela Birch - President of the Society and County Archivist

Committee and Society Members: There were 32 members in attendance at the MRS and 36 online giving an approximate total of 84 members present including the above.

Mark Tresidder introduced the President of the BFHS, Pamela Birch, who then proceeded to chair the meeting and welcomed all members to the meeting.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were given on behalf of Colin Chapman, Pat Sear, Lynn Manning, and Stuart Antrobus.

**2. Minutes of the Previous AGM**

The President, Pamela Birch, asked if any member present and online had any corrections for the 2022 AGM minutes. None were received. Kathy Friend proposed acceptance of the minutes and seconded by Kevin Friend. The minutes were signed as a true copy. The proposal to accept was carried with 32 in the hall, and 29 of 35 online. There were 6 of 35 that abstained online.

**3. Matters Arising**

None were raised.

**4. Chairman's Report**

4.1 The Chairman's Report has been posted on the BFHS Website and can be accessed by any member. The report covers the period June 2022 to June 2023.

4.2 Chairman's Remarks. The details are in the above-mentioned Chairman's Report.

4.2.1 **Meetings at Mark Rutherford and by Zoom.** We continue to operate successfully our monthly meetings in a hybrid mode at a time when other societies are having to continue with online meetings due to a reduction in physical attendance post COVID. Our technology has been recognised in an article in the Family Tree Magazine to assist other societies with a hybrid setup. I would like to thank Peter Sharp, Kevin and Cathy Friend, for setting up the technology for each meeting. If we have the speaker's permission, recordings of the talks are available in the members' portal area of our website for a limited period.

4.2.2 **Fairs.** Mark stated that during the past year we have attended four Fairs: Oxfordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, and The Harlington Local History Society.

4.2.3 The society is supporting the East of Anglia Really Useful Family History Show, to be held next year.



## 4.2.4 Projects

4.2.4.1 Surname Interests. The Members' Surname Interests details are now with the Family History Federation database, which is now up and running, providing links back to our society when searchers find names of interest in Bedfordshire. BFHS members can search the database which covers the whole of the country.

4.2.4.2 Funeral Directors Records. Work is ongoing by Paul Woodcraft with publishing these records with information being added on a regular basis to the members' website.

4.2.4.3 Mary Phillips Records. Work is also ongoing with publishing these records with information being added on a regular basis to the members' website.

## 4.2.5 Committee Members

Mark mentioned our committee members roles in his report but thanked them all here at the meeting for their support they had given him over the last year.

Peter Sharp is our Treasurer, who in addition to his role looks after the technical aspects of Zoom for our hybrid meetings and undertakes many background administration tasks for the society.

Lynn Manning is our Secretary, who also looks after publicity and attends Fairs to publicise the society along with Mary Wooldridge.

Mary Woolridge is our researcher assisting our members and other enquirers with their queries.

Kerr Clement is our minute secretary and manages the bookstall with Charlie Norman.

Cathy and Kevin Friend are our Membership Secretaries and look after the sound system for our meetings. In addition, Kathy acts as our GDPR Information Manager.

Jackie Hinton is our Monumental Inscriptions Publication Officer.

Joanna Lang looks after our Social Media Accounts, with regular posts on Facebook and Twitter.

Brian Payne manages our website from the USA with regular updates and ensures its security and responsiveness.

Claire Sowah is our Programme Secretary, finding and arranging contracts with our speakers. Claire has managed to book talks well into 2024.

Paul Woodcraft manages our Funeral directors project and the electronic distribution of our journals.

Christine Horsler who looks after the postal distribution of Journals to those members who receive printed versions.

The Society is also supported by:

Jan Darts who is our Journal editor, producing our quarterly journal, but he can only continue to do so if you continue to send him items for publishing.

Colin West and his team who provide the refreshments after each of our meetings.

Noel Evans who looks after the Postal Sales of our CDs and other publications.

Maureen Hall who prepares documentation for the society such as today's AGM booklet, and our publications list.

Mark welcomed and thanked Kathy Fraser, newly elected to the Committee, for taking on the role of Librarian.

Mark thanked them all for everything that they had done for the society over the last year.

Mark stated that the society cannot operate without its committee, and this year Christine Horsler is stepping down but has offered to continue with Journal Distribution. Paul Woodcraft has also indicated that he would like someone to take over his roles of journal distribution and Management of the Funeral Directors records project. If anyone thinks they can help, please see Paul for details.

Finally, Mark said that he would also like to thank Pamela Birch our President, for the support that she gives the society and in her role as county Archivist, and for chairing today's AGM.

## **5. Treasurer's Report for the financial year ending 31 December 2022**

5.1 The Treasurer's Report is available on the BFHS website, Members' Portal, and can be accessed by any Member.

5.2 **Summary.** The Treasurer, Peter Sharp, gave the following brief summary of the financial position. The full Report as mentioned above is available online on the BFHS website.

5.3 **Membership.** The income from Membership Fees was £5,346. Although the direct costs of membership (journals, postage, meeting/storage rooms, speakers, and governance) amounted to £7,283.

5.4 **Number of Members.** The number of members rose to 476 full members including 54 new members.

5.5 **Income and Spend from Publications and Membership.** Income of £11,067 with an expenditure of £11,543 giving a deficit for 2022 of £476. Income from publications decreased from £7,300 to £4,300. The monies in Bank are a healthy at £67,491.

5.6 **Independent Examiner.** The Treasurer on behalf of himself and BFHS thanked Mr. Alan Feasey for maintaining and preparing the BFHS accounts for 2022.

5.7 **Adoption of the Treasurer's Report.** Peter Sharp recommended the 2022 Financial Accounts for adoption by the members. Acceptance was proposed by Kerr Clement and seconded by Alan Feasey. The Report was accepted both in the Hall and online unanimously by the members.

## **6 Election of BFHS Officers and Members of the Executive Committee**

Officers Mark Tresidder, Peter Sharp, and Lynn Manning are all in their third year of a three-year period commencing from the 2021 AGM and as such are not required to be re-elected this year.

The following Executive Committee Members were willing to continue and with the addition of Kathy Fraser as the society's new Librarian.

The names of the following members were presented to the meeting for election:

Kerr Clement	Catherine Friend	Kevin Friend
Jackie Hinton	Kathy Fraser	Joanna Lang
Brian Payne	Claire Sowah	Paul Woodcraft
Mary Wooldridge		

The election *en bloc* of the executive committee was proposed by George Ruscoe and seconded by Noel Evans and was carried by those members present and online with the exception of one person online that abstained.

## **7. Appointment of Honorary Independent Examiner.**

7.1 Peter Sharp announced that Alan Feasey could not continue in this role for 2023. Peter proposed that the BFHS adopted Mr John Hulance as the Honorary Independent Examiner for the 2023 accounts. John lives in Wootton, has his own business as an accountant and is a Past President of the Rotary Club and Bedford Lions. The proposal was seconded by Alan Feasey and agreed unanimously by the Members.

7.2 Peter thanked Alan Feasey for his work with the 2022 accounts.

## **8. Any Other Business**

8.1 Vote of Thanks. Paul Woodcraft proposed a vote of thanks from himself and on behalf of the members to Mark Tresidder for all his continued good work as Chairman of BFHS.

8.2 With no other business being raised the President, Pamela Birch, closed the 2023 AGM.

## **WHY NOT WRITE SOMETHING FOR THE JOURNAL?**

We are always on the lookout for contributions to the *Journal*, any size, short or long. To give you some idea, a *Journal* page takes around 450 words to fill. We would also welcome items shorter than a page. You might feel more comfortable writing a letter or email on a topic and this would be included in a '**Letters**' page in the *Journal*. No need to worry if you are not used to writing, we are here to help. Seeing your own work in print can feel like a real achievement and others will appreciate your effort. Simply writing down your 'brick wall' can help you see the problem more clearly and, you never know, someone reading it may be able to help you move forward. If you need ideas to get you going or would like to discuss your ideas, please send an email to [journal@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:journal@bfhs.org.uk).



## Annual Accounts for the Period

Period Start Date                      Period End Date  
**From** 1 January 2022    **To**    31 December 2022

### Statement of Financial Activities

	Current Year 2022 £	Prior Year 2021 £
<b><u>Incoming Resources</u></b>		
<b>Incoming Resources from Generated Funds</b>		
Voluntary Income	5,346	5,198
Investment Income	271	80
<b>Income from Charitable Activities</b>	5,450	8,593
<b><u>Total Incoming Resources</u></b>	11,067	13,871
<b><u>Resources Expended</u></b>		
<b>Cost of Charitable Activities</b>	9,174	9,229
<b>Governance Costs</b>	2,369	846
<b><u>Total Resources Expended</u></b>	11,543	10,075
<b><u>Net Movement in Funds</u></b>	(476)	3,796
<b>Total Funds Brought Forward</b>	84,196	80,400
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>	83,720	84,196

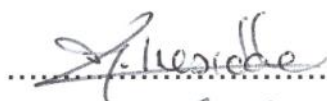
## Balance Sheet

	Current Year 2022 £	Prior Year 2021 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible Fixed Assets	15,168	15,168
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	15,168	15,168
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock of Books and Stamps	1,041	2,005
Debtors	-	-
Cash at Bank and In Hand	68,066	67,905
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	69,107	69,910
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors	555	882
<b>Net Current Liabilities</b>	555	882
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	68,552	69,028
<b>Net Assets</b>	83,720	84,196
<b>Funds</b>		
Unrestricted	83,720	84,196
Restricted	-	-
	83,720	84,196

Signed by

Date of Approval

Chairman



Mark Tresidder

9/4/23

Treasurer



Peter Sharp

9 APRIL 2023

## WRESTLINGWORTH FAMILIES

### *Jan Darts*



I started researching my family history quite late and, unfortunately, when the human resource of the previous generation had disappeared. The first revelation of my research came when I discovered that the early DARTS family were heavily concentrated around the village of Wrestlingworth on the eastern border of Bedfordshire with Cambridge<sup>1</sup>. Neither I nor my sister has any recollection of this village being mentioned when we came into contact with relatives and it was only recently (2018) that I briefly visited the location.

Had I walked the village high street during the 1800s I could not have failed to have met one of my relatives. Over 30 members of the Darts family were baptised at St Peter's church, Wrestlingworth, during the period 1778 to 1850. As my research progressed, the family tree expanded and I noticed that other family names were repeatedly linked to the Darts family through marriage and these families were also residents of Wrestlingworth.

I began to wonder what the family makeup of the village was and how it had changed over time, but the need to examine possibly thousands of Census records for the village put me off. However, I was trying to track down a few stray family members through *Ancestry* when I noticed that the 1911 Census had 'Census Enumerators Summary Books'. In the 1911 Census, for the first time, householders' schedules were retained rather than mostly destroyed after the information had been copied into the Enumerator's Book. The Enumerator Books were replaced with the Summary Books listing only addresses and householders' names.<sup>2,3</sup> From the Summary Book for Wrestlingworth<sup>4</sup> I was able to identify 60 different family names out of a recorded population of 495.<sup>5,6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Map reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

<sup>2</sup> [familyhistory.co.uk/census-records/census-history](http://familyhistory.co.uk/census-records/census-history).

<sup>3</sup> Summary Books list all addresses: private houses, unoccupied houses, hotels, churches, factories, shops, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Courtesy of Ancestry.

<sup>5</sup> It is recognised that this is unlikely to be precise because some households would inevitably include those with a different surname than the principle occupier and some surnames may have been incorrectly transcribed to give multiple entries for the same surname, eg Mathews, Matthews, Matthew.

<sup>6</sup> Population figures are from [bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk](http://bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk).



An example of the Summary Book for Wrestlingworth is shown below<sup>7</sup>:

Civil Parish.		Ecclesiastical Parish.		Borough or Urban District.						
Wrestlingworth		St Peter								
Ward of Borough or Urban District.		Rural District.		Parliamentary Borough or Division.						
				Northern or Biggleswade Div. of Bedfordshire (Rt of)						
No. of Schedule.	Address.	Kind of Building. (For Blocks of Flats and Model Dwellings the Numbers of separate Flats or Tenements must be stated.)	Name of Occupier.	Dwellings or Tenements.			Buildings not used as dwellings.	Population.		
				Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Building.		Males.	Females.	Persons.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
1	Bosmon Farm	Private Ho	Alf Matthews	1				2	1	3
2	"	"	Jn King	1				2	2	4
3	Glebe Farm Tadlow Rd	"	Hy Humberstone	1				2	1	3
4	Tadlow Rd	"	Geo Chessum	1				3	2	5
5	"	"	Alb Chessum	1				3	3	6

As can be seen the record gives the address, type of building, name of the occupier, whether inhabited and the population of males and females.

I needed a similar record from the past for comparison to see the changes over time and remembered that the BFHS Parish Records included an 1851 Census Index of Bedfordshire and I was already in possession of the index for Wrestlingworth. From this index I was able to identify 95 different family names<sup>8</sup> out of a recorded population of 588.

I wanted to take a similar further step back in time to say 1791 to again identify the families resident in Wrestlingworth at that time. Hands up, this is very rough, but I chose to list the surnames in the Wrestlingworth Marriage index from 1776 to 1806, a span of 15 years either side of 1791. Using the Marriage index gave two surnames whereas the Baptism and Burial records would provide only one. Records from just a few years around 1791 would not provide a representative picture of the families in the area. I chose 15 years because this included the first recorded evidence of the Darts family back in 1778 with the marriage of Thomas Darts to Elizabeth LAW.

The outcome of this search identified 118 different family names out of a likely population of about 300 for what will be called representative of the year 1791.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Courtesy of *Ancestry*.

<sup>8</sup> Similar caveats on the preciseness of this apply in regard to some surnames may have been incorrectly transcribed to give multiple entries for the same surname, eg Mathews, Matthews, Matthew.

<sup>9</sup> The source of the population figures for Wrestlingworth, [bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk](http://bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk), only go back to 1801 but the increase in population in following years is no more than about 40 per year, so an estimate of 300 for 1791 seems reasonable.

Most of the family names do not crop up more than once in the three sample years of 1911, 1851 and 1791. However, some family names persist through 2 or even three of the years as illustrated below with the most persistent families highlighted:

Name	1791	1851	1911
AUSTIN		Y	Y
BARTLE		Y	Y
BATES		Y	Y
BETTS	Y	Y	
BIRD		Y	Y
BLOTT		Y	Y
BONFIELD		Y	Y
BRIM		Y	Y
<b>BROOKER</b>	Y	Y	Y
CARTER		Y	Y
<b>CARVER</b>	Y	Y	Y
CHAPMAN	Y	Y	
<b>CHESSUM</b>	Y	Y	Y
CLARK	Y	Y	
COLE	Y	Y	
<b>CURCHIN</b>	Y	Y	Y
<b>DARTS</b>	Y	Y	Y
DELLAR		Y	Y
DIMMOCK		Y	Y
<b>ENDERSBY</b>	Y	Y	Y
<b>FOLBIGG</b>	Y	Y	Y

Name	1791	1851	1911
<b>FRANKLIN</b>	Y	Y	Y
<b>GRAY</b>	Y	Y	Y
<b>HALL</b>	Y	Y	Y
<b>HOLBEN</b>	Y	Y	Y
<b>HUCKLE</b>	Y	Y	Y
<b>KING</b>	Y	Y	Y
LENTON	Y	Y	
MASTERS		Y	Y
<b>MATTHEWS</b>	Y	Y	Y
<b>MEDLOCK</b>	Y	Y	Y
MORLEY		Y	Y
MOYES	Y		Y
MUNCEY		Y	Y
<b>NEWELL</b>	Y	Y	Y
SALT	Y	Y	
SAUNDERSON		Y	Y
SEYMOUR	Y	Y	
SMITH	Y	Y	
WALDOCK		Y	Y
WALKER		Y	Y
WARD	Y	Y	
<b>WARREN</b>	Y	Y	Y

It is remarkable that there are so many families in such a small village that have had a presence in the village for 120 years or more. I moved to a small hamlet (no shop, no pub, no street lights, one street, one letter box, one disused red phone box) in 1995 and I am still considered a new-comer, so what must it have felt like moving to Wrestlingworth with all these well-established families!

Sadly, the Law family who were the origins of the Darts dynasty, either moved away from the village, married, or died with the last record of a 'Law' in Wrestlingworth Parish Records being the burial of Richard Law, aged 70, on 13 Jan 1828 at St Peter's.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> BFHS Burials Index 1602-1851.

Unsurprisingly, with my own family's presence in the village for such a long period there were marriages with most of the other families with a long history in Wrestlingworth, My family tree currently includes marriages to the families listed below during this period, with the most persistent families highlighted:

BATES	ENDERSBY	LAW
BROOKER	GINN	MORLEY
CARVER	HALL	MUNCEY
CHESSUM	HOLBEN	NEWELL
CURCHIN		

Further detailed research may reveal why some of the long term resident families do not have a marriage link to the Darts family. My family were mostly Agricultural Labourers and did this mean that some families were out of reach? Perhaps some families were non-conformist which placed a barrier between them and other villagers? I am also interested in whether the location of the families within the village played a part in who they married.

126			Mr Chessum	1			2	2	4
127	Church Farm		Jn Banks	1			2	3	5
128	"		Jas Bellas	1			3	2	5
129	Found in Barn (Skinners Yard) By Police	X	Jos. Waldoek.				1	.	1

As a complete aside, the 1911 Enumerator's Summary Book for Wrestlingworth included a curious entry for Joseph WALDOCK (above) that must have a back-story that needs to be explored as to why the police were involved?

### DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?

We notify our members via email about any zoom/hybrid meetings; however, some get bounced back and for some members we do not have an email address. If you have not been receiving these emails from us it means that we do not have your email address, or the email address we have is incorrect or your mailbox is full.

If you have an email address but are not getting our emails but would like to do so, please send your current email address to [treasurer@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@bfhs.org.uk)

Peter Sharp, Treasurer

## FOUND, LOST AND FOUND?

*Christine Langford*

In 2014 my research drew me to my grandmother, Edith Miriam HAMER. On the 1891 census I noted that she visited a nurse child<sup>1</sup> named Willie Hamer in Abbess Roding, Ongar, Essex. I thought Willie to be a relative but on closer inspection, more recently, I suspected he was her own son. Edith was accompanied on the visit by Frederick EVANS whom I think must have been the father, but was a married man. Willie is shown on his birth certificate as Frederick William Hamer and his mother as Edith Miriam Hamer but no father is named. The 1891 census has Edith as a shop assistant and Frederick Evans as a shop manager. Willie's birth certificate describes Edith's employment as an assistant at Boots Stores of Hornsey.

I figured out that by the outbreak of WW1, Frederick (Willie) would have been 24 years old. In the WW1 records I found him but in the same second I lost him. Written across the first page were the words 'killed in action'. The army records opened up a wealth of information. He was born on 5 March 1890 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone. This hospital accepted single mothers for their first pregnancy. On 24 September 1914 Frederick (Willie) married Florence May COLGRAVES. Their son, Arthur Donald Hamer was also born at Queen Charlotte's Hospital on 09 November 1914. Frederick enlisted in the army on 26 June 1916 and served in various regiments, including the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. After a short spell of convalescence he returned to the front and was killed in action in Flanders on 25 April 1918. He is buried at Poperinge in Belgium (Mendingham Military Cemetery) with the inscription 'Gone but not forgotten'.

In July 1919 Florence signed a declaration to say that Frederick had no parents, siblings or half-siblings. It appears that she was unaware that Edith had married and given birth to my father, Donald Arthur ANDREWS, in 1908. Sadly my father never knew that he had a half brother. Their only child named on that statement was Arthur Donald Hamer. Eric C T Hamer, born to Florence on 12 February 1919, was not named! Florence married Henry Charles RISELEY aka Harry in 1923 and in 1967 she married Michael L GAVAGAN. She died in 1970. It is strange that Frederick (Willie)'s son was named 'Arthur Donald' and his half brother, my dad, was named 'Donald Arthur' although they never knew of each other's existence.

Frederick and Florence's son, Arthur Donald Hamer, married Audrey May WARREN in 1938 in Bedford and they had 2 children - Brian Donald 1938-2005, and Josephine Ann 1942-2003 (USA). From his youth Arthur Donald got himself into trouble. He was educated at the Ampthill Road School and the Harper Trust School, Bedford, but he was sent to the Chelmsford Industrial School for three years from 1926 to 1929. In 1935 he was bound over for two years for stealing a gold watch. That same year he did a month of hard labour for the theft of some money, while he was working as a labourer at Borders Brick Works. Then, in 1945 he was fined £2 for embezzlement from his employers, Messrs Biddenham Dairies when he was working as a milk roundsman.

On the 9 June 2023, I was fortunate to reunite with Mark Hamer, son of Brian Donald,

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<sup>1</sup> A nurse-child is defined as 'a child taken into the home of someone who cares for them as result of circumstances that require the child's care away from his/her home'.

in Bedford. Zara, Mark's partner met me and showed me the delights of Bedford. I was very impressed. Afterwards Zara took me to their home where I was greeted by my newly found 3rd cousin, Mark. Then we all visited his father Brian's grave in Norse Road Cemetery. On return to their home, after a light meal, Mark walked me to the BFHS AGM at Rutherford School. This was the same school he had attended as a lad and which was only a short distance from his home. (I am grateful to the gentleman who gave me a lift back to my hotel after the meeting). The following day Mark, Zara and I went for a meal near Cardington where I explained how I had discovered his unknown branch of the family and other aspects of the Hamer tree, which had been part of my research since the mid eighties. When we got back to their home I met Mark's children by his two previous marriages and his grandchildren. I also spoke with his brother over the phone.

It was such a magical time and I immediately felt included as one of the family. I am only sad that my dear old dad never knew of the existence of this lovely family descended from his mother, Edith Hamer. □

### **MEMBERS' SURNAME INTERESTS**

Every effort is made to transcribe correctly the interests supplied by members but where hand-written details are provided errors may occur, for which we apologise. It would help greatly if all interests were either typed or written in BLOCK CAPITALS. When writing to a member please include a stamped addressed envelope or International Reply Coupons, and it is only polite to reply even if no connection appears to exist.

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Place/Parish</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Period</b>
<b>Karen Leavers (4547) kanjl@bigpond.com</b>			
<b>33 Hallvard Crescent, Augustine Heights, QLD 4300, Australia</b>			
Sugars	Marston/Cranfield	BDF	15C-19C
Breed	Cardington/Amptill	BDF	18C-19C
Page/Paige	Shefford/Southill	BDF	18C-19C
	Aspley Guise/Amptill	BDF	18C-19C
	Woburn		
<b>Barbara Hughes (4549) gbhughes@westnet.com.au</b>			
Groom(e)	Toddington	BDF	18C-E20C
Taylor	Clophill/Amptill/Silsoe	BDF	1800-1850
Hines	Clophill/Amptill/Silsoe	BDF	1800-1850





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Her qualifications include:

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- P.G. Cert. in Family and Local History
- P.G. Dip. in Archive Management

Vicki has worked for Bedfordshire Archives, The Panacea Museum, and several other heritage organisations in Bedfordshire thus giving her a unique and specialist knowledge of genealogy, family and house history records relating to Bedfordshire.

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**[bedfordshireresearch.co.uk](http://bedfordshireresearch.co.uk)**



## BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TEA TOWELS

The Society has had a supply of Bedfordshire Heritage tea towels printed and these are now being sold to raise funds.

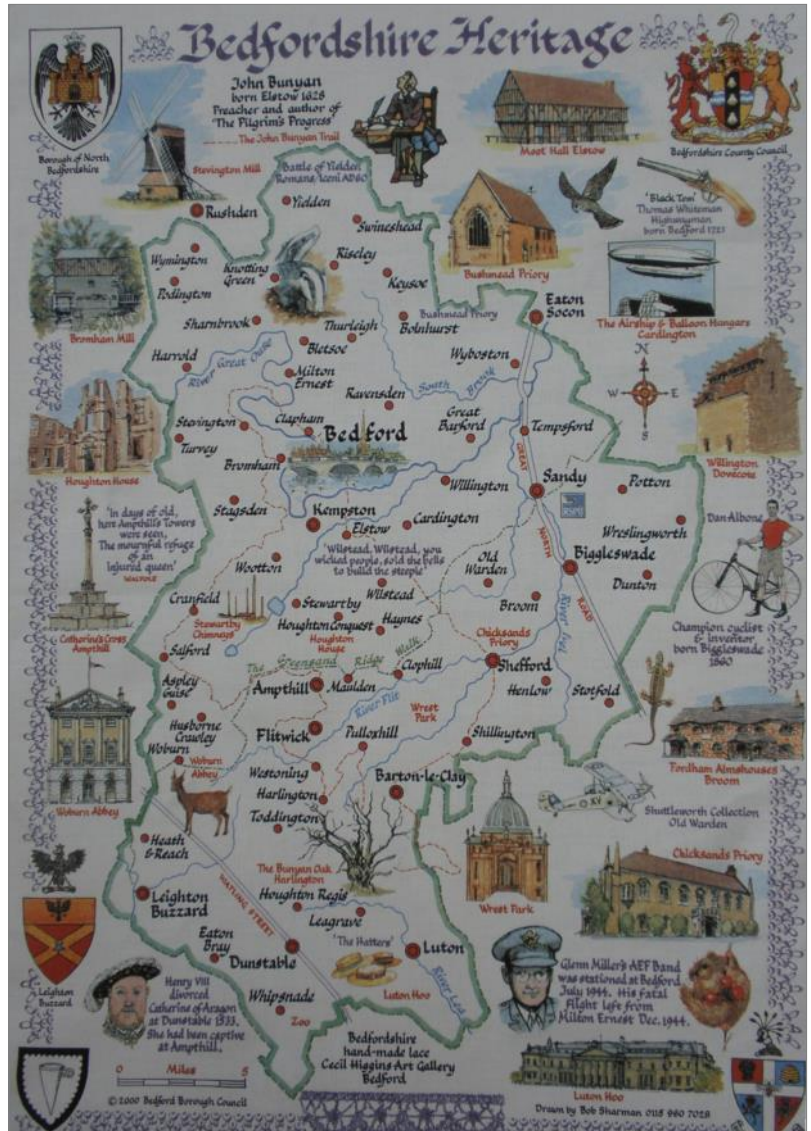
These tea towels are really too nice to use for drying up; they are beautifully colour printed with some famous Bedfordshire landmarks forming a border for the County map. Even if you do not have any Bedfordshire ancestors they make ideal gifts.

They are 100% cotton and at £4.50 each can be obtained from the bookstall at members' meetings, by email to Lynn Manning at:

[secretary@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bfhs.org.uk),

or by post to Lynn at:

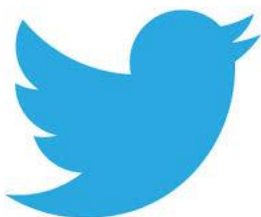
38 Risborough Road, Bedford,  
MK41 9QW, Tel. 01234 306482.



For UK orders please add **postage and packing** as follows:

Up to 2 tea towels add	£2.00
3 to 6 tea towels add	£3.00

For orders from outside the UK please enquire before ordering. Cheques should be made payable to Bedfordshire Family History Society.

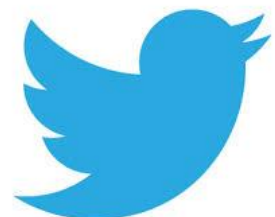


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## Membership Subscriptions by Standing Order or Bank Transfer

If you pay your **2023** membership by SO or BT please drop an email to [treasurer@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@bfhs.org.uk) to advise your name, post code, payment method and membership type.

Your help would be appreciated.

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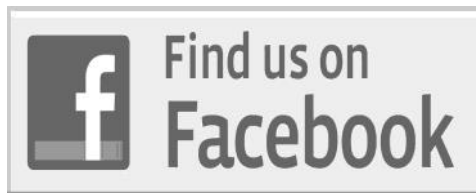
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## **BEDFORDSHIRE PARISH REGISTERS**

Many new computers do not have CD drives so we are pleased to announce that all our CDs are now available for sale as downloads from Parish Chest and Genfair.

The available downloads include all 128 Bedfordshire Parish Registers, Bedfordshire Nonconformist Registers, Marriage Licences, Poor Law papers, BFHS back Journals Vol 1-19 with an index to surnames and subjects, and the four Bedfordshire Will books. BFHS Journals volumes 20-24 are available free in the Members' Portal of the BFHS website.

To access the stores directly please visit **[parishchest.com](http://parishchest.com)** or **[genfair.co.uk](http://genfair.co.uk)**, although the simplest way of accessing a BFHS download is to visit our website [bfhs.org.uk](http://bfhs.org.uk) then select 'Online Stores'. If you then select Parish Chest the majority of the downloads are to be found in the 'Downloads' folder, but Poor Law, Journals and Wills book are listed under the appropriate folder located down the left hand side of the screen. If you select Genfair, the downloads are listed alongside the CDs in the relevant section. Both stores have a search feature and the content of each product is given. Downloads are the same price as the CDs.

BFHS has produced a resource to help in finding your missing relations. If they were baptised or buried before 1852 or married before 1837 (and in some cases later) in Bedfordshire and appear in the Parish Registers, then they will appear on our Surnames CD, available as a free download on the home page of **[bfhs.org.uk](http://bfhs.org.uk)**. Alternatively, the CD is available for only £10 including UK P&P, from Sales, Bedfordshire Family History Society, PO Box 214, Bedford MK41 8WB, enquiries to **[bookstall@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:bookstall@bfhs.org.uk)**.

CDs for all 128 ancient Bedfordshire parishes listed below are available from:

Sales, Bedfordshire Family History Society, PO Box 214, Bedford MK41 8WB, or **[bookstall@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:bookstall@bfhs.org.uk)**

Each CD or download contains, for one parish:

All Parish Register transcripts up to 1812

Searchable Indexes to the Parish Registers for:

Baptisms at least 1813-1851 (some parishes all up to 1851)

Marriages up to 1885; and all Burials to 1851

The relevant 1851 Census Index for Bedfordshire

CDs marked † also contain Monumental Inscriptions (MIs) from a graveyard in the

parish (church, chapel or cemetery). Those marked \* contain records from the registers or graveyards of Nonconformist chapels in the parish, photographs, and other records are included as available.

‡ Holwell: MIs and Burials only, not Registers (now in Herts).

Prices include UK or overseas post and packing. The cost of a full set of Parish CDs is £1,250.

Any recently revised CDs are indicated by the issue number in bold. **Please note that CDs will no longer be updated** whereas downloads will be updated when more indexes and any new MI listings become available.

Parish	Price	Issue	Parish	Price	Issue
Amphill † *	£15	2	Dunton †	£15	2
Arlesey	£20	2	Eaton Bray	£20	2
Aspley Guise †	£15	4	Eaton Socon † *	£25	2
Astwick †	£10	2	Edworth †	£10	2
Barton	£15	3	Elstow †	£15	2
Battlesden	£10	2	Eversholt †	£15	2
Bedford St Cuthbert †*	£15	2	Everton	£10	2
Bedford St John *	£15	2	Eyeworth	£10	2
Bedford St Mary † *	£15	2	Farndish †	£10	1
Bedford St Paul † *	£25	2	Felmersham † *	£10	2
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Billington †	£10	2	Great Barford †	£15	3
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Clifton	£20	3	Kempston	£15	3
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Cockayne Hatley	£10	2	Keysoe † *	£15	2
Colmworth †	£10	2	Knotting	£10	2
Cople †	£10	2	Langford	£15	2
Cranfield † *	£15	2	Leighton Buzzard † *	£20	6
Dean † *	£15	1	Lidlington †	£10	2
Dunstable † *	£15	2	Little Barford †	£10	1



Parish	Price	Issue	Parish	Price	Issue
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Langford	£15	2	Souldrop †	£10	2
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Sharnbrook	£10	2	Yelden †	£10	2

## SUGGESTION BOX



Your committee is continually looking for ways to improve what is offered to members and following the useful responses from the recent Members' Questionnaire, we thought how could we keep the ideas coming.

So, to encourage more feedback from members at meetings we now have a suggestion box. For members who are not able to use the suggestion box we invite you to email us at [bfhs@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:bfhs@bfhs.org.uk).

Your committee appreciates any help, ideas or suggestions that you may have regarding any aspect of the BFHS organisation.

## WHERE TO FIND US

Correspondence for the Executive Committee should be addressed to the appropriate person and sent to:

### Bedfordshire Family History Society

<b>PO Box 214</b> <b>BEDFORD</b> <b>MK41 8WB</b>	<b>Internet:</b> <a href="http://bfhs.org.uk">bfhs.org.uk</a> <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:bfhs@bfhs.org.uk">bfhs@bfhs.org.uk</a>  <b>Web Sales:</b> <a href="http://parishchest.com">parishchest.com</a> <a href="http://genfair.co.uk">genfair.co.uk</a>
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The following email addresses are also available:

<b>chairman@bfhs.org.uk</b>	Society Chairman
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<b>treasurer@bfhs.org.uk</b>	Society Treasurer
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