

# Hertfordshire People

The Journal of the  
Hertfordshire Family History Society

No 165  
June  
2023



# WM. PAUL & SON, WALTHAM-CROSS.

The "Athenæum" says :—"The Roses of Mr. Paul are things to see once and dream of for ever."

The "Graphic" says :—"Mr. Paul is famous for his Roses all over the world."

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The "Journal of Horticulture" says :—"The Roses at Waltham-cross are, as they always are, in fine condition."

# WM. PAUL & SON, WALTHAM-CROSS.

# Hertfordshire People

No 165, June 2023

**Editor: Jane Tunesi of Liongam,  
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Your letters, comments and contributions for publication are welcome and should be sent to the Editor. Please quote your membership number, and enclose a SAE if postal acknowledgement is required. Articles should not have been published elsewhere, and where necessary copyright clearance must have been obtained for pictures, quotations from books etc. The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions.

The views expressed in these pages are those of the author, and not necessarily those of the Society.

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**Journal deadlines: 31 December for March edition; 31 March for June edition; 30 June for September edition; 30 September for December edition.**

*Front Cover: John and Janet Pearson, our new Vice Presidents.*

*Back Cover: Brent Pelham postcard view*

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## ***From the Editor.....***



I do hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Hertfordshire People*. We've given *Hertfordshire People* a new look with more colour and a bigger and clearer font. We welcome your feedback.

After the AGM at the end of May there have been some changes in our Committee structure and personnel in key roles. Our Secretary, Tracy, gives more details in her column on Page 5.

Since the last journal there has been the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. We were glued to the TV watching history unfold. It made me wonder how my parents and grandparents celebrated previous Coronations. My mother received a book and a spoon for the 1937 Coronation, which I still have, and my Auntie Nellie kept scrapbooks, newspapers and magazines 1937—1953 that she gave to me. Further back in time I have no idea, although I did inherit my grandmother's Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee mug given to schoolchildren in Hitchin.

In this issue there are also the results of the Biennial Competition on Page 3 and a winning article on Page 20.

With summer approaching, we hope, it is a great time for visiting places where our ancestors lived, the villages and towns, churches, churchyards and cemeteries and of course the Pubs! I've got Publicans on both sides of my family so could happily have a pub crawl in North Hertfordshire or East Suffolk.

I am always happy to receive your articles, snippets, research queries or photographs for inclusion, especially photographs of 'Hertfordshire People' for the front cover. It is your contributions that make *Hertfordshire People* the great journal that it is.

*Jane*

## Hertfordshire FHS Competition Results

Now in its eighth year the theme for the 2023 Competition, made possible by a kind donation by the late Sherry Martin, was **Here for the Beer: Brewers, Maltsters and Publicans, my family connections**. The entries we received were all of high quality and the Judges spent some time liaising before they were in agreement regarding the results.

The standard being so high this time we have on this occasion got two winners!

Our first winner is **Valerie Monaghan** for her entry '**Here for the Beer? Not Always!: My family's connections with Hertfordshire Pubs and Licensees, Barmaids and Attendee at a Coroners Inquest**'.



Our second winner is **Beverley Reynolds** for her entry '**Here for the Beer: Brewers, Maltsters and Publicans, my family connections**'.

Our Runner Up is our new Committee Member **Janet Sutton** for her entry '**Anna Maria, The Crane and the Royal Oak - A Tale of Two Pubs**'.

All our winners were able to join us via Zoom for the AGM for the formal announcement of the results. They had all been sent their Certificates and the winners their £50 prize, prior to the AGM so could have their 'Ta-Da' moment via Zoom when the results were announced by our President, Alan Ruston.

You will find Valerie's winning article on Page 20 with Beverley's appearing in the September issue.

*Jane*

## Secretary's Jottings

By Tracy Turner



You will see from the list of officers that your Executive Team has had some changes.

John and Janet Pearson are being given the opportunity to have a rest after their sterling efforts over many years. They are now Vice Presidents of the Society and we hope they will have more time to enjoy their garden with the help of the gardening voucher they were given with the Society's thanks. Felicity Brimblecombe has stepped up as Chair, and also joining us on the Committee is Janet Sutton.

We would still welcome any other volunteers who would like to join us on the Committee. We meet on Zoom on a quarterly basis. We have also recently signed up with GoVolHerts, which is an initiative supported by Hertfordshire County Council to match up volunteers with Hertfordshire charities and organisations needing help. You may therefore also notice new faces popping up as volunteers from time to time. We would particularly like to increase our younger membership and hope that the opportunity to volunteer with us may therefore result in more younger people getting the family history bug.

Elsewhere in the journal you will see the results of the membership survey we recently ran. Thank you to those who completed it. We will be discussing the results and trying to address some of the concerns or wants that you have raised in it.

What was clear from the survey was that some members are not aware of the Society's publications, in particular some of the resources available on CD or memory sticks. An example of this is the CD on Old Poor Law Records covering the period from 1602 until the Poor Law Reform Act of 1834. This extract includes all the Settlement, Removal and Examination records available at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies. Another example is Hertfordshire Settlement Certificates, a 250 page A4 book listing in alphabetical order details of surviving Settlement Certificate records from the late 17th Century to the early 19th Century held at Hertfordshire Archives

& Local Studies, Hertford. The text, which covers some 5,000 individuals and family groups, includes not only details of actual certificates but also, and often where they have disappeared, lists of the issue of such certificates by the 'home' parish or their lodgement with the 'receiving' parish along with original document references. Both of these, plus much more, including membership renewal can be obtained from this link: <https://tinyurl.com/27d4e26x> or go to GenFair on the Internet and search for Hertfordshire Family History Society to see all the available publications.

**Save the Date** – a real life Family History Fair to attend with lots of stalls and speakers. The Family History Federation is 50 years old in 2024 and to celebrate there will be a series of regional family history fairs billed as the Really Useful Family History Show Live. In the eastern region this will take place on **Saturday 20 April 2024** at the Burgess Hall, St Ives, Cambridgeshire. The society will have a stall there with lots of our publications on hand, and the opportunity to chat and discuss your research queries. More detail in coming months.

Talking about the Family History Federation, I wonder how many of you have discovered their series of Podcasts? You can find these on the Federation website <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/podcast>

So far the topics covered include:

- Occupations
- Young People
- Online Events
- Social Media
- One-Place Studies
- Newspapers
- Beginning Your Family History
- Online Resources
- Talking to Relatives
- Historians Collaborate
- Occupations: Work, Leisure and Health
- Writing Your Family History

Each is around 30 minutes long. You can listen to them on the Federation website or you can access them via Spotify, Apple Podcasts or via an rss feed.

Right, I'm off to listen to the 'Writing Your Family History' podcast before trying to break down some more brick walls.

Hope you all have a lovely summer and please do write to me or the editor with your thoughts, queries, or with articles for publications.

The survey showed that members are waiting to hear your stories of your research.

Best wishes  
Tracy

## SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Apart From our Monumental Inscriptions and Militia Lists books did you know that Hertfordshire FHS has also produced several special publications? The have been produced over the years in a variety of formats, print, CD and flash drive.

- **Transported beyond the Seas** - criminals convicted in Hertfordshire who received transportation sentences to Australia 1784-1866.
- **Fleet Marriages of Hertfordshire People to 1754** - an alphabetical list of grooms and brides.
- **Hertfordshire Settlement Certificates**
- **Hertfordshire Removal Orders**
- **Hertfordshire Examinations**
- **Nonconformity in Hertfordshire**
- **Hertfordshire Places**
- **Hertfordshire Obituaries** - from *The Gentleman's Magazine*
- **Hertfordshire Burial Index** (CD)
- **1851 Hertfordshire Census** (CD)
- **Hertfordshire Militia Ballot Lists** (CD)
- **Hertfordshire Quarter Sessions 1585-1615** (CD)
- **Herts Marriage Links 1538-1837** (CD)
- **Hertfordshire Strays Index** (CD)
- **Herts Poor Law** - Settlements, Removals & Examinations books above (Flash Drive)

All our publications can be purchased online via our Genfair page

[www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk)



## **New Vice-Presidents**

At our AGM, our President Alan Ruston said a few words about our retiring Chairman, John Pearson, and his wife Janet, who have done such a lot for Hertfordshire Family History Society over the years. Alan's well chosen words are reproduced here for all members to see.

'Now that the election of Felicity Brimblecombe as our new Chair is complete, it falls to me as your President to say something about John Pearson who has held the post since 2007 and to put a resolution to you to approve.

My comments do not just apply to him but include his wife Janet, such for us a significant team, who have given an impetus to our work for such a long time.

Those who use the members area of our website will know a major component are the past issues of *Hertfordshire People* going back to 1989. I selected the summer issue from 1988 onwards to give at least a partial picture of John and Janet's work for us over the decades.

It was Janet who made the first input in the late 1980s when she took over the co-ordination of the 1881 census project to record Hertfordshire names. She wrote articles, reports and book reviews for *Hertfordshire People* regularly from then on. John's name did not appear regularly as was doing the daytime job, in local government if I recall correctly. John wrote in 1995 about a sponsored bike ride, a regular feature, and the following year the burials index started with him taking a leading role.

A few years later they took responsibility for organising the annual recording of MIs at a particular burial ground in the county. It was a quite delightful summer activity in good weather - in 1999 it was at Braughing – at a different parish each year with the Pearsons at their temporary desk, often located in the church porch to avoid the rain. Janet was also then co-ordinating the local Hoddesdon group of our Society. Up to then neither were shown as being on the committee. By 2005 this had changed, with John becoming chair in 2007, and Janet the meetings co-ordinator from 2008 until the present.

The Society owes them a great deal, such loyal and devoted service to Hertfordshire family history over decades.

The Committee believes their signal contribution to our work should be recognised, and which hopefully will continue into the future. I therefore put to it to you that we add both their names to the list of Vice Presidents. Is that agreed? (It was).

At the hybrid AGM at Woolmer Green and via Zoom, there was a presentation to John and Janet by our new Chair, Felicity Brimblecombe, of a gift of gardening vouchers, and also a bouquet to Janet presented by Jane Tunesi, the Editor of this journal. A gesture to mark their elevation to the ranks of the Vice Presidents with heartfelt thanks from the Committee and members for all they have done, and continue to do, for Hertfordshire Family History Society.



## WANTED: FACEBOOK VOLUNTEER

*Hertfordshire FHS is looking for someone who is familiar with the workings of Facebook to help our coordinator with posting interesting items to the feed, answering queries from followers and news from Herts FHS regarding forthcoming talks. Could this be you?*

*Contact the Editor if interested—[editor@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@hertsfhs.org.uk)*

## Membership Survey

At the time of writing (mid-May 2023) we had a relatively low response to the membership survey, but some interesting conclusions can be inferred from the results.

Overwhelmingly the results show that we are an ageing Society with 94% of those responding being over the age of 60. This does have implications for the future growth and development of the Society, and we will need to put particular emphasis on ensuring we are relevant to younger members and potential members.

The majority of those responding had been members for more than 5 years, but there was evidence of many new members who had joined during the pandemic, possibly because of discovering the Society through our Zoom talks.

Following on from this most respondents preferred to attend the monthly talks on Zoom. It is worth stressing at this point that whilst a later question revealed that many members wanted to be able to watch the talks at a later time of their choice, it appears that many do not know that when speakers allow us to record the talk, a link to the recording can currently be found in the closed members' area of the society website. The speaker often restricts this to a few days or up to several weeks, so it is worth checking the website quickly after the meeting to check for a recording.

Turning to genealogical software programmes, most members using one were either using Family Historian, Roots Magic, Family Tree Maker, Legacy or Reunion II. However, most people responding had no special software and were instead only using the online resources available at Ancestry, Find My Past or My Heritage. It seems therefore that the benefits of using a software package may be a useful talk to explore in the future.

The society journal, *Hertfordshire People*, was repeatedly praised in comments, and was clearly well-read, with an almost total agreement that around 48 pages was the right length. Many people enjoyed having access to a digital version as well as the option of a printed journal. Suggestions for topics for the Journal included more member stories of their research (this relies on more of you telling us about your research and your families); research tips generally, as well as specifically Herts-related research; more focus on parish histories and their records (some of this will already be covered by the Hertfordshire Association for Local History and member societies); more articles on specific sources such as settlement certificates and bastardy orders (some of these are covered by existing Herts FHS publications of finding aids and indexes and can be found on the Society website and GenFair).

There was some interest from overseas members in having a 'region' representative and we will explore this more in the coming year. Do get in touch if you would be willing to

act as a coordinator or representative for your part of the world.

We asked whether members would be willing to get involved in monumental inscription work (with training provided) and/or remote transcription or indexing work, but most respondents said that they would not want to do this. Please bear in mind that the provision of indexes to obscure sources by the Society does rely on society members doing transcription or indexing work in the first place.

All respondents wanted to have a more up-to-date website which allowed for a range of transactions including the downloading of publications or individual records for payment or for free.

A popular choice was the option to search a master index of society publications. Members also wanted to be able to see member interests on the website. As mentioned earlier some respondents wanted the ability to watch missed talks on the website. This facility already exists when speakers give us permission to record but needs to be accessed quickly as speakers often ask us to remove permission after a set number of days or weeks. In general, many people felt that the website needed a new structure and look, and we have this in hand to address in the coming months.

Thank you all for your comments and responses.

If anyone wants to give us further feedback, then please direct your comments to the secretary at [secretary@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hertsfhs.org.uk).

*Tracy*  
Hon Secretary

## **Never miss an online talk again!**

As well as the links in the Members' Area of the website, Hertfordshire Family History Society now have an Eventbrite page where you can follow us and register for a free ticket for our talks and be sent the talk link automatically via Eventbrite - [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

<https://eventbrite.co.uk/o/hertfordshire-family-history-society-33381283673>

If you have forgotten your password to the Members' Area

please contact the Registrar on [registrar@hertsfh.org.uk](mailto:registrar@hertsfh.org.uk)

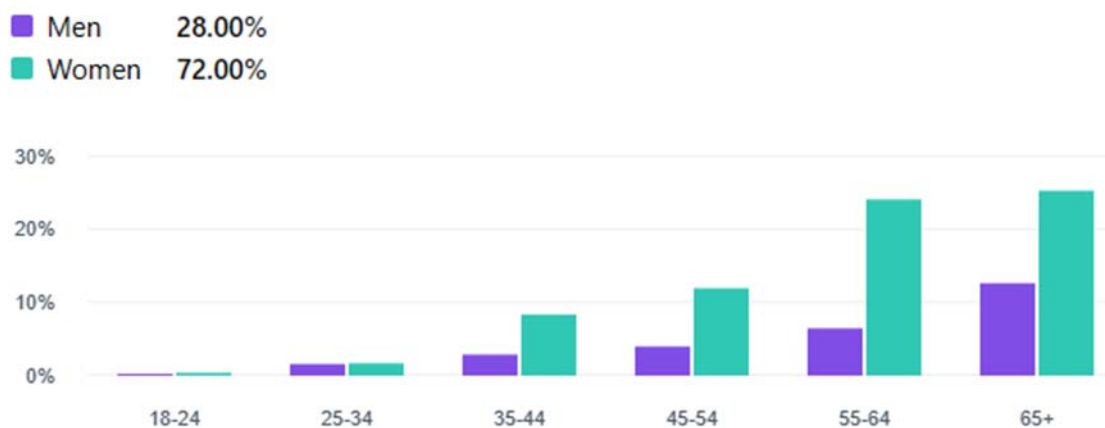
## New Chair: Felicity Brimblecombe

John Pearson is a hard act to follow having led this Society successfully for many years. One of his aims was to collect and publish the Monumental Inscriptions of all the parishes in Hertfordshire which he has nearly achieved and will continue. My immediate aim as an interim Chair, hopefully only for a short period of time, is to increase the number of members actively involved with running the society, both on and off the committee.



The society, currently, is financially stable but like all family history societies overall membership is declining despite a steady influx of new applications. Ideally HFHS needs to increase its presence in the virtual medium to engage with people of all ages and locations something that John Pearson has already started with hybrid monthly meetings (in person and Zoom). A website containing some of the family history data that the Society has researched is a logical, major target.

I have been a committee member for about 7 years, mainly promoting HFHS and helping with research queries via social media. Facebook is just one way to interact with people locally and internationally which I set up and maintain. On Facebook, HFHS has about 2000 people who are actively interested in HFHS. Analysis by age and gender:



Analysis by country: 69% UK, 15% Australia, 8% USA, 4% Canada, 2% New Zealand, 1% Europe. As might be expected those interested in family history

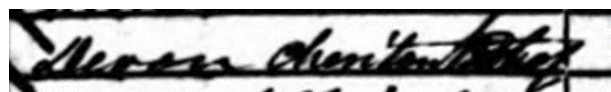


and on Facebook reflect the need to attract a younger audience. I am in the last age category!

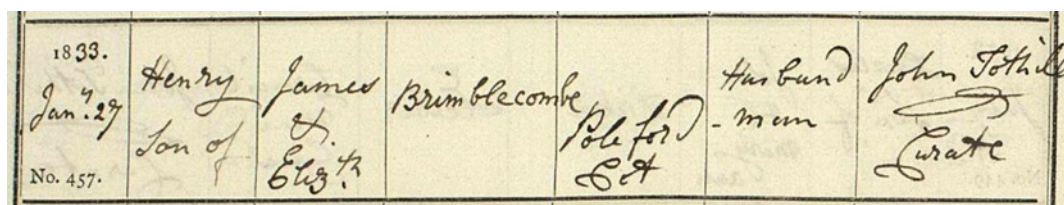
By qualification a Physicist, I was employed initially in companies researching the rheological properties of flour (Cambridge) and then rubber (Hertford). Children and school holidays necessitated retraining to teach and then a career in Hertfordshire and Derbyshire teaching Maths, Physics and badminton. My husband and I began researching his family history in Devon in the early 1970s. But we still have not traced our Brimblecombe line into the 18th century.

Many family historians wish they had asked elderly relations for information. We asked Great Aunt Brenda, but she was more obstructive than useful - she was not going to tell us about a scandalous event! Naughty Henry **Brimblecombe**, as we call him, was born in the 1830s in Devon and moved to Newport in South Wales. Where was he born? In the 1970s we spent our holidays in Devon, in the record office when it rained and exploring villages when the sun shone. Centering on Exeter we searched parish by parish, in widening circles, looking at baptisms in the 1830s. We listed an immense number of variations of Brimblecombe and then discovered the use of an alias of **Clark(e)**! Experts were asked how long aliases lasted and we were told 'only a couple of generations' but this one is now officially recorded as lasting over a century<sup>1</sup>.

Imagining a scenario of a Welsh enumerator trying to understand Naughty Henry's Devon accent probably accounts for his birth location being recorded as Devon or Exeter. Eventually, a very helpful person in Portugal Place agreed that the microfiche of the 1861 census was unreadable and fetched the original. Henry was born west of Exeter in Cheriton Bishop.

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to be 'Henry Brimblecombe'.

With the right Henry Brimblecombe we could piece together his story after finding his baptism in 1833 on our next visit to Devon. How much easier research is today as that record is accessible online<sup>2</sup>.



Was he training as a basket maker when he 'met' a young lady, Anna Maria **Rowell**, in a village to the east of Exeter? She had an illegitimate daughter in 1857. By 1859 Henry had married another young lady in Newport Monmouthshire and had a shop selling baskets. They had 3 children and then his wife died. With young children, a business to run and no family locally, he popped back to Devon, married Anna Maria in 1861, and took her, and their daughter, back to Newport. More children were followed by a grandchild called Brenda. All of which, many years later, great aunt Brenda eventually confirmed!

Unfortunately, despite extensive research, we haven't moved back much further back with certainty with our Brimblecombe line. Naughty Henry's dad was James whose parents were William and Betty. One would think that we would have made progress as there is an 1821 census for Cheriton Bishop<sup>3</sup>. But there are 4 possible Williams in the village and almost all married either Elizabeth or Betty. Some of them can be pinned down using apprenticeships, baptisms, tithe records etc<sup>4</sup>. in the same or neighbouring parishes. Our William Brimblecombe arrived in Cheriton Bishop but from where?

Researching in Devon is not easy as many records were lost when Exeter was bombed in WWII. Plus, there are some very unhelpful, brief parish entries such as five children baptised as 'William son of William Brimblecombe' in Moretonhampstead, over a period of ten years. One of them is probably ours!

Rather than keep quantities of unused data, we have put them on Ancestry. Where possible they are linked together in family groups by census data etc. Perhaps an unattached one might eventually be ours? We help others, but many Ancestry users think that Brimblecombe is an unusual name without appreciating that they proliferated in Devon. We have DNA samples from our family and from a Brimblecombe line in Australia but, so far, that has not helped.

Great Aunt Brenda did provide other information. She told us that two sisters, surname Brown, married two of Naughty Henry's sons. So back easily one generation to a marriage in 1858 but subsequent progress has been thwarted by common surnames of Brown, Thomas, Jones and Price in Herefordshire and the Welsh borders.

Brenda (born in 1903, died 1983) also gave us a long list of her Brown first and second cousins such as *'Minnie (no surname) who had 5 daughters: Brenda, Marjorie, Olga, Phyllis and Glenys and lived in America'*. That became useful when census data came online for the UK in 1911 and the USA in the 20th century. Several families have solved their brick walls of a 'Brown ancestor from Wales'. Recently DNA has added further confirmation of the connections as have photographs. Do you agree that Brenda and her second cousin, Minnie, look alike?



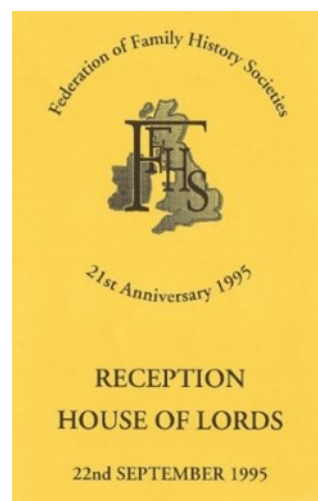
Females who marry into our Brimblecombe family add more brick walls. We both remember my husband's little Welsh grandmother but she knew nothing about her father's background because he died in 1913 when she was a child. He was a Swedish sailor with a father, Carl **Carlson**, so little progress there! Tracing Welsh Grandmother's maternal background, in Gloucestershire (**Wigmore, Holbrook**), has been much more successful.

Fortunately, effective research on most of my husband's maternal ancestry, despite a few missing fathers, shows we do know how to research family history with most lines (**Whitfield, Marsh, Jayne, Pope**) going back successfully in South Wales, Somerset and Herefordshire.

What about my own family history? My parents also started researching in the 1970s. Their new hobby soon involved them with running the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry<sup>5</sup>. Dad had to

teach himself heraldry when he was asked to be Vice-President of Heraldry. He became an Honorary Life Vice-President of the Society.

He was involved with the initial concept to set up the Family History Federation<sup>6</sup> which will be celebrating its 50th birthday in 2024. He was the second treasurer. Mum was Programme Secretary and answered postal queries for the BMSGH as well as teaching family history to beginners at evening classes. Her teaching notes often with 'when she was young, she knew all her grandparents and they told her lots of interesting stories'. But she never wrote those stories down! That has been the spur to produce books about the lives of each of our parents and their ancestry, followed, in Covid lockdown, with a book recording our lives.



When employment brought us to Hertfordshire about 40 years ago, I had no idea how many of my Ancestors lived in the county and the rest of East Anglia. Retirement in 2009 allowed time to look at all my parents' data, check and extend it. DNA analysis indicates 70% of my ancestors originate in East Anglia.

My paternal grandmother (**Elcock**) was from Luton in Bedfordshire, just over the Hertfordshire boundary. Repeatedly, in two previous generations, the bread winner had died aged 32 leaving a wife and 3 children.

As explained in a recent talk by Ian Waller, with only one parent, the children were orphans. The boys were educated at a school which moved to Watford in 1871 having been originally set up as the London Orphan Asylum in Shoreditch by Rev Dr Andrew Reed<sup>7</sup>.

Before that the **Bush** family owned a cottage in Henham Essex for about 300 years. When the last two spinsters died in the 1960s a solicitor tracked their cottage and land – some of that data is on the very useful Henham Village website<sup>8</sup>.

The Ellcocks were intertwined with prosperous families in Hertfordshire (**Merchant, Mardell**). This is the only county in which I have groups of family gravestones (Braughing), old impressive residences (Alswick Hall), places with the same name as my ancestors who lived there (Deards End, at Knebworth) and a portrait of a butler (Daniel Ellcock 4x great grandfather) employed at Little Hadham Place<sup>9</sup>. Many of their wills are listed on Herts Names Online<sup>10</sup>. Investigating my Herts ancestors has been great fun especially when collaborating with my 4th cousin whose phone number I found in my dad's neatly filed correspondence!



Dad wished he had been able to tell his mother how prosperous her ancestors were as he said his father always behaved as if he had the far superior background. His surname was **Leigh-Dugmore**. This is a combination of Dugmore from a family manufacturing emery paper in Birmingham who went into the theatre and used a stage name of Leigh. Dad's great grandmother was in productions, as Mrs Leigh, in the West End for 35 years. Her son starred in many of the original Gilbert and Sullivan operettas<sup>11</sup>. He used the stage name of **Denny** as did his son<sup>12</sup>. 'Mrs Leigh' is another of our brick walls, baptised Elizabeth **Brown** to William and Elizabeth Brown in 1825 which is the only record of them in Kent.



Dad tried to ditch the double-barrelled moniker but had a big problem when a soldier in WWII called Harry Leigh married, after returning from Dunkirk, and applied for his married man's allowance with the different name of C H Leigh-Dugmore. He is still helping with the family history research as he provided a DNA sample when aged 99.

My Mum's paternal ancestors moved to Birmingham as it expanded with industrialisation. Some were very inconsiderate to future family historians by failing to complete the 1851 census to say where they were born and using common surnames such as Jackson. Others have been traced to Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Hampshire.



Some of her background is from Suffolk and Buckinghamshire. Her maternal 2x great grandfather (**Garratt**) was painted playing the bassoon in the Bow Brickhill village choir<sup>13</sup>. That information was gained by my parents using very old-fashioned research techniques of visiting the vicar to look at parish registers.



Descendants of the Bassoonist, moved to Islington to gain work and married into families from Suffolk (**Bowers, Bloomfield**) who had also moved to the metropolis to work as butchers etc.

My next family history project is making books for my grandchildren recording their family history and requires two new family histories set in Kent, Middlesex and Yorkshire.

If you want to extend your family history research then I recommend you consider alternative approaches such as Local History or Garden History. At the start of my retirement, I volunteered on a project to revive an old walled garden on the Luton Hoo Estate. Family history skills were ideal for recording the owners, tracing gardeners, researching the Estate War Memorials etc. Extending this to all of Bedfordshire, I am secretary of Bedfordshire Gardens Trust, a small voluntary branch of the national Gardens Trust, which aims to research, protect and promote gardens, parks and designed landscapes.

However busy you are, or wherever you live, I hope that you can find a way to become a more active member. Perhaps just promoting our talks and the society or suggesting topics you want covered in future talks. Tell us about your brick walls, help others solve theirs, send a query or an article for publication in the Journal. Not sure how you can help, then email [chair@herts.org.uk](mailto:chair@herts.org.uk)

In a wider context please talk to younger generations to broaden the age range of those interested in family history.

*Felicity*

## NOTES

1. [GENUKI: Some Devon Surname Aliases, Devon](#)
  2. [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)
  3. [GENUKI: Pre-1841 Devon Census and Population Listings, Devon](#)
  4. [www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk)
  5. [BMSGH \(Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry\) - Our Warwickshire](#)
  6. [Family History Federation](#)
  7. [The History Of Reed's School - Reed's School \(reeds.surrey.sch.uk\)](#)
  8. [Welcome to Henham History Essex](#)
  9. [www.hertfordshirearchives.org.uk](http://www.hertfordshirearchives.org.uk) DE/X432, DE/X79 Ellcock family papers including Undertaker's Account Book for Little Hadham
  10. [Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies | Hertfordshire County Council](#)
  11. [W. H. Denny - Wikipedia](#)
  12. [Reginald Denny \(actor\) - Wikipedia](#)
  13. [A Village Choir | Webster, Thomas \(RA\) | V&A Explore The Collections \(vam.ac.uk\)](#)
- 

## New Programme Secretary



Following the AGM, Committee Member **John Tunesi**, a former Secretary, has stepped up and will be taking over from Janet Pearson in due course as the Talks Organiser, or as we have renamed the job, the Programme Secretary.

Janet has booked the main speakers until the end of the year which will make things easier for John and he will be working with Janet during the year to take up the baton by the end of 2023.

John is looking out for new speakers so if you have been to a good talk, either face to face or remote, or could even present one, do get in touch on [liongam@btinternet.com](mailto:liongam@btinternet.com) for the time being.

## Dates for your Diary.....



### **FHF Really Useful Family History Show**

Friday 17th & Saturday 18th November  
2023

The return of this popular online event. There will be interactive workshops, knowledgeable speakers and friendly family history society reps.

Friday 10am to 10pm and Saturday 10am to 6pm GMT. More information can be found at [www.fhf-reallyuseful.com](http://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com)

For details of in person and online events and lectures from The Society of Genealogists and Family History Societies and groups do check out the GENEVA website which is updated regularly - [Geneva.weald.org.uk/doku.php](http://Geneva.weald.org.uk/doku.php)

## **New Publications**

Keep an eye on our website for the announcement of new publications available very soon

M.I. vol. 27 – Aston - St Mary – a new re-write and reprint - price £6.

M.I. vol. 114 – Woolmer Green - St Michael & All Angels - price £6.

Also

Ruston, Alan *Nonconformity in Hertfordshire* - revised edition - price £7.

To order these publications by post, refer to the Society's website:  
[www.hertsfhs.org.uk](http://www.hertsfhs.org.uk)

Order online at (best for overseas) [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk)

## Here for the Beer? Not always!

### My Family's Connections with Hertfordshire Pubs as Licensees, Barmaids, and Attendees at a Coroner's Inquest

By Valerie Monaghan

I was surprised when I first discovered that my great great grandparents on my mother's side, George **Vigus** and his wife Sarah, formerly **Adams** and née **Hockett**, had been licensees of *The Jolly Bricklayers* 'beerhouse' in Church Lane, Cheshunt, at least from 1868 to 1886, as George had a criminal record for 'wilful damage to a bridge', and neither he nor Sarah could read or write.



*The Jolly Bricklayers, c.1910*

These days, criminal offences have to be declared by anyone applying for a licence to sell alcohol, although it is discretionary whether or not the licence be refused, and will depend on the details of the offence committed.

George and Sarah's son-in-law, my great grandfather Edward Corser **Fox**, lived nearby and had been well-educated, having been a boarder at Baylis House Roman Catholic School for boys near Stoke Poges in Buckinghamshire in the 1850s, so it's a fair bet that he helped them out with paperwork and book keeping. However, I'm not sure that frequenting the beerhouse did him any good, as he died aged only 45 in 1885 of 'liver failure due to alcoholism'!

A 'beerhouse' was essentially a pub selling beer created by the Beerhouse Act of 1830, legally defined as a place 'where beer is sold to be consumed on the premises'. It was forbidden to sell other alcoholic drink but food could be sold and games and lodgings could be provided. The Tory government of the Duke of Wellington was keen to promote the consumption of beer instead of spirits, especially gin, which had led to widespread drunkenness believed to be detrimental to the working classes. Water was not safe to drink. The

previous beer tax was abolished and opening hours for licensed premises were extended. Some beerhouses became brothels which led to their being put back under the control of local justices in 1869. Some closed, and others were purchased by breweries and morphed into fully licensed public houses.

'Alehouses' were simply houses where ale was sold, and they had been around since the Middle Ages.

At various times in his period as licensee, George is also listed as working as a general labourer, at one time on the nearby New River, not a river at all but an artificial waterway opened in 1613 to supply London with drinking water. Clearly then as now running licensed premises meant it was difficult to make ends meet.

There is a newspaper report dated 1st February 1868 in the *Hertford Mercury and Reformer* of a fracas at *The Jolly Bricklayers* during George's and Sarah's tenure, when 8 panes of glass were smashed by a drunken local labourer by the name of John Dwlby (sic). The prosecutor did not appear at the court Petty Sessions, and the Police Sergeant said that he understood that an arrangement had been made between the two parties, so the case was dismissed.



*The Jolly Bricklayers in 2009*

It seems that George and Sarah were among the earliest, possibly the first, licensees of this pub.

The earliest photo I can find of *The Jolly Bricklayers* is dated about 1910, and shows that the building has been considerably extended since that date. It is still in operation but in 2018 after refurbishment controversially changed its name to *The Freemasons*.



On a different maternal line, my great grandmother Emma **Cooledge** as an 18-year-old was working in 1858 as a servant cum barmaid in *The Red Lion* at 143 High Street, Cheshunt, when she was accused of stealing a sovereign.



*The Red Lion, no longer in existence*

This whole sorry incident was also reported in the local newspaper, as it had been the subject of a criminal charge dealt with at the Petty Sessions.

Gold sovereigns date from 1489 struck at the order of King Henry VII. Succeeding monarchs had new versions struck, until the practice stopped under

King James I in 1603. After the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815, the authorities carried out a review of the nation's coinage, and decided to create a new sovereign, a gold coin with the value of £1, struck from 1817.

It is reported that Joseph **Smith**, a local labourer, had gone into *The Red Lion* on December 18th to seek change for a sovereign, which he received, and he left the sovereign on 'the ledge of the bar door'. He was later sent for, and accused of not having left the sovereign. He claimed to have remembered Emma coming to the bar to get beer for customers in the tap room while he was receiving his change. The bar tender who had given the change vouched for Smith's good character and honesty.

Soon afterwards, Emma visited a nearby draper's shop and purchased several articles which she would not normally have been able to afford, and paid with a sovereign. Samuel **Taylor** the draper testified to this, and informed William **Sadd**, the landlord of *The Red Lion*.

When the police constable came to interview Emma, she claimed that she had found the sovereign under a mat, but Mr Sadd said he had already searched under the mat as soon as it was realised the sovereign was missing. And so it was that Emma was convicted of larceny, and the magistrates sentenced her to 3 months' imprisonment, which she served in Hertford Gaol.

This pub was possibly an old coaching inn, but is no longer in existence. The last year for which a licensee is listed there is 1922, and the building was demolished in the 1960s to be developed as *The White House* sheltered accommodation for the elderly.

Years later on 30th July 1887 Emma, accompanied by her husband, my great grandfather John **Burgess**, was to undergo the distress of attending the coroner's inquest into the death of her son Arthur who had drowned in a pond, aged 16. The inquest took place in *The Wheelwright's Arms* in Goffs Oak, Cheshunt.

Such official events were often held in pubs, which were large well-known buildings in the community, when there were few civic buildings locally available.

The details of young Arthur Burgess's tragic death only 6 days earlier were discussed. His friend William **Goodchild** of Goffs Lane had called for him about 11 o'clock that Sunday morning, and they had gone with others to bathe in the Fish Pond at King's Bottom. (This was in Burnt Farm, near Goffs Oak. There is still such a farm marked on the O.S. map, but I'm not sure if it is now a working farm.) Witnesses claim that after about 5 minutes in the water, Arthur 'went down', but came up again, and they thought he was playing about. It was only when he went down for a third time and did not reappear that they realised he was drowning. They sent for assistance, but it was only after about 2 hours that the body was recovered. The witnesses were questioned by the jury about why they couldn't have joined hands to get to the deceased, but they replied that it would not have been possible as he was 'the other side of deep water'. The body was later examined by a doctor who was of the opinion that the death was as a result of drowning, with no sign of any fit or attack of cramp. The verdict was 'accidentally drowned while bathing'.

I believe that it was in Arthur's memory that my grandfather, his nearest brother, would years later call his only son Arthur.



*The Wheelwrights Arms in Goffs Oak*

*The Wheelwright's Arms*, built in 1809, is not now the same building as the modern pub, however; it 'moved' across the street to be rebuilt in the early 1970s and is now known simply as *The Wheelwrights*.

To turn to my Dad's side and to the northern end of Hertfordshire, his uncle and aunt, Herbert George **Bradford** (known as George) and his wife Ethel née **Wombwell**, were licensees of *The Black Horse* in Brent Pelham at least from 1926 to 1939. George had previously been a horse keeper on the Barclay estate, and indeed, he continued working there at least part time while Ethel and their eldest daughter Ivy ran the pub. I have heard that it also served as a bakery, where bread was sold to the villagers, much as many rural pubs nowadays diversify both to make ends meet and to serve the local community. George, my grandmother's younger brother, was poorly educated and from a very impoverished family, but through his hard work doing both jobs he somehow managed to accrue enough money to buy Rectory Farm in Meesden by the late 1930s.

The farm was run by George and Ethel's two bachelor sons Eric and Bill, with the help of the Women's Land Army during the war years, until Eric's death in 1990. The land was then sold off, but Bill continued to live in the farmhouse until he passed away in 2010. The farmhouse which dates from the early 19th



*Eric and Bill Bradford at Rectory Farm, Meesden*

century was built as a schoolhouse serving as such until 1875. It continues to be a dwelling.

*The Black Horse*, now a grade 2 listed building, has origins going back to the 17th century, and is still a thriving pub. It has an old window engraved probably by a past licensee by the name of Jane **Wright** in 1801, who left the inscription, 'Here I stand by day and night to sigh out cold and let in light'.

My Dad, who lived in Edmonton, recalled travelling to Brent Pelham via the Buntingford branch railway line with a friend in the early 1930s, when his cousin Ivy working behind the bar of *The Black Horse* plied them so liberally with drink that although they managed to catch the milk train home from Buntingford in the early hours, they were too inebriated to get off at the correct stop and ended up with a sobering walk of several miles. Such largesse by a barmaid on duty to her relatives would no doubt be strictly forbidden today.

These were the heady days when Buntingford had a railway station at the terminus of a branch line which was axed in 1964 as a result of Dr Beeching's infamous report. And milk trains had completely gone by 1981.



*The Black Horse in 2009*

We are very fortunate in Britain to have pubs as part of our national heritage, and it is clear that for centuries they have played a vital and varied role in our communities. How sad it is now to see so many being forced to close! Once they are gone, we will never get them back. The message is clear: go out at

once for a pub meal and a good few drinks at your local, and make a habit of it! We want the family historians of the future to have stories to tell about our beloved pubs too!

### Information Sources

Censuses 1851, 1871, 1881

Newspaper articles in *Hertford Mercury and Reformer*

Prison Register for Herford Gaol

Death certificates

Coroner's Inquest Records

Oral family history

Post Office Directories (lists of licensees)

Internet for general historical information

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### Postbag

Contact: The Editor

53 Hitchin Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 6AQ

Email: [editor@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@hertsfhs.org.uk)

### Thank you

I would like to show my appreciation for the excellent presentation given by Jon Mein on The 1830 Beer House Act. It was really interesting to discover the differences between an alehouse and a beer house plus the various social effects caused by The Beer House Act, particularly between 1830-1870. My 3 x Gt Grandfather, James **Ind** was a brewer in Baldock and an alehouse keeper in various Hertfordshire villages. His son Edward jointly owned the Ind Coope Brewery in Romford, which eventually became part of Allied Breweries. Other ancestors had been described as "beer house" keepers so it was an insight to now understand the differences that governed their occupations and their wealth! Thank you Jon for such an informative and entertaining afternoon.

*Marian Dixon*



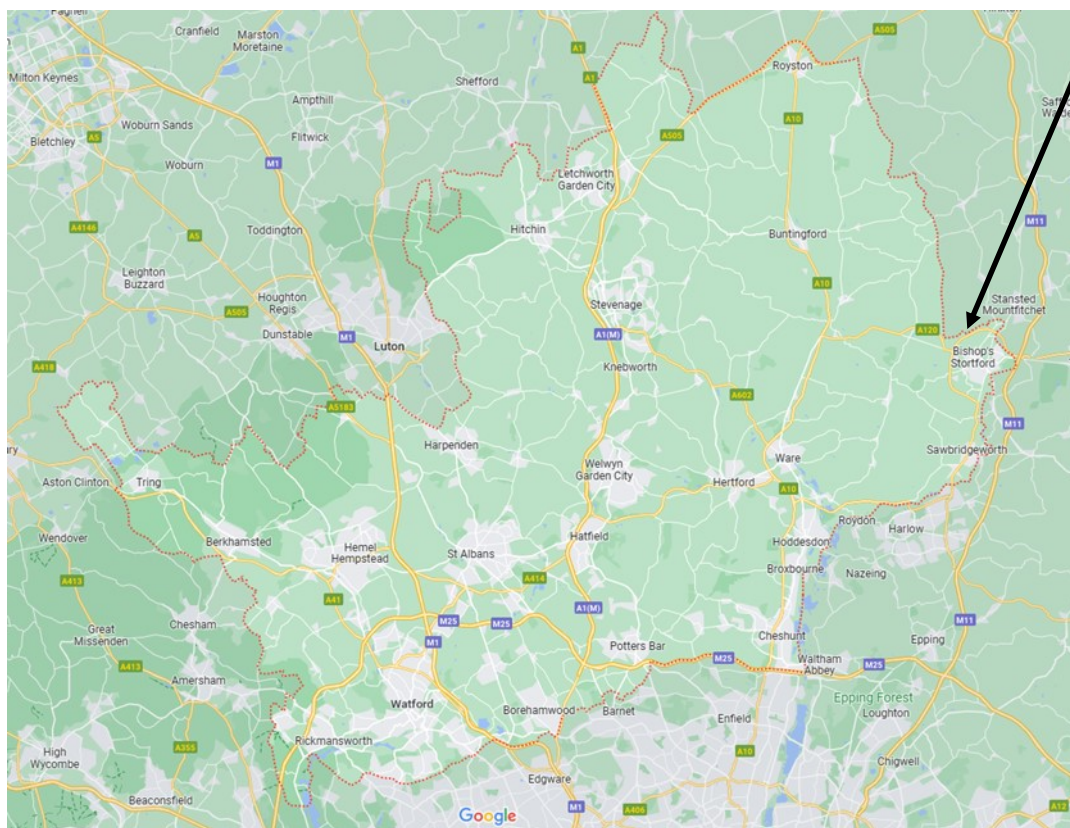


## *Queries from our Facebook Friends*

*“My family is from Bishop’s Stortford but I live in the US and always have wanted to find more information about them. What is the chances of finding more information on **Thomas Chandler born Oct 1500 died May 1554 in Bishop’s Stortford?**”*

This query highlights the importance of looking at the location of places on county maps.

Searching in Google Maps for Hertfordshire provides a current county boundary. Bishop’s Stortford is on the eastern edge and almost in Essex.



There are some Chandler wills in Herts Names Online<sup>1</sup> but not in the 16th century. A quick search in the Hertfordshire Archive<sup>2</sup> was swamped with entries to people with the occupation of chandler.

More successful was an advanced search in Essex Archives<sup>3</sup> for 'Thomas Chandler' 1500-1600 which produced 3 results including:

3 [D/ABR 1/7/2](#) [Registered copy of will of THOMAS CHANDLER of Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire](#) [1554](#)

Even if your ancestors are not living on the edge of Hertfordshire, it can be profitable to check in the records of the neighbouring counties.

## NOTES

1. [Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies | Hertfordshire County Council](#)
2. [Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies | Hertfordshire County Council](#)
3. <https://www.essexarchivesonline.co.uk/>



### Family History Research

Hertfordshire, London & Middlesex

All enquiries welcome

**Mrs Carolynn Boucher**

1 Ivinghoe Close, Chiltern Park

St Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 9JR

Tel: 01727 833664

[carolynn.boucher@virginmedia.com](mailto:carolynn.boucher@virginmedia.com)

## Social Media

Hertfordshire Family History Society is active on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.



[www.facebook.com/HertfordshireFamilyHistorySociety/](http://www.facebook.com/HertfordshireFamilyHistorySociety/)



@Herts\_FHS - Hertfordshire People

Do follow the accounts to keep in touch with the HFHS Talks programme, open to all, and posts relevant to local and family history with an emphasis on Hertfordshire.

You can post queries on Facebook too.

## Coronation Memories

With our memories fresh from the spectacle of the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, some members of Hertfordshire FHS have shared their memories of Coronations past.

**Eileen Martin** (HFHS 1849) writes....

‘Many people have said in the build up to King Charles III’s Coronation that a Coronation is a one in a lifetime event - I have lived through 3!

When I was a child, a small white dress, decorated with red, white and blue flowers, was tucked away in a drawer. I had worn this pretty garment as a 2 month old baby when I attended, in my pram, the 1937 Coronation festivities at St Pauls Walden. The highlight of this occasion was the arrival of David Bowes-Lyon, hot foot from Westminster Abbey where he had seen his sister Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (known locally as Lady Betty) crowned Queen Elizabeth, alongside her husband George VI. Of course, I have no personal memories of this and the little white dress is long gone, but I have my 1937 Coronation mug, given to me as I was a St Pauls Walden child.

Coronation No 2 was in 1953. By this time my family had been living on the Sandringham Estate for 16 years and the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II was very exciting. My father went by coach with other employees to watch the proceedings from the forecourt of Buckingham Palace on the great day. The rest of us went to the local Village Hall where we viewed it all on a large screen. I have a Coronation mug for 1953 because I was a Sandringham child.

Coronation No 3 in 2023. This time I watched it all from the comfort of my Bedfordshire home on the full colour TV. I remembered that our new King has Hertfordshire connections. This time I will have to buy my own Coronation mug!

**Julia Blackburn née Wells** (HFHS 3469) writes.....

I was 13 years old and at Secondary school in North London. All the children at school received a Coronation spoon, two medals and a book about the Coronation. It was very exciting.

My family didn't have a TV and so my parents and I went to visit my Aunt and Uncle in Luton, Bedfordshire, as they were the only people we knew with a TV. When we arrived at their house the street was decorated with flags and bunting. Nearly all the residents of Pembroke Avenue, Leagrave came in to watch the TV, there must have been 30 people plus us children in the small front room.



The TV was a small 9" square with a magnifying glass installed over the screen to enlarge the ceremony, of course it was black and white and the screen was a bit foggy, but it was still very stirring to watch and none of us had ever seen anything like it before.

After the ceremony and procession back to Buckingham Palace we went outside for the street party where everyone contributed to food, drinks, (even though there was still rationing on some foods) tables and chairs, etc even though it was raining. There were games for the children, dancing and music for the adults. It was a very happy time,

During the ceremony, it was announced on the TV that Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing had reached the summit of Mount Everest, for the first time, which was a special achievement on such memorable day.

All in all a very happy day, with many good memories, everyone enjoying the celebration, I'm looking forward to seeing King Charles' Coronation, I expect it will be different but enjoyable just the same.'

**John Cooper** (HFHS 043), aged 14 at the time, writes of the Harpenden celebrations, originally published in his 2007 book *A Harpenden Childhood Remembered: Growing Up in the 1940s & '50's*.

'As the Big Day of Tuesday 2 June 1953 dawned, the bells rang out from the parish church in Harpenden to proclaim the start of the new Elizabethan Age, and of the celebrations that were to follow, and what a varied programme there was too, with 'Fairyland' being the central theme.

Despite the miserable, cold weather and torrential showers of rain that unfortunately curtailed a lot of the outside activities, the organisers' swift changeover to the alternative programme ensured that many of the arrangements could still take place in the various halls. Throngs of happy people crowded into the Public Hall for the United Service of Thanksgiving, and to watch the live television broadcast of the Coronation on several strategically placed sets that enabled everybody to get a good view. Fortunately, my parents had managed to purchase the latest 9" Baird television set from Coutenay Davis in Station Road - black and white of course.

All seats in the Public Hall were taken, with many people standing at the back and around the sides. No sooner had the transmission finished and the hall had emptied, than a crown of excited children dressed in brightly coloured fancy dress costumes trooped in to enjoy all the fun of a large tea party. For those with a musical ear, one could sit and relax listening to the Light Operatic Society singing excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan in the Methodist Church Hall. There was something to appeal to everyone, from the young to the not-so-young. At the end of that day of pageantry and splendour that we had witnessed on our television sets, following the illumination of 'Fairyland' in the Village, a beacon was lit on the Common. What a spectacular end to the most exciting of days.

Over the next few evenings, there was an absolute feast of entertainment to suit the most discerning of tastes. Elizabethan sports were very popular, with Cornish wrestling, comic bear-baiting, sword play, archery and hurling to name a few. For those who enjoyed dancing, a glittering Coronation Ball was held in the Public Hall on the Friday, with the highlight of the evening being the arrival of the Fairy Queen in her coach.



As the sun came out on that Saturday morning, so did the crowds in their hundreds to enjoy over thirteen hours of non-stop entertainment. The day started with a carnival procession of decorated trade vehicles and private cars which formed up outside the Regent Cinema in Leyton Road and stretched back to Silver Cup Pond on the Common. Lorries and cars were laden with ingenious and artistic decorations of all descriptions, one even bearing a model of the Mall complete with the Coronation coach on which many hours of painstaking work had obviously been lavished.

The Band of HM Life Guards, making a welcome return to Harpenden following their appearance at the Festival of Britain celebrations two years earlier, led the procession round the Village to the cheers and applause of the happy crowds. The presentation of awards was later given to the lucky and well-deserved winners on the Common. During the afternoon, which had now turned warm and sunny, there were various races along the High Street as the Life Guards played selections on the forecourt of the George Hotel. Suddenly on the Common, Queen Boadicea came charging up in her chariot leading a party of Ancient Britons into a pitched battle with a unit of well-trained Roman soldiers. The outcome wasn't all that clear, but at least the participants seemed to enjoy themselves, with the cheering crowd giving enthusiastic encouragement to their chosen side.

As the revelry continued into the evening, there was square dancing and country dancing through the Village and on the Common, and performances of Shakespeare and Gilbert and Sullivan. The finale to this glittering week of festivities was a procession of decorated and illuminated cars along the High Street that was followed by a grand firework display on the Common. It was absolutely fantastic, a fitting end to a brilliant week of celebrations.

Have you seen any new books with a Hertfordshire theme or content? Would you like to write a review for inclusion in a future edition of *Hertfordshire People*?

I am always happy to receive notices of forthcoming publications and information on new books or online sources on all aspects of Hertfordshire history and topography.

*Editor.*

## What's new at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies?

By Sheila White

### Events at HALS

**Getting started at HALS:** a free tour/workshop where you will be shown how to access HALS' collections using indexes and catalogues. Find out to handle material in a variety of formats. **Booking essential:** online or see contact details below.

Thursday 15 June 2023, 11:00am for one hour

Tuesday 11 July 2023, 14:00pm for one hour

Thursday 10 August 2023, 11:00am for one hour

Tuesday 12 September 2023, 11:00am for one hour

### Family history one-to-one advice

Are you stuck with your family history? Book a session with an expert for some one-to-one advice. You can have the session over the phone, online (via MS Teams) or in person at HALS (cost £14). See contact details below.

### Images of Hertfordshire places

Volunteers have been busy producing descriptions of the 20,000 images of Hertfordshire places held in the Local Studies Library. Use 'Hertfordshire Names Online' to search the online catalogue (document type 'photographs').

### Recently deposited at HALS

A large collection of postcards, mainly of Watford and surrounding areas (Acc 6473) and a collection containing 17th century deeds for Ashwell (Acc 6493).

## Contact details for HALS

### **Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS)**

Register Office Block, CHR 002, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford  
SG13 8EJ

**Tel:** 0300 123 4049 (as for Local Studies)

**Email:** [hals.enquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hals.enquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hals](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hals)

You can also follow HALS on **Twitter** @HertsArchives

## HALS opening hours

**Monday** Closed

**Tuesday** 9am – 5.00pm

First Tuesday evening of the month only, 5pm -7:30pm, and only by appointment

**Wednesday** 9am – 5.00pm

**Thursday** 9am – 5.00pm

**Friday** 9am – 12.30pm

**Saturday** 10am – 2pm

First and third Saturdays of the month only and only by appointment

**Sunday** Closed

## Useful links

**[www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)** Hertfordshire parish registers, school logbooks, historic newspapers & the 1939 National Register searchable online (subscription site, normally free to use at HALS and Hertfordshire libraries)

**[www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk)** Hertfordshire tithe maps and apportionments searchable online (subscription site)

**[www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk)** the story of the workhouse with information about workhouses in Hertfordshire and across the country

**[www.hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk](http://www.hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk)** Genealogy in Hertfordshire

**www.hertsmemories.org.uk** history, memories and photos of Hertfordshire

**www.halh.org.uk** Hertfordshire Association for Local History, with links to local history societies' websites. Details of free online local history talks can be found on the home page.

**www.hertspastpolicing.org.uk** Herts Past Policing: crime and policing in Hertfordshire through the ages

**www.hertsatwar.co.uk** Community led project to commemorate the diverse experiences of Hertfordshire during WW1

**www.prisonhistory.org** Database of prisons, prison records and lock-ups in England, searchable by county

**maps.nls.uk/os** Historic Ordnance Survey maps, including of Hertfordshire, at the National Library of Scotland

**www.nationalarchives.gov.uk** The National Archives (TNA)

The National Archives at Kew re-opened on 27 April by appointment only; more on their website. Downloadable files are still being available at no charge (usually £3.50). These include PCC wills, navy and marine records, New Poor Law correspondence (Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union only for Herts) and title deeds.

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### Can you help?

I am a PhD student researching the interwar peace movement and conscientious objection in World War Two.

I am keen to find written interviews, oral recordings, memoirs and letters relating to pacifists and COs.

*Phil Lines*

*phillines53@gmail.com*



## Research Queries

Are you stuck? Don't forget you can still call on the help of fellow members.

Send your research questions to: The Editor, 53 Hitchin Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 6AQ. editor@hertsfhs.org.uk

### Lampkin of Royston

Just recently I have been transcribing a Will, possibly connected to one of my Cambridgeshire families, but, it also mentions two Hertfordshire residents.

It is with the latter that I would appreciate any help that can be offered as I have failed to find any information on Find my Past, Ancestry, Family Search or the Hertfordshire Archives online. There are two documents in the National Archives that might be useful for some others mentioned and John himself but not the Hertfordshire people.

The Will was made in 1605 by John **Gale**, a yeoman of Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire. Among family

members and other beneficiaries is a Mistress **Thornbury**, wife of Edward and mother of Henry to whom he leaves £20 and makes her one of his executors. I believe her to be a relative (sister?) of Sir Robert **Chester** who is also mentioned. They were wealthy enough to have servants Jane **Payne** and William **Langley** and a 'waiting gentlewoman' Dorothy [**Nase?**].

Coming to Hertfordshire, John left £10 to Mary **Lampkin**, widow, of Royston and 20 shillings to each of her servants, Elizabeth **Ward**, Judith and Myles, and to Mary **Lindsell** (dwelling with her). Another beneficiary was William [**Kesan?**] of Barkway.

I am hoping that someone wealthy enough to have 3 or 4 servants will have left some record somewhere, if only to whet my curiosity as to how a yeoman in Cambridgeshire was acquainted with them.

Would any member be able to help?

*Jill Williams (HFHS 4153)*  
*williamsrandjfar@gmail.com*

## Pennyfather

I am researching the **Pennyfather** family lines in a one name study.

Living in Hertfordshire for most of my life I have been aware of the Knebworth Pennyfather brothers who were I believe both plasterers. Sadly it was some while after their deaths I started following their branch of the name. I would welcome any comments and stories members may have of them as it turns out we are related although some way back.

*Dennis Pennyfather (HFHS 3610)*  
*pennyfather54@gmail.com*

## Will beneficiaries

Just recently I have been transcribing a Will, possibly connected to one of my Cambridgeshire families, but, it also mentions two Hertfordshire residents. It is with the latter that I would appreciate any help that can be offered as I have failed to find any information on Find my Past, Ancestry, Family Search or the Hertfordshire Archives online. There are two documents in the National Archives that might be useful for some others mentioned and John himself but not the Hertfordshire people.

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Would any member be able to help?

*Jill Williams (4153)*



## Society Talks

### Reports on main meetings

#### March 2023

#### **The Beerhouse Act 1830** presented by Jon Mein.

Our knowledgeable speaker focussed on the effects of the Beerhouse Act of 1830 in the town of St Albans and the more rural parish of Wheathampstead. The Act was bizarre in the fact that it encouraged people to drink beer!

An Alehouse sold beer, wine and spirits, in other words a 'Pub' and had to obtain a licence from the Magistrate. Licences for Beerhouses, which only sold beer, could be obtained from the Excise Office. Beerhouses had restricted hoursm they had to close by 10pm, compared with Alehouses, so the alehouse could be more profitable. The table below shows the rise an fall in the number of establishments in St Albans and Wheathampstead between 1830 and 1915.

Date	St Albans	Wheathampstead
1830	41	6
1841	80	20
1870	89	27
1915	64	21

Politicians were concerned that a new 'gin age' was nigh so laws such as the Beerhouse Act were passed to encourage the consumption of beer instead of spirits. By 1830 breweries and brewery families controlled many pubs which could only sell the brewery beer. The introduction of beerhouses, which usually brewed and sold their own beer, changed everything. The beer trade was no longer controlled by the Magistrates and the brewery families.

In 1830 in Wheathampsted there were 6 pubs, roughly one pub per 270 people, but by 1870 there were 10 Alehouses and 16 Beerhouses including those in Gustard Wood (*The Plough* and *The Royal Exchange*) and Nomansland (*The Wicked Lady*). St Albans, being a larger town, had many more alehouses, beerhouses and taps, from the medieval inns to the purpose built beerhouses, such as *The Plough* in Verulam Road.

For the researcher Trades Directories are invaluable. They differentiate between beerhouses and alehouses and therefore the beer retailer and alehouse keeper which can also be seen in census returns in the mid nineteenth century.

In Hertfordshire there were opportunities for 'new brewers' in the late eighteenth century. In St Albans the Searancke, Wildbore, Kinder and Varney families set up in the brewing trade, as did the Searancke's in Hatfield, the Wilkins' in Wheathampstead and the Kingston's in Harpenden. By 1870 there were many more. Archer's in Whitwell, Kingsley's in Kimpton, Cass in Welwyn, Pryor Reid in Hatfield, Curtis and Kingston in Harpenden and Parsons, Kent, Harvey & Searancke, Adey & White in St Albans and Lattimore in Wheathampstead.

Our speaker highlighted the career of William Hardy (c.1833-1880), a working class man from St Albans who opened a beerhouse in Stockwell Lane in the late 1850's despite there being 8 alehouses within a few yards. His story was told by using local newspaper reports of court cases and his efforts to convert his beerhouse into an alehouse. In 1869 came the Ale and Beerhouse Act whereby Magistrates now had control of ale and beerhouse licencing and Mr Hardy's licence was revoked by the Magistrates.

By the late 1800s the Temperance movement was taking off and there were many social improvements implemented. Slum housing was demolished and the occupants rehoused, education for all children and improved medical care together with the introduction of different types of venues, such as off licences and clubs where alcohol could be consumed or purchased, as well as more 'entertainment' venues such as football clubs and parks changed towns and villages.

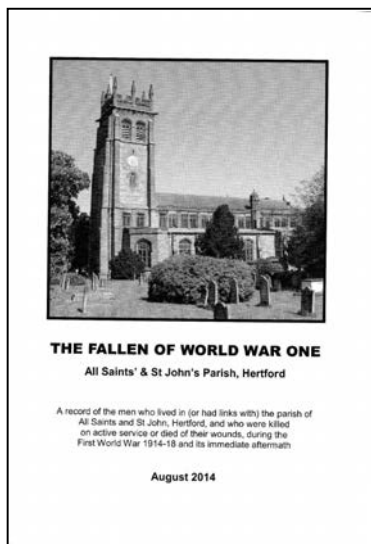
Publicans found that people were drinking in places other than the pubs, there was pressure from the magistrates regarding longer opening hours and gambling the premises. The brewers were also concerned. The pub trade was in decline with pressure from the Temperance movement, magistrates and the brewers themselves. It was evident that there were too many pubs and beerhouses and this could not be sustained with a huge turnover in tenants of pubs, for example, between 1830 and 1914, the White Hart in St Albans, an inn, had 49 different tenants closely followed by the White Swan, an alehouse, with 43. Some pubs diversified and provided beds, or were

used specifically by sporting clubs. It was plain that there were too many pubs so many were not profitable, hence the turnover of tenancies. In late 1914 over 30 pubs and beerhouses in St Albans were closed overnight with compensation paid to the publican and the brewer. Analysis of Trades Directories in the early twentieth century revealed that many beerhouse keepers also had another job.

From 1830 to the early twentieth century there is a clear rise and fall pattern in the numbers of alehouses and beerhouses in the St Albans / Wheathampstead area of the county. There were several large breweries in the county which by the early twentieth century had bought up the smaller ones.

There are many sources, online and in archives, that can highlight the ownership of pubs and their licensees. Newspaper archives, Petty Sessions, Census Returns, Trades Directories and Rate Assessments can all be useful for the researcher. For example, Herts Names Online, includes licensees in the Miscellaneous Names section.

### ***Other books of note.....***



Ridell, Jean *et al* *The Fallen of World War One - All Saints' & St John's Parish, Hertford: A record of all the men who lived in (or had links with) the parish of All Saints and St John, Hertford, and who were killed on active service or died of their wounds, during the First World War 1914-1918 and its immediate aftermath.* August 2014.

Arranged alphabetically in 4 sections: Part 1—The Memorial Chapel at All Saints, Part 2—The Family Memorials in the churchyard at All Saints, Part 3—Other War Casualties of All Saints and St John's and Part 4—The Zeppelin Raid on Hertford, 13 October 1915.

A useful pamphlet, nicely illustrated, for anyone with Hertford connections.

## A Hertfordshire Heraldic Miscellany

By John J. Tunesi of Liongam, MSc, FSA Scot, Hon FHS, QG

### 62) The Funeral Hatchment of William Hale, of King's Walden, Co. Hertfordshire.

This hatchment commemorates the death of William **Hale** and is found in the Parish Church of St Mary, King's Walden. William (born 5th June 1782 died 21st February 1852), was the elder son of William Hale, of King's Walden aforesaid and his wife, The Honourable Mary **Grimston**, the second daughter of James Grimston, the 2nd Viscount Grimston and his wife, Mary **Bucknall**.

William (the younger) married firstly, Elizabeth **Leeson** (born 1797 died 11th April 1823) at Codicote on the 1st February 1815. She was the only daughter of The Honourable William Leeson, of The Node, near Codicote and his wife, Mary **Buchanan**. Here it should be noted that Elizabeth's father, William Leeson was the eldest son of Joseph Leeson, the 1st Earl of Milltown (in the Peerage of Ireland) and his third wife, Elizabeth **French**.

He married secondly, Charlotte **Sullivan** (born 4th November 1787 died 28th March 1873) at the Parish Church of St George, Hanover

Square, Westminster in the County of Middlesex on the 28th December 1824. She was the second surviving daughter of Sir Richard Joseph Sullivan, the 1st Baronet of Thames Ditton in the County of Surrey and his wife, Mary **Lodge**.

William's hatchment is unusual in that it displays the arms of both his wives, Elizabeth and Charlotte.



© Robin Clayton

The Arms may be blazoned as follows:

Dexter: *Azure a chevron embattled counter embattled or (for Hale)*

Sinister: (in chief) *Argent on a cross sable nine gouttes or (for Leeson)*  
(in base) *Per fess or and the base per pale dexter vert and sinister per pale argent and sable in chief a dexter hand couped at the wrist and gloved holding a rod entwined with a serpent proper between two lions rampant respectant gules in dexter base a buck trippant or and in sinister base a boar passant counterchanged (for Sullivan)*

Crest: *A snake proper entwined round five arrows or headed sable feathered argent one in pale and four in saltire all points downward.*

Motto: *Resurgam* [I will rise again]

As will be seen both the background of the arms of Hale and Leeson fall upon a black background showing that both William and his first wife, Elizabeth are deceased, whilst the background of the arms of Sullivan that falls upon a white background show that his second wife, Charlotte was living at the time of his death in 1852. She eventually died on the 28th March 1873.

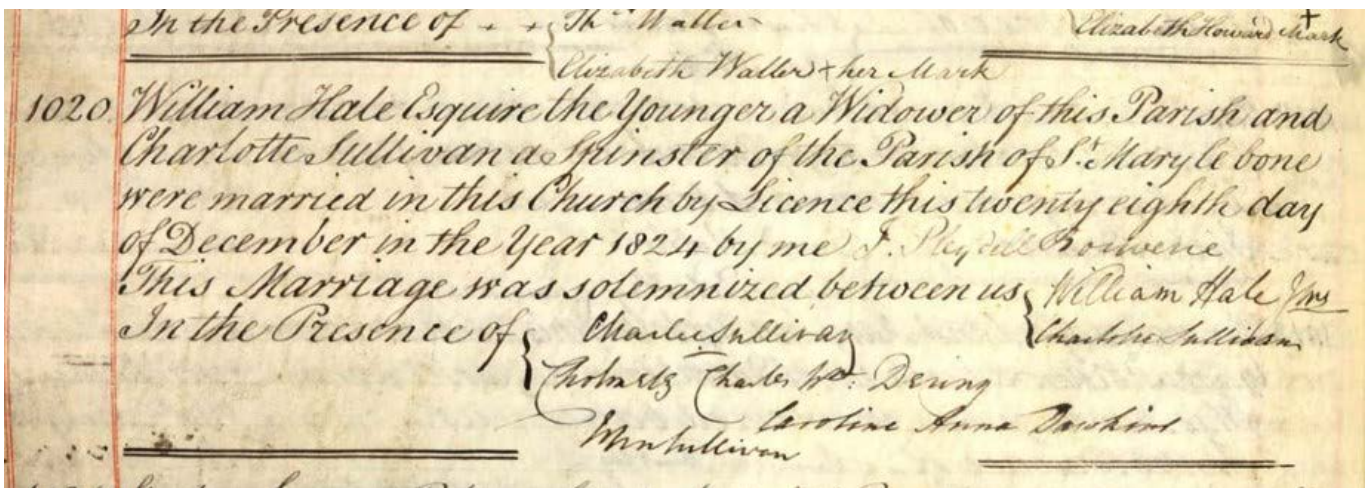
Another point to note is that the Hale family motto '*Deo et regi fidelis*' [Faithfull to God and the King], is not employed here, but instead the general funereal epithet '*Resurgam*' is used which is understood to infer that the deceased had faith that he/she would see glory in another place, i.e., being resurrected in heaven. Also, the arms of Leeson as depicted upon William's hatchment are not those at first glance borne generally by the Leesons, Earls of Milltown, viz: '*Gules a chief argent on the lower part a cloud the rays of the sun issuing therefrom proper*'. Now the arms of Leeson as depicted upon William's hatchment, viz: '*Argent on a cross sable nine gouttes or*' appear to pertain to the Leeson family who resided in the County of Northamptonshire.

Here the heraldic mystery would appear to thicken, but, an examination of the pedigree of the Leeson family as recorded in the Heralds' Visitation of the County of Northamptonshire that took place in 1564, the answer is found therein. This visitation recorded the following arms for the family of Leeson, of Soulgrave (Sulgrave) who descended from Robert Leeson, of Whitfield as '*Quarterly 1st and 4th Gules a chief argent on the lower part a cloud the*



rays of the sun issuing therefrom proper and 2nd and 3rd Argent on a cross sable nine gouttes or' of which their number, Hugh Leeson was later engaged in military service in Ireland after which he settled there during the reign of King Charles I. Hugh was the ancestor of the Earls of Milltown who were created as such in 1763. So, it appears that the second quarter (*Argent on a cross sable nine gouttes or*) of the arms of Leeson was used in preference to that of the first quarter (*Gules a chief argent on the lower part a cloud the rays of the sun issuing therefrom proper*) when William's hatchment was painted.

William descended from Richard Hale who purchased the estate of King's Walden during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.



*The Marriage Entry of William Hale and Charlotte Sullivan in the Register of the Parish Church of St George, Hanover Square, Westminster, Co. Middlesex 28th December 1824.*



*King's Walden Bury. The Seat of the Hale Family.*



## Members Interests

Please note the changed manner in which the Society lists members' interests. This is to comply with the general data protection rules (GDPR) in force after the 25th May 2018 whereby personal details of all members remain secure.

If interested in any of the names listed here, advise the Registrar who will liaise with the submitter so that contact may be made. Quote the full line of the submitted interest. The contact addresses are listed below. Apart from the new listings in *Hertfordshire People*, a free search facility is available to members only on family names that they may be researching using our members' interests database. This database is kept up to date at all times. Email correspondence is preferred but, if communicating by post, enclose a sae.

For all enquiries, the Registrar will liaise with the submitter so that contact may be made. The contact points are:

By post: The Registrar, 134 Beechwood Avenue, St. Albans, AL1 4XY  
By email: registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk

Name	Period	Parish	County	M/No
Andrew	-1810	Bushey, Elstree, Rickmansworth, St Albans, Watford	Hrt	4617
	Variants: Andrews			
Andrew	1810-1830	Abbots Langley, St Stephens, Watford	Hrt	4617
	Variants: Andrews			
Ansell	17c	Hitchin	Hrt	4613
Arnold	1722-1893	Colney Heath, St Albans	Hrt	4619
Atkins	1793-2001	Abbots Langley, Watford	Hrt	4628
Bateman	1100-18	Any	Any	4622
Brown	1800-1900	Ashwell, Great Offley, Hitchin	Hrt	4603
Carter	1849-1979	Rickmansworth	Hrt	4628
Clayton	Any	St Albans	Hrt	4555
Denniss	1850-1950	Hitchin	Hrt	4603
Edwards	18c	Aspenden	Hrt	4627
Galer	16c	Braughing	Hrt	4613
	Variants: Gailer, Gaylor			
Galer	17c	Braughing, Hatfield	Hrt	4613
	Variants: Gailer			
Galer	18-19c	St Albans, St Pauls Walden	Hrt	4613
	Variants: Gailer			

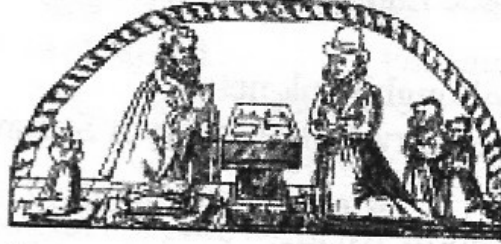
Galer	18c	Hatfield, St Pauls Walden	Hrt	4613
	Variants: Gailer			
Gazeley	+17c	Redbourn, St Albans	Hrt	4615
Hilsden	1780-1850	Hitchin	Hrt	4603
Horrod	1722-1893	Colney Heath, St Albans	Hrt	4619
Howard	1722-1893	Colney Heath, St Albans	Hrt	4619
Lewin	18c	Abbots Langley, Bovingdon, Kings Langley	Hrt	4617
O'Shea	1850-1835	Watford	Hrt	4628
Reynolds	1722-1893	Colney Heath, St Albans	Hrt	4619
Sanders	1750-1850	Hitchin	Hrt	4603
Shotbolt	17c	Braughing	Hrt	4613
Smith	18c	Abbots Langley, Hemel Hempstead, Kings Langley, St Michael, St Stephen	Hrt	4617
Tomlin	1722-1893	Colney Heath, St Albans	Hrt	4619
Warren	Any	Cheshunt, Hatfield, Hoddesdon, Little Berkhamstead	Hrt	4621
Waterton	1700-1860	Berkhamsted	Hrt	4629
Worboy	1530-1880	Hitchin, Weston	Hrt	4629
	Variants: Warby			

## New Members

Number	Name	County / Country
4610	Ms Sandra Dear-Bailie	Wisconsin, U.S.A.
4611	Mr. John Hearn	Wiltshire
4612	Ms Jill Nick	Ohio, U.S.A.
4613	Mr. Ian Galer	West Midlands
4614	Mrs. Janet Culley	Cumberland
4615	Ms Alison Debenham	Hertfordshire
4616	Ms Louise Cole	Hertfordshire
4617	Mr. Robert Wilkinson	Hertfordshire
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4626	Miss Stephanie Boulton	Hertfordshire
4627	Mrs. Carole Ayres	Surrey

# Hertfordshire Family History Society

Member of the Federation of Family History Societies



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**Mrs Janet Sutton**

All Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary

e-mail: [secretary@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hertsfhs.org.uk)

Information is also available on the Society's website: [www.hertsfhs.org.uk](http://www.hertsfhs.org.uk)

## Hertfordshire Family History Society

(Established 1977)

### **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES: *note two rates i.e. Printed / digital PDF***

UK individual - £13/£9; UK Family - £14/£10; Overseas (airmail) - £16/£10;

UK Families receive one journal per household. Subscriptions only accepted in **Sterling**.

Overseas members may pay by credit card online using the website [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk).

Subscriptions run from 1 March to 28 February each year. **Subscriptions by post are payable to 'Hertfordshire Family History Society' and sent to The Membership Secretary, 50 Chelwood Avenue, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL10.** All correspondence by post regarding membership of the Society should be addressed to the **Membership Secretary**. Otherwise, email all queries and changes of personal details to the Registrar at [registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk).

**SOCIETY PROJECTS** : Projects are ongoing and volunteers for transcribing, checking etc are always welcome. If you would like to know more, contact the **Projects Co-ordinator: Mr John Pearson - [johnwelburn@talktalk.net](mailto:johnwelburn@talktalk.net)**

**PUBLICATIONS:** A full list of Society publications is issued with the September journal each year, and is always available on our website: [www.hertsfhs.org.uk](http://www.hertsfhs.org.uk). For a booklist, you can also contact the Secretary at any time. You can buy Society publications online using a secure credit card facility at [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk)

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**MEMBERS' INTERESTS:** Apart from the new listings in each issue of *Hertfordshire People*, a free search facility is available, to members only, on family names that they may be researching, from our database of Members Interests. The names searched for will be completely up to date with the membership details held. Email correspondence preferred, but if by post enclose a s.a.e. For all enquiries, the Registrar will liaise with the submitter so that contact may be made. The points of contact are as follows:

By email: [registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk)

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**EXCHANGE JOURNALS:** The Society exchanges journals with other family history societies in the UK and overseas. Digital journals are uploaded to our Members Area, hard copies can be loaned to members at a main meeting by arrangement.

**JOURNAL DISTRIBUTION:** if there is any problem with the delivery of your copy of *Hertfordshire People*, please contact - [registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk)

**UNWANTED GRO CERTIFICATES:** Can be donated to the Society, making them available to other members. **MEMBERS' FAMILY TREES** or family histories are also welcome additions to the library. Please make clear what surname they relate to, what location in Hertfordshire the family comes from, and keep them compact! Contact the Secretary.

**OTHER MEMBERS WITH SOCIETY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

*Reference Box:* Would you like to take responsibility for bringing our reference books to meetings? If so, please contact the Secretary.

**HOUSE GROUPS:** At present, one House Group is active.

*Hoddesdon Area Group* – Organiser: Mrs Janet Pearson - [johnandjanet@ntlworld.com](mailto:johnandjanet@ntlworld.com)  
Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the Methodist Church Hall, Middlefield Road, Hoddesdon. 2 - 4pm. New members welcome.

The Society would be pleased to help set up further House Groups – contact the Secretary if you would like to help to start one near where you live.

**HFHS SEARCH SERVICES**

Our Society is always looking for ways to help members with their research. We use income from our search services to provide further research material and in this way we hope to expand our services in the future.

*The Hertfordshire Burial Index 1800-1851*

Please request searches through 'Genfair' at [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk).

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# Hertfordshire Family History Society

## Meetings Programme 2023

By Zoom (and at Woolmer Green, for those who wish to view the Zoom lecture, 1.00 to 4.00 pm).

Speaker 2.30pm (UK time)

Please check our website News & Events page and our social media platforms for the latest changes to the programme.

- Jun 24**      **"Between Heaven & Earth"** (About my grandad's emigration to Canada aged 23 and his adventures) Robert Nurde
- Jul 29**      **Land Girls, Brocket Babies and Beyond** — How women maintained the home front in Herts. in WW2 Janice Brooker from HALS
- Aug**            **NO MEETING**
- Sep 30**      **The impact of the Great War reflected in the 1921 census** — Widows, orphans, disabled and blinded former soldiers, changed names, unemployment ... the social impacts of the Great War were huge and long-lasting. Paul Nixon
- Oct 28**      **The Maltings Industry in Hertfordshire** — Until the 1980's the making of malt was the most important economic activity in Herts and was the reason for the navigation of the rivers Lee and Stort and adjacent railway from the 1840s. Helen Gibson

*Website: [www.hertsfhs.org.uk](http://www.hertsfhs.org.uk)*

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