

# ORIGINS

WINTER 2020



## *Included In This Issue*

- Jane Eggleton (Alan Dell Award runner up)
- Constance Humphreys' Brill Memories
  - Howletts of Chinnor

# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity 290335

Box 2 c/o Unit 7 Broadfields, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8BU

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

Email: [society@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:society@bucksfhs.org.uk) (General Enquiries)

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*The affairs of the Society are governed by a Constitution, copies of which are available from the Secretary or Chairman*

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FHS MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES for the year commencing 1st January 2021

UK Individual	£10.00	Overseas	£14.00
UK Family	£12.00	Individual Online	£6.00
UK Corporate	£14.00		

Go to our website and join online  
Or email [membership@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@bucksfhs.org.uk) for how to pay by standing order

**MAGAZINE OF THE  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

Winter 2020 Vol. 44 No. 3

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# From the Editor

As the current pandemic continues, it's inevitable that readers will notice changes in the content offered in these pages. The lack of Society events in particular means that the content provided by the talks reports is missing, and naturally the schedule of upcoming talks is restricted to online talks for the time being. (These have however proved very successful and it is worth joining them.)

The good news is that many members rallied to my call for content and it's pleasing to have so many articles to fill this edition. Thank you to you all.

I am relying heavily on your submitted content so please do take the opportunity to write up a piece explaining your brick wall, make a help wanted request, and share any interesting photos, recommended resources or websites. *Origins* is sent to each member of the Society so remains our most wide-reaching form of communication and even more so while our social events are on hold.

There is still enough time to submit an entry for the Alan Dell Award, with a chance to win £50 first prize and £25 runner up. The deadline is 31st December.

Stay safe and keep well. Having such an engrossing hobby feels especially important at the moment!

Rebecca Gurney  
editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

## Origins Submissions Deadlines

March 2021 (Spring) issue – 4th January 2021

July 2021 (Summer) issue – 4th May 2021

December 2021 (Winter) issue – 4th October 2021

*Submissions received after the deadline must be held over for the next issue*

# A Note From the Secretary

In October the Executive Committee started trying to sort out what will happen in 2021. One of the problems is following restrictions that appear at short notice when making long-term plans for events like Open Day and the AGM. Dave Foster continues to manage the successful online talks which will continue in 2021.

We are also considering another set of talks or discussions online on a more informal basis with viewer participation. Hopefully these will provide useful information about Buckinghamshire research.

As these ideas come to fruition, articles will appear on our website and through email. If you have not been receiving newsletter emails please contact [membership@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@bucksfhs.org.uk) to ensure your records are up to date.

For many years *Origins* has been the main method of communication to our members about meetings, but we cannot set up an annual programme as the situation could change quickly. I'm sure *Origins* will continue to be an interesting read with more articles from you, our members.

Regular meetings of the Executive continue via Zoom, and will probably continue online after the pandemic. I hope this removes one of the impediments to people coming forward to join the Executive Committee and support Bucks FHS. Please contact me if you are interested.

Tony Sargeant  
Honorary Secretary  
[secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk)

Please send your contributions and comments to the Editor, who reserves the right to edit all contributions.

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# Society Notices

**\*\* POSITIONS VACANT \*\***

**CHAIRMAN**

**PUBLICITY OFFICER**

**OPEN DAY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**All Society activities are run by volunteers**

**We need your help  
to host and publicise our annual Open Day**

If you would like more details about these roles, please email:  
[secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk)

## Stand Manager and Co-ordinator

We are looking for a volunteer to manage our fairs stand and co-ordinate appearances at Family History events.

This involves travel with the stall to places outside Bucks.

Being within easy reach of our store in Aylesbury is an advantage.

Also involves organising helpers as required.

For more details contact [secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk)

# Website Resources and Appeal To Members

During the past few months, while the coronavirus emergency has disrupted all of our normal face-to-face activities, your Executive Committee, members of regional group committees and other Society volunteers have all been working hard to provide members with the means to keep in touch with the Society, and to cater to your family history interests. Online talks via Zoom have been launched, and a diary of upcoming live events is being published regularly on the Society's website.

There has also been a great expansion of website resources. If you haven't visited the website lately, do so now and explore what is available. More is being added all the time, and is available only to members. (You will, of course, need to register as a member in order to access the Members website area.)

We are continuing the process of uploading **will extracts**, **wills** and **inventories** online – these resources now total 350 articles. Transcribed **monumental inscriptions** are also being added. The **Bucks Names** papers – material submitted by researchers – have reached over 150 documents with many more still to add.

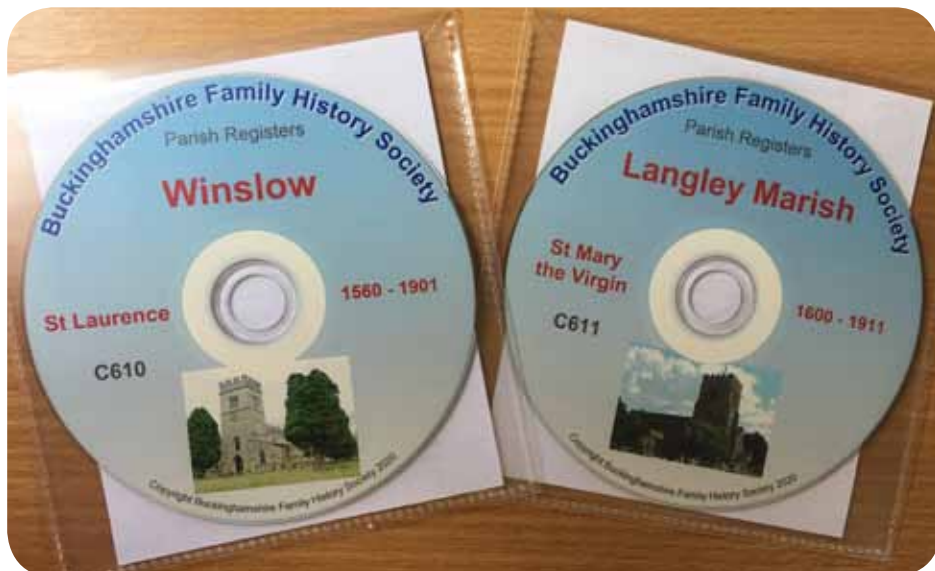
Our **parish resources** cover the whole county and include Winslow Workhouse records. Additionally there are many snippets of information including **alternative names**, and **small places** that tend to be overlooked, together with scans of out-of-copyright **books** on Buckinghamshire topics.

Much more could be done with more hands to do it. If you feel you could offer your services by joining the Society's Executive Committee, or help in any other way, please get in touch: [executive.committee@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:executive.committee@bucksfhs.org.uk)

Finally, as it's now more important than ever that we can keep in contact with you, do we have your **current email address**? Email addresses often change, and we are all apt to struggle to remember who might wish to contact us. Please confirm that we have yours by sending an email to the Membership Secretary, Steve Powell: [membership@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@bucksfhs.org.uk)

# PARISH REGISTERS NOW ON SALE

Our latest Parish Register transcriptions are now available to purchase.



## **St Laurence, Winslow, 1560–1901**

CD Ref C610: £14.00 (excluding post and packing)

A5 Printed Ref: There is not a booklet version of this parish.

## **St Mary the Virgin, Langley Marish, 1600–1911**

CD Ref C611: £14.00 (excluding post and packing)

A5 Printed Ref: There is not a booklet version of this parish.

**PLEASE NOTE: the cost of post and packing will be added to your order at checkout.**

For the fastest service, for delivery within the UK and overseas, please visit our online shop at:

**<https://shop.bucksfhs.org.uk>**



However, if you wish send us an order by post, for delivery within the UK, then please add £1 to the price above which will cover the cost of post and packing.

If you wish to have the items posted overseas please email the relevant publications manager for the current prices:

printed.publications@bucksfhs.org.uk

or

cd.publications@bucksfhs.org.uk

Cheques should be made payable to 'Buckinghamshire Family History Society' and drawn on a UK clearing bank. Send the order to:

Buckinghamshire FHS Publications

Box 2, c/o Ace Storage

Unit 7 Broadfields

Aylesbury, Bucks

HP19 8BU

(Please allow 28 days for order processing by this method.)

# OPEN DAY 2021

The Bucks FHS Open Day Committee is looking for additional volunteers to help with planning and preparing for the ever-popular annual Bucks FHS Open Day due to be held in late July 2021.

A lack of committee members may prevent the event happening in 2021 (assuming Covid-19 restrictions do not interfere again).

We specifically require help with publicity, but would welcome help in other areas as required. We need at least 2 extra people to help out.

Should you require more information please email

tony.coyne@bucksfhs.org.uk

## **Snippets from the Registers**

*Buckingham Advertiser and Free Press, 16 May 1896*

### **From the Whaddon Parish Register**

1749 Wm SCOT of Nash, run over by a cart, Buried March 24

1765 William (son of Somebody), a traveller, Buried July 21

1775, Daniel BENT, a very excellent clerk, Buried October 31

1776 Matthew SHOWLER base born so of Elizabeth MORRIS of Nash, an ugly woman past 40. Baptised May 26

1809 Elizabeth BOSWELL, a Traveller from Edlesborough Bucks, Buried Decr 21

## **Bucks in 100 Objects**

Buckinghamshire Culture has created an online campaign in response to Covid-19 that feeds into a larger project idea to develop the story of Bucks in 100 Objects. Eventually, we want to create an exhibition, publication, county trails and a website sharing the wonderful objects and heritage that can be found across Bucks, but for now we want to use this idea to develop connection, a sense of community and local pride. We have asked a handful of proud Buckinghamshire residents to nominate objects they would like to see included in the final 100 and will be sharing these via social media, inviting further nominations and discussion.

Eventually, we hope to hold a public vote to help decide the final 100 objects. Follow the conversation on Twitter #Bucks100

<https://buckinghamshireculture.wordpress.com/bucks-in-100-objects/>

# Society Meetings

## ONLINE TALKS

At present, the Society is running a series of free online talks to replace the cancelled meetings. This means we can continue to provide a key benefit to our members, as well as extending it to members who live away from Buckinghamshire.

- Friday 27th November at 20:30 – Pinpointing the origins of a surname with John Titterton. Looking at surname origins and distribution and explaining how a surname origin can be pinpointed statistically.
- Friday 18th December – Christmas Family History Quiz – with Robert Parker. A fun quiz to test your family history knowledge. Suitable for beginners to advanced level.

Details of future talks will be announced on our website [bucksfhs.org.uk](http://bucksfhs.org.uk) or sign up to the monthly newsletter.

## ACCESSING ONLINE TALKS

Details will be emailed in advance to members. If you think we may hold an out-of-date email address for you, contact [membership@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@bucksfhs.org.uk).

You may be requested to download Zoom or a Zoom plug-in for your internet browser. Audio will be switched off when you enter the online room but you will be able to activate your microphone if you wish to ask (or answer) questions.

The talk is limited to 100 participants and in order to protect the talk and participants from unwanted visitors, please do not publish the meeting links.

# Diary Dates

\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\*\*

At the time of writing (October 2020), most events have been cancelled due to Covid-19. Government guidelines continue to change, so always check with the event organisers or [geneva.weald.org.uk](http://geneva.weald.org.uk) before attending.

## Family History & Heritage Events

<p><b>Sat 14th Nov</b> <b>10.00am – 6.00pm</b></p>	<p><b>FHF Really Useful Family History Show</b> Family History Federation's worldwide virtual event 24 quality talks   Records &amp; books   Special show offers   Specialist vendors   Expert help &amp; advice   Family History Societies   and much more <b>w</b> <a href="http://fhf-reallyuseful.com">fhf-reallyuseful.com</a> Entry: Book online (£5 early bird)</p>
<p><b>Sat 13th Feb</b> <b>9.30am – 4.45pm</b></p>	<p><b>Ancestors in Print Seminar</b> Guild of One Name Studies How to explore historic newspapers, etc Amersham Free Church Hall, Woodside Rd, Amersham, Bucks HP6 6AJ <b>e</b> <a href="mailto:guild@one-name.org">guild@one-name.org</a> (Alan Moorhouse) for info</p>
<p><b>Sat 20th Feb</b> <b>10.00am – 4.30pm</b></p>	<p><b>The Family History Show – South West</b> <i>Discover Your Ancestors</i> magazine Online event <b>w</b> <a href="http://thefamilyhistoryshow.com">thefamilyhistoryshow.com</a></p>
<p><b>Thu 25th to Sat 27th Feb</b></p>	<p><b>RootsTech Connect</b> FamilySearch A free online conference experience. Register to attend <b>w</b> <a href="http://rootstech.org">rootstech.org</a></p>

**Sat 19th Jun**  
**10.00am –**  
**4.30pm**

## **The Family History Show – York**

*Discover Your Ancestors* magazine

York Racecourse

Price: Early bird 2 for £8 booked in advance

**w** [thefamilyhistoryshow.com](http://thefamilyhistoryshow.com)

## **ONLINE TALKS**

Several family history societies are currently giving online talks for members in a similar manner to Bucks FHS. Usually you need to be member of the society concerned, but if you have an interest in a particular area it is worth visiting the local family history society website to see what is on offer.



## **Correction**

Summer 2020 edition, Vol 44, No 2, page 106

This should state that Gwyneth Wilkie was the Alan Dell Award Winner 2019. Apologies for the error. Editor

# Alan Dell Memorial Award

Best article competition

**DEADLINE 31 DECEMBER 2020**

First prize £50.00

Second prize £25.00



For entry requirements visit

See: [www.bucksfhs.org.uk](http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk)

# Jane Eggleton

## A Woman of Substance and Fortitude

by Margaret Breedon

*Alan Dell Award – Runner up 2019*

Do you have an ancestor that you admire? One of mine is my great great grandmother Jane EGGLETON. In the 21st century a lot of emphasis is placed on the stress of modern living, but when I look at the life of Jane I marvel at her strength of character in dealing with everything that life threw at her without the help of professional counselling, modern appliances, medicines etc. Here is her story.

Jane was born in Leighton Buzzard in 1844 to agricultural labourer Samuel and Sarah LINNEY. One of Jane's first memories was the tragic death of her mother during childbirth in 1849. In 1851 Samuel LINNEY (34) was living in Leighton Buzzard with William (10), Jane (7), George (5) and Thomas (2). Samuel managed to keep the family together, so they did have stability in their young lives. In 1861 Jane, a straw plaiter, was still living at home. A 50-year-old widow, Elizabeth PARROTT, acted as housekeeper – Jane probably looked upon Elizabeth as a mother figure.

Jane was 18 when she married Thomas EGGLETON, a 19-year-old labourer, on 16 March 1862 at St Mary's Church, Linslade. Their daughter Sarah (my great grandmother) was baptised a month later on 11 April at the same church.

The first five years of married life were probably Jane's most carefree. She was living close to her in-laws Robert and Jane EGGLETON and friends Charles and Sarah HOLLAND in the close-knit community of Southcott, Linslade. Two more children were born there, John (1864) and Thomas (1866).

Things started to get harder for Jane when George was born in 1868. Thomas took over the position of common lodging house-keeper at 'The Victoria', Mill Road, Leighton Buzzard. In Victorian times common lodging houses were a form of cheap accommodation. The slang term for a lodging house was 'flopouse' or a 'kip'. During this period they became partly institutionalised through state

regulation. The Common Lodging Housing Act 1851 required that they be licensed by the police in an attempt to deal with the filthiness, overcrowding and semi-criminal nature of the worst of them. There was usually a common kitchen and beds in shared dormitories upstairs. In a town like Leighton Buzzard they served people who were passing through, such as drovers, hawkers, entertainers, tradesmen etc. The accommodation was basic but standards of cleanliness and comfort varied. The heat and smells, especially in the summer, could be insufferable. The houses were known as 'four penny hotels' – this amount bought a bed for a night.

There were strict rules laid out by the local board of health. When the Eggletons first moved there Thomas was allowed to sell beer, but it may have been a relief to Jane when he lost the licence in August 1869 for allowing drunkenness in the house.

On the night of 2 April 1871 Thomas was listed as the housekeeper, but did the hard work of running the house fall on Jane's shoulders? By this time she had five children under the age of 10, including baby William (1), plus 17 lodgers. Little William died a few months later in September.

On 15 July 1873 the local press printed a lodging house report for the half-year ending 30 June. It reported that there were three common lodging houses in Leighton Buzzard – namely 'The German' kept by Augusta GOTZHEIM; 'The Victoria' by Thomas EGGLETON; and 'The White Horse' by William HOPKINS. The capacity for each house was: 'The German' 15 beds for 29 persons; 'The Victoria' 10 beds for 19 persons; and the 'White Horse' 15 beds for 30 persons. The rooms in each house were clean and well lime-washed with a good supply of water on all premises. The bedding at 'The Victoria' was the best. The number of people sleeping in each house was: 'The German' 2,299; 'The Victoria' 1,483; 'The White Horse' 1,883 – totalling 3,837 males and 1,828 females. Over that period Jane (29) coped with over 1,000 lodgers and her family, including newly born Charles.

In October 1863 Jane was a witness at court corroborating Thomas' evidence relating to the theft of seven wild rabbits. Although Jane backed Thomas she was probably annoyed that he left the rabbits on a cart unattended to go to the pub only yards from their house!

Jane would have protected her family at all costs and must have been very concerned in March 1874 when Ephraim BATTAMS, suffering from smallpox, was removed from the back of her house and taken to hospital.





**At Sarah Woodward's Funeral June 1925**  
**Left: Jane Clarke (née Woodward) aged 40**  
**Centre: Jane Eggleton (née Linney) aged 81**  
**Left: Annie Trusler (née Eggleton) aged 36**

By 1876, just at the time of Fred's birth, Thomas had begun a market gardening business, so Jane relied heavily on her daughter Sarah (14) to help with the childcare. In August 1876 the Medical Officer reported many complaints at the 'The Victoria' regarding beds/bedding being dirty and torn with bedsteads in an unwholesome state. It would appear that Jane had 'taken her eye off the ball' – she may have been exhausted and suffering from post-natal depression. Thomas was probably too preoccupied to help with the running of the house.

Thomas could be 'hot headed' and Jane had to be strong to deal with him. She was probably behind his contrite apology to Charles GRACE – notice placed in the local newspaper on 7 January 1879. Another daughter, Jane, was born a few months later.

Sadly, Jane was grieving again when little Jane died in January 1881. At around this time Jane was helping to run another sideline for Thomas – milk dealing! On the night of 3 April 1881, 10 lodgers were staying at 'The Victoria'. Twelve months later Jane (38) gave birth to Arthur.

In January 1883 a watch belonging to Thomas Jnr (17) was stolen by a lodger and found at a pawnbrokers in Luton. What a disappointment to Jane for a lodger to 'stoop so low'. Two months after this event baby Arthur died. (How sad to lose three babies in a row.) At around this time Sarah (21) who married William WOODWARD gave birth to Jane and Thomas' first grandchild Arthur William.

Jane gave birth to her 11th child, Ernest, in the winter of 1884. On 21 June 1884 Jane's eldest son was caught poaching. Jane appeared at the petty sessions and asked the magistrate to forgive her son and he would 'never do it anymore'. John was fined to which Jane remarked, 'Others go out in the morning as well as my son, and the police could catch ten a week if they liked. I wish they would look after my property as well as other people's, but they don't protect me at all. If they went up Shenley Hill any Sunday morning they could catch ten men!' Jane was not afraid to speak her mind.

Jane supported Thomas when he was accused of selling adulterated milk on 31 July 1884 and appeared at the petty sessions as a witness. After reaching 'stalemate', it was three months before the case was concluded – this situation would have worried and angered them both.

Between 1885 and 1890 Jane continued to help Thomas but was still producing babies – she was 42 when Robert was born and 46 when she gave birth to Annie. By 5 April 1891 Jane (47) was heavily pregnant for the last time. Thomas and Jane had left 'The Victoria' and moved to Plantation Road. Jane was beginning to live like a lady and even had a young servant. (She deserved a break after producing 14 children over 29 years.) Alfred was born soon after the census was taken.

Jane continued to support Thomas with his business and often assisted on the stall at Leighton Market.

By 1899 Sarah and William WOODWARD and family had moved from Plantation Road to live near Fenny Stratford railway station. Jane would have really missed her daughter.

Jane was 56 when Thomas died on 26 January 1900. It would appear that they did not own 'The Firs', Plantation Road as there was no application for probate.

By 1901, with the older children married and Fred in the army, Jane and her younger children were living at 24 East Street, Leighton. All the children had left home by 1911, so Jane (68) was living at 81 Heath Road, with her brother William LINNEY (71).

During World War I Jane would have been very worried about her younger sons and grandsons fighting for King and Country. Four of Jane's adult children died during her lifetime: John (1914), George (1917), Sarah (1925) and Thomas (1927).

Jane died aged 83 on 19 June 1927 at Staines – the hometown of her daughter Annie TRUSLER. She was buried at Old Linslade churchyard.

Jane lived a full and hardworking life. She was a strong woman who had to overcome a lot of adversity in her life, and wasn't afraid to speak her mind. Despite raising a large family, her husband depended on her unstinting support to help with his business ventures – she was definitely a woman of substance and fortitude.

*Margaret Breedon*

## Sources

Church registers

Census returns

*Leighton Buzzard Observer* reports

Family information

## Hanslope Church

Having read the article about St James The Great in the Summer 2020 edition of *Origins*, it brought back a memory of what I had been told in my childhood.

My dad (George Chappell) worked in the sawmill in the Wolverton Carriage Works after WW2 and, along with a lot of other men, travelled on the workman's train from Bletchley to Wolverton each day.

In the spring, as the nights drew out, men would gather at the north end of the Wolverton platform, while waiting for the evening train home to Bletchley, and say to each 'Do you discern er yet?' meaning 'can you see the spire of Hanslope church yet?' The day they could, meant that winter was finally behind them!

*Alan Chappell*

# Constance Humphreys' Brill Memories

by Rosalind Cutler

## Part 1: Easter and Summer Holidays at Brill 1902–1914

On 10 November 1867 my great-grandfather, John HUMPHREYS, was born at Brill in Buckinghamshire. His mother died in childbirth. My great grandmother, Alice Treadwell KING, born in the same year as her future husband, moved with her family to Manor Farm, Brill when she was about 8 years old. Her father, Henry KING had been appointed agent for local landowner Aubrey FLETCHER. John and Alice were married in Brill church on the 4th of April 1893. They had four children – Catharine, Jack, Monica (my grandmother) and Constance. Just before Constance was born in 1898, John and Alice moved to Reading – to a house at 88 Connaught Road – where they lived for the rest of their lives. They continued to visit Brill all their adult lives and sent their children to stay with Alice's parents and their Aunt Kitty (Alice's youngest sister) who lived in the house that is now the Brill Memorial Hall.

My great aunt Constance, the youngest of the four siblings, died in 1994. I recently discovered in amongst old family papers and photos two school notebooks full of her handwritten descriptions of her earliest memories: of holidays, picnics and family visits to Brill in the early years of the 20th century when she and her brother and sisters came to stay with their grandparents for Easter and summer holidays.

During the Covid-19 lockdown I decided to type out my great aunt's notebooks. I loved seeing her familiar handwriting again, but I wanted to share her memories with a wider audience, so I thought typing them up would be the best way. She had such an eye for the sort of detail that brings history to life. I enlisted the help of my aunt, Constance's only surviving niece, historian Shirley Nicholson. I sent her scans of the difficult words and emails

flew to and fro between us as we deciphered the missing bits. Absorbed and enthralled by Constance's detailed memory, captivated by 'hearing' her much loved voice again, we were transported far from the grim tidings on the news of the present, to the safety and happiness of the day-to-day life of an ordinary loving family in rural Edwardian England, as seen through the curious eyes of a child.



**Constance left, next to her big sister Catharine, brother Jack and sister Monica  
Photo taken 1902**

Here are some extracts from Constance's recollections:

Brill when we first knew it had no piped water, no gas or electricity, no hot water, no main drainage, no pavements and no made up road. Water came from spring or well, lighting was by candles or oil lamps, the loo was in the garden and 'pavements' mere cobbles.

My earliest memory of Brill is going to the Children's Service and singing the Beatitudes to a Gregorian chant every time. I could not read, but I could sing and gradually picked up the words.

One evening after going to bed I felt very sick. Mother had gone to supper at Temple Farm. I got up and sat by the window in the dark and saw a star fall. Well up on Hans Andersen and 'The Little Match Girl', I knew that a falling star must be a soul going up to Heaven and that this [shooting star] must be me! I waited and waited but nothing happened, and then Mother returned, and all was normal again. Another night Jack, with whom I shared a bed in the night nursery, was very sick and Mother came, and deciding to stay with him, she picked me up and took me along to the spare room and into bed with my Papa. I felt very awed!

To get to Brill from Reading we had to go by train to Oxford, down a dark and smelly underground passage to a platform on the other side of the line and into a train on the Thames–Oxford line where we got out at Piddington, 7 miles from Brill. Here we were met by Grandfather, with dog cart and luggage cart, sometimes by Joe HURST, sometimes, if the whole family was there, by both. Father did not usually come with us until the weekend but saw us into the train at Reading and often brought a paper 'Jumble (or Jumbo) Jinks' or 'Comic Cuts' for Jackie [her brother Jack]. At Oxford 'the kind guard' put us into the next train and saw to our luggage. On that line we went through a tunnel (under what I don't know). Arrived at Southdene, we had a great welcome and also a great tea!

I remember about 1906 or so, when the 'new' Bicester, Banbury and Birmingham line was being made, being driven down to Ludgershall to see the famous 'steam navy' at work. This was the steam engine attached to a huge scoop, scooping out to make the embankment for the railway lines.

The station was eventually called Brill and Ludgershall but was 3 miles from Brill and not much use to us, as it meant having to get to Aylesbury to catch the train.

If no luggage, the old Brill Tram was very occasionally used. We went from Reading to Maidenhead, Maidenhead to Wycombe, Wycombe to Aylesbury, Aylesbury to Quainton Road – all five changes before the tram. This was a single coach with six compartments to it, one reserved for the Duke of Buckinghamshire with a carpet and blue plush seats, and on the floor tin footwarmers to match. I only once went in it. At level crossings the engine driver got out and opened the gates, drove the tram across and then got out again to shut them! When my parents were young, they used to get out to pick primroses, or nuts, or blackberries and run after the tram to catch it before the next stop.

The day nursery (at ‘Southdene,’ now Brill Memorial Hall) had a sort of wooden platform, well made and smooth along one side (useful for acting), the big round bath up ended against one wall, an old highchair, a chest covered in chintz and a big box of old magazines and ‘Walden’s Fashions’. It had a rather small casement window high up in one wall, only to be seen out of by standing on the chair and with no view except of our next-door house. One went up two steps, past two very big cupboards into the night nursery. This was large, with two big beds in it and a cot and the usual bedroom furniture. It had a fair-sized casement window and looked over on to ‘the yard’ and on to the paddock and the church.

*Rosalind Cutler*

# Weller Ledger Book

Tony Sargeant

About 1874 somebody started a payments book listing names of servants and amounts paid. The book continued for 83 years to December 1957. The entries and the handwriting changed over time. Is it possible to discover who the anonymous writers are, by looking at the servants and other records?

From the servants' names we discover they are living at Plantation, Amersham Common. The 1881 census shows George WELLER living at Plantation. He was aged 36, a brewer and maltster employing 50 men. Also there was his wife Blanch Heath, née MASTERMAN who he married in June 1871. There were three children: Gladys Heath, Gerard Masterman and Carlan Lacy, all baptised in Amersham.

The handwriting is initially a flowing script and this continued until there was a major change in 1929. This coincides with the death of George Weller in October 1929. There was no change when Blanch died in 1921. Can we say the first part of the book was written by George Weller?

In the first few years the book is not comprehensive although it shows JARVIS the coachman who appears in both the book and the census until he was pensioned in 1908. The book goes on to tell us about the other stable staff. The coming of the motor car brought great change in 1902, as some stable staff became gardeners instead and chauffeurs were employed. But there were problems as some were lazy or careless, with H FOOT being a poor driver. Eventually the car was laid by for six months in 1918.

The household's wealth can also be seen with four gardeners employed, usually one or more of the CHIDWICK family who lived in a cottage nearby. In 1883 terms and conditions for outdoor staff were noted; all the gardeners were paid without beer. (The practice of including beer was common in the brewing industry.)



The main thing to draw from the pages is the amount of staff that join and leave. This can be seen in the more menial low paid roles. As young people move on to other positions. After the First World War the situation remains stable. Romance can be found in the pages with the lady's maid Clarissa RICHARDSON being employed in April 1889 on £22 pa; a month later Richard SMART joined as a footman on £40 pa. They both left to get married in May 1893. He received £3 as a gift. In December 1899 Richard Smart was back in the employ of George Weller as butler. In 1901 Clarissa was living next to Plantation with three children.



The last major survey of people available is the 1939 register. The last name for the Plantation entry was Gladys H FAWCETT, widow and living on her own means. This was George Weller's daughter, residing there with four servants. Marian Ada ALDRIDGE, Mary Edith BEETON, Gladys E HERRIDGE and Dorothy SAWYER. Gladys H Fawcett continued to use her father's book to manage the payments to servants.

I have only given you a glimpse of this book, which at first glance appears to be just a list of payments. The story of a family normally only seen through brewery records has another aspect that needs more work. There is much more to be discovered from this book which has been deposited at Buckinghamshire Archives (Ref D-X 2147 Ledger containing payments to domestic staff of the Weller family).

*Tony Sargeant*

# Who Was My Great Grandfather?

Bob Britnell

**Englefield/Inglefield, possibly Fisher, or just name unknown?**

**Just who was my great grandfather?**

Great grandfather Jonah BRITNELL was born in 1830 in Bledlow, Bucks and in 1849 at the tender age of 19 he married Fanny CLIMPSON who already had one child – his or not? I've yet to work on that one; they married in the Registry Office at Wycombe, perhaps because of the two-year-old child in the wings?

Amusingly, when I first found them in the LDS she was down as 'Jenny' not Fanny, maybe the handwriting was too difficult for an American transcriber or maybe American religious sensibilities balked at the idea that anybody could be called Fanny?

In 1871 the Britnells are in East Bedfont, Middlesex, there seems to be quite a Bucks community thereabouts; in 1873 my grandfather Abel is born, the youngest of 10 children. In 1881 Jonah is a 'General Dealer' with a 'General Shop' in Hatton Road, Bedfont – so far so good, all traceable.

In 1897 Abel marries Alice ENGLEFIELD or INGLEFIELD at Hounslow Heath – in the early days of my research I spent a lot of time finding a suitable Alice of the right age, from Berkshire – I got her tree back several generations before I discovered she was the wrong Alice Englefield; there was a lesson learnt there, you always need more than one or two checking points to establish you've got the right one, she was right name, right age but wrong person.

But there is no 'right' Alice Englefield in the 1881 census, in fact no right Englefields at all. At this stage I was supported by others, particularly by

members of the Guild of One Name Studies. And what was found was curious; in 1891 there was an Alice Englefield, born Heston in about 1845 with a daughter Alice born Heston 1877 – right name, right age, right place but no father present – we know from the marriage certificate of Alice (junior) that her father's name was George and that he was deceased by 1897.

But in the household in 1891 were Englefield siblings, George born 1876 in Heston, as Alice was in 1877, and William and James born in Essex in 1885 and 1890 respectively. This opened up a new avenue and I decided to start looking up all the possibilities on the GRO website, which led me to discover that the older children were not surnamed Englefield but FISHER.

What I finished up with were the following births and death entries:

1876	George Henry Fisher	Mother Mary Fisher	Father undeclared	Heston
1879	Alice Fisher	Mother Mary Fisher	Father undeclared	Heston
1881	John William Inglefield Fisher	Mother Mary Fisher	Father undeclared	Heston
<i>In Oct 1881 however John William Inglefield Fisher is baptised at Heston and his parents are given as George Inglefield Fisher and Mary.</i>				
1883	Mary Elizabeth Inglefield Fisher			
1886	Edward Inglefield	Mother maiden name Fisher		West Ham
1888	Elizabeth Inglefield	deceased aged 4		West Ham
1888	Edward Inglefield	deceased aged 2		West Ham
1888	Thomas William Inglefield	Mother maiden name Fisher		West Ham
1890	Edward James Inglefield	Mother maiden name Fisher		West Ham
1890	George Inglefield	deceased aged 33		West Ham

I cannot find a marriage for a Mary Fisher and a George Englefield or Inglefield, what I can find however is an 1881 census entry for a George Fisher aged 30, with a wife Mary aged 26 and children George aged 5, Alice aged 2 and John aged 0. That fits with the children whose births were registered in 1876, 1879 and 1881 (Jan).

There is an 1872 marriage of a George Fisher and a Mary Hall in Brentford RD Middlesex which would fit but is not provable and of which I am suspicious. However if George and Mary were married, why is no father's name on the 1876, 1879 and 1881 birth certificates? John William Inglefield Fisher is born in Jan 1881, which is before the 1881 census when the couple appear as George and Mary Fisher, and yet John W carries the Inglefield name?

Mary, b 1883, also has Inglefield as a middle name and from 1886 onwards all the children just carry the surname Inglefield. In 1891 when Mary resurfaces in Middlesex she does so not as Mary Fisher but as Alice Inglefield and her children are all recorded as Inglefield and Alice (junior) goes on to marry Abel Britnell in 1897 as an Englefield.

George Inglefield who dies in West Ham in 1890 has age given as 33, born in say 1857 and apparently then is younger than the George Fisher who is 30 in the 1881 census and thus would be 39 in 1890, but ages at death can be inaccurate: George Inglefield and George Fisher may, or may not be the same person.

In 1855 a Mary Fisher is baptised in Heston, daughter of a George Henry Fisher, right name, right place and a father's name which is also that of Mary's first child, so perhaps the children named 'Fisher' are all illegitimate and Mary was unmarried. At some point in 1881 or perhaps sooner she gets together with George Inglefield – whoever he may be; they then decamp to West Ham as Inglefields, having dropped her maiden name, where more children are born and he dies young.

By 1891 and now 'Alice Englefield' and a widow, Mary has moved back to Heston and by 1901 she has gone on to marry (?) or cohabit with Joseph EAST of Burnham Bucks, although she has now reverted to the Christian name of Mary; at home with them are Thomas W and James E Englefield, stepsons.

I'm left with the questions, were George Fisher and George Inglefield the same person? Was Mary a Fisher and never married to either of them? Why did the name change in West Ham? Why did Mary become Alice and then revert to Mary? What exactly happened in 1881 which seems to be a critical year for Fisher–Inglefield changes to occur. If George 'Fisher' in 1881 is really George Inglefield, was he the father of George Henry and Alice, or did Mary have those two children when she met him?

And more critically was my great grandfather, Alice junior's father, George Fisher, George Inglefield Fisher, George Inglefield or some other person unnamed on the birth registration in 1879?

*Bob Britnell*

*Britnell One Name Study at GOONS*

# Memories of Cadmore End

**Peter Plumridge**

It is often said that as we grow older we can well remember things in the past but not recent occurrences, as a nonagenarian I can vouch for that ... where did I put my glasses?

The *Origins* (Summer 2020) report on the talk 'Down Among the Gypsies' triggered some memories from the 1960s. Living then in the fringes of Epsom, a great annual occasion was Derby Week, this brought a large influx of gypsies to the area; their womenfolk and young daughters followed by the knife grinder's tricycle with pedal operated grindstone. My knife-sharpening skills being low, my wife gave the grinder the kitchen knives only to see them pedalled away and out of sight; she called the police station and was told 'don't worry, that's Smithy, you'll get your knives back' and sure enough they came back razor sharp the next day.

The Derby Fair adjacent to the racecourse was a grand-scale event, many gypsy stalls and of course the dodgems; it was said locally that you could lose your watch at one end of the fair and buy it back later at the other end.

Let's now get to Buckinghamshire, to Cadmore End from where my Plumridge male forebears hailed. In the 19th century they moved into the City of London, I was born in South West London, moved in to Surrey when married, thence to Suffolk upon retirement, my wife's family home county; although now far removed from Bucks I find it interesting, as do so many, to explore the area of one's roots.

Cadmore End, a straggling community, sits on and adjacent to the old Marlow to Stokenchurch road and is now divided from Cadmore Common by the M40; here are just a few random recollections of visits to Cadmore End.

Looking southwards from close by the parish church, St Mary-le-More, the prospect of unspoilt rolling countryside. Entering the churchyard and seeing the number of memorials bearing the name Plumridge, which appears to be the most common name in the parish register (BFHS Parish Registers).

Sitting in the Fingest churchwarden's living room and browsing through the original parish registers, this well before the computer era. (The parish of Cadmore End was not created until the mid-19th century from the parishes of Fingest also Lewknor.) Equally, spending a morning in the vestry of St Mary's and looking at a variety of parish papers.

The long trek from Cadmore End to St Bartholomew, Fingest, originally the church for the population of Cadmore End.

Walking into the Cadmore End school and seeing the school registers, imagine doing that today!

The Old Ship pub, beer drawn from casks behind the bar, a shove ha'penny board, (ha'penny, i.e. half a penny before decimalisation).

The impressive red kites soaring overhead, a common sight nowadays.

Happy memories!

*Peter Plumridge*

# Howletts of Chinnor

Wilfred Newman

## The Bowlers

My mother, Ruth Mary HOWLETT, was born at Skittle Green, Bledlow and baptised in Bledlow church in 1915, the second child and daughter of Charles William HOWLETT and Clara BOWLER, who had married at Bledlow on 5th October 1912. I learned in childhood why it was that – even though my only living grandparent, ‘Granny Howlett’, was a fixture in Chinnor, Oxfordshire – ‘Mum’ came to be born in Bledlow and was very attached to its memory.

Clara (my ‘Granny’) was the youngest of three daughters among the 10 children of her parents, Henry BOWLER (1841–1925) and Fanny SMITH (1848–1902), and was required to keep house for her father and her younger male siblings following the too-early death of her mother. The eldest daughter, Emma (1867–1944), had already married Arthur WEST in 1890 and the middle daughter, Annie (1872–1919) had married Jesse ROGERS and migrated to Canada. This meant that, when Clara married Charlie Howlett from the neighbouring village of Chinnor in 1912 at the unusually ‘advanced’ age of 31, it was only possible if she continued to run the home at Bledlow for her father and two or three younger brothers.

However, Charles Howlett’s wider family – and business as a haulier of timber etc – were very much rooted in Chinnor. By about 1917/1918, once the younger brothers were fully self-supporting and Henry was becoming incapable of regular employment, Charles took his wife, two daughters and father-in-law to live across the border in Oxfordshire. My mother remembers her maternal grandfather in his final years as a determined if arthritic gentleman who would dig the family garden by laboriously working his way from a stool at one end of the row to another stool at the other end. Interestingly, although Henry is generally described in the records as a labourer, his father, Francis Bowler (ca. 1795–1867), is described on Henry’s 1864 marriage certificate as ‘gardener’.

One of my 'brick walls', which I will explore more fully, and write about on another occasion, is establishing my Bowler ancestry prior to Francis and his wife Ann Bowler, who married at Princes Risborough on 27 November 1830. The main difficulties are twofold. Firstly, there are two Francis Bowlers baptised at Princes Risborough within a year or so of one another and, secondly, there are so many Bowlers recorded at Princes Risborough and nearby that it will require a mammoth effort to sort and identify them all to the point of proof.

One last remark and story here about my mother's attachment to the Bowlers and Bledlow. Right up to the time of her marriage to my father (at Chinnor in 1936) she loved to visit the families of her mother's brothers (George, Isaac and William Bowler) who continued to live at Bledlow and there was correspondence between my mother and her elder sister on the one hand and the Rogers family in Canada and the Wests down on the south coast. A favourite story was of travelling in her Aunt Bet's 'pony and trap' between Chinnor and Bledlow when, on one occasion, the pony broke into a wild gallop along the slightly uneven road causing Aunt Bet (Charles William's youngest sister) to shout out 'Hold on you kids!' while she brought the pony back under control.

## **Home base – Chinnor**

One of my early family research priorities was to get back as far as possible on my maternal roots, and I had the great, initial advantages of (1) finding that the Howletts had been in and around Chinnor for centuries, (2) the parish registers were still at that time held in the parish and (3) there was a local group, the Chinnor Historical and Archaeological Society (CHAS), that was in process of transcribing them. Not only was I able to participate in the transcriptions and see the registers, CHAS had already conducted a major exercise in examining the records of the adjacent hamlet of Emmington – parish registers (such as they were for the 16th and 17th centuries) and a series of early wills held by the Oxfordshire Record Office.

The 19th-century parish registers, assisted by the Victorian censuses for 1841 to 1881, told me pretty well all I needed to know to establish four more generations of Howletts, back through Charles William's father William



(1853–1936), grandfather John (1828–1904), great grandfather William (1806–1874) to Thomas (1763–1831). William, John and William had all been married in St Andrews, Chinnor to local ‘girls’. Thomas had gone a bit further afield to marry Sarah PANGBOURN at Princes Risborough on 11 August 1786. Another Bucks connection there, but I could not trace beyond Sarah’s parents (John PANGBOURN and Esther BROWN).

The generation before that brings me to my main reason for writing this article and seeking its publication in *Origins*. Thomas’s parents were a Simon HOWLETT (1727–1791) and Mary HAMMOND, who married at Hughenden on 10th November 1754. I believed I had securely identified this Simon’s parents as Simon (ca.1694–1752) and Mary COOPER (ca. 1700–1734) and his paternal grandparents as William Howlett of Chinnor (ca.1660–1721) and Ann Howlett of Long Crendon (1664–1739) who married about 1687. But now something has happened to make me think I could be wrong!

## **The Hughenden connection**

During the current coronavirus emergency the TNA is allowing free access to some of its online records, and it was recently brought to my attention by MyHeritage that this includes the PCC will of one Simon Howlett of Hughenden 1707/08. Since not only were my Howlett 5x and 6x great grandfathers called Simon and the more recent of them was married at Hughenden, you will not be surprised that this excited my interest. Consequently I downloaded the image of this will and transcribed it. A copy of my transcript is annexed and it includes the significant bequest of this Simon’s ‘lands in Chinner,’ to his ‘nephew Thomas Howlett’. My immediate suspicion was that I would therefore find references in the early 18th-century Chinnor parish registers to a relevant Thomas Howlett and very likely some links to the Simon Howletts on my family tree, but nothing of the sort has happened. So, if I could not find any beneficiaries or relations of ‘Simon Howlett of Hughendon’ at Chinnor, what could I find at Hughenden itself?

Back the 1980s I researched many of the records for Buckinghamshire held at the County Record Office in Aylesbury, and took note of any Howletts I found. These included baptisms and burials at Hughenden from 1696 and

marriages at Hughenden from 1559 to 1812 that appear (printed) in volume VIII of the Bucks Parish Registers. The following appear relevant:

1707 Jan 30	Simon HOWLETT buried in woollen. This must be our testator, who died within three weeks of making his will.
1711 Nov 10	Thomas HOWLETT, Senior buried in woollen. Almost certainly this is Simon's brother Thomas and the father of the Thomas Howlett who was his main beneficiary.

Next I observed that, between 1706 and 1727 the baptism and burial registers recorded several children of Thomas and Ann(e) HOWLET(T). If Thomas H, the beneficiary of Simon's will, was not appearing in the Chinnor records, it seems likely that he was still relating primarily to his place of origin, but I feel that more confirmatory evidence is needed.

The entries I found for children of Thomas and Anne are as follows:

1706 Feb 16	Anne, d/o Thomas ?HOWLIK, Junior and Anne, 'belonging to Bledlow parish' baptised
1706 Mar 22	Anne, d/o Thomas and Anne HOWLETT, belonging to Bledlow, buried in woollen
1708 Sep 18	Anne, d/o Thomas HOWLIT, Junior and Ann baptised
1715 Sep 24	Thomas, s/o Thomas and Anne HOWLETT baptised
1718 Jul 20	William, s/o Thomas and Anne HOWLET baptised
1720 Feb 6	Joseph, s/o Thomas and Anne HOWLET baptised
1723 Jul 7	George, s/o Tomas and Anne HOWLET baptised
1727 Jun 25	Elizabeth, d/o Thomas and Anne HOWLETT baptised
1730 Sep 13	Elizabeth, d/o Thomas and Anne HOWLET buried in woollen

What of Joseph and Robert Howlet, the other sons of Thomas Howlet, Senior that are mentioned in Simon's will? For this Joseph I have found no further evidence to date.

There IS a marriage of Joseph HOWLET of Hitchenden to Anne DAY of Princes Risborough at her parish church on 19 September 1742, followed by baptisms at Hughenden of William (21 May 1743) and Ann (16 September 1744), but these events would appear to relate to the Joseph born to Thomas and Anne in 1720, NOT the nephew mentioned by Simon. Anne, wife of Joseph was buried at Hughenden on 31 October 1749 and a Joseph Howlett was buried there on 7 April 1782. If he is the one baptised in 1720 then it would appear he was aged 62 at death and spent more than half his life a widower.

For Robert, son of Thomas senior and brother of Thomas the beneficiary of Simon, I think I found more relevant data. On 5 October 1718 a Robert HOWLET married Mary HAYSLEY of Little Marlow at Hughenden, and the registers of Hughenden subsequently record:

1719 Sep 20	Hesther, d/o Robert & Mary HOWLET baptised
1726 Dec 18	Francis, s/o Robert and Mary HOWLET buried in woollen
1732 Jul 24	Elizabeth, d/o Robert & Mary HOWLET buried in woollen

This obviously gave a tantalisingly incomplete picture of the family of Robert and Mary, especially as I did not even find burial entries at Hughenden for either of the parents. Looking around I found the following entries in the baptism registers of West Wycombe:

1721 Mar 18	Mary d/o Robert and Mary HOWLET of Hughenden
1723 Oct 13	Thomas s/o Robert and Mary HOWLET, 'sojourners in this parish'
1726 Dec 13	Francis, s/o Robert and Mary HOWLET, 'sojourners in this parish'

1727 Dec 10	Joseph, s/o Robert and Mary HOWLET, 'sojourners in this parish'
1730 Dec 20	Elizabeth, d/o Robert and Mary HOWLET, 'sojourners in this parish'
1732 Feb 27	Robert, s/o Robert and Mary HOWLET
1733 Feb 4	Elizabeth, d/o Robert and Mary HOWLET
1734 Jan 22	Anne, d/o Robert and Mary HOWLET

The evidence is clear that this is the family of the same Robert and Mary married at Hughenden in 1718. The 1721 entry says as much and the next four baptisms show that they were not considered to belong properly to West Wycombe for about 10 years! The children that died young, Francis and Elizabeth, were taken for burial in the ancestral home parish and the timing of the burial of the first Elizabeth and baptism of the second tie up perfectly.

The question remains: if Robert and Mary were not buried at Hughenden where did they move on to and die after raising their family at West Wycombe and maintaining ties with Hughenden for at least 15 years?

Readers may by this time be wondering, if I have strayed so far from Chinnor and not been able to link these Howletts to my maternal ancestors there, why I have shown so much interest. Apart from the facts that I hate loose ends and I don't want the time I have spent on Simon Howlett's will to go completely to waste, and even if the 17th-century Simons of Emmington are a more likely link to my 18th-century Simons of Chinnor, there remains the question of what happened to the 'lands at Chinner' mentioned in the will of Simon Howlett of Hughendon. Also I have a lingering suspicion that I do have some ancestral link to Hughenden or Howletts in other parts of Bucks. Perhaps some member of Bucks FHS or reader of *Origins* with a deeper involvement with the families and events of Hughenden can cast some light? And there is always the link to Hammonds at Hughenden to pursue.

*Wilfred Newman*

## **The Will of Simon Howlett of Hughendon: January 1707 OS (=1708 NS)**

Transcript prepared by Wilfred Newman from TNA document PROB 11/501/15

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Testament proved at London 17th February 1707

... Latin text refers to John Bettsworth and Richard ?Raines

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Will and Testament text in English (legalese)

In the Name of God Amen

I Simon Howlett of the parish of Hughendon and county of Bucks being weak of body but of sound disposing mind and calling to mind the uncertainty of this life by the daily departure of my friends relations and neighbours I doe here constitute and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and forme as followeth

In the first place I commit my soul to God that (that) gave it hoping that through the merits of my ever Blessed Redeemer to obtain a glorious Resurrection

And as for my body I commit to the Earth from whence it came to be decently buried by my Executor hereafter named

And as for the temporall goods it hath pleased God to bless me with I give and bestow in manner and forme as followeth

Item I give to my Sister Jane the sum of five pounds

Item I give to my Nephews Joseph Howlet and Robert Howlet both sons of my Brother Thomas to each of them five pounds

Item I give to my Brother Thomas tenn pounds

All which legacies by me given to be paid within three years after my death

And lastly I constitute my Nephew Thomas Howlett sonn of my Brother Thomas to be full and sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament

I doe hereby give unto my said Executor all my Lands lying in Chinner in the County of Oxford with a Messuage Barns Stables (?Backside) Orchard and appurtenances whatsoever to him and his heirs forever

In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and Seale this Sixth day of January in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seven and in the Sixth year of the Reigne her Majestie Queene Ann over Great Britain France and Ireland 1707: the marke of Simon Howlet Signed Sealed published and declared to be the last Will and Testament in the presence of the marke of Mathew East, Tho: Spencer

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Testament Proved (Latin) at London 10th day of February AD 1707

..... Thomas Howlett, Executor named in said Testament

## Earthquakes in Bucks

In September 2020, the Bedfordshire town of Leighton Buzzard hit the news headlines as the epicentre of a 3.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tremors. They were felt across the north of Buckinghamshire.

Our Bucks ancestors were also subjected to occasional tremors, as reported in the extracts below. It must have been a puzzling and possibly terrifying experience without our easy access to scientific knowledge or instant news reports.

It's interesting that these 19th-century earthquakes were felt further south than those in 2020.

(The reports are extracted from local papers searched on Findmypast.co.uk)

*South Bucks Standard, 21 Nov 1912*

### **EARTHQUAKE SHOCKS IN WYCOMBE AND DISTRICT**

Many people in this locality, as elsewhere, were affected with varying degrees of wonderment or consternation on Tuesday morning about nine o'clock, when there was the unusual experience of a series of seismic disturbances of three or four minutes' duration.

Whilst on many hands the cause was assigned to heavy gun firing at some distance, on investigation the source could not be located.

Moreover, the reverberations were not only of a muffled and indefinite character, but they also appeared to be either directionless or emanating from all directions. A further point which gives colour to the suggestion that the unusual sensation was the result of earthquake shocks, were distinct or what appeared to be distinct earth tremors though it is uncertain whether this was real or an illusion.

It is a fact, however, that a large number of people were startled by the 'chattering' of window-sashes and doors, and other attendant disturbances, and many ideas ingenious and otherwise were put forth as a solution to the mystery.

*Bucks Herald, 26 Nov 1887*

### **PRINCES RISBOROUGH EARTHQUAKE SHOCK**

The report of an earthquake shock having been felt in the neighbourhood, which was at first received with incredulity, is now confirmed by evidence from numerous and independent sources. It is affirmed by some men that when near Saunderton on Sunday morning last, at a few minutes past eight o'clock, they were startled suddenly by a sharp report, apparently very near them, somewhat resembling thunder, and which was prolonged for several seconds by a very peculiar low rumbling sound, receding northwards. A few minutes later after the first a second but much fainter report was heard, and a tremor of the earth was distinctly felt. The report was distinctly heard by persons in the town, and also in the neighbouring villages.

# Armchair Research

Here is a selection of websites potentially useful for Buckinghamshire research.

## **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE PORTAL**

The database includes the Historic Environment Record for the county of Buckinghamshire. There are over 35,000 records, not only of traditional archaeological sites, earthworks and stray artefacts, but also historic buildings and landscapes. It covers periods from the earliest humans to the end of the Cold War and beyond

**w** <https://heritageportal.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>

## **DOWNLEY HISTORY**

Memories, maps, a help wanted section to identify local photos.

**w** <http://downleyhistory.uk>

## **GREAT LINFORD HISTORY**

Education, industry, law & order, the manor, people, politics.

**w** <https://www.greatlfordhistory.co.uk>

## **MEMOIR WRITING COURSE**

Details published on *The Oldie* website blog 9th April 2020.

**w** <https://www.theoldie.co.uk/blog/the-oldie-memoir-writing-course-free>

## **OLD MAPS**

National Library of Scotland which has a lot of historical maps online – you can compare side by side or you can overlay them on a modern map.

**w** <https://maps.nlsuk>



# Eton College Collections

I have just become aware of an online catalogue that will be a great benefit for those researching family history and local history. From the name you would think their collection would cover only Eton College, but it goes much further including many places outside Buckinghamshire. Here we must consider how the school was created and funded.

Through a Royal Charter of 1440 Eton College was created by Henry VI who bestowed manors and parishes on the new venture to provide an income. Some of these were annulled by Edward IV. One of the consequences of this system is that Eton parish is a Peculiar of the Provost of Eton College. The masters actively managed the parish and created St John the Evangelist in Eton High Street and St John the Baptist in Eton Wick. For many years both churches shared the same set of registers. These are now deposited in Buckinghamshire Archives.



**St John the Evangelist, Eton**

Within the boundary of the Diocese of Lincoln the Peculiar of Eton was transferred to the Diocese of Oxford although there was a dispute. The peculiar did not produce any bishops' transcripts, but they had Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. This means they could hold a court and administer probate, issue marriage licences, and manage livings. The first two are of more interest to a family historian and apply only to Eton parish. The probate register only covers the period 1600 to 1643 and the online catalogue contains about 50 names (ref: ECR 60 11 01 01). There are some later records. The marriage licences are also later, from 1740 to 1840 and only have a few entries.

The other aspect for the researcher are the records for estates. The estates involve the following parishes in our county: Beaconsfield, Bledlow, Boveney, Burnham, Cippenham, Chalfont St Peter, Datchet, Eton, Hedgerley, Hitcham, Hughenden, Penn, Quainton, Slough, Stoke Poges, Taplow.

Other counties where there are estates include Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Devon, Dorset, Kent, Middlesex, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, and Somerset.

This list is not complete. If there is any hint in your research that a site may have been owned by Eton College, this is the place to look. Many old Etonians bequeathed property to their old school. Some records start in the 1200s and continue to modern times.

There are many entries in the Eton College Collections catalogue at <https://catalogue.etoncollege.com>

The main sections for local history research are ref: COL EST (Estates), ref: COL B (Bursar), and ref: COL JB (Junior Bursar). For a top-down browse the way in is: <https://catalogue.etoncollege.com/coll>

*Tony Sargeant*

# The Stevensons of Hedgerley Park

John Lovelock

On Thursday 23 June 1881 at two o'clock precisely, the Hedgerley Park Estate was sold by auction in London at Prickett Venables & Co, The Mart Tokenhouse Yard EC. The purchaser was Mrs Ellen Emily STEVENSON.



**Hedgerley Park – 19th-century line drawing**

The 1881 sales catalogue described the Hedgerley Park Estate as being 800 acres comprising a mansion, pleasure grounds, lodges, plantations, ornamental lakes, stables, keeper's lodge, kitchen garden and the Manor of Hedgerley with 'a never failing supply of excellent water'.

The estate also included five productive farms – Colleyhill Farm Homestead (now known as Tara), Manor Farm and Leith Grove Farm both in Hedgerley Green, Hedgerley Court Farm Homestead (now known as Court Farm) and 'The One Pin' Farm. In addition there was arable and meadow land

plus Stoke Wood in Stoke Poges Parish plus 'a rustic cottage' near Stoke Common (Templewood Lane) that was let to Mr James JEFFERY.

Mrs Stevenson was born Ellen Emily HODGSON in Clapham Common Surrey on the 24 June 1845, her father John Hodgson was a tobacco broker, her mother was Eliza. On the 13 August 1868 Ellen (age 23) married Lt Henry S Stevenson (Royal Horse Artillery) at St Mary's Battersea. Sadly, Henry died of a brain disease in Wales on the 28 July 1870 age 30. Ellen had enjoyed less than two years of marriage and was a widow aged 25 with three small children: twins Mabel Grace and Ethel Caroline and younger daughter Maud Sophia. In the 11 years between becoming a widow in 1870 and purchasing Hedgerley Park Estate in 1881, Ellen and her daughters moved around the country living in Cheshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, at her parent's home at 65 Queen's Gate Kensington, and probably her father's country home at Scotton Hall near Richmond in North Yorkshire. By the age of 33 she had lost both her parents, siblings and husband.



**Ellen Emily Stevenson**  
**née Hodgson c.1868**

In 1886 Ellen became a churchwarden at St Mary's Hedgerley, a position she was to hold for 36 years.

The 1891 census records Ellen living at Hedgerley Park with her daughters Mabel and Ethel (age 21) who both listed their occupations as farmer, and Maud (age 20), a visitor Robert OTTLEY (silk merchant) plus 10 servants – Mary CAMPBELL (cook housekeeper), Charlotte CRIDLAND (lady's maid), Hannah ANGEL (lady's maid), housemaids Emily BROADWAY, Caroline ROBINS, and Ellen HISSEY, Mary CARTER (kitchenmaid), Matilda ROGERS (scullerymaid), John WALLER (butler), Jas CAMAE (footman).

In 1893, Mrs Stevenson, as the owner, gave the use of Court Farm and some land to the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society for use as a Farm Home, teaching agriculture to boys between the ages of 12 and 16.

It was formally opened on the 22 June 1893. The *York Herald* of 30 June 1893 reported that 'The Hedgerley Farm Home for Boys, which has been inaugurated by the Church of England Society for Waifs and Strays, and in the formation of which Mrs Henry Stevenson, of Scotton Hall, Richmond, Yorks, and Hedgerley Park, has taken much interest, was publicly opened with a benediction service by the Bishop of Reading and in the presence of a large congregation. The subsequent public meeting was addressed by Viscount Curzon, MP, the rural dean, the rector, and others. The farm is known as Court Farm, and is about 30 acres in extent. It has been handed over at a mere acknowledgement by Mrs Stevenson, and there is accommodation at the home for 26 boys'. The home closed in 1926.

The Hedgerley Parish Register records that banns were read in St Mary's in July 1899 for the marriage of Hugh Littleton NORRIS to Mabel Grace Stevenson and a notice in the *Bucks Herald* on the 22 July 1899 that Ellen's twin daughter Mabel would marry Hugh Littleton Norris (a painter from the Newlyn School Cornwall) in Hedgerley on 1 August 1899. The *South Bucks Standard* recorded that on 27 July 1899 Mrs Stevenson held a big fete in her gardens to celebrate the forthcoming marriage of her daughter.



**Mabel and Hugh Littleton  
Norris on the lawn at  
Hedgerley Park on their  
wedding day 1899**

There was a very lengthy report in the *Yorkshire Gazette* of 12 August 1899 which mentioned that:

'The village of Hedgerley was gaily decorated with flags and arches on Tuesday, the first inst., in honour of the marriage of Miss Mabel Grace Stevenson, twin daughter of the late Captain Henry Stevenson, RA, and Mrs Henry Stevenson, of Scotton, near Richmond, and Hedgerley Park, with Mr Hugh Littleton Norris, third son of the Ven. John Pilkington Norris, DD, Archdeacon of Bristol. The ceremony took place in the afternoon, in the historic church of St Mary's, Hedgerley, which was crowded.'

Ethel and Maud were bridesmaids, as also were their twin cousins Ella and Esme Cutler FERGUSSON. The Very Rev, the Dean of Worcester officiated, assisted by the Rev Edward Norris, MA, vicar of St Bartholomew, Reading and brother of the groom. The organist and choir from St Bartholomew's gave their services for the occasion. The path from the church gate was lined with the school children and the boys of the CEWSS Home, who strewed flowers before the bride and groom, and the village blacksmith fired his anvil. Mrs Stevenson held the reception on the lawn at Hedgerley Park.

An 8-day carriage clock costing 55s was inscribed 'Presented to Miss M G Stevenson by the Teachers and Scholars of Hipswell School on the occasion of her marriage August 1st 1899'. 'The happy pair subsequently drove to High Wycombe for Oxford, en route for Scotland, where the honeymoon will be spent. The presents were costly and numerous.'

The *Bristol Mercury* added the information that Hugh's father was the late Archdeacon Norris, that the triumphal arches in the village included mottoes of congratulation and goodwill, that the Rev J H Matthews, rector of Hedgerley, also assisted in the service, and that the bride was given away by her mother. It also declared that the honeymoon was to be spent in the Lake District (sounds like the bride and groom were trying to put people off the scent!), and that the presents were numerous and valuable.

On 11 September 1899 the *Northern Echo* reported 'Mr and Mrs Hugh Littleton Norris returned home from their honeymoon on Friday evening, arriving at Scotton Hall at about 6.30. At the entrance gates the horses were unyoked by the tenantry and villagers and dragged in triumph through the winding drive of the park to the hall, where the customary complimentary greetings were duly exchanged. Amid the utmost enthusiasm the healths of the newly-wedded couple and Mrs Henry Stephenson were duly pledged, and the harmonious proceedings lasted for some time, every good wish being showered upon the newly-wedded pair by those present.'

The school log books for the Hedgerley School (children from ages 4 to 13) are a rich source of local history and happy times were enjoyed when the whole school was invited to picnics in Hedgerley Park Grounds. Tea, buns and bananas given by the Misses Stevenson on 19 May 1908 were a great treat.

Maud Stevenson wrote poetry and one of her compositions, 'While the World Sleeps', was published in *Country Life* on 27 November 1909.

Ethel Stevenson was a suffragist and on the 28 May 1909 the *Bucks Free Press* reported a 'large attendance' at a meeting in Gerrards Cross schoolroom when Miss Ethel Stevenson presided and later helped to form the Gerrards Cross branch of the NUWSS. She was elected President at its first meeting in February 1912 at Gerrards Cross Town Hall. The *South Bucks Standard* 22 February 1912 recorded that 'a successful meeting was held at the town hall. The Gerrards Cross branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (non militant and non-party) are making quiet but apparent headway and the public meeting held in the town hall on Monday 19 February was one of the largest gatherings of sympathisers we have seen for some time. Miss Stevenson of Hedgerley Park is the President of the local branch, Miss Ramsden of Bulstrode Park is the vice President and a very enthusiastic Hon Sec is found in Mrs M Sparkes. The membership of the branch numbers 40 in Gerrards Cross alone'.



**Shooting Party at Hedgerley Park c 1920  
(Maud in centre)**

Ellen, Maud and Ethel all appear in the 1915 electoral register but would only have been able to vote at local elections. In 1918 Parliament passed the Representation of the People Act granting the vote to women over the age of 30 who were householders, occupiers of property with an annual rent of £5, or graduates of British

Universities. Ellen, Ethel and Maud Stevenson met this criteria and appear in the 1920 electoral register. At the end of that year Maud was called for jury service.

The *Bucks Herald* of 22 January 1921 under the headline 'Sensational Murder in Bucks – Women Jurors – Bailey sentenced to death' described the trial of George Arthur Bailey, 33, the dairyman popularly known as the 'whistling milkman' who was at Bucks Assizes in Aylesbury found guilty of the

murder of his wife Kate Lilian Bailey at Barn Cottage, Little Marlow on the 29 September 1920 and was sentenced to death by Mr Justice McCardie.

‘The proceedings were distinguished by the fact that for the first time in the history of the County women were empowered to serve on the jury – Matilda Polly Tack, Annie Anderson White and Maud Sophia Stevenson. The latter raised an objection to serve on the ground that the nature of the evidence to be called was not of a character which she would voluntarily hasten to. The Judge overruled this, pointing out the obligations which now devolved upon women in common with men.’

Hedgerley Women’s Institute was formed on 27 October 1921 and Miss Ethel Stevenson was the first President. An older member recalls joining the WI as a young married woman and how the meetings could not start until the President was present and Mrs Stevenson was always late – blaming her chauffeur! The WI minute book records on Thursday 26 October 1922 ‘Meeting of Womans Institute at church 2.30 tea at Mrs Stevensons to celebrate one year’s anniversary’. The minute books from 1930 to 1952 show that Maud Stevenson regularly attended as a member. An entry for the 19 April 1945 describes how ‘Three members then gave travel talks. Miss Maud Stevenson told about her adventures in Egypt and the audience began to wonder more and more how she escaped without broken limbs or other major disasters’.



**The Mansion c 1920**

In 1921 the Hedgerley Park Estate (867 acres – 800 in 1881) was put up for sale. The Sale Catalogue describes the mansion as having 16 bedrooms, 3 dressing rooms, 5 reception rooms, 5 inside WCs and one bathroom. There was no lighting. There were croquet and tennis lawns and

stabling for six horses. One of the properties listed in the sale was Wood End Cottage which was described as ‘a very superior type of cottage built by Mrs Stevenson and designed by an eminent architect (not named)’.



Colleyhill Farm was noted for County Show prizes for best oat and root crops in Bucks plus several prize-winning Shire horses.



**Sherley Close c 1920**

The family retained some land in Hedgerley Green and early in the 20th century built a new house called Sherley Close. Initially Maud Stevenson lived in the property and her sister Ethel and mother Ellen stayed in the Mansion at Hedgerley Park. It would appear that at some point during the 1920s Mrs Ellen

Stevenson and her daughter Ethel vacated Hedgerley Park and moved in to Sherley Close.

In 1921 Dorothy Allhusen of Stoke Court, Stoke Poges organised the fundraising to help rebuild a small village in France called Etricourt-Manancourt that had been badly damaged during fighting in the Great War. In a letter to the Mayor in 1922 Dorothy sends a cheque for £53 being money raised by the villages of Stoke Poges, Wexham, Langley and Fulmer. Mrs Stevenson of Hedgerley Park, Stoke Poges is listed as one of the key contributors.

The Hedgerley Park Estate was finally sold in 1931 to Richmond Watson and ended 50 years' occupation by the Stevenson ladies. The new owner proceeded to strip turves, fell trees and open gravel pits and a short while later the house was demolished. Some outbuildings (stables and coach house and the old Keepers Lodge) remained until after the Second World War.

Mrs Stevenson died a month before her 92nd birthday. From *The Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer* of 13 May 1937:

'May 11, 1937, at Hedgerley Park, Stoke Poges, Bucks, in her 92nd year, Ellen Emily, widow of Captain Henry Stevenson, RHA, and daughter of the late John Hodgson, of Scotton Hall, Richmond, Yorkshire. Service Hedgerley Church tomorrow (Friday) 2.30pm. No mourning, no flowers, by request.'



**Ethel and Maud at  
Sherley Close c 1940**

The 1939 Register includes Maud and Ethel Stevenson living at Sherley Close supported by a cook, house parlour maid and a state registered nurse.

In 1952, Maud was the first of the three sisters to die, a month after her 82nd birthday.

Mabel died 10 October 1956 (age 87) in Hampshire and Ethel died in Shirley Close Hedgerley Green on the 16 March 1962 (age 92) thus ending over 80 years of connection between the Stevenson family and Hedgerley. Maud and Ethel are buried alongside their mother in St Mary's Churchyard in Hedgerley.

During the 1950s both Hedgerley Park and neighbouring Wapseys Wood were used for filming *Ivanhoe* starring a young Roger Moore. Pam Pearson recalls travelling home from school in Slough and walking to Hedgerley Park to watch the filming.

Eton Rural District Council acquired land on Hedgerley Hill that was formerly part of the Hedgerley Park Estate and between 1950 and 1951 built social housing and a shopping parade. In recognition of the contribution to Hedgerley life one of the roads (Stevenson) was named after Mrs Stevenson.

*John Lovelock*

*Secretary of Hedgerley Historical Society*

*jdlovelock@btinternet.com*

Stevenson family photographs kindly provided by Stephen Norris, the great grandson of Mrs Ellen Stevenson.

# Book Review

## The Czech Connection

### Jan Masaryk & President Beneš and the Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile in London and Bucks during World War 2

by Neil Rees



This book tells the fascinating story of key Czechoslovak Government exiles in Bucks during the Second World War. 136 photographs illustrate both official and informal aspects of the lives of key individuals (notably Jan Masaryk and President Beneš) and the wider Czechoslovak community formed by their households, staff, visitors and the Czechoslovak army protecting them.

Locations include Aston Abbots (President Beneš), and safe houses at The Old Manor House, Wingrave and Addington House, Addington and Beaconsfield.

Clearly presented with a good amount of information, this is a valuable local history resource and of especial interest to those with Czech heritage. It is evident that the author has consulted with people who were there in order to create this very accessible narrative.

ISBN: 978-0-9550883-3-9, A5 landscape, 62 pages

3rd edition, Hawkes Design: Chesham, 2018

Available on eBay from the publisher Hawkes Design

£9.95 + £2.50 p&p

## PURCHASING BOOKS

Books reviewed in *Origins* are NOT sold by the Society unless otherwise stated.

# All Saints, Loughton

**Yvonne Parker visits parish churches in Buckinghamshire.  
For more examples, visit our Facebook Group.**

This beautiful 13th-century church stands on a rise overlooking the Loughton Valley where people have made their presence felt since prehistoric times. The village, like most, has changed over the centuries but never so much as in the last 50 years.

Loughton is the closest village to the centre of the new city of Milton Keynes, overshadowed by the A5 dual carriageway and the main line north with its steel and glass railway station very close by. Little two up, two down cottages that once held farming and labouring families are now snapped up by London commuters who can easily access the station across a footbridge over the A5. Another part of the village straddles the old A5, the ancient Watling Street where originally there were several coaching inns to serve travellers.



**All Saints, Loughton**

The church still stands amongst narrow winding lanes which can be traversed with great care but somehow make the church difficult to find although in clear sight from the new housing estates nearby. I was lucky to spot a lady with an armful of flowers going towards the church last year and she was kind enough to take me inside.

The interior has been changed to a North–South orientation which means the tombs of the great and the good who were buried before the altar are now under the feet of the congregation and their chairs.

On the chancel floor there is a half-length brass of a priest in mass vestments, to the memory of Hugh Park who died in 1514.

On the north wall of the chancel are monuments with arms to Mary wife of John Crane of Loughton (d. 1624), and to Felice wife of John Crane of London (d. 1622).

On the south wall is a monument to Robert Crane, D.C.L., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge (d. 1672), and his father John Crane of Loughton (d. 1660).

On the chancel floor are slabs to all of the above, that to Felice Crane having a brass inscription.

*Yvonne Parker*

# ALAN DELL AWARD

## COMPETITION FOR BEST ARTICLE

We hope you enjoy reading this year's entries and feel inspired to enter the 2020 award with your Buckinghamshire research stories.

Email your articles to: [editor@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@bucksfhs.org.uk)

**1st prize £50.00**

**2nd prize £25.00**

**details at [www.bucksfhs.org.uk](http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk)**



# HELP WANTED



Send your request to the Editor.  
Please include your Membership Number  
and provide contact details.

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

Research queries, mystery photos – all welcome.

Reach our members who don't use our online  
platforms!

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## CALL FOR INFORMATION ON CHILTERN VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

The Chilterns was for more than two centuries a unique industrial landscape. The woods and villages were alive with furniture-making, wood-ware, straw-plaiting, lace-making and tambour-beading (the technique of applying beading and sequins for the fashion industry). We already know quite a lot about work in these rural trades and the artefacts that were produced but we know much less about what life was like for those involved. The Woodlanders' project is aiming to uncover how the people – especially the women and children – who made their living in these woodland and home-based industries went about their daily lives.

The project is very interested in hearing from people who remember or have relatives or friends in the Central Chilterns project area who have memories, photos or documents relating to any of the following trades: beading, lace-making, straw-plaiting, furniture-making and wood-ware.

See the project website: <https://www.chilternsaonb.org/woodlanders-lives.html>

The project area is shown at: <https://www.chilternsaonb.org/projects/CCC.html>

**Email: [Helena.Chance@bucks.ac.uk](mailto:Helena.Chance@bucks.ac.uk)**  
**(or email via the Society: [editor@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@bucksfhs.org.uk))**

# AGM Report 2019

## Legal and Administrative Information

### Charity Trustees

The Executive Committee is the Charity Trustees of the Buckinghamshire Family History Society (“the Charity”), and the members listed below have all served throughout the year except where indicated. They are:

Rosemarie Bucknell	Served throughout the year
Anthony Coyne	Served until May 2019
David Foster	Served throughout the year
Colin Kightley	Served throughout the year
Steve Powell	Served throughout the year
John Price	Served throughout the year
Anthony Sargeant	Served throughout the year

The Charity Trustees are appointed each year by the members of the Charity at the Annual General Meeting. Each Trustee serves a term of one year. Retiring Trustees can be re-elected.

The Trustees receive no remuneration for their work as Trustees. The day to day running of various aspects of the charity is delegated to individual postholders who are appointed on an annual basis by and report to the Trustees.

### Address

Buckinghamshire Family History Society, Box 2 c/o Unit 7 Broadfields, Aylesbury, HP19 8BU

### Independent Examiners

Lane Accounting Limited, Denmark House, 143 High Street, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire SL9 9QL and 29 Ballyknockan Road, Ballygowan County Down, BT23 6NR

### Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd., 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

### Insurance Brokers

Towergate Risk Solutions, Funtley Court, Funtley Hill, Fareham Hants PO16 7UY .

# Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2019

## **Status and Administration**

The Charity was constituted in 1976 by a constitution and registered with the Charity Commission under charity number 290335. The constitution has been amended in subsequent years, the latest amendment being in 2017.

## **Charitable Objects**

The objects of the charity are

- a) to promote and encourage the public study of family history, genealogy, heraldry, local history and other associated subjects with particular reference to the County of Buckingham.
- b) To promote the preservation, security and accessibility of archival material.
- c) To promote and engage in educational activities including the publication and sale of a regular journal and other appropriate material.

## **Review of activities and achievements**

There were attempts made by the Executive to engage with the membership and public to improve activity for all. This continues to be a difficult process to get going. I thank Steve for putting together this attempt to improve engagement. As part of increasing our presence the Alan Dell Award was made open to all, rather than being restricted to our members. The lack of people wishing to be involved with the Executive Committee is concerning, this, with the continued lack of a Chairman, is dependent on our membership. At the end of the year we were able to recruit Peter Martin to carry out some of the website work. Thank you, Peter.

The financial situation of Bucks FHS continues to be run at loss and it was agreed to seek agreement to raise our membership rates. Proposals are to be put to the next AGM.

Nicky Dennard and her helpers attended six events as well as Open Day to spread word concerning Bucks FHS. Nicky is stepping down at the end of 2019, we have not been able to find a replacement for 2020. Many thanks to Nicky for her management of the stall. Work continues to dispose of material in storage where necessary through the sale of books. Open day itself continues to be a popular draw for both our members and the public, forming a great day for people to discuss both family and local history.

Bucks FHS facilitated the return of a collection of documents, relating to the Harris family of Great Horwood, to Buckinghamshire from Canada. These are now available to the public in the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies.

Bucks FHS supplied statistical data concerning burials in the 16C and 17C to a London School of Economics project studying the spread of plague in England.

The Executive met 6 times in 2019 in accordance with the constitution. I would like to thank all the members who served on the committee and other volunteers within Bucks FHS. Tony Coyne, after many years' service stood down from the Executive Committee at the last AGM. We thank Tony for his help in many areas and his continued work with the Open Day Committee. If anybody is interested in helping Bucks FHS on the Executive Committee, they will be most welcome.

Thank you to all our volunteers and members who continue to support Bucks FHS.



## **Income Generation**

Gross income decreased by £284 in 2019, the second year in succession, a trend which we need to address. Income from publications both printed and CD's, and the Open Day increased while membership income and members searches declined.

## **Investment powers, policy and performance**

The Trustee's Investment powers are governed by the Constitution, which permits the Charity's funds to be invested by the Trustees in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject to any conditions, consents or constraints as may for the time being be imposed or required by law.

The Charity's investments have continued to be managed in line with the Constitution, with current assets over and above working capital being invested in a CAF Bank Gold Account and COIF Charities Deposit Fund.

## **Fund-raising**

The Charity has not carried out any fund-raising activities during the year.

## **Resources expended and services**

As you can see in the accounts there was a deficit for the year of £765 a movement of £746 for the year. The main contributing factors include an increase in the cost of our Family History Show and other Fairs, Auditing of Accounts, Postage/Stationary and Travel Costs..

Again for 2019, the Society's monthly meeting attracted entrance fees which offset some of the costs, although there was a shortfall of £1176. Each meeting ran at a loss and for 2020 the costs of at least one venue has risen by £5 per session.

If we look at the fixed costs which as a Society, we need to provide, this amounts to £9661 (Origins, Storage Auditing and Insurance). Our Subscription is our only Fixed Income which was £7638. This shows that we would lose £2023 per year. With monthly meetings cost of £3751, we would lose even more. This is the reason to charge at meetings and a reason to increase our yearly membership. Although in 2019 our Publications and Searches amounted to some £5269, this fluctuates so much year by year and cannot be guaranteed.

## **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees approved a reserves policy during the year. Factors taken into account included the need to cover fluctuations in income (principally subscriptions from members, income from sales of family history information), current liabilities and unplanned expenditure.

The level of available reserves (net of any Restricted and/or Designated Funds and planned extraordinary capital expenditure) should be maintained in order to ensure the future of the Society in the event of total loss of income, the Society shall retain available funds (net of any Restricted and/or Designated Funds) to run the Society for one year without income and to hold an additional reserve to enable action to be taken following the loss of income. The level of income to be retained for this purpose is 150% of the average of the gross income for the previous three years.

The Trustees will review the level of reserves at least twice each year. Should the level of available reserves fall outside of the stated range, the Trustees will review the activities of the Charity and make such changes as deemed to be appropriate. This policy was adopted by the Trustees in October 2011. The policy was last reviewed and renewed in December 2017. The gross incomes for 2017 to 2019 averaged £20,038. The cash reserves at 31/12/2019 net of restricted and designated funds was £67,164 being 235% above the stated required reserve level.

**Independent Examiners' Report to the Members of  
Buckinghamshire Family History Society**

**Charity No. 290335**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2019, which are set out on pages 7 to 13.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met;

or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

---

**Name: Richard Lane**

**Relevant professional qualification or body: ACA., ICAEW**

**Address: 29 Ballyknockan Road, Ballygowan County Down, BT23 6NR**

**Date: 25 May 2020**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	Current Year 2019		Prior Year 2018	
	Notes	£	£	£
<b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u></b>				
<b>Voluntary Income:</b>				
Subscriptions received		7,638		8,976
Donations		90		230
		7,728		9,206
<b>Income from Charitable Activities:</b>				
Publications		4,122		3,651
Libraries		0		19
Searches		1,147		2,126
Bucks FHS Open Day		2,508		1,030
Fairs		-		0
Meetings & Events		2,575		2,594
Advertising		0		61
Miscellaneous Income		834		583
		11,186		10,064
<b>Investment Income:</b>				
Bank Interest Received			318	246
			318	246
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>19,232</b>		<b>19,516</b>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019**

Notes	Current Year 2019		Prior Year 2018	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Costs of Charitable Activities:</b>				
Origins inc. Members Interest	6,671		6,926	
Society Meetings & Events	3,751		3,965	
Bucks FHS Open Day	2,151		1,884	
Fairs and other Open Days	798		360	
Website and Internet	0		376	
Storage Costs	1,962		1,961	
Subscriptions	836		923	
Travel	627		220	
Misc. Costs of Charitable Activities (3)	948		970	
		17,744		17,585
<b>Costs of Governance:</b>				
External Examination	720		600	
Insurance	308		309	
Hall Hire	-		-	
Post & Stationery	633		366	
Travel	-		-	
Miscellaneous	95		171	
		1,756		1,446
<b>Costs of Generating Funds:</b>				
Cost of sale of publications	497		504	
		497		504
<b><u>Total Resources Expended</u></b>		<b>19,997</b>	<b>19,535</b>	
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus</b>		<b>£ (765)</b>	<b>£ (19)</b>	

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	Notes	Current Year 2019 £	Prior Year 2018 £
<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>	(2)	<b>39,400</b>	<b>39,400</b>
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Publication Stocks etc.		2,515	2,515
Cash at Bank	(4)	89,141	89,656
Cash in Hand	(5)	402	652
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>92,058</b>	<b>92,823</b>
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>			
Expenses Payable		-	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		-	-
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>£131,458</b>	<b>£132,223</b>
		=====	=====
<b>Reserves:</b>			
Balance at 31.12.2018	(6)	132,223	132,242
(Deficit)/Surplus for the Year		(765)	(19)
Balance at 31.12.2019	(6)	<b>£131,458</b>	<b>£132,223</b>
		=====	=====

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C Kightley on behalf of the Managing Trustees

The Notes on Pages 11 to 13 form part of these Accounts

**NOTES OF THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**1.Accounting Policy**

*a.Basis of Accounting*

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014.

*Fixed Asset Policy*

Fixed assets are held at original purchase cost.

*b. Investment Policy*

The Society's investment policy is to invest the majority of its reserves in the CAF Charity Deposit Fund whilst also ensuring timely transfers of funds where necessary.

*c. Incoming Resources*

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA where the charity is legally entitled to the income.

*d. Resources Expenses*

All expenditure is recognised on a cash basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that category.

**NOTES OF THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

<b>2. Tangible Fixed Assets</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Assets held at 31.12.2018	39,400	39,400
Additions	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Assets held at 31.12.2019	£ 39,400	£ 39,400
	<hr/>	<hr/>
 <b>3. Expenses of Charitable Activities – Misc Costs</b>	 <b>2019</b>	 <b>2018</b>
Credit Card Costs	807	813
Bank Charges	141	157
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	£948	£ 970
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>4. Cash at Bank</b>		
CafCash Main Current Account	1,000	1,000
CafGold Account	15,202	22,581
CafCash Bookstall Account	-	-
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	50,553	50,267
Bank of Scotland	22,386	15,808
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash at Bank at 31.12.2019	£89,141	£89,656
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>5. Cash in Hand</b>		
Southern Group	103	189
Northern Group	117	177
Central Group	182	286
Aylesbury Catering	-	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash in Hand at 31.12.2019	£402	£652
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## NOTES OF THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

6. Breakdown of Reserves Balance	2019	2018
General Reserves Fund (Unrestricted Fund)	109,079	109,844
Equipment Fund (Unrestricted Fund– Designated)	5,000	5,000
2005 Review Fund (Unrestricted Fund– Designated)	17,379	17,379
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Reserves at 31.12.2019	131,458	132,223

### 13

The Caf Cash Main Current Account is a sweep account with the Caf Gold Account. The daily balance in the Current Account is maintained at £1,000 with monies automatically transferred from the Gold account.

An Unrestricted Fund is one where the contents may be used for any purpose permitted by the objects of the Charity. A Designated Fund is also unrestricted but the contents of the fund have been allocated for a particular special purpose by the Trustees.

A Restricted Fund is one where the contents may only be used for particular purpose, usually because the moneys have been raised specifically for that purpose. The Society did not have Restricted Funds at 31.12.2019.

*[The reports and accounts are published as submitted and are presented here for information only]*

## A Dictionary of Occupational Terms

Based on the Classification of Occupations used in the Census of Population, 1921.

Compiled by the Ministry of Labour and published by HMSO, 1927.

Available online at:

<http://doot.spub.co.uk/>



**Do you have ancestors in  
Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire,  
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Quarter Sessions Records  
Parish Records

Taxation Records  
School Records  
Charity Records  
Canal Boat Registrations  
Canal Boat Inspections  
Marriage Notices  
Probate Records  
Asylum Records

**Our Website and Online Shop at  
[www.eurekapartnership.com](http://www.eurekapartnership.com)**

**contains full details.**

# Buckinghamshire FHS SOCIETY SERVICES

## What is available?

- Names indexes and databases
- Libraries containing publications of local and general interest
- Publications for sale

## How do I request a service?

- Individual service request procedures are detailed on the following pages. Information is also on our website at <https://www.bucksfhs.org.uk>
- Please send your order for publications or for searches to the address specified.
- The services are not run from a central office, but by individual volunteers.
- If you are writing to the Society address, to avoid delay please ensure the name of the service and volunteer you wish to contact is included in the address on the envelope.

## How do I pay?

Please refer to the individual services notices on the following pages

- **Cheque**  
Made payable to 'Buckinghamshire Family History Society' and drawn on a UK clearing bank. For sums less than £2.00 please send equivalent value in postage stamps instead.

- **Credit Card**

We are able to process credit card transactions through our website for membership, publications and searches. Please visit our shop at <https://shop.bucksfhs.org.uk> to place your order.

## How is postage charged?

Stamped addressed envelopes must be supplied for a written reply, otherwise please give an email address. Please do NOT use the prices in the online shop when purchasing items by post, as this will delay your order. There is a separate price list available for download online.

## How do I cancel my order?

Sales are covered by the Consumer Contracts Regulations 2013 & Consumer Rights Act 2015. Orders may be cancelled within 14 days. In the case of goods supplied (e.g. books) this is 14 days from the date of receipt by the consumer. In the case of services supplied (e.g. database searches) this is 14 days from the date of the contract which is the date on which Buckinghamshire Family History Society receives the request. Any cancellation must be in writing either by post or e-mail to the address to which the original order was sent. On the receipt of a cancellation notice and the returned goods the Society is required to refund the cost within 30 days. Cost of postage for the returned goods will be borne by the customer. Any orders for magazines or periodicals which the Society may from time to time sell are excluded from the right to cancel.

## Other notes

- Please note that fees for searches undertaken at fairs may vary.
- Please provide full contact details including email address, as this will help us to process your order more efficiently.

# Society Publications

## Bucks FHS Publications

Bucks FHS has published parish registers, 1851 census and miscellaneous records available for purchase variously on CD and printed formats.

CDs are designed for Windows systems and are NOT compatible with Apple Mac systems. Microfiche (fiche) require a microfiche reader. Many libraries and Record Offices have microfiche readers.

### To purchase items by post:

- For a catalogue, please send a C5 sae (162 x 229 mm).
- See 'how to pay' on the introduction pages to this section
- Use the details in the catalogue for prices including P&P charges for postal purchases – Please do NOT use the prices in the online shop when purchasing items by post, as this will delay your order.

### To purchase items online:

Consult the Society's online shop on the website at <https://shop.bucksfhs.org.uk>

### Contact

Bucks FHS Publications, Bucks FHS, Box 2, c/o Unit 7 Broadfields, Aylesbury, HP19 8BU

**Email:** [printed.publications@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:printed.publications@bucksfhs.org.uk) (for printed publications)  
[cd.publications@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:cd.publications@bucksfhs.org.uk) (for CD & DVD)

# Search Service

## CBS look up (Members Only)

A search of a specific type of record will be undertaken for members by volunteers at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies (CBS) in Aylesbury.

For each member, the time spent on searches will be limited to 2 hours per annum. Further time may be made available to a member with a donation to the Society's funds.

Requests should be sent by email to the Search Service with details of the type of record and the time period to be searched together with your Membership Number. Searches will normally be undertaken and the results reported back to the member within 21 days.

### Contact

CBS Look up, Bucks FHS, Box 2, c/o Unit 7 Broadfields, Aylesbury, HP19 8BU

**Email:** [cbsinfo@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:cbsinfo@bucksfhs.org.uk)

# Database Searches

## Baptisms and Burials

This searchable database is an on-going transcription of baptism and burial entries from deposited Buckinghamshire parish registers 1538 to 1908.

The following options apply to a baptism **OR** a burial search – please specify which you require:

- Option 1: Single Baptism OR Burial Search – first name and surname £1
- Option 2: Single Surname Search – all available parishes £3 per 100 years
- Option 3: Single Surname Search – all available parishes, all years £10
- Option 4: Single Surname Search – all years in 6 parishes £3

*(Options 3 & 4 are available to members only)*

Results sent by email, or by post as a print out (please include large sae and loose stamps for postal option). Visit <https://www.bucksfhs.org.uk>, email or send an sae for a list of parishes and dates in the database.

Payment for baptism and burial searches can be sent by post (by cheque, postage stamps). Credit card payments can be made online; please email for details.

### Contact

Madeleine Harvey, BFHS Baptisms, 1 Drove Cottages, Newhaven Road, Rodmell, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3HD

**Email:** [baptisms@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:baptisms@bucksfhs.org.uk)

## Marriages

This searchable database contains transcripts of marriage entries from deposited Buckinghamshire parish registers. It is fully transcribed from 1538 to 1837, with many parishes up to 1908.

- Option 1: Single Marriage Search – first name and surname £1
- Option 2: Single Surname Search – all available parishes £3 per 100 years
- Option 3: Single Surname Search – all available parishes, all years £10

*(Options 3 is available to members only)*

Results sent by email, or by post as a print out (please include large sae and loose stamps for postal option). Visit <https://www.bucksfhs.org.uk>, email or send an sae for a list of parishes and dates in the database.

Payment for marriages searches can be sent by post (by cheque, postage stamps). Credit card payments can be made online; please email for details.

### Contact

Marilyn Blake, BFHS Marriages, 5 Mandeville Close, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2BD

**Email:** [marriages@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:marriages@bucksfhs.org.uk)

# Society Libraries

## Exchange Journals Library

Contains copies of other Societies' journals from home and abroad.

The Society exchanges journals with a large number of other family history societies both in this country and overseas. The librarian keeps the three most recent journals of each society.

Members may borrow journals for up to a month by post or at the Central or North Bucks meetings. Those borrowing by post are asked to reimburse the small postal charges.

### Contact

Exchange Journals Librarian, Bucks FHS, Box 2, c/o Unit 7 Broadfields, Aylesbury, HP19 8BU

**Email:** [magexchange@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:magexchange@bucksfhs.org.uk)

## Take a look at our FACEBOOK GROUP

Our new Facebook group (which is separate to our Facebook page) is proving popular. There are now over 80 photos of Bucks churches and chapels. Members are beginning to share research interests, and some have already found common ancestors and other links. It's also a good source of news about family history developments, and the various events and shows that BFHS will be attending during the year.



# Useful Contacts

**Buckinghamshire Archives (formerly CBS)**  
County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1UU  
[www.buckscc.gov.uk/archives](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/archives)

**Record Office** Tel: 01296 382587  
Email: [archives@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

**Local Studies** Tel: 01296 382250  
(Currently closed Oct 2020)

**High Wycombe Library**  
5 Eden Place, High Wycombe,  
Bucks, HP11 2DH  
Tel: 01296 382415  
Email: [lib-hiw@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:lib-hiw@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

**Milton Keynes Local Studies  
and Family History Library**  
555 Silbury Boulevard,  
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK9 3HL  
Tel: 01908 254160

**Slough Library**  
The Curve, William Street,  
Slough, SL1 1XY  
Tel: 01753 535166

**Chesham Library**  
Elgiva Lane, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 2JD  
Tel: 01296 382415  
Email: [lib-che@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:lib-che@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

**Buckingham Library**  
Verney Close, Buckingham,  
Bucks, MK18 1JP  
Tel: 01296 382415  
Email: [lib-buc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:lib-buc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

**Society of Genealogists**  
14 Charterhouse Buildings,  
Goswell Road, London, EC1M 7BA  
Tel: 020 7251 8799  
[www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk)

**The National Archives**  
Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond,  
Surrey, TW9 4DU  
Tel: 020 8876 3444  
Email: [enquiry@pro.gov.uk](mailto:enquiry@pro.gov.uk)  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

**General Register Office**  
PO Box 2,  
Southport PR8 2JD  
Tel: 0300 123 1837  
Email: [certificate.services@gro.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:certificate.services@gro.gsi.gov.uk)  
[www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk)

## 'ORIGINS' ADVERTISEMENT RATES

**Full page: £40**

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Contact: BFHS Editor, Box 2, c/o Unit 7 Broadfields,  
Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8BU  
Email: [editor@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@bucksfhs.org.uk)

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[www.bucksfhs.org.uk](http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk)



Please submit entries to the 2020 competition to:

[editor@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@bucksfhs.org.uk)