



**Bedfordshire
Family History Society
Journal**

Vol 25 No 3 Sep 2025



William Henry Darts, Drummer Boy, 1st Battalion, Bedfordshire &
Hertfordshire Regiment at Kailana, India, circa 1934

**BEDFORDSHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

A member of the Family History Federation

Founded 1977

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**BEDFORDSHIRE
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JOURNAL SURNAME INDEX

Below is the Surname Index for this *Journal*, providing you with a rapid way of finding a Surname within this *Journal*. Note that Members' Surname Interests are not indexed. The Surname Index for *Journals* on the BFHS website will be updated in due course.

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VISITING BEDFORD

The new '*What's On Bedford Borough*' hub officially opened its doors on Wednesday 28 May, offering a vibrant space that brings together local culture, visitor services and community spirit under one roof.

Find it at 50 Silver Street, Bedford, MK40 1SU; Phone 01234 276573; email whatson@bedford.gov.uk; website bedford.gov.uk; open Wednesday to Saturday 10 am to 4 pm.

Membership Subscriptions 2026

If you are intending to pay your **2026** membership by Standing Order or Bank Transfer, please drop an email to **treasurer@bfhs.org.uk** to advise your name, post code, payment method and membership type. Your help would be appreciated.

Please use the new Barclays bank details for bank transfers to Bedfordshire Family History Society, using sort code 20-05-73 and account number 93516105. When convenient, please change any standing order from NatWest to Barclays and please remember to cancel your standing order to our NatWest account.

Please note that the 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society approved an increase in some subscription rates. Please see the draft Minutes of the AGM later in this Journal and the rear cover.

BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TEA TOWELS

The Society has had a supply of Bedfordshire Heritage tea towels printed and these are sold to raise funds. These tea towels are really too nice to use for drying up; they are beautifully colour printed with some famous Bedfordshire landmarks forming a border for the County map. Even if you do not have any Bedfordshire ancestors, they make ideal gifts.

They are 100% cotton and at £4.50 each can be obtained from the bookstall at members' meetings, by email to **secretary@bfhs.org.uk**, or by post to Lynn Manning at 38 Risborough Road, Bedford, MK41 9QW, Tel. 01234 306482. For UK orders please add **postage and packing** as follows:

Up to 2 tea towels add	£2.10
3 to 4 tea towels add	£2.50

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

BFHS RESEARCH CENTRE



LOCATION AND PARKING

Bedfordshire Family History Society's Research Centre is now open and located at the Community Voluntary Service offices at 43 Bromham Road, Bedford, MK40 2AA.¹

There is limited parking in the CVS car park at the rear of the building in Trevor Street. Alternative parking is available nearby at Greyfriars Surface Carpark and Allhallows Multi-Storey Car Park (4 hours free parking).



¹ Map copyright openstreetmap.org, openstreetmap.org/copyright.

RESOURCES

An extensive library that will appeal to family and social historians.

Parish Register transcripts for all historic parishes in Bedfordshire.

Monumental Inscriptions.

Free internet access to genealogical resources including *The Genealogist*.

Microfiche collection including The International Genealogical Index, 1881 Census and Telephone Directories.



FACILITIES

The Research Centre is located on the first floor of the CVS building and can be accessed by a lift.

Kitchen and toilet facilities are available. The kitchen may be used for preparing drinks during your visit.

OPENING HOURS

Our research centre is open to members and non-members by appointment only. We will be open at the following times:

Wednesday and Saturday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

In addition, we will be opening on some Monday and Tuesday mornings between 9:30 and 12:30. Please check the Research Centre calendar for details.

HOW TO BOOK A VISIT

Please use our Research Centre calendar on the society web page, bfhs.org.uk/researchctr.html, to see details of available appointment times and use the links provided to request an appointment.

Alternative times may be available subject to the availability of volunteers to staff the research centre. Please email Research.Centre@bfhs.org.uk for enquiries.

For members without internet access, bookings can be made by phoning the research centre on 01234 867216 during opening hours. Please note the phone will not be manned outside these times.





TALK PROGRAMME

All talks are at the new venue of St Mary's Church Hall, Goldington, and virtually via Zoom unless otherwise advised.

Doors open at 7 pm with the talks starting at 7.30 pm.

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

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



The address of the venue is St Mary's Church Hall, Church Lane, Goldington, Bedford (MK41 0AN for satnavs).²

From Bedford town centre, head East towards Cambridge on the A4280 (was A428) Goldington Rd.

At the mini roundabout at Goldington Green, turn left towards Renhold into Goldington Green Road

Just after the pedestrian crossing the road becomes Church Lane. Take the second on the right, sign-posted Church Hall, then turn immediately left up to the Church car park where you will find the Church Hall.

² Map copyright openstreetmap.org, openstreetmap.org/copyright

TALK PROGRAMME (cont'd)

Mid-19th Century Merchant Shipping

Bill Lindsay

Friday 5 Sep 2025



I retired twelve years ago from a lifelong career in the pharmaceutical industry. I have since turned to researching Victorian Merchant Shipping. I am a member of several Nautical Societies and have written many articles on the subject. I am the editor of the online magazine *Topmasts*.

Whilst investigating my family tree, I found that my great-great-grandfather William Schaw LINDSAY (1815-1877) in his day was akin to Richard Branson. An entrepreneur, he made a fortune in Merchant Shipping. His diaries are held in the National Maritime Museum, and it took me six years to transcribe them; I wrote his forefather's biography as a result.

Secrets of the Black-Out

Andrew Lound

Friday 3 Oct 2025



I have presented public lectures and staged exhibitions for nearly 50 years and participated in thousands of events. I have many interests, specialising in space science and astronomy from both a current and historical perspective. From 2010 to 2014 I was curator of the Avery Historical Museum located at the famous Soho Foundry in Smethick. In 2016 I worked at Soho House Museum where I established a reputation as a historical guide. I have four published books *Lunatick Astronomy*, *Life in the Balance*, *RMS Titanic: Made in the Midlands*, and *The Power of Balance W&T Avery Ltd in the First World War*, and a number of books in preparation.

The Black-Out was a new experience for the British. Every night during WW2, the streets remained dark. Cars and bicycles had covered lights, all homes had to use black-out curtains to prevent even a spot of light being seen. During air raids people would go to the shelters at the bottom of their garden or into public shelters. What was lifelike in the Black-Out? Many social and personal taboos were broken. There was the black market, the illicit affairs, and much much more. In a presentation that has a lot of surprises about the reserved British of the 1940s, the changes to social behaviours brought about by the Blitz are examined. The British would never be the same again as many were tempted to eat from the forbidden tree. The evening promises music, images and a few laughs.

TALK PROGRAMME (cont'd)

Mud, Blood & Bandages: Medical Services WW1

Ian Langworthy

Friday 7 Nov 2025

My talk will be about medical services for the forces during World War 1. It will cover the 'chain of evacuation' being the system for treating the injured and their movement down the line and medical advancements and innovations during the period where necessity was very much the mother of invention.

I have had a lifelong interest in history generally and military history in particular. During a 40-year career as a solicitor I organised and led, with my brother, many tours for friends and family to the battlefields of Western Europe.



As I came up to retirement, I decided that I wanted to continue guiding on a formal basis. I obtained an MA in military history from the University of Buckingham, joined the Guild of Battlefield Guides and having completed the Guilds' course for Accreditation I am now the proud holder of Badge 101.

I am a freelance guide and have experience in researching for and guiding a variety of groups to western European battlefields of various eras. I also have a keen interest in Romano-British history, British history generally and the Wars of the Roses and the English Civil War in particular.

The Creation of Dickens Christmas Carol

Steve Dimmer

Friday 5 Dec 2025



When Charles Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* in 1843, the season was not the joyous celebration we know today.

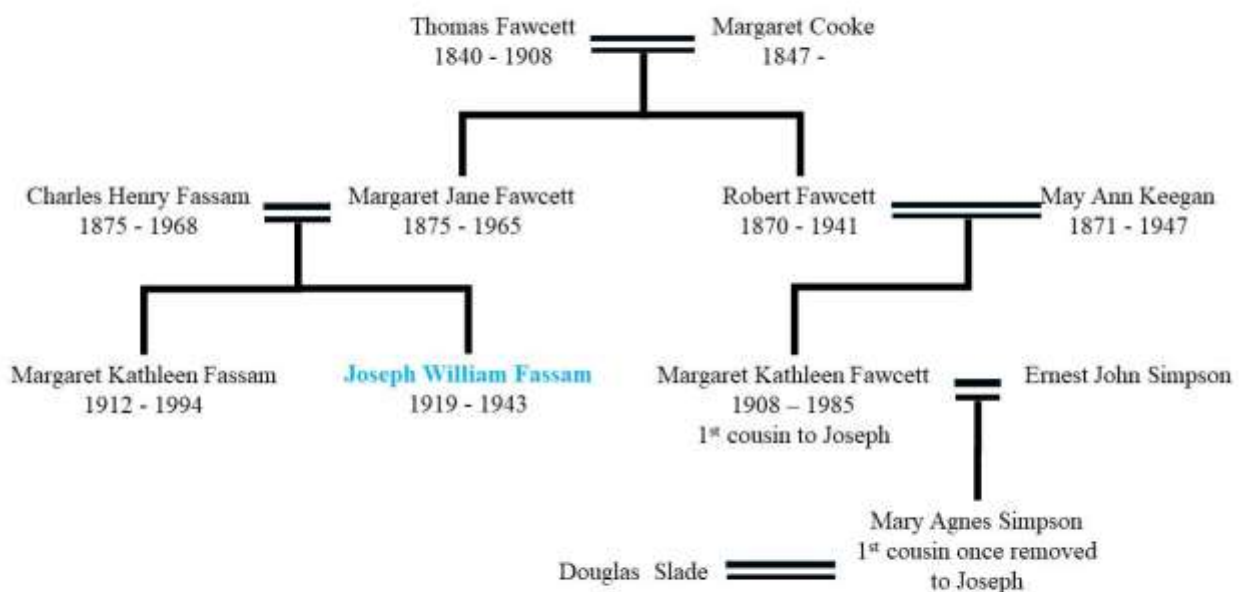
This talk examines how the classic story was written and how it influenced the Victorians and later generations to embrace Christmas.

LEST WE FORGET.

Doug Slade

Often in family history individuals are forgotten and their story is lost in the mists of time. My intention is to write the narrative of Joseph William FASSAM (Joe), and the part he played in World War 2, lest he disappear from history altogether.

There are an infinite variety of approaches open to us when we study our family history. In conversations we often think of our maternal uncles and aunts as members of our family. A family may consist of a number of collateral branches. Ancestry is a term that is used to include all forebears in all lines of descent, male and female, which are often set out on a Total Blood Descent chart. It is often claimed by people, saying they can trace their family back to the Conquest, when what they should be saying is that they can trace their *ancestry* back that far. The collateral relatives give a fuller picture of our family's constitution and by looking at our family groups more information emerges.



According to the 1921 census, Joseph William Fassam (Joe) was born in November 1919 in Dublin, his father was Charles Henry Fassam, born 1877 in Margate, Kent, and was a Petty Officer in the Coast Guard Service, based in Ireland. Charles Henry Fassam married an Irish girl, Margaret Jane FAWCETT, in March 1907, and they were resident in Co Mayo in the 1911 census. His wife, Margaret, had an older brother, Robert Fawcett, born in Co Sligo in 1870 and he joined the Royal Navy in 1890, serving with distinction for many years, being promoted to Petty Officer, which not many Stokers achieved. He was invalided out of the Royal Navy in 1915. Throughout his service his base was Devonport, and it was there he met and married an Irish girl, Mary Ann KEEGAN (1871-1947) in 1902. She and Robert lived in a single room in a house in Devonport, along with several other Naval and dockyard workers. She also ran a Public House near the dockyard whilst Robert was at sea, as well as working in the Officers Mess as a cook. With her thrift, she

and Robert were able to purchase a terraced house, which was an achievement for an immigrant Irish family from a croft in Sligo.

Whilst Robert was visiting his family in Ireland in the 1920s, when the Easter uprising was brewing, he was threatened by the IRA at gunpoint and told to leave Ireland. It probably did not help that he had been in the Royal Navy previously. He did leave and this influenced his sister Margaret Jane (wife of Charles Henry Fassam) to encourage her husband to take up a position in Cornwall around 1921/22. Robert Fawcett then worked with Charles Henry Fassam as a coast guard in Cornwall. All the family were now located in Plymouth and formed a close knit, interrelated, supportive cluster, often seen in immigration patterns.

Robert and Mary had a daughter, Margaret Kathleen Fawcett in 1909, which made her a first cousin to Joseph William Fassam. This daughter married Ernest John SIMPSON in 1940, and they had a daughter, Mary Agnes Simpson in 1947, who was to become my wife in 1970. This makes her a first cousin, once removed to Joseph William Fassam.

I met Joe Fassam's sister, Margaret Kathleen Fassam (Auntie Kathy), briefly in the late 1960s when I was courting my wife. She had been close to Joe and had some Special Air Service (SAS) memorabilia in her home, she talked about him a little and like many family historians, I wished I had made more of those opportunities to ask more.

I have recently been able to gain much valuable information regarding Joe's early military service, as well as clarifying and confirming or otherwise my previous understanding of his history through the administrator, researcher, and author of the SAS Roll of Honour website (sas-lrdg-roh.com) and book *The SAS and LRDG Roll of Honour 1941-47*¹, who has granted permission to use the photographs in my article.



In November 1937 Joe Fassam, pictured left, joined the local 164th Heavy Battery, Devonshire Heavy Brigade Royal Artillery (TA). At the outbreak of war, he volunteered for the No 8 (Guards) Commando, and in July 1940 Lance Bombardier Joseph William Fassam is shown as being in No 8 Commando. The Commando was formed by Churchill after Dunkirk and the need to develop specially trained self-contained raiding units of a hunter class who could reign terror on the enemy coasts. The Commando was formed on 23 June 1940, and on 24 June 1940, No 8 and No 3 Commando was reorganised

¹ The book's author, writing anonymously under the pseudonym of Ex-Lance Corporal X, former member of the SAS Regiment, served in the British Army for 12 years and is the holder of the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

into the 4th Special Service Battalion. It is interesting to note that No 3 Commando were the original Commandos.

Joe Fassam was part of this combined Commando training, which I believe, took place at Achnacarry, Scotland, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Charles VAUGHAN, who was a bluff man with a warm heart. When the recruits arrived, they marched through an avenue of false gravestones (not knowing they were false), just to remind them that their life had changed, and from that day live ammunition was used. 'The enemy will not be using blanks' he is reputed to have said.

No 3 and No 8 Commando shared a common experience, and they shared a common mix of their origins and attitudes. They came from many locations including the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire regiment. All were volunteers and were handpicked so that they bonded and developed an identity, and brotherhood.

A further reorganisation took place in February 1941, with a combined No 8 and some commandos from No 3 Commando coming under the control of Colonel Robert LAYCOCK, Layforce being named after him. A young Guards officer, named David STIRLING, was also under his command and he proved to be very significant in the future of the SAS.

In 1941, Layforce landed a string of lightning assaults on Italian positions on the North African coast. Unfortunately, these did not work out as hoped and instead of inflicting heavy casualties, Layforce lost many good men, which resulted in its disbandment, with surviving members being moved and allocated to units such as the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG). Joe joined the Middle East Commando and was involved in a recce behind enemy lines in Libya.

On the 10 June, they were spotted by plane and on the 14 June were attacked. They withdrew in the one vehicle left to them and unfortunately after a short journey they had to abandon it as it had struck a boulder which wrecked its steering. They set off on foot and Joe became separated from his unit. Fortunately, he encountered a LRDG who had to give him a jerry can of water and leave him co-ordinates to get back to base whilst they recovered others 'in greater need!' It is not recorded what his thoughts were about this...

For Stirling, this was a disappointment, but he was convinced that the thinking behind Layforce was not flawed - just its deployment - and proposed it be structured so as to be executed by small units of men attacking a series of objectives after being inserted in by parachute. His idea was adopted, and Stirling recruited 6 officers and 60 other ranks to come totally under his command, thus the SAS was born.

Joe Fassam became one of those selected, probably about the 26 September 1942 along with an officer called Captain Blair MAYNE (Paddy), who was to command the SAS eventually. The unit trained hard and were tested to their limit in Kebrut, a remote place about 90 miles east of Cairo, and on 5 November were tasked with attacking an airfield at Timin, west of Tobruk. After dropping by parachute in the desert about 5 miles from their target they lay up during the daylight hours of the 17 November 1941. Regrettably, heavy rain aborted the mission. However, further raids followed, (led by 'Paddy' Mayne), resulting in important aerodromes and planes being destroyed.

In 1943, Stirling was captured, which plunged the SAS into crisis; the army establishment tried to disband the SAS and incorporate it back into regular units. However, 'Paddy' Mayne, rose to the challenge and led the Regiment in place of Stirling whilst overcoming his contempt of staff officers. 1 SAS was reorganised into the Special Raiding Squadron (SRS) and the Special Boat Squadron (SBS). Mayne divided his force of approximately 280 men into 3 troops. Joe was in 3 Troop and on the 28 June 1943 the squadron started a vigorous preparation for an operation, though not knowing where or when it would take place, and on the 4 July the SRS embarked for Sicily and operation HUSKY.

Just after 0100 hours on 10 July, 3 Troop transferred from *MV Ulster Monarch* to Landing Assault Craft and once inside became soaked and seasick as they made for land. Once ashore, they moved towards gun batteries, attacking them with stunning ferocity, resulting in the capture or killing of 40 enemy, without any loss to themselves. Following this, the SRS were tasked with attacking the port of Augusta, 11 miles north of Syracuse, where they experienced further heavy action and deaths.

The next operation, named, Operation DEVON, tasked them to land at a port called Termoli, lying on the eastern Adriatic coast of Italy and seize and hold their targets. They were joined by several hundred men of No 3 Commando and 40 Royal Marine Commando. While the Commandos were to take the town, the SRS would flit ahead and seize bridges. The landing was quiet as the SRS moved off the beach head, and they advanced to a nearby ridge. The squadron then divided into its respective troops and sections and moved towards their respective objectives.

Joe Fassam and 3 Troop started to move across country towards the Termoli-Campomarino road, 1 Troop were slightly behind them. At 5:30 am, B section of No 3 Troop, under Lieutenant John TONKIN came across a small group of Germans, who appeared to be trying to find cover in a ditch close to a bridge. They were easily captured. The mortar section had, meanwhile, engaged more Germans causing them to withdraw.

Tonkin and his prisoners moved towards what appeared to be a deserted farm, when they came under heavy fire by an enemy force of unknown strength. Tonkin withdrew to a ditch and attempted to retrace their steps, all the time receiving heavy accurate fire. It soon became apparent to Tonkin that their situation was untenable, they were separated from the rest of the patrol, had penetrated too deep, too fast, their ammunition was low, and they were surrounded. Tonkin concluded that with little darkness left, the only option was to give the order 'every man for himself!' Tonkin's only real hope was that somehow, his men would be able to fight their way out in ones and twos and regroup later. However, the Germans had the initiative and closed in on the ditch, but did not appear to be in any hurry to launch an attack, perhaps waiting for their opponents to make the first move,

The men of B section were not prepared to wait, and almost at once Joe Fassam was one of the first to act, he clambered over the edge of the ditching and immediately encountered the waiting Germans and, though on his own, he appeared to have no intention of surrendering. Joe fired a long burst of fire at the closest group, but regrettably his courageous action cost him dear, and he was cut down by a fiercely returned hail of fire. The result of his action bought some time, and half a dozen of his comrades were given the chance to break free, which they did dragging their German prisoners with them back

to Termoli. Joe Fassam lay where he had fallen and was the first SAS death on the casualty list of the battle of Termoli. The rest of those who escaped finally reached Termoli and reported the situation to Mayne.

This is the letter that Corporal Russell JESSIMAN wrote to Joe's father:

Dear Mr. Fassam,

It is with deepest regret I am writing this letter; but I know you will want to know what happened when Joe met his death. I was with him at the time; we were both in the same section. Our job was north of Termoli and we made a landing in German lines on the night of October 3rd [sic - the early hours the 3rd]. Our objective was approx 8 miles inland over very rough country occupied by the enemy. We had been marching approximately to 4'o'clock in the morning of the 4th [sic - 0530 on the 3rd] when we had a fight, we overpowered the enemy and were going on our way when we met very stiff opposition from the enemy. We had a pretty rough time of it as we were outnumbered and the Germans had field guns which they were firing at us.

Our officers decided to outflank the enemy and, if possible, bypass them. Our luck began to desert us for when we retreated we got into a wadi, surrounded on all sides by the road (we did not know at the time but we were in the middle of a German parachutists' line) It was just breaking daylight then the Huns were firing mortars and machine guns at us. No way could we get out of the wadi unobserved or out of his range. He gradually closed in on us and we had the order to try and break out of the other end of the wadi. This we tried to do but Joe tried to get up the side of the wadi when a burst of machine-gun caught him in the chest. It was instantaneous. He did not suffer pain and passed away before any of us could reach him. Nearly all of us lads were taken prisoner. I happened to be lucky enough to escape (he and Lance Corporal Sid PAYNE lay low amongst low scrub). Later that day we took his body south to Termoli and buried him at the cross roads. One of the boys placed a wreath of flowers beside the cross. The padre Capt HUNT was there and he gave the service. Each day before we left, one of us attended to the grave and when we left Termoli it was arranged that the grave would be kept in order.

Mr. Fassam I was not Joe's closest friend. His friend Chris MCAVOY, who was his section sergeant, is a prisoner of war. I knew Joe very well. Liked by all, officers, NCOs and men admired him for his courage and cherry [sic] ways. On and off parade he was known as 'one of the best'. I've often overheard remarks passed about him as Joe Fassam a great guy. Believe me Mr. Fassam everyone thought the world of him. I've known him a long time. We left home together, he being in No. 8 Commando, myself in the 7th. After the Commando got bust up [Jessiman joined on the 26 September 1942]. During all the time I've never known anyone who did not like and admire Joe.

Mr. Fassam on behalf of his comrades I want you to know you have our sincerest sympathy. One of the lads has Joe's photographs which he will forward to you and

also write. If I can be of any assistance to you in any way I will be only too pleased to help in any way.

Yours sincerely

Russell Jessiman [See Jessiman's own entry under Communal Cemetery, France., Volume III].

So concludes Joseph William Fassam's story and his life, one of the founder members of 1 SAS. Joe is buried at Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy. His gravestone is illustrated overleaf. The inscription at the bottom was chosen by Joe's family.

Of the 207 men of the SRS who landed at Termoli early on the morning of 3 October 1943, 21 were killed, 24 were wounded and 23 taken prisoner.

Sources/Acknowledgments:

Damien Lewis, *Forged in Hell*, 2023

Stewart McClean, *SAS The History of The Special Raiding Squadron*, 2006

Gavin Mortimer, *The SAS in World War II*, 2011.

John Laffin, *Raider*, 1999,

Commando Veteran Archive, commandoveterans.org/8Commando

Photo Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Joe Fassam photo, Commando Veterans Archive.

Material from unpublished family history written and researched by William Simpson and Douglas Slade.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR 2

This year will see the 80th anniversary of the end of World War 2, with Victory in Europe (VE Day) marked on 8 May and Victory over Japan (VJ Day) marked on 15 August (UK dates).

In recognition of this significant anniversary, we invite you to share your family history during WW2. This could be simply by telling us of the family members who served during the war and those who were among the fallen. Or perhaps you have a more detailed story to tell of your family and of those who served during this period of our history? This is an opportunity to have your family story published.

All contributions are welcome and will be published in the December issue of the *Journal*. Photographs of events and people are particularly welcome. Send your contributions to journal@bfhs.org.uk. The closing dates for the December issue of the *Journal* is 31 October.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

874242 L. BDR
J. W. FASSAM
ROYAL ARTILLERY
ATTACHED
SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGT.
3RD OCTOBER 1943 AGE 23



HE FOUGHT. THAT WE
MIGHT ALL BE SAFE AND FREE.
WE MOURN HIS LOSS IN ITALY

HARD TIMES – AN EXERCISE IN THE WELFARE OF THE POOR

Barry Neale

Today we live in increasingly uncertain times, and the international situation is forcing governments to rethink the ways in which revenues are raised to pay for the spiralling costs of public expenditure. In Britain, we are learning once again how to live in an age of austerity, and swingeing cuts in welfare are seen as inevitable. It is hard, perhaps, to feel much sympathy when we are tightening our belts another notch - who cares how our ancestors fared when our energy bills and council tax are increasing, and our welfare payments are cut? But my own family history research has reminded me of the way things were handled in earlier days, and how problems today might be put into perspective.

From the 17th century, anyone who had lived in a parish for a month and who became destitute was entitled to claim poor relief, but since the money for this came from the other inhabitants, who were charged a local tax called a 'poor rate', newcomers were not always welcomed with open arms. (There are obvious parallels here today with the concern expressed by some about the impact of immigrants to this country). The Settlement Acts increasingly limited the number of people to claim poor relief; and from the 17th to the early 19th century it became the practice for local authorities - usually in the form of Justices of the Peace for the county - to 'examine' newcomers and visitors to a parish to determine where they were legally settled, and to decide which parish should be responsible for their welfare, and that of their families, if they became ill or unable to work. If necessary, the Justices could issue a 'removal order' whereby the parish constable could escort the offending individual and their family to the parish boundary, where the neighbouring constable would take them to the next boundary, and so on, until they got back to the parish where they had a legal settlement. Supporting the unfortunate traveller(s) on the route with food, clothing and shelter seems to have been entirely discretionary. The passing by Parliament of the Poor Law Amendment Act in 1834 changed all this, and a new 'improved' system was introduced, with workhouses and outdoor assistance for the poorest, the sick and the elderly. My 4 x great-grandfather was not fortunate enough to benefit from the new system.

Richard NEALE (or NEAL, or NAIL - the family surname was spelled differently in various official documents) was born around 1767, one of at least ten children of a couple who had married in Leighton Buzzard in 1757. Richard was baptised, along with two brothers, in Chalgrave in June 1779 - so we know that he was a Bedfordshire man by origin. He seems to have travelled to the neighbouring county of Hertfordshire, presumably looking for work, for he married Elizabeth WEEDON in the village of Aldbury (near Tring) in 1796. However, their daughter, also Elizabeth, was baptised in 1799 in Battlesden, near Chalgrave, indicating that the young couple had moved back to Richard's home county, perhaps searching for better employment. But for some reason they did not stay in Bedfordshire. Their subsequent children - they had at least seven more, but most died in infancy - were all baptised in Aldbury between 1802 and 1819.

By the following year, 1820, the family came to the notice of the local village authorities; had job prospects dried up, or had Richard become too ill to work? Whatever the reason, on 7 November 1820, James HORSEMAN and T DORRAN, '...being two of His

Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Hertford', signed an Order addressed to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parishes of Aldbury and Battlesden. The Order stated that

...Whereas complaint has been made unto us....by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said parish of Aldbury.... that Richard Neal and Elizabeth his wife and their 3 children viz. Joseph aged about 10 years, Mary aged about 5 years and James aged about 3 years have come to inhabit in the said Parish of Aldbury not having gained a legal Settlement there, nor having produced any Certificate acknowledging themselves to be settled elsewhere, and now actually become chargeable to the same.... We the said Justices upon due proof made thereof, as well upon the examination of the said Richard Neal upon oath.... do adjudge the place of the legal Settlement.... to be in the Parish of Battlesden in the County of Bedford...

The Order concluded

...In His Majesty's Name require you the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the said Parish of Aldbury to remove and convey the said Richard Neal etc..... out of your said Parish of Aldbury to the said Parish of Battlesden, and them deliver unto the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor..... who are hereby required to receive and provide for them according to Law.

It is certainly not clear how it had been determined, after the family had lived in Aldbury for over two decades, that Battlesden was the family's legal settlement, unless it was the fact that one of Richard's children had been baptised there 21 years earlier, or that Richard might have lived there originally before moving to Hertfordshire looking for work? Unfortunately, the Battlesden Parish Chest contains nothing which throws light on the matter.

One can only imagine what the weather was like in November for the (admittedly, reasonably short) journey from Aldbury to Battlesden, whether any transport was made available, what the road conditions were like, and how uncomfortable it would have been for Richard and Elizabeth with three small children. But they seem to have managed; and in 1841 the couple are shown living in Tebworth, close to Chalgrave. Richard died in Tebworth in 1848 and is buried in All Saints Churchyard. Joseph, his young son who was forcibly removed from his Hertfordshire home in 1820 - and my direct ancestor - remained in Battlesden for the rest of his life, was married in the village in 1828, and was buried there in 1888.

The good old days...?

WARTIME BROTHERS

David Darts, Colin Darts, Jan Darts

Joshua DARTS, our grandfather, served in the army during WW1 that saw his two brothers, Arthur and Frederick, and two nephews, Henry and David, killed in action. This 'War to end all Wars' was unfortunately followed by events that would once again engulf the Darts family in a World War.

Our fathers Arthur, Bill, and Fred respectively, were born in Bedford to Joshua and Florence (nee HADDINGTON) and were part of a large family. Florence would have ten children with Joshua, not an unusual number for the early part of the 20th century, but only seven including the three brothers would survive to become adults. The fortunes of the three brothers follow, from just prior to the outbreak of WW2 to just after the end of the war.

Arthur Frederick Darts (b 31 Dec 1912)

Known as Arthur, he was in the Territorials from 17 April 1929 until 16 April 1939 when he was discharged.¹ The 1939 Register² shows he was in lodgings at 12 Maple Road, Luton, and an 'engineers fitter'. He had served an Engineering Apprenticeship and attended College Courses to become a qualified Engineering Tool Maker, making him qualified to handle most engineering procedures.

During the war years he was working with the Adamant Engineering Company Ltd in Dallow Road, Luton, just around the corner from his lodgings. Adamant specialised in manufacturing *Marles* precision steering gears for Army vehicles - Jeeps, armoured cars and heavier commercial vehicles. During these years he was involved with the local Home Guard and, with the passing of the Air-Raid Precautions (ARP) act, is understood to have been involved on the 'Fire Fighting' side which was carried out during his spare time from his work at Adamant.

Arthur married Betty Frances WHITE³ on 27 January 1940 at St Mary's Parish Church, Woburn, and subsequently moved to Dunstable Road, Luton. After the war he continued working at Adamant and was very much involved with training apprentices.

William Henry Darts (b 16 Feb 1917)

Known as Bill, he was a 'boy' soldier. The Regulations for Recruiting for the Regular Army published in 1903 laid out the criteria under which boys aged between fourteen and seventeen years could be recruited and the roles they were permitted to take on. Any boy enlisting in this way had to produce a certificate of good character, his birth or baptism

¹ Royal Artillery Attestations 1883-1942, courtesy of *FindMyPast*, **FindMyPast.co.uk**.

² Courtesy of *Ancestry*, **Ancestry.co.uk**.

³ During the early war years, Betty worked as a secretary for the Meteorological Office, which was based on the Downs on the outskirts of Dunstable. At the outbreak of war, they were moved to a camouflaged area situated in 'Green Lanes' running from Dunstable down to the Village of Totternhoe. It was moved out of London in 1940 due to the fear of bombing.

certificate, proof of his elementary school education to at least Standard V and have the written consent of his parents. For boys being enlisted to Infantry Battalions, they could serve as trumpeters, buglers or musicians and each Infantry Battalion could have up to eight boys on their roll.⁴



He is pictured above as Drummer Boy, 1st Battalion, Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire (B&H) Regiment at Kailana,⁵ India, circa 1934. His Service Record is awaited to confirm

⁴ <https://blogs.bl.uk/untoldlives/2018/11/boy-soldiers.html>

⁵ Kailana was a very small station in the north of the United Provinces, about 60 miles from Dehra Dun and 8000ft above sea level. The station was isolated, and the hills considered to have particularly steep gradients. With other regiments there was room for 1000 men, blackwatch.50megs.com/indianhill.html

details, but it is likely that he joined at the age of 14, given all the mouths to feed at home and the death of his mother in 1931.

At some point he transferred to the 2nd Battalion because he was evacuated from Dunkirk. An 'Application for issue of Campaign Stars and Medals'⁶ identifies that he was released or discharged from service on 12 Sep 1941, just over a year after his evacuation from Dunkirk. Again, confirmation of the reason for his release or discharge await receipt of his Service Record, but it is not unreasonable to speculate that the events surrounding Dunkirk had some influence on his departure.

Bill married Jessie Kathleen COOKE, a telephonist, on 5 May 1945 at St Mary the Virgin, Cardington, pictured below. His profession was listed as Lorry Driver.



⁶ <https://uk.forceswarrecords.com>

Frederick Joshua Darts (b 5 Apr 1920)



Known as Fred, he was a pre-war regular serving with the 2nd Battalion B&H Regiment. He is pictured left, as a Private in Jamaica Squad circa January 1939. He was the Bass Drum player in the 2nd Battalion Corps of Drums. He was in 2nd B&H pioneer platoon and served throughout the Belgium and France campaign escaping through Dunkirk.

Peter YOUNG, an Officer from the B&H, joined the newly formed Commandos in June 1940. A cohort of men from the 2nd B&H followed, including Fred. Forty men of H Troop (later 6 Troop) under Peter Young's command took part in the first 3 Commando raid to Guernsey on the 14/15 July 1940. There were further raids to Norway in 1941, Lofoten in March and Vaagso in December.⁷

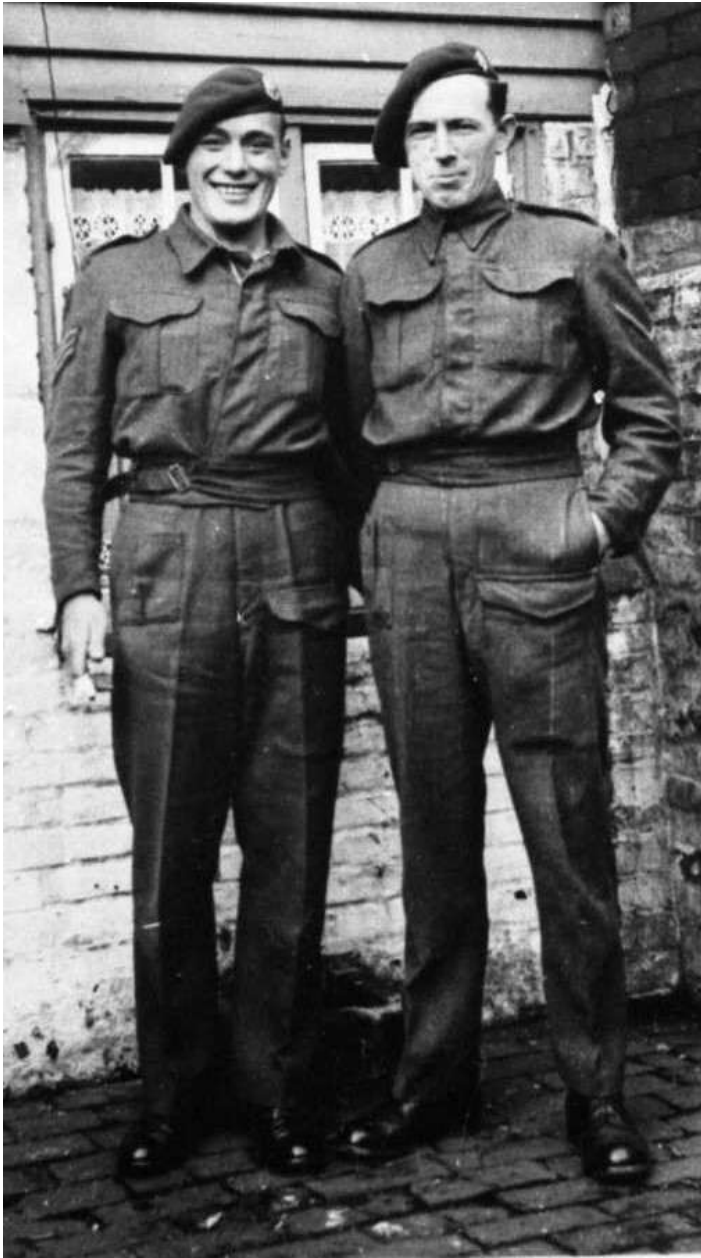
The next major raid was Operation Flodden, part of the Dieppe raid on 19th August 1942. 3 Commando were tasked with destroying a German gun battery at Berneval-le-Grand to the east of Dieppe. The force was to divide and land on two separate beaches and encircle the Battery.

In the early hours, 3 Commando's convoy encountered, by chance, a German convoy. This convoy included armed trawlers, who engaged the lightly armed Commando convoy. Some of the 3 Commandos small Landing Craft Personnel (LCP) were destroyed and the rest were forced to scatter.

The result was that only 6 LCPs made land at Yellow Beach 1. Only one LCP, under the command of Major Peter Young reached Yellow Beach 2. He landed with only two officers and 17 men, including Fred. They managed to ascend the cliff and reach the Battery, but with depleted numbers they were unable to assault the guns and resorted to sniping at the gunners in the Battery. This was still effective as the Germans were limited in their ability to fire at the Naval convoy off the beaches at Dieppe. When the men were short of ammunition, Young ordered them back to the waiting

⁷ Many thanks for the research undertaken by Guy HUDSON, commandoveterans.org, related to Fred and to Peter Young's autobiography, *Storm from the Sea*, giving an overview of Commando operations that Fred took part in. He does receive a mention in the book.

Motor Launch. This was done without any loss of life, and they made it safely back to Newhaven, even though they were attacked from the air on their return crossing.



Fred is pictured here on the left with Lance Sergeant stripes post the Dieppe raid, most likely in Lewes, with Lance Corporal Edward WALSH.⁸

In 1943, 3 Commando transferred to the Mediterranean. They spent time in Gibraltar and Algiers before taking part in the Sicily landings. After the initial landings, 3 Commando were tasked with the capture of a vital bridge, the Punta di Malati over the Leonardo River. It was important that it was not destroyed and did not halt the Allies advance. They landed at Agnone on the 14 July 1943. They reached the bridge and secured it, stopping any demolition taking place. There, 3 Commando encountered German tanks and Fallschirmjäger, elite German paratroops. The lightly armed Commandos had no weapons to deal with the tanks and a tactical retreat was ordered.

It was for actions in this fighting retreat that Fred was awarded his Distinguished Conduct Medal. Fred was subsequently captured, with the remains of his Section after running out of ammunition. He was imprisoned at Stalag XIII A in Wolfsberg, Austria, and would remain a prisoner of war until 8 May 1945.

⁸ Berets were not issued to 3 Commando until after the Dieppe raid in August 1942. 6 Troop spent some time in Lewes, Sussex, prior to moving to Weymouth in Dorset and the location for the photo could possibly have been Lewes due to the presence of the weather boarding on the cottage in the background. Lance Corporal Walsh was an Irishman and 6 Troop veteran who was awarded a Military Medal in Normandy.

Fred married Amy Gertrude BAILEY⁹ shortly after the war at St Mary the Virgin, Cardington, on 10 August 1946, pictured below, with Arthur as one of the witnesses. Fred's profession is listed as joiner's mate, but he would shortly join Hertfordshire Constabulary as a Constable.



⁹ Amy enlisted at Blackburn on 6 February 1943 and was based at RAF Castle Archdale, located on the eastern shore of Lower Lough Erne, near the village of Lisnarrick, Northern Ireland. She stayed there until the end of the war in September 1945 when she was transferred to RAF Benson in Oxfordshire.

JOHN PHILLIPS OF MEPPERSHALL – PART 1

FATHER OF FANNY MARSHALL’S SIX BOYS

Allen R. Peterson

In 1871 John PHILLIPS, a married farmer of Meppershall, Bedfordshire, lived with his married housekeeper, Fanny MARSHALL. Neither John’s wife nor Fanny’s husband lived with them; however, boys with Fanny’s surname did. Bedfordshire’s genealogical records confirm John fathered Fanny’s six boys while his estranged wife lived in another county.

Fanny Marshall and John Phillips’s Intertwined Families

William Marshall married Mary HOWE in 1828 in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire.¹ Their daughter Fanny, born in Upper Caldecote, Northill Parish, Bedfordshire, was baptised in 1834 at St. Mary’s Church in the village of Northill.² (See next page for location of select parishes and villages.)

Bachelor John Phillips of Northill, Bedfordshire, married Ann IMPEY, a spinster of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, in 1828.³ John, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Phillips, was baptised in 1809 in Shillington, Bedfordshire.⁴ He was twenty-five years older than Fanny.

In 1841 William and Mary Marshall’s household in [Upper] Caldecote included six-year-old Fanny.⁵ John Phillips, a tailor, and Ann were listed in the census five families below the Marshalls, suggesting they lived nearby.⁶

Sixteen-year-old Fanny lived with her parents William and Mary Marshall in Upper Caldecote, in 1851. That year the Philipses were shown two families below the Marshalls. They farmed 30 acres with two labourers. John was born in Shillington; Ann in Hitchin.⁷

¹. Parish registers for Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, marriages, 1813–1882, vol. 12:98, entry 292, Marshall-Howe, 25 Dec 1828; Bedfordshire Record Office (BRO), Bedford, Bedfordshire, U.K.

². Parish registers for Northill, Bedfordshire, baptisms, 1813–1885, p. 93, entry 743, Fanny Marshall, 26 Nov 1834; P 10/1/8–9, BRO.

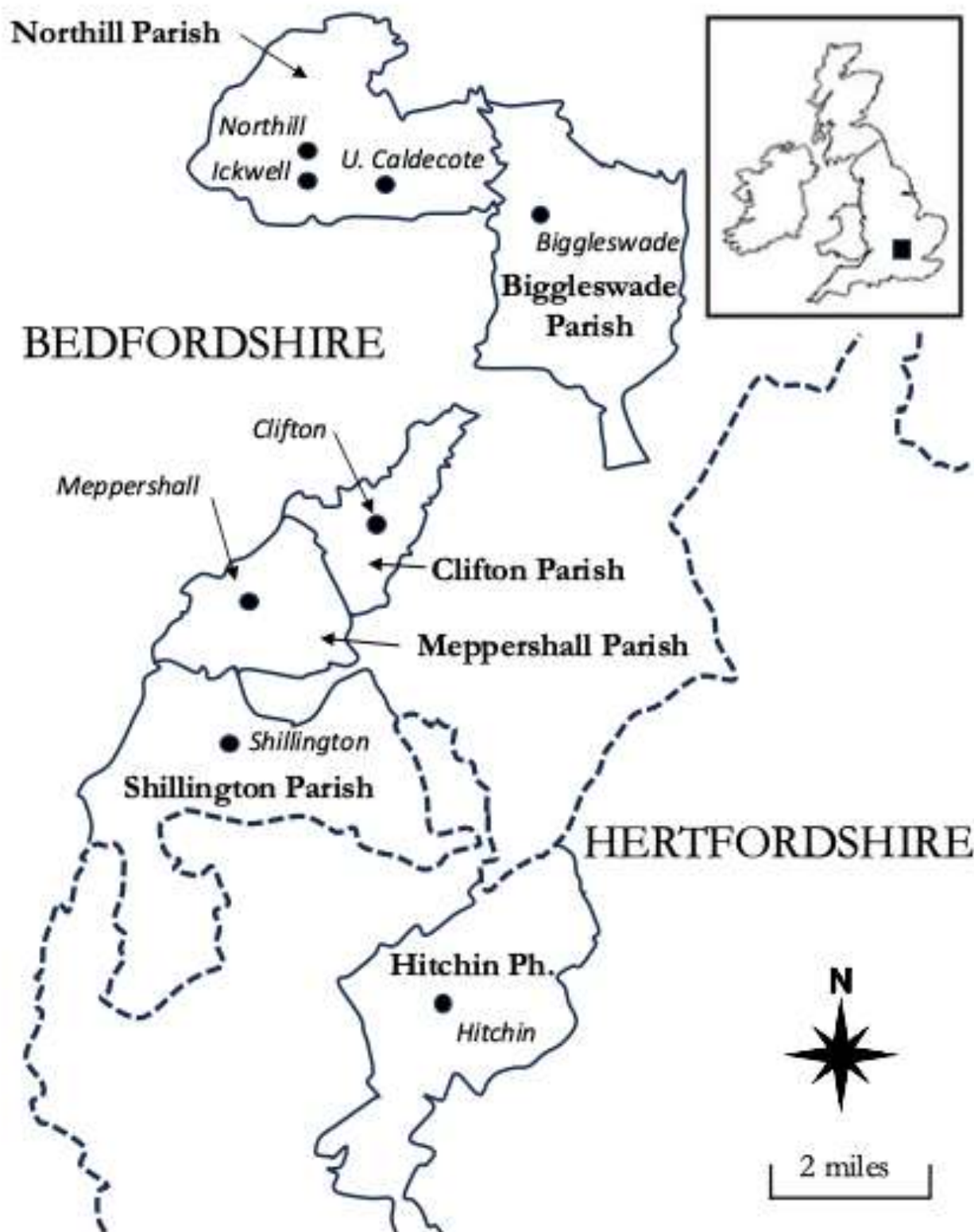
³. Parish registers for St. Mary’s Church, Hitchin, marriages, 1822–1837, p. 108, entry 447, Phillips-Impey, 3 Nov 1828; P 08390, Hertfordshire Record Office, Hertford, Hertfordshire, U.K.

⁴. F. G. Emmison, ed., *Bedfordshire Parish Registers*, vol. 36 (Bedford, U.K.: Bedford County Record Office, 1947), 43. Baptised 1 Oct. 1809.

⁵. 1841 England census, Bedfordshire, Northill Parish, population schedule, Biggleswade Registration District, enumeration district (ED) 12, book 10, folios 4v–5r, pp. 15–16, William Marshall household; HO107/9, The National Archives (TNA), Kew, Surrey, U.K.

⁶. 1841 England census, Bedfordshire, Northill Ph., pop. sch., Biggleswade Reg. Dist., ED 12, bk. 10, fol. 5r, p. 16, John Philips household; HO107/9, TNA.

⁷. 1851 England census, Bedfordshire, Northill Ph., pop. sch., Biggleswade Reg. Dist., ED 6, fol. 97r, p. 12, schedules 44 and 46, William Marshall and John Philips households; HO107/1753, TNA.



Select Parishes in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, ca. 1851. Adapted from ‘English Jurisdictions 1851,’ FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/mapp/>).

In 1837–38 John Phillips of Northhill Parish qualified to vote in the parliamentary elections by virtue of freehold houses and land at Green End in Shillington. He was last eligible in

Northhill in 1858–59. He apparently moved from Northhill Parish to Meppershall Parish about 1859–60 when he qualified based on the Green End property. He last qualified from Meppershall in 1870–71.⁸

Fanny's father, William Marshall, died in 1859 in Upper Caldecote.⁹ By 1861 fifty-six-year-old John Phillips had been in Meppershall for about two years. He was a married farmer of 98 acres, but his wife did not live with him. His household included twenty-seven-year-old Fanny Marshall, an unmarried servant born in [Upper] Caldecote, and John's two sons: John Marshall, two, born in [Upper] Caldecote; and George Marshall, six months, born in Meppershall. Mary Marshall, a fifty-five-year-old servant and widow born in Ickwell, Bedfordshire, also lived with John,¹⁰ see figure 1 overleaf. She was Fanny's mother who later moved back to Upper Caldecote, where she died in 1863, four years after her husband's death.¹¹

In 1871 John Phillips, a married, sixty-year-old farmer born in Shillington, farmed 93 acres in Meppershall Parish without his wife. Thirty-eight-year-old Fanny Marshall, a married housekeeper born in [Upper] Caldecote, lived with him. In addition to Fanny, John's household included four Marshall boarders born in Meppershall: George, ten; James, eight; William, three; and Arthur, one,¹² see figure 2 overleaf. The boys' surname Marshall suggests they were Fanny's sons. If she had a husband, he has not been identified. Fanny, who also went by the surname Marshall, was unlikely married. She may have identified herself as a married servant to conceal her illegal cohabitation and illegitimate children.

John Phillips died in 1871 of a stroke or heart attack at age sixty-two.¹³ After 'Ann Phillips, the lawful Widow and Relict' renounced her administrative responsibilities,

⁸ 'Bedfordshire, England, Electoral Registers, 1832–1986,' *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61264>), Bedfordshire, Biggleswade Polling District, Shillington, p. [?], no. 1325, John Phillips; 1858–59, p. 97, no. 2550; p. 97, 1859–1860, p. 97, no. 2644; and 1870–71, p. 121, no. 3180.

⁹ Death certificate for William Marshall, Sept quarter 1859, entry 7, 13 Aug 1859, Biggleswade Reg. Dist.; 3b/226, GRO.

¹⁰ 1861 England census, Bedfordshire, Meppershall Ph., pop. sch., Biggleswade Reg. Dist., ED 15, fol. 116v, p. 12, sch. 57, John Phillips household; RG9/997, TNA.

¹¹ Death certificate for Mary Marshall, June quarter 1863, entry 166, 19 June 1863, Biggleswade Reg. Dist.; 3b/232, GRO.

¹² 1871 England census, Bedfordshire, Meppershall Ph., pop. sch., Biggleswade Reg. Dist., ED 15, fol. 11r, p. 15, sch. 73, John Phillips household; RG10/1552, TNA.

¹³ Death certificate for John Phillips, Dec quarter 1871, entry 382, 25 Oct 1871, Biggleswade Reg. Dist.; 3b/237, GRO.

1	John Phillips	Head	Mar 24	24	6 men & boys	Dr	Whiting ton
	Fanny Marshall	serv	Jun		House Keeper	Dr	Calicut
	John Marshall	serv		12		Dr	Do
	George Marshall	serv	Feb			Dr	Delphoria
	Mary Marshall	serv	Girl	5	General Serv	Dr	Do

Figure 1. 1861 census showing John Phillips's servant, Fanny Marshall, his two sons John and George Marshall, and widowed servant Mary Marshall

1	John Phillips	Head	Mar	4	6 men & boys	Dr	Whiting ton
	Fanny Marshall	serv	Jun		House Keeper	Dr	Calicut
	George Marshall	serv		10		Dr	Do
	Jessie Dr	Dr		3		Dr	Do
	William Dr	Dr		1		Dr	Do
	Arthur Dr	Dr				Dr	Do

Figure 2. 1871 census with a married Fanny Marshall and four Marshall boarders.

John's brother Thomas, a yeoman of Clifton, Bedfordshire, administered his estate. John died intestate 'without Child or Parent,'¹⁴ see below.

ON the 20th day of December 1871,
 Letters of Administration of all and singular the personal Estate and Effects
 of *John Phillips*
 formerly of
 late of *Meppershall in the*
County of Bedford Farmer.
 who died on the 25th day of October 1871,
 at *Meppershall aforesaid without Child*
or Parent and.
 intestate,
 were granted at the Principal Registry of Her Majesty's Court of Probate
 to *Thomas Phillips of Clifton in the*
Said County Yeoman the natural and
lawful Brother and one of the next of
kin
 of the
 said deceased, he having been first sworn duly to administer

Ann Phillips the lawful Widow and Relic
~~and next of kin~~, of the said deceased, having renounced ~~examined~~
~~the said deceased, but died without having taken upon~~ the Letters
 of Administration of *his* personal Estate and Effects.

Effects under £ 800
 P. R. *No Leaseholds.*
 11. *CB.*
 © [147] 2000 11/71

Fanny Marshall appeared in the 1874 tax valuation as the occupier of a property owned

¹⁴ Principle Probate Registry, London, administration of estate, John Phillips, 20 Dec 1871. 'Index To Death Duty Registers 1796-1903,' Findmypast (<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/index-to-death-duty-registers-1796-1903>). Negative search for John Phillips.

by Thomas Phillips at Green End in Shillington.¹⁵ Thomas, as John's administrator, apparently rented John's former freehold house to Fanny, after his brother's death.

Fanny, a forty-five-year-old former domestic house keeper, died of pulmonary tuberculosis in 1875, presumably at Green End. Her son, George Marshall, attended her death.¹⁶

What Happened to John Phillips's Wife, Ann?

John's wife, Ann, was the daughter of Samuel and Ann Impey, born and baptised in 1805 in Hitchin.¹⁷ In 1871 Ann Phillips, born about 1805, was a married 'Needlewoman' living in Hitchin with her widowed sister, Elizabeth ALLEN, a retired grocer.¹⁸ Elizabeth, a daughter of Samuel and Ann Impey, was Ann's older sister born in 1803.¹⁹ Ann had apparently retreated to her birthplace upon discovering John's infidelity.

Sixty-eight-year-old Anne Phillips, 'Widow of John Phillips a Farmer,' died in 1873 in Hitchin of 'Gastritis Exhaustion from Inanition,' a form of exhaustion caused by starvation or malnutrition.²⁰ Even though separated, she had remained John's legal wife.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our Society attends a variety of Family History Fairs around the country, and this gives you an opportunity to meet other members of the Society, discuss any brick walls in family research, and browse some of our publications to help your research.

We plan to exhibit at the following Fair:

Oxford Family History Fair, 25 October 2025, 10 am to 4 pm at Cherwell School, North Site, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 7EE, **ofhs.uk**.

¹⁵ 'Bedfordshire, England, Valuation Records, 1838–1929,' *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61323>), Shillington, Ampthill Union, Bedfordshire, Valuation lists, p. 29, entry no. 433, Fanny Marshall occupier, Thomas Phillips owner, 4 June 1874; VLA2/11, Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service (BARS), Bedford, Bedfordshire, England.

¹⁶ Death certificate for Fanny Marshall, March quarter 1875, entry 494, 7 Jan 1875, Ampthill Reg. Dist.; 3b/305, GRO.

¹⁷ Hitchin, Back Street Meeting (Independent or Pædobaptist Congregational), births and baptisms, 1771–1837, fol. 25, Ann, born 28 July 1805, baptised 31 Oct 1805; RG4/743, TNA.

¹⁸ 1871 England census, Hertfordshire, Hitchin, pop. sch., Hitchin Reg. Dist., ED 5, fol. 82r, p. 11, sch. 40, Elizabeth Allen household; RG10/1367, TNA.

¹⁹ Hitchin, Back Street Meeting (Independent or Pædobaptist Congregational), births and baptisms, 1771–1837, fol. 24, Elizabeth Impey, born 1 Oct 1803, baptised 1 Dec 1803; RG4/743, TNA.

²⁰ Death certificate for Anne Phillips, Dec quarter 1873, entry 416, 13 Oct 1873, Hitchin Reg. Dist.; 3a/210, GRO. 'Inanition,' *Oxford Reference* (<https://www.oxfordreference.com>).

BEDFORD AT THE START OF WW2

Molly Taylor

If only you had known the town of Bedford as I found it when my family moved to Bedford in 1940. I was ten. My parents, Charles and Olive ELLIS (nee ASPLEN¹) thought a move to Bedford would give me and my brother a better chance, so we up-sticks and moved in with my aunt and uncle in Elstow. I went to Elstow School and left at the age of 14. I wanted to help the War effort! In January 1944 I had a junior job in the Town Clerk's Office. I learnt typing and shorthand at night school and when I was 18, I was moved to the newly created job as Mayor's Secretary. I stayed for five years, got married and spent many years as wife of a serviceman, travelling the world. In Lincolnshire I had only known beautiful, quiet countryside.

I found Bedford packed with interesting and exciting things. There was the beautiful river and gardens, three boats cruised from the side of the town bridge. Mr CHETHAM hired punts from the bottom of Newnham Road. Rowing boats and punts could be hired from the boathouse near the town bridge. On Longholme lake you could hire rowing boats, canoes and paddle boats. The lake froze during several winters and it was good for skating. Near the boathouse was the Picturedrome, on the opposite side of the river was the Swan Hotel, then the County Library, then the Plaza Cinema. The Granada cinema had not long been built in St Peter's Street. The fourth cinema was in Midland Road, next to British Home Stores.

In St Cuthbert's Street was the roller skating rink, there was a big fire one Boxing Day. There had also been another roller skating rink in Midland Road, near the roundabout. A small railway with train and carriages was between the suspension bridge and the boathouses, but this was removed to be made into guns, tanks, etc. The two large guns by the river used in the Boer War, opposite Russell Park, also had the same fate. Likewise, most of the iron fences and gates were removed from houses in the town. If you look at the brick gate ways in The Grove you will see the remains of the iron fencing and gates.

Newnham Baths was a lovely place to swim, a grass lawn for sunbathing, surrounded by changing rooms, swimmers and non-swimmers were catered for. Children loved to slide down the waterfall where the water entered the pool from the river, wearing out their bathers! Commercial Road baths were a wooden construction off Commercial Road, these were not so popular. Near the east gate of Bedford Park were peacocks in a large cage close to the lake.

Brickhill and Putnoe were non-existent. There was no such thing as super markets. No industrial parks and interchange parks. All shopping was done in town in individual shops. The shops just had the name of the shop, none of the gaudy signs we have today.

¹ I have compiled over 100 A4 pages of history and photographs of my family. My Asplen family are as far south as Boston, whereas the Bedford/Cambridge Asplen/ASPLIN family are as far North as Spalding - 14 miles between. My Ellis forebears came from Sandal, Norway, my GARNER family (carpet makers) from Belgium; TASMAN/TAZZYMAN came from northern Holland to dig the dykes in the fens. I cannot get the connection to Abel Tasman the explorer. I have at least dates of birth and marriage of 32 of my g+grandparents into the late 1600.

The High Street was typical of most towns of that time with a good mixture of all kinds of shops. There were seven shoe shops, lovely dress shops, a tailor, also one called 'Fifty Shilling Tailors' and you could have a suit made for fifty shillings (£2.50). There were four banks, a florist, radio shop, and a butcher next to the fresh fish shop. The Cadena, at the entrance to the Arcade, was a popular restaurant and sold the best cream meringues and eclairs. In Silver Street, behind Thompson the butchers, was a slaughter house. A cattle market was held every week, just off Commercial Road. Chickens, rabbits, etc were auctioned on Saturdays on the right hand side of the road, opposite the Borough Police Station in Horne Lane. Also, on Saturdays a Corn Market was held in the Corn Exchange - farmers would come and order their corn.

It was a different scene at night, when the Corn Exchange hosted the big bands, one of which was Glen Miller. That was real music, men wore suits or evening dress, and the ladies had long pretty dresses, waltzes and foxtrots were the order of the night. There was also a ballroom '*The Dujon*' in the High Street.

The High Street, well that was two-way traffic, but the odd car or delivery van managed to park. Silver Street and Harpur Street also had two-way traffic. It was possible to turn right into The Embankment from the Town Bridge. There were coloured lights along the Embankment and in the trees on the island were beautiful stained glass butterflies, this was of course after the War was over. If you look in the garden of a house in Kimbolton Road, by the crossing to Goldington Road, you will see a round metal gun emplacement, which would have held a machine gun to cover the two roads into town. There were other sites by the river at Priory in case of the enemy coming by river. Barrage balloons were always flying at Shortstown. One escaped and drifted towards Bedford town centre, it was dangerous because of the hauser hanging down, but no damage was done.

North Wing Hospital was called St Peter's Hospital and had been the local 'workhouse'. There are graves of many who died under the tarmac car park by the old gatehouse. Coppers were found hidden in the mortar in the walls of the large hall where 'down and outs' were given a night's shelter. With the war the iron railings were taken down and it was used as an emergency hospital and then adapted to become North Wing. There were several iron and steel works in the town and when work was finished the roads would be jammed with cyclists as hardly anyone had a car before the middle fifties.

During the War, because no one could get away for a holiday the Council organised 'Holidays at Home'. Russell Park was the main venue, with a stage, where local talent was encouraged to perform. There were games and sports and events on the river.

A new type of incendiary bomb was tried on Bedford and these raids did a considerable amount of damage, mostly in the Putnoe Lane area, several people were killed. Russell Park area also received hits. Water was no good to put out these new incendiary bombs, and sand was not always at hand.

The end of both the war in Europe and in Asia was celebrated far into the night with crowds laughing and joining hands going up and down the Embankment. It had been a long five years, rarely seeing a banana, but maybe oranges for children at Christmas. Rationing and shortages carried on for the next five years. Now we were free.

MEMBERS' SURNAME INTERESTS

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

Surname	Place/Parish	County	Period
Doug Reid			
Reid_douglas@sky.com			
WARD	LUTON	BDF	16C-E20C
BRANDON(M)	LUTON	BDF	16C-E20C
Adrienne Ewington			
Amewing2002@yahoo.co.uk			
HOLT	HESTON	MDX	18C-E19C
OSBORN	WESTMINSTER	MDX	17C-M19C
WILSON	ADDERBURY	OXF	16C-E18C
BIGGS	LEIGHTON BUZZARD	BDF	18C-E19C
HOLT	HOUGHTON REGIS	BDF	18C-19C
FENSOM	LEIGHTON BUZZARD	BDF	18C-L19C
CROFT	LUTON	BDF	19C
BARTLETT	WOBURN	BDF	18C-19C
BUNKER	WOBURN	BDF	17C-19C
BROMFIELD		STS	18C-19C
GRIFFITHS		STS	18C-19C
BROMFIELD	WEST BROMICH	STS	19C
Jenny Quince			
jq_brit@hotmail.com			
QUINCE	SANDY/BEESTON/NORTHILL	BDF	17C-20C
LINGER	STAGSDEN/BEDFORD	BDF	17C-20C
TING(E)Y	NORTHILL/CALDECOT	BDF	17C-20C
LETT(S)	KEMPSTON/BEDFORD	BDF	17C-20C

Bedfordshire Family History Society (BFHS)
Draft Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Held on Friday 6 June 2025 at 7.30 pm
at St Mary's Church Hall, Goldington, Bedford
and online by Zoom Video Conference

Present

Mark Tresidder Chairman.

Pamela Birch President of the Society and County Archivist.

Committee and Society Members: There were 23 members in attendance at the Church Hall and 32 online giving a total of 55 members present including the above.

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were given on behalf of Dr Colin Chapman, Mrs Joanne Richardson, Mr Noel Evans, Mrs Lynn Manning and Mr David Daniels.

2. Acceptance of the 2024 AGM Minutes

The President, Pamela Birch, asked if any member present and online had any corrections to the 2024 AGM minutes. No corrections were advised.

Cathy Friend proposed acceptance of the minutes, and it was seconded by Paul Woodcraft. The minutes were signed as a true copy. The proposal to accept was carried with 23 in the hall, and 27 online. There was one abstention online.

3. Matters Arising

None were raised.

4. Chairman's Report June 2024 to May 2025

Mark Tresidder stated that his report was published in the AGM booklet for the meeting and he would just like to take a moment to highlight a couple of areas.

At last year's meeting he had highlighted that Mark Rutherford School had given us notice that they were no longer accepting bookings after 7:30pm and that we would need to find a new venue from January this year. Later in the year they informed us that we would have to move out by the end of November. Fortunately, we had been exploring new venues and identified St Mary's Church Hall, Goldington as our new venue. The church was able to accommodate us a month earlier and apart from a few teething issues we have settled into the new venue.

Mark had also highlighted that we would need to relocate our assets from the storeroom at the school. We explored storage facilities such as *Safestore* but found the costs excessive with restrictive access. As a result, we also looked into small offices that we could rent and where we could set up a research centre. For similar costs to the storage facilities, we have been able to rent a room in the Community Voluntary Service building in Bromham Road in which we opened our Research Centre in November having agreed a three-year lease. The Centre provides access to our lending and research libraries, microfiche collections and provides free access to the internet, including a subscription to the Genealogist website. Access to the Centre is by appointment via a booking form on our website. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our other major initiative this year had been to release our baptism, marriage and burial transcripts through *Findmypast*. The income from these is financing the costs of the Research Centre.

Mark also gave thanks to all those who volunteer their time to serve on the committee and in other roles for the time they have given to the Society over the last year and Mark hoped that he had captured all their roles in his report. Apologies to anyone that he may have missed.

Volunteers are important to the running of the Society, and we cannot function without them. Paul Woodcraft is standing down this year from his roles, one of which was Journal Distribution Manager. Despite many requests for help in this area and with no volunteers coming forward we have had to outsource the packing and posting of our journals to an external supplier.

Colin West had also given notice that he was stepping down from organising the refreshments team after the meeting. We do not yet have a volunteer to take over from Colin and may have to cease supplying refreshments if we do not get someone.

We have been requesting volunteers for some time now to help in the following areas:

- Funeral Directors' Records Project Coordinator: Paul is continuing to run this project until a replacement is found;
- Programme Secretary: Claire Sowah is continuing to book our speakers but wishes to step down;
- Memorial Inscriptions Coordinator: required to complete publication of transcripts that have been collected;
- Vice Chairman;
- Representatives at fairs: Lynn Manning and Mary Wooldridge represent the Society at fairs around the country and if anyone can support them that would be appreciated.

If you feel that you can help the Society either on the committee or in fulfilling some of these roles, please speak to Mark or one of the other committee members. You do not have to live in Bedford / shire to be able to help. We have Brian managing our website from the US and Jan editing the journal from Wiltshire.

Finally, Mark thanked Pamela for the support she gives to the Society and for chairing the meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Peter Sharp stated that the Treasurer's Report is available on the BFHS website, Members' Portal, and can be accessed by any member. His report was published in the AGM booklet for the meeting. Peter gave the following summary:

With an income of £11,354 and an expenditure of £18,737, the Society made a loss of £7,383 in the financial year ending 31 December 2024.

Cash at bank and in hand decreased to £61,910. Included in the total is £55,159 which is in NatWest savings accounts.

Income from membership subscriptions and donations for 2024 was slightly less than the previous year at £4,629. This was against the direct costs of membership (journals, postage, meeting/storage rooms, lecturers, four months of the Research Centre and governance) amounting to £10,934.

The number of members remained fairly stable at 473 full members including 62 new members in 2024.

Income from publications (Parish Registers and books) decreased slightly from £3,710 to £3,673.

The total expenditure increased from £9,784 to £18,736 largely due to a £5,000 donation to Bedfordshire Archives for the Three Counties Asylum project plus expenditure on our Research Centre which opened in November 2024.

The total royalty paid to Bedfordshire Archives during 2024 was £266.

The cost of the speakers was £858.

Peter expressed his thanks to the Independent Examiner Mr John Hulance for his help and assistance in maintaining and preparing the Society's accounts for last year.

Peter recommended to the members that the 2024 Financial Accounts presented to the members at the AGM were adopted.

Pamela expressed thanks on behalf of Bedfordshire Archives for the £5,000 donation and it was already being used to help enquirers.

Pamela addressed the members asking for acceptance of the Treasurer's report. Acceptance was proposed by Kevin Friend and seconded by Rosina Hunter. Carried by 51 votes, 23 members in the room, 28 online with one abstention.

6. Election of Members of the Executive Committee

Chairman Mark Tresidder, Treasurer Peter Sharp, and Secretary Joanne Richardson are one year into a three-year tenure.

Acceptance for the re-election of Kerr Clement, Kathy Fraser, Cathy Friend, Kevin Friend, Joanna Lang, Brian Payne, Claire Sowah and Mary Wooldridge was proposed by

Peter Sharp and seconded by David Fowler. Carried by 23 in the room and 28 online with one abstention.

7. Election of Honorary Independent Examiner

John Hulance was presented as the candidate for this position. Pamela addressed the members asking for acceptance of John Hulance. Acceptance proposed by Peter Sharp and seconded by Cathy Friend. Poll Result: carried by 51 votes in favour, 23 members in the room, 28 online with two abstentions.

8. Proposed Change to Annual Subscriptions

The Constitution allows for review of subscriptions under clause 4:

(c) The Executive Committee shall annually review and determine the subscriptions for each category of membership, which shall be subject to confirmation at the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called under Section 8 to take effect from 1 January thereafter.

The membership subscriptions had not increased for several years. With increasing postal costs, the Committee recommended that it was time to ensure that membership income covers the corresponding expenditure, mainly for the quarterly journal. The Executive Committee considered and approved the following proposal, which in summary raises each category of postal membership by the increased postal rates.

It was proposed that, from 1 January 2026:

- a) The UK/Worldwide Membership for the journal by email in pdf format should remain the same at £8 per annum;
- b) The UK Membership (printed journal by post) should be raised from £10 to £15 per annum;
- c) The European Membership (printed journal by post) should be raised from £14 to £25 per annum;
- d) The Worldwide Membership (printed journal by post) should be raised from £18 to £30 per annum;
- e) The Additional Family Member (at same address) should be retained at £1 extra per annum;
- f) The Joining Fee should remain at £2.

A question from the floor was whether the increase would cover the shortfall, Mark Tresidder confirmed that it did.

A comment from Colin West was that we used to issue journals at meetings to save money so could we not do it again? Mark said that the member numbers at the hall was quite low and now that we are using an external company to print and distribute the journals it was no longer practical to issue journals at meetings.

Another suggestion from the floor was to have just one or two journals per year. Mark said that our list of membership benefits says that we provide four journals per annum.

In answer to a question about the numbers of members in each category, Peter stated that 169 were pdf, 290 were UK printed, one European printed and 14 Worldwide printed.

Pamela addressed the members asking for acceptance of the proposal en-bloc to increase annual subscriptions. Acceptance was carried by a majority of 49 votes, with 23 members in the room and 28 online in favour but two against online and one abstention.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Colin West said that we sent Kerr Clement our best wishes for his recovery.

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

9.3 With no other business being raised the President, Pamela Birch, closed the 2025 AGM at 8.03 pm.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire

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

COLIN DAVISON

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Bedfordshire MK41 8JH

England

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Email: colinndavison@gmail.com

*Member of the
Association of Genealogists & Researchers in Archives*

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Annual Accounts for the Period

Period Start Date Period End Date
From 1 January 2024 **To** 31 December 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

	Current Year 2024 £	Prior Year 2023 £
<u>Incoming Resources</u>		
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds		
Voluntary Income	4,691	4,998
Investment Income	1,992	1,460
Income from Charitable Activities	4,670	4,994
<u>Total Incoming Resources</u>	11,353	11,452
<u>Resources Expended</u>		
Cost of Charitable Activities	13,878	7,469
Governance Costs	4,858	2,315
<u>Total Resources Expended</u>	18,736	9,784
<u>Net Movement in Funds</u>	(7,383)	1,668
Total Funds Brought Forward	85,388	83,720
Total Funds Carried Forward	78,005	85,388

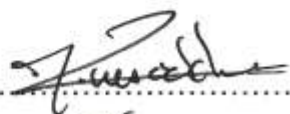
Balance Sheet

	Current Year 2024 £	Prior Year 2023 £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	15,168	15,168
Total Fixed Assets	15,168	15,168
Current Assets		
Stock of Books and Stamps	782	959
Debtors	840	758
Cash at Bank and In Hand	61,912	69,111
Total Current Assets	63,534	70,828
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	697	608
Net Current Liabilities	697	608
Net Current Assets	62,837	70,220
Net Assets	78,005	85,388
Funds		
Unrestricted	78,005	85,388
Restricted	-	-
	78,005	85,388

Signed by

Date of Approval

Chairman

..... 

Mark Tresidder

14-05-2025

Treasurer

..... 

Peter Sharp

14-05-2025

WHY NOT WRITE SOMETHING FOR THE JOURNAL?

We are always on the lookout for contributions to the *Journal*, any size, short or long. To give you some idea, a *Journal* page takes around 450 words to fill. We would also welcome items shorter than a page. You might feel more comfortable writing a letter or email on a topic, and this would be included in a 'Letters' page in the *Journal*.

There are very few requirements for a contribution. It must have a family history theme although this could be the story of a building that has a significance to a family history, for example a church where several members of a family were baptised, married, or buried. There needs to be a link to Bedfordshire, although if the research technique is interesting then it can be included as an example of 'what to do.' The best articles include copies of original records such as census returns and family photographs.

Concentrate on telling the story of the characters in the family history and highlight any successes, or failures in the research. Identify any unresolved issues that need further work. Something as short as 300 to 400 words is acceptable, and much longer articles are always welcome because they can be published over several issues. No need to worry if you are not used to writing. Do not worry about spelling, punctuation, grammar, or physical layout. The editorial 'team' will help you produce a polished article.

Seeing your own work in print can feel like a real achievement and others will appreciate your effort. Simply writing down your 'brick wall' can help you see the problem more clearly and, you never know, someone reading it may be able to help you move forward. A great way to start is to take a small part of your family tree and describe the main characters, where and when they lived and died, and any stumbling blocks you encountered in researching their history, such as name changes or document transcription errors. If you need ideas to get you going or would like to discuss your ideas, please send an email to journal@bfhs.org.uk.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?

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

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

REMINDER

The CLOSING DATE for articles to be published in the
December 2025 *Journal* is **31 October 2025**.

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



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Bedfordshire Family History Society has a presence
on Facebook for news and discussions:

facebook.com/BedfordshireFamilyHistorySociety

BEDFORDSHIRE PARISH REGISTERS

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

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

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

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

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

Sales, Bedfordshire Family History Society, PO Box 214, Bedford MK41 8WB, or
bookstall@bfhs.org.uk

Each CD or download contains, for one parish:

All Parish Register transcripts up to 1812 and searchable Indexes to the Parish Registers for:

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

Marriages up to 1885; and all Burials to 1851

The relevant 1851 Census Index for Bedfordshire

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

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

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

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

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

Parish	Price	Issue	Parish	Price	Issue
Ampthill † *	£15	2	Dunton †	£15	2
Arlesey	£20	2	Eaton Bray	£20	2
Aspley Guise †	£15	4	Eaton Socon † *	£25	2
Astwick †	£10	2	Edworth †	£10	2
Barton	£15	3	Elstow †	£15	2
Battlesden	£10	2	Eversholt †	£15	2
Bedford St Cuthbert †*	£15	2	Everton	£10	2
Bedford St John *	£15	2	Eyeworth	£10	2
Bedford St Mary † *	£15	2	Farndish †	£10	1
Bedford St Paul † *	£25	2	Felmersham † *	£10	2
Bedford St Peter *	£10	2	Flitton *	£15	4
Biddenham †	£10	2	Flitwick	£10	2
Biggleswade † *	£15	2	Goldington	£10	2
Billington †	£10	2	Great Barford †	£15	3
Bletsoe	£10	2	Harlington †	£10	2
Blunham † *	£15	3	Harrold *	£10	2
Bolnhurst	£10	2	Haynes †	£20	2
Bromham †	£10	3	Henlow †	£10	2
Caddington †	£15	2	Higham Gobion	£10	2
Campton & Shefford † *	£20	2	Hockliffe † *	£10	3
Cardington † *	£15	2	Holwell † ‡	£5	1
Carlton † *	£10	2	Houghton Conquest † *	£15	2
Chalgrave	£15	2	Houghton Regis *	£15	2
Chellington	£15	2	Hulcote †	£10	2
Clapham †	£10	3	Husborne Crawley †	£20	2
Clifton	£20	3	Kempston	£15	3
Clophill †	£15	3	Kensworth †	£15	2
Cockayne Hatley	£10	2	Keysoe † *	£15	2
Colmworth †	£10	2	Knotting	£10	2
Cople †	£10	2	Langford	£15	2
Cranfield † *	£15	2	Leighton Buzzard † *	£20	6
Dean † *	£15	1	Lidlington †	£10	2
Dunstable † *	£15	2	Little Barford †	£10	1

Parish	Price	Issue	Parish	Price	Issue
Little Staughton † *	£10	2	Southill † *	£20	2
Lower Gravenhurst †	£10	2	Stagsden †	£15	2
Luton † *	£30	3	Stanbridge *	£10	2
Marston Moretaine †	£15	3	Steppingley †	£10	2
Maulden † *	£15	2	Stevington † *	£10	2
Melchbourne †	£10	2	Stotfold † *	£10	2
Meppershall †	£10	1	Streatley †	£10	2
Millbrook	£15	2	Studham	£15	2
Milton Bryan †	£10	2	Sundon †	£10	1
Milton Ernest †	£10	2	Sutton	£15	2
Northill †	£15	2	Swineshead †	£10	2
Oakley †	£10	2	Tempsford †	£10	2
Odell †	£10	2	Thurleigh	£10	2
Old Warden †	£15	2	Tilbrook	£10	2
Pavenham	£10	3	Tilsworth † *	£10	2
Pertenhall	£15	1	Tingrith †	£10	2
Podington	£15	1	Toddington † *	£15	2
Potsgrove †	£10	2	Totternhoe *	£15	2
Potton † *	£20	3	Turvey † *	£20	2
Pulloxhill	£10	2	Upper Gravenhurst	£10	2
Ravensden †	£10	2	Upper Stondon	£10	2
Renhold	£10	2	Westoning †	£10	3
Ridgmont † *	£15	2	Whipsnade †	£10	2
Riseley	£10	2	Wilden †	£15	2
Roxton † *	£10	2	Willington †	£10	2
Salford †	£10	2	Wilstead †	£20	2
Sandy † *	£15	1	Woburn † *	£20	2
Sharnbrook	£10	2	Wootton	£15	2
Shelton †	£10	2	Wrestlingworth †	£15	3
Shillington †	£15	2	Wymington	£10	1
Souldrop †	£10	2	Yelden †	£10	2

Your committee is continually looking for ways to improve what is offered to members. So, to encourage more feedback from members at meetings we now have a suggestion



box. For members who are not able to use the suggestion box we invite you to email us at **bfhs@bfhs.org.uk**.

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

WHERE TO FIND US

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

Bedfordshire Family History Society

PO Box 214 BEDFORD MK41 8WB	Internet: bfhs.org.uk Email: bfhs@bfhs.org.uk Web Sales: parishchest.com genfair.co.uk
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The following email addresses are also available:

chairman@bfhs.org.uk	Society Chairman
secretary@bfhs.org.uk	Society Secretary
treasurer@bfhs.org.uk	Society Treasurer
journal@bfhs.org.uk	Journal Co-ordinator
librarian@bfhs.org.uk	Society Librarian
membership@bfhs.org.uk	Membership Secretary
progsec@bfhs.org.uk	Programme Secretary
bookstall@bfhs.org.uk	BFHS Publications Sales Enquiries (CDs, etc)
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(1 January - 31 December)

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European Membership with one copy per issue of the printed Journal	£25.00 pa
Worldwide Membership with one copy per issue of the printed Journal	£30.00 pa
Family Membership per each additional member at the same address, but no additional Journal	£1.00 pa

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2. Where it must be supplied to HMRC, e.g. in connection with gift aid submissions.
3. Where we are required to do so by law.

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