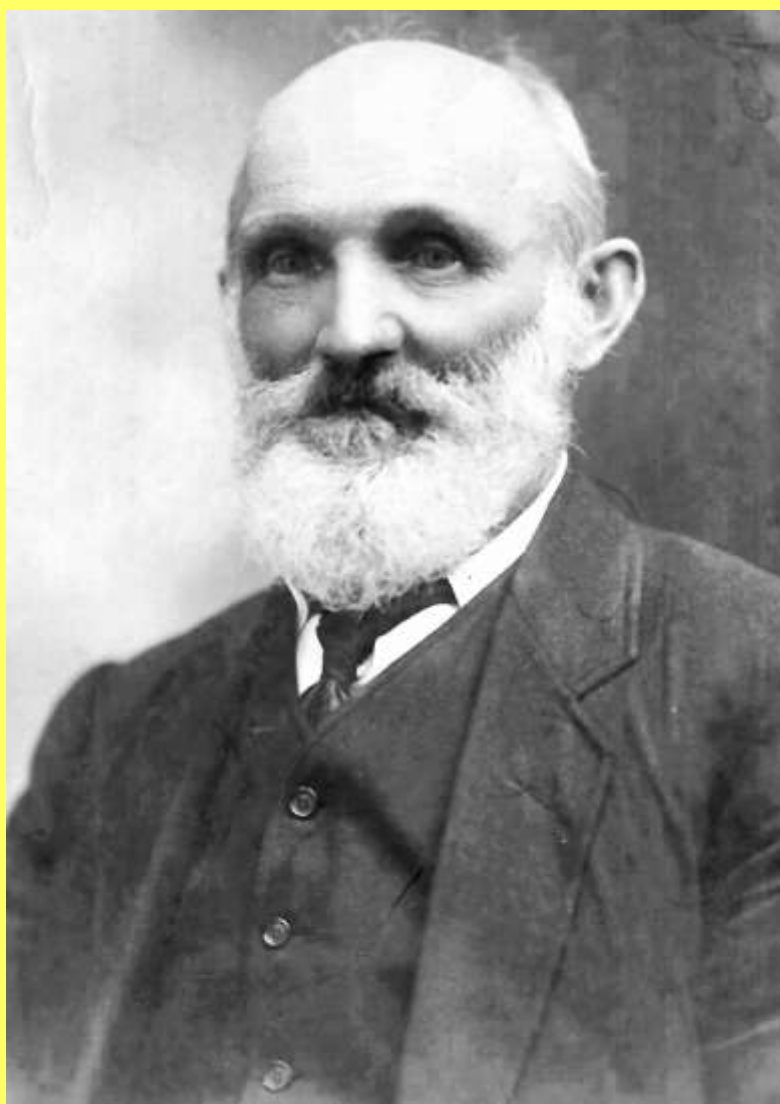




**Bedfordshire
Family History Society
Journal**

Vol 25 No 7 Sep 2026



John Peck (1852 - 1929)

BEDFORDSHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
A member of the Family History Federation
Founded 1977
Registered Charity No. 281677

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**BEDFORDSHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
JOURNAL**



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JOURNAL SURNAME INDEX

Below is the Surname Index for this *Journal*, providing you with a rapid way of finding a Surname within this *Journal*. The Surname Index for *Journals* on the BFHS website will be updated in due course.

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TALK PROGRAMME

All talks are at 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).¹

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.

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

TALK PROGRAMME (cont'd)

Family History from Education Records

Colin Chapman

Friday 4 September



For centuries, education at all levels was provided, often free, by Churches, the State, charities, endowments, professional institutions and individuals. Surviving records are invaluable.

Colin Chapman is a Life Vice-President of the FFHS. Founder/co-founder of six county-based family history societies: President of three, and Patron of Bedfordshire FHS. A Vice-President and Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and a former member of its (then) Executive Committee. He is an acclaimed authority on WW1 German POWs held in Britain.

Policing in North Bedfordshire and beyond

Des Hoar

Friday 2 October



Des is a founder member of Sharnbrook Local History Group. He has been on the Bedfordshire Local History Association (BLHA) committee for several years and is currently Chairman of BLHA. As a former scientist Des has been able to use his experience of project management and expertise in using IT to support archaeological or historical projects. He has specialised in studying the 1086 Domesday Survey and is collecting all aspects of Bedfordshire historical data so it can be analysed

and reported using GIS mapping techniques. He is a former member of the Police History Society.

The talk spans 15 years of research and comes in three parts. The initial phase looked at the role of the parish constable within the village and how the evolution of crime led to the formation of a County Constabulary. The research included the personal history of several police officers.

The second phase focussed on the type of crimes committed in a rural community and how they were dealt with. What patterns of criminal behaviour were evident and how did the police force respond. What types of records have survived and what do they tell us about the life of a policeman. Were there any parts of North Beds where crime levels were especially high? The research included the personal history of several recidivists and families with multiple criminal members.

The final phase is coming close to completion. It is a joint project with a member of Hertfordshire FHS. It addresses those more serious cases held at the Assizes where the defendant was found guilty and given a Death Sentence. The research shows the large number of outcomes possible and correlates the outcomes to the nature of the crime. Spatial analysis was used to analyse data within both Beds and Herts and to compare the two counties. This phase will include personal histories of criminals who were hung and of convicts who had notorious lives in the colonies.

Tracing Industrial Labourers in your family

Nick Barratt

Friday 6 November



Dr Nick Barratt is an author, broadcaster and historian best known for his work on BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* He is an honorary associate professor of public history at the University of Nottingham, the Director of Senate House Library (University of London), a teaching fellow at the University of Dundee and a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. His latest publication, *The Restless Kings*, explores the reigns of Henry II, Richard I and John.

In this talk, Nick explores the sources that will help you find out more about the lives of your industrial ancestors, whether they worked in a factory, down a coalmine, on the transport networks through the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

**AI for Genealogy
Barbara J Starmans
Friday 4 December**

(Remote Zoom presentation in St Mary's Church Hall)



Barbara is a prominent freelance writer, author of *The Social Historian*, and a respected educator specializing in social history and genealogical research. In the realm of family history, her work with artificial intelligence emphasizes using these tools as virtual research assistants and thinking partners rather than relying on them as infallible sources.

Wanted - Database Coordinator

The Society has a number of databases created for previous projects (Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Memorial Inscriptions) developed in *Microsoft Access* but does not have anyone to support them. We are looking for someone to help look after the databases and make sure that they run on current versions of the software. The role will also involve making the databases accessible from our research centre laptop. This will require the development of new menus, search facilities and reporting, to enable the printing of our publication booklets.

The Society can provide you with *MS365* and *Access*, if necessary. As a volunteer, you decide what hours and when you support the Society, and you do not need to be resident in Bedfordshire.

Please contact Mark Tresidder, chairman@bfhs.org.uk, if you are interested in helping with this role.

THE PECK FAMILY OF BEDFORD

Dr Stephen Mould

I was born in Sydney, Australia, and my father originally came from Melbourne, but I rarely saw his family. My mother's surname before marriage was PECK. My grandmother lived near to where we lived, and her husband, my grandfather had died a decade before my birth. As a young child I was inquisitive about details of my family and their origins. My enquiries into details of their lives were met with vagueness and a reluctance which was perhaps Edwardian in its formality, but it is also likely that the past was an unresolved place that was not easily visited. My inquisitive child's questions were not well received, and my long-dead grandfather remained a vague, ghostly presence in my grandmother's household - conspicuous by his absence and the silence which surrounded it. When I was around 11 years old, I had a Jewish school friend whose parents were refugees from Hitler's Germany. He asked me what I knew of my family, proudly boasting that his parents had a handwritten book that traced their family history back to the 1500s in Eastern Europe.

From that time onwards, my questions to family members intensified. I realised that they were all quite old and would not be around forever to share what they knew. That realisation was confirmed when, in my twelfth year, my grandmother died. I started to write to other family members to try to find out anything I could. A few were happy to speak to me, and I managed to put together a family tree which went back three generations, where I became aware that I had a great-grandfather, John Peck. A relative sent me a photo of his grave, which is far out in western New South Wales. From the tombstone I established that he was born in Bedford, England, in 1852 and died in Lidcombe (Sydney) in 1929.

I learned that he had been a sailor, who arrived in Sydney around 1875 to join the goldrush in Gulgong, NSW. There were mumblings that he may have jumped ship. One day, in the State Library in Sydney, I found a book that listed deserters from HM ships, and there I found him, with a description and a reward for his arrest. In Australia he spent most of his life living in remote areas, the 'back blocks', and I wonder if he hid away, aware of the fact that he was wanted by the law. He married twice and had twelve children from those marriages, including my grandfather, Hubert Leslie Peck.

While my grandmother was still alive, I had seen an old chest, like a sailor's chest, under her house and would ask about it. She told me that it had belonged to my great-grandfather, but she had lost the key, and it could not be opened. She seemed to regard it as a piece of junk. A couple of months after asking about the chest, I discovered it was no longer there. I asked my grandmother what had happened. She said it was falling apart and could not be opened so she put it in the council clean up. This was not an unusual fate for photos and other objects that I considered to be family heirlooms. I have just one of John Peck's possessions – a book *Westward Ho* by Charles Kingsley. Evidently when he became old and deaf, he would sit and read and re-read this book. I am pleased to know he could read – his mother signed his birth certificate with an 'x'.

I joined *Ancestry* and began ordering official certificates of family members. I went back another generation, to William Peck (1824 - 1891), a tobacco pipe maker, who lost an eye

in a scuffle, and his wife (m. 1850) Alice (née BOSTON) (1826 - 1857). The family lived in Well Street, which I understand no longer exists. John had two brothers, Charles (1850 - 1934) who stayed in Bedford and James Russell (1854 - 1879) who joined John in Australia, and died young, having broken his neck falling from a wagon in a remote part of the country. Their mother, Alice had died quite young, when John was only 5 years old. I heard a story that he was placed in a workhouse, but I have found no evidence for this, in the 1861 census he is listed in the household as a 'scholar'. William remarried (in 1859) to Louisa PACK. They moved away from Bedford (I am not sure why) and died near Portland, Sussex.

I went another generation back and learned that William's father was my namesake 'Stephen' and was transported to the worst gulag ever created in Australia or the South Pacific - Port Arthur in Van Diemen's Land (today Tasmania). I was not surprised to discover this. I knew that behind the silence there must have been some family secrets - the type that seem unspeakable, until they are finally made known and everyone wonders what all the fuss was about. I have visited Port Arthur and found it a harrowing experience. Stephen Peck was sentenced to 14 years transportation, sailing from England in 1836. In the event, he was incarcerated for 25 years. All records from Port Arthur have been released by the Australian government in recent years. There were no disciplinary incidents, no solitary confinements, no reason for the extra decade of imprisonment. He simply got lost in the system. Somehow, he was released aged about 62 in 1861. He did not go far: as far as I reconstruct, he became an itinerant worker on nearby farms, a drifter. He had no fixed address and died of 'apoplexy' - he had probably lost his mind during the many years of brutal incarceration.

Stephen Peck (1799 - 1864) was born in Kempston and married Margaret TANSLEY (1800 - c1871) in Kempston in 1820. In addition to William they had another son, Charles Russell (1828 - 1864). It is clear from the official records that Stephen was drawn to trouble - perhaps driven to it by poverty. There is a transcript of his final trial in Bedford, which makes for sobering reading, and tells a sad story (all too common, I imagine) of abject poverty and a lack of hope, brought on in part by the industrialisation of England. I have no idea if, following his transportation, Stephen and Margaret ever corresponded, if there were any messages that ever passed between them after the hulk that Stephen was on sailed to Australia. Margaret later married into the LAMB family. The 1841 census describes Stephen as 'dead' - 5 years into his incarceration.

I traced Stephen's parents. Henry Peck (1757- c1801), who was also from Kempston, married Mary RUSSELL (c1767 - 1835) in 1788, and they had five children besides Stephen: Mary, William, Peter, Winifred and John Russell.

At that point the Peck family came to a dead end. In my mind I speculated that they had lived around Kempston for many generations, I know that there are Pecks in the Domesday Book, and I am aware from my DNA that I have ancestry from Northern France. I have imagined tracing my family back to those early times. I am currently living in France, and I have made plans to visit Bedford, and the surrounding Shire. I am pleased to have joined BFHS, and have contacted the BFHS, Mary Wooldridge, who has been

extremely helpful in tracing parts of my family, and also supplying information more generally about the history of the area - such a rich history!

Mary has managed to take the tree back a further generation, finding Henry (1757) Peck's father, another Henry (1725-1772) who married Ann REDMAN in 1753. And there the trail has stalled again, for the moment.

I am amazed by the incredible amount of research and publications which the Society undertakes, and my eyes have been opened to the extraordinary history of Bedfordshire, which I look forward to exploring in due course. I have written this because if anyone reading happens to be related to any of the people I have mentioned here, I would be pleased to hear from you (stephen_mould@icloud.com), and grateful for any information you may wish to share. I also wanted to write something about my convict relative, Stephen Peck, who left Bedford 190 years ago and never returned; also, my great-grandfather John Peck who left England around 150 years ago, also never to return.

I am sharing a picture (below) and a photograph (front cover) which I have preserved of John, the goldminer, in case they may be of interest.



GEORGE SUGARS 1806-1869

Karen Leavers

I have been researching my family history since 2008 using *Ancestry*, *Findmypast*, *FamilySearch*, and documents passed down through my family. I have found that the most valuable research comes from visiting the archives in Bedfordshire, although this has been challenging as I live in Australia.

With the assistance of the archivists, I was able to confirm the birth date of my great-great-grandfather, Thomas SUGARS. Thomas was born in Ampthill, Bedfordshire, on 26 August 1834, and later immigrated to Australia, arriving aboard the ship *Irene* on 16 February 1858. Searching through historical newspapers, I also discovered an article about Thomas's father, George Sugars.

George Sugars was born on 26 February 1806 and baptised on 6 April 1806 at St Andrew's Church, Ampthill. He died on 5 August 1869 and was buried three days later, on 8 August, in Ampthill, Bedfordshire.

The 1841 census records George living in Ampthill with his wife Kitty and their children Hannah, Ann, Thomas, George, and Elizabeth. By 1851 the census stated, he was employed as an agricultural labourer at The Grange (pictured¹ below), working for



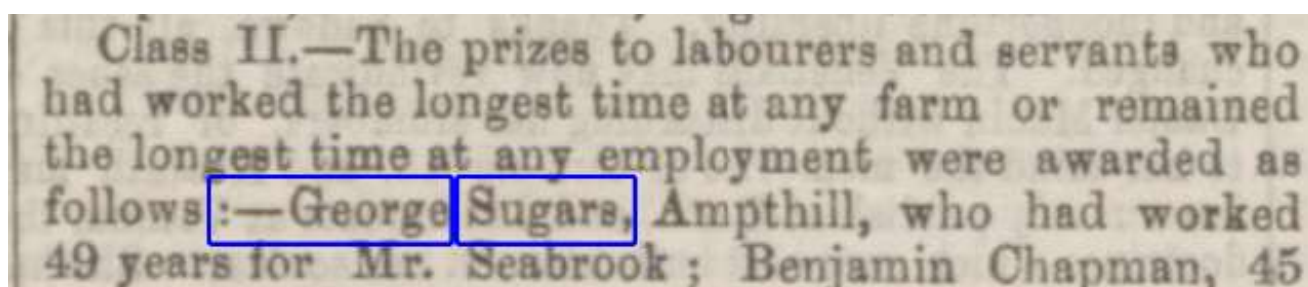
¹ Ampthill. Buildings G-K / Grange 1943.2139 – ampthillimages.com

landowner William SEABROOK. Living with him were his wife Kitty and their children Thomas, George, and Eliza. Ten years later, the 1861 census on the next page shows the family residing at the Grange Cottages, where George and Kitty were living with their children Betsy, John, William, Sarah, and Mary.

George Sugars' long service to the Seabrook family became widely recognised. On 24 September 1867, the *Bedfordshire Times and Independent* reported that he had worked for Mr Seabrook for an extraordinary forty-nine years. His dedication earned him a Class II prize from the Silsoe and Ampthill Labourers Friend Society, an organisation that acknowledged local labourers for loyalty, industry, and years of service.

For an agricultural worker in nineteenth-century Bedfordshire, such a record was remarkable. Farm labour was physically exhausting, poorly paid, and entirely dependent on the changing seasons. Men like George Sugars spent their lives ploughing fields, tending livestock, repairing hedges and fences, and gathering harvests in all weather conditions. Workdays were long, security was limited, and reliable employment was highly valued.

The brief newspaper report, *Bedfordshire Times and Independent*, 24 September 1867, below about George Sugars offers an important glimpse into rural Victorian Bedfordshire. While history often focuses on prominent figures and major events, the lives of ordinary labourers were equally vital. Workers such as George formed the backbone of village life and local agriculture, sustaining their communities through decades of hard and often unrecognised work.



Class II.—The prizes to labourers and servants who had worked the longest time at any farm or remained the longest time at any employment were awarded as follows:—George Sugars, Ampthill, who had worked 49 years for Mr. Seabrook ; Benjamin Chapman, 45

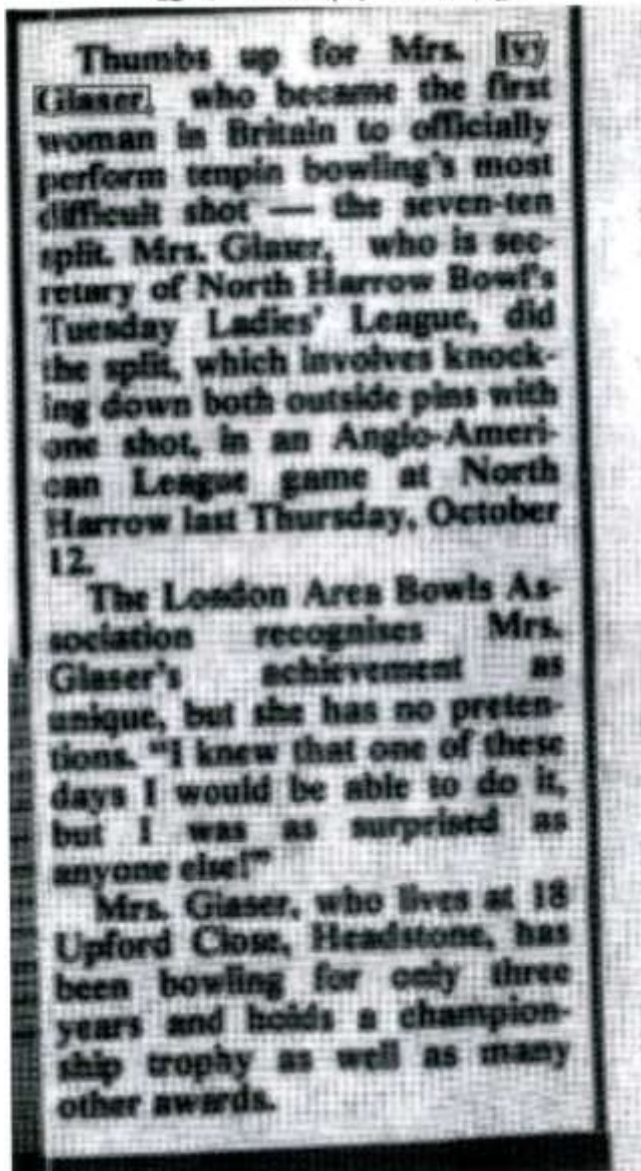
The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										
Parish (or Township) of		Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town of		
Amptwell		Amptwell		Amptwell		Amptwell		Amptwell		
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES		Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb
		No. of In- habited	No. of Vacant							
213	part of farm cont.			Samuel John Wofford	son	Married	14	Scholar	Amptwell	
				Charles	son	Married	11	do	do	
				Charles	son	Married	11	do	do	
214	part of farm	1		Julia Mundy	daughter	Married	21	House servant	Amptwell	
				Joseph Mundy	head	Married	24	do	Amptwell	
				Mary	wife	do	69	do	do	
				William	son	Married	28	do	do	
				Thomas	son	Married	10	do	do	
215	The George RD farm	1		Thomas James	head	Married	23	do	Amptwell	
				Eliza	wife	do	24	do	Amptwell	
				Emily Sarah	daughter	do	1	do	do	
				Mary Eliza	daughter	do	10	do	do	
216	George Cottages 1	1		Eliza Jane	Wife	Married	67	Scholar	Amptwell	
				George & Eugene	head	Married	57	do	Amptwell	
				Eliza	wife	do	57	do	Amptwell	
				Robert	son	Married	23	do	Amptwell	
				John	son	Married	19	do	Amptwell	
				William	son	Married	14	do	Amptwell	
				Charles	son	Married	14	do	Amptwell	
217	part of farm	1		Mary	daughter	Married	11	do	Amptwell	
				John	son	Married	34	do	Amptwell	
				Charles	son	Married	14	do	Amptwell	
				Mary	daughter	Married	32	do	Amptwell	
				George	son	Married	18	do	Amptwell	
Total of Houses...		4		Total of Males and Females...		11	13			
										4-3

4-3

NEVER TOO OLD

Helen Butler

20 OCT. 1972



It came as a surprise to find Ivy GLASER was a ten-pin bowling champion, she only started playing when she was 54 years old, so you are never too old to learn. The report (left) from the *Harrow Observer* of 20 Oct 1972 tells us she had been bowling for only three years, lives at 18 Upford¹ Close, Headstone, and has many awards. The report, over the page, of 20 July 1976 shows Ivy winning the award for the 'High Game with handicap' at an event sponsored by Mr Teddy Tinling, a well-known designer of tennis dresses of the time.

Ivy was born Ivy Georgina BUTLER, 29 August 1915, in Paddington. Daughter of Henry/Harry Augustus Butler and Maude Mary BRAINE. Her mother died in 1919. Ivy was later taken into the care of her mother's family.

The 1921 Census shows Henry Augustus Butler was in the Salvation Army Shelter aged 33, a widowed lodger. Ivy Butler was 5 years 10 months and was in Central London district schools, Greenford Avenue, Hanwell. I have not found her father's death.

On 23 September 1933 at Kensington Register Office, Ivy married James Joseph BARBER. Her father is noted as deceased.

James Joseph died 1942 aged 30. In 1965 at Willesden, Harrow, Ivy married Geoffrey Glaser. Ivy lived at 18 Ufford Close Harrow from 1948. Geoffrey lived here after their marriage, they were there until 1983, then I think they left the area. I lost track of them until the death of Geoffrey in 1996 in Torbay, Devon.

Geoffrey had a brother Gerald John, 1922-2004 who ran a Hotel in Babbacombe, Devon. He retired from this and became the Chairman of a charity 'Animals in Distress' an animal rescue centre, and in 1999 he was awarded an MBE for devoting 14 years of his life to animal welfare. He was mentioned every week in the *Torbay Express*.

¹ This is believed to be incorrect. The address is most likely Ufford Close.

HARROW OBSERVER

Bowl, are sponsored by tennis clothes dealer Mr. Teddy Tinning.

Team secretary Mrs. I. Caplin — one of three Caplin sisters connected with the club — said she was very pleased to have Terry Mancini to present the club awards.

Awards Highest Average, Marianne Arkell (173); 1st, "Team Optimists," June Thorogood and Iris Caplin; 2nd, Team "Alley Cats," Doreen Hulme and June Thirkettle; 3rd, Team "Two of Us," Margaret Dibble and Shirley Wardell. Individual prizes: High Series — without handicap — Shirley Wardell (614); High Series — with handicap — Shelagh Dodd (638); High Game — without handicap — Margaret Dibble (240) and High Game — with handicap — Ivy Glaser (243). Most improved Player, Sylvia Aylward (113-138).

20 JULY 1976

The last records I found of Ivy were in Luton but I need to undertake more research to complete the story.

Sources:

Census 1921

Ancestry

Findmypast

Electoral registers

Metropolitan Archives

British Newspaper Archives.

RECENT TALKS

Were you unable to attend the talk given by Bob Ricketts to the Society on 10 April, or use Zoom to join the live audience? If you missed out, Bob has kindly provided a summary of his talk which appears on the following pages.

'Plague, Pestilence, & Fever':

Why was pre-modern Bedford unhealthy?



Pig market, St John's, Bedford

Bedford was built on low-lying river gravels. The town developed within the constrained area of its Anglo-Saxon burghs, with narrow streets and squalid, over-crowded housing. Butchers, livestock markets and abattoirs were scattered across the town; offal was thrown in the streets or the river. Sanitation was poor - cesspits; one open sewer running down the High Street, cleared out once a year. Overflowing graveyards - grave piled on grave - leaking effluent. Water was polluted - drawn from shallow wells in the gravel adjoining cesspits, or the river. During 1839-55 the average mortality of children under 5 in Bedford was 42% (compared to 27% in healthy towns). Typhoid was rife most summers.

Leprosy:

A contagious, disfiguring, chronic bacterial disease, mainly affecting the skin and peripheral nerves. Many towns had leper hospitals where victims were isolated and cared for. Bedford's was at St Leonard's Hospital (later the site of St John's Station). The earliest mention of the hospital is in 1207, staffed by a master and five brethren.



Mass grave pits



Lancing buboes

Plague:

Bubonic plague was a type of plague caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*. It was spread by fleas, carried by black rats. The symptoms: fever, headaches, vomiting, swollen lymph glands (buboes); 30-90% mortality if untreated. The 'Black Death' swept through Asia, Europe and India in the 14th C, killing c50 million and over 30% of Europe's population. It broke out in late-1346 amongst the besiegers of Caffa in Mongol Crimea, arriving in Europe in October 1347, when Italian ships from the Black Sea docked at Messina. It reached England in June 1348 at Weymouth and had covered England by summer 1349.

Bedfordshire and Bedford were hit hard: all of Bedford's clergy died, except the priest at All Hallows (who resigned). The Priors of Newnham and Cauldwell died as did the master of St Leonard's Hospital. On the 23 May 1349 the mayor of Bedford, John ARNOLD, summoned the aldermen to Moot Hall. Earlier the surgeon, Thomas HALYDAY, reported that Adam FOSSE, the tanner, and his wife were 'sore sick'. They had swellings like apples in their armpits and groins, purple spots on their bodies and spat blood. They died, as did three children in Mill Lane. Sir John MIDDLETON claimed it was the judgement of God on the sins of the burgesses. The group recommended lighting huge bonfires in the streets (rejected) and people wore handkerchiefs soaked in vinegar, bound their nostrils and carried sprigs of Meadow Rue. The aldermen and Mayor finally agreed that bonfires be set in vacant closes and all streets; the death cart should go its rounds, with the town crier proclaiming when the cart would proceed and to bring out their dead; a

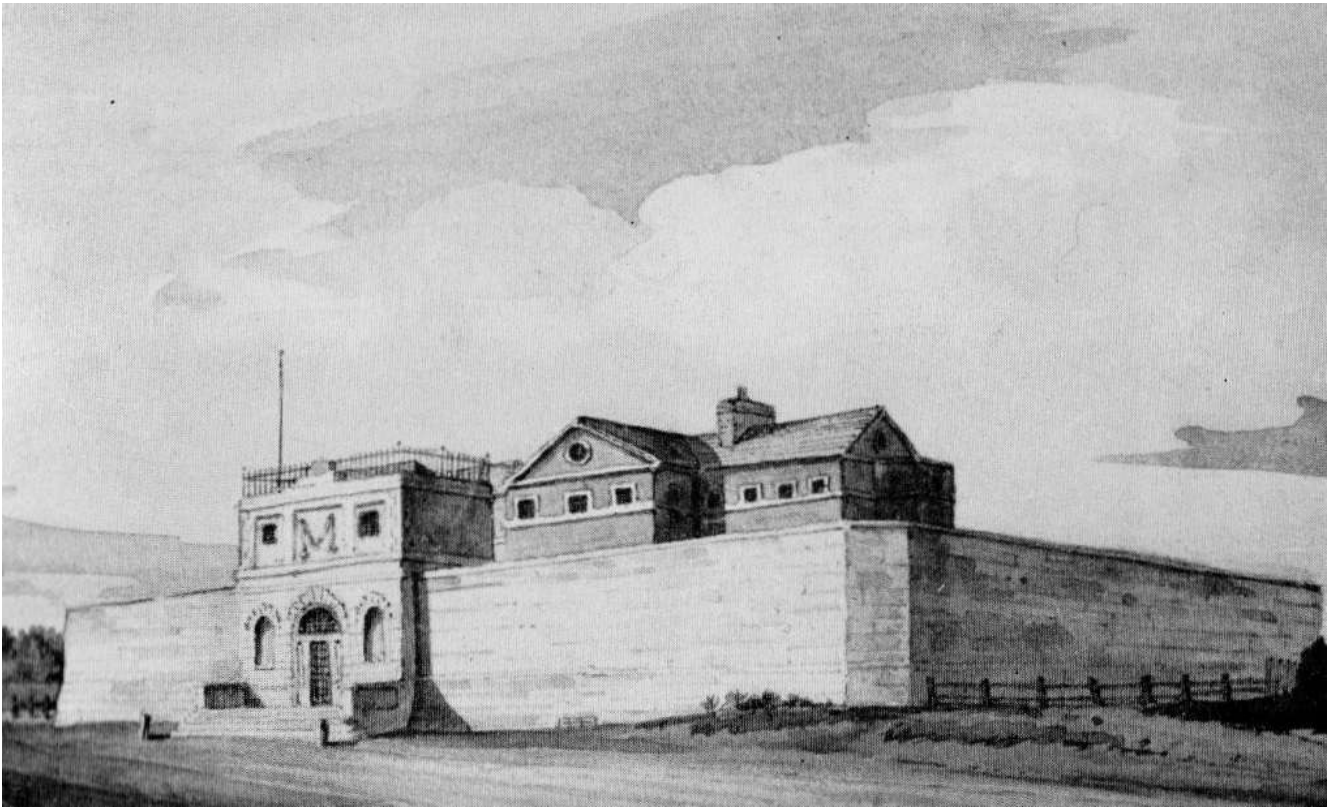
great pit to be dug in Bury Field; and the derelict houses of victims were to be pulled down.

The plague returned but never with the mortality of 1349. There was an outbreak in Bedford in 1574-76 in St Peter's parish, killing 30 and in 1578-79 a worse outbreak in St Paul's. In an isolated case in 1637, Mistress PARADINE, probably the wife of the Mayor, Thomas Paradine, brought the plague back from London. She was attended by a Bedford surgeon, ROWLAND, but died. In 1655, 40 people died of plague north of the river. Bedford was also affected by the 'Great Plague' of 1665 which decimated London. The burial register of St Paul's noted: *In this yeare there Dyed of the Plague on the north side of the Bridge in Bedford fortye persons which were most of them buried in the Pest House Close*. By 1698 'Pest House Close' (Bromham Road - on the site of Trinity Church) was ridged with death pits.

Smallpox:

An infectious disease caused by the variola virus (smallpox virus). Causes fever, vomiting, mouth sores and blisters. Can lead to scarring of the skin or blindness; 30% mortality. By the 16th C, smallpox had become a major cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. The widespread use of variolation (inoculation) reduced the impact amongst wealthier classes from the late-18th C, following the influence of Lady MONTAGU, but could also cause the disease. Incidence in England did not reduce substantially until vaccination became common in the 19th C, after Edward JENNER's discovery of the cowpox vaccine in 1796.

In January 1739, Benjamin ROGERS, Rector at Carlton recorded: *a great many now die at Bedford*. In 1777 the Bedford Overseers arranged for inoculations but only for residents; five apothecaries were engaged. Vaccinations became free from 1840. There was a major outbreak of smallpox in Bedfordshire in 1871. The first cases were reported from Renhold, Kempston, Thurleigh and St Cuthbert's, Bedford. The guardians of Bedford Infirmary mooted excluding smallpox victims from the Fever Hospital. The Infirmary then banned such patients. In December 1871 the Corporation and Union Guardians considered building a smallpox hospital in the workhouse grounds. The Corporation acted quickly and built a 16-bed smallpox hospital between London Road and the railway, selling the building to the Union in 1873. The outbreak continued. 75 cases had been reported by March 1872, of whom 15 died; 10 of these had never been vaccinated. Sporadic cases continued; at times the smallpox hospital was reopened. There was a serious outbreak in 1928 at Bedford workhouse, affecting 25 inmates and 2 officers.



Bedford Gaol

Typhus (Gaol fever):

A fever caused by bacteria spread by fleas and lice. Endemic in crowded and insanitary conditions like workhouses and prisons, observed by John HOWARD in his prison survey and report. Bedford Gaol was no exception. There was an outbreak in 1754 which killed several felons and debtors. Afterwards, the governor installed a ventilator. Typhus broke out again in 1799. Prisoners William YATES (1816), John BODSWORTH (1825) and William DAWSON (1827) died of typhus. In 1821, Arnall Thomas FAYERMAN MD, in prison for debt, claimed that he had been confined to bed for 2 months, unable to dress unaided and nearly died from *a malignant Typhus*.

Lice were commonplace and infected residents. In April 1841 Thomas Gwyn ELGER, builder, architect, merchant and former Mayor, died of typhus. John Howard, prison reformer, died of typhus whilst visiting Kherson. There was a major outbreak nationally in Bedford in 1846. Dr WITT reported that the disease had persisted in the town and neighborhood for some time. The fever had *committed such fearful ravages not only in this town, but in numerous villages in the county*. Concern led to urgent plans to establish a Fever Hospital, which opened in July 1848.

Cholera:

An infection of the small intestine by strains of the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. Symptoms range from none to mild to severe. The classic symptom is large amounts of watery diarrhea which can be so severe it leads to dehydration. Untreated mortality rate 50-60%.

It was spread by faecal-oral route through polluted water or contaminated food. Victorian doctors ascribed it to 'miasma' - poor air.

There were 4 major outbreaks of cholera in Britain and Bedfordshire in the 19th C: 1831-33, 1848-49, 1854 and 1866. The 1831-33 outbreak killed 6,729. Cholera began in October 1831 in Sunderland, spreading via North Sea ports to London (first case January 1832). In March 1832 there was a National Day of Fasting ordered, by when cholera had reached St Ives, Ramsey, Aylesbury and Olney. By November 1832 there were cases in Bedford, Bletsoe and Ravensden. John TURNER of Turvey documented its progress and changing attitudes: February 1832 *From the best accounts there is no reason to believe that the Cholera Morbus in London is at all infectious - no second person in a family having been attacked, but the doctors are puzzled and have no remedy.* 19th November 1832 ... *has now reached Bedford it has hitherto escaped better than most large towns yet many people we knew have been hurried into eternity. Olney had suffered worse of any place near us - but the Disease is now come very near home The poor people at Bletsoe have been awfully attacked... I was in the houses at Bletsoe a few days before the attack and conversed with some of the poor creatures who are now dead and who were worthy customers.* One of the earliest deaths in Bedford was Dr Joseph THACKERAY of Bedford County Hospital who died on 13 July 1832. The Mayor of Bedford issued printed notices reproducing the rules of the City of London Board of Health regarding precautions to be taken to avoid contagion. This including closing windows at night to avoid exposure to 'miasma', wearing flannel next to the skin and (sensibly) avoiding salads. The Corporation Bellman was paid to make proclamations regarding cholera precautions.

Cholera broke out again in Bedford from 21 Sep to 18 Nov 1849. Of the 39 victims, 35 died. The monthly deathrate in St Paul's quadrupled, especially in poorer areas such as All Hallows, Gravel Lane, Newnham and Thames Streets. Charles HIGGINS, Mayor and Chairman of the Board of Health, led the town's response. He issued public notices and arranged for the poor to receive medicines free and house visits by physicians. In recognition of his efforts, Charles was presented with an inscribed silver salver.



Typhoid:

A bacterial infection (*Salmonella typhi*) which can cause serious complications and be fatal. Epidemics were frequent in Bedford due to polluted water. The surgeon reported to the Epiphany Sessions in 1841: *A fever of the typhoid type has prevailed in the gaol [since the last report] varying in degrees of virulency from its mildest to its most malignant; three prisoners died. Wm WAPLES is ill from the effects of it, his mind is most distressed & he has symptoms of pulmonary disease.*

There was a widespread outbreak of typhoid in Bedford in 1860. The Privy Council were so concerned that they commissioned a special report and subsequently wrote to Bedford Corporation requesting urgent action to reduce the risk of further spread. The *Times* of London observed: *It is in the autumnal habit of this town to suffer from typhoid fever.* The last outbreak was in living memory. In 1963 typhoid struck Bedford, Northampton and Sharnbrook. The Borough's Medical Officer ascribed it to a contaminated large tin of Argentinian corned beef which had been cut up and sold in separate portions. There were similar outbreaks in Harlow and South Shields.

Cleaning up Bedford:

THOMAS CRAPPER & CO.'S

Sanitary Specialities,



**IMPROVED
LAVATORY BASIN.**

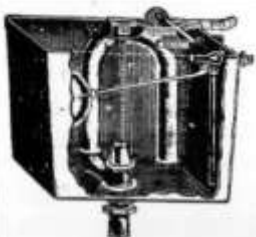
White Ware, fitted with combined Overflow and Waste, and 1/2 Standard Screw-down Valves ...	2 19 6
Plated Fittings, Extra ...	0 8 6



ELASTIC VALVE CLOSET.

No. 38.—Valve Closet, with white china dish with gold lines, and handle, white ware flushing rim basin, 1 in. supply valve, copper air regulator, complete as shown.

... ..	£ 3 0 6
If with 1 1/2 in. valve	Extra 0 3 6
" Ornamental Basin	" 0 3 0
" White and Gold Basin	" 0 8 9
" Box Enamelled inside	" 0 4 9
" Box fitted with Brass Top	" 0 6 3
" Box fitted with union to connect Ventilating Pipe	" 0 3 9
" 4 in. outlet	" 0 7 9



**IMPROVED SYPHON
Water Waste Preventer.**

Cast-Iron 2 Gallon Syphon Waste Preventer, with Tranquil Inlet Valve, and Silencing Air Tubes, and Brass Chain and China Pull ...	1 1 6
Ditto, 3 gallon ditto	1 3 6

50, 52, & 54, MARLBOROUGH ROAD, CHELSEA, LONDON, S.W.

Bedford Corporation acquired Board of Health powers in 1862, focusing action on prevention. From 1864 it laid a network of drains and main sewers. A waterworks opened in 1866 off Clapham Road – the creation of a private waterworks company in 1859 had been resisted as ‘a mad extravagance’, but the 1860 typhoid outbreak and the Privy Council’s intervention. forced the Corporation’s hand, heavily influenced by Mayor John Howard.

A municipal cemetery was created at Foster Hill Road, opening in 1855. The prime mover was James WYATT, the founder and editor of the *Bedford Times* who used his influence to campaign for a new cemetery. Wyatt had been a member of an inquiry led by William LEE, Inspector for the General Board of Health, into the sewage, drainage, water supply and sanitary conditions of Bedford. The existing town graveyards were closed by order.

Hospitals:

Bedford Infirmary was built following a £8,000 bequest from Samuel WHITBREAD. Designed by John WING, the first ward opened in 1803. The Fever Hospital, on Ampthill Road, opened in July 1848. During 1849-50 it treated 48 cases of ‘fever’ (typhus or typhoid), 5 of cholera, 20 of smallpox. Whilst the new hospitals undoubtedly benefited many individual patients, it was public health interventions and vaccination which saved the lives of countless Bedfordians.

Note: The Corporation of Bedford was Bedford’s local authority before the Second World War – in effect ‘Bedford Council’.

BIRTH, MARRIAGE, DEATH CERTIFICATES

We are looking to build up our collection of resources at the Research Centre that are available to help researchers of Bedfordshire ancestors. We would like to build up our collection of Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates of Bedfordshire people. Do you have any copies of certificates that you would be willing to donate to this collection?

Please send copies to Bedfordshire Family History Society, Research Centre, Office 1-7, Community Voluntary Service, 43 Bromham Road, Bedford. MK40 2AA or alternatively send scanned copies to **Research.Centre@bfhs.org.uk**.

We would also like to build our collection of printed pedigree charts for Bedfordshire families. If you have a pedigree chart that you would like to share, please send a copy to the above address.

VISITING BEDFORD

The new '*What's On Bedford Borough hub*' officially opened its doors on Wednesday 28 May 25, 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.

PUBLICATIONS LIST

Our Publications include Bedfordshire Parish Records, Marriage Licences, Non-Conformist Registers, Surname Index, Poor Law Paper Index, Journals, Luton General Cemetery Grave Registers, Wills and Members' Handbook. The Publication List is available from our website bfhs.org.uk/publications, or you can request a printed copy, see address details on rear cover.

SURNAME INTEREST DATABASE

The Family History Federation (FHF) has a Surname Interest database on their website, familyhistoryfederation.com/surname-interests. This has 27 societies contributing data (up from 24 last year). There are nearly 70,000 surnames listed in the database.

Register your Surname Interests with us and these will be included in the FHF database, see 'Member's Profile Form' in the Members' Portal.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our Society attends a variety of Family History Fairs around the country and this provides you with an opportunity to meet other members of the Society, discuss any brick walls your family research has encountered, and browse some of the publications we have to help your research.

We plan to exhibit at the following Open Day/Fair:

Heritage Open Days – Discover Local History at the Cemetery, 19 September 26, 10 am to 4pm at The Chapel, Foster Hill Road Cemetery, Bedford MK41 7TD. **fosterhillroadcemetery.co.uk/event/heritage-open-days-discover-local-history-at-the-cemetery**.

Oxford Family History Fair, 24 October 26, 10 am to 4 pm at The Cherwell School, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford OX2 7EE. This year is the 50th year that OFHS has been running so they hope to launch some special events at the fair, see **ofhs.uk/category/whats-on**.

Not BFHs specific, but 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of a document that changed the world, the US Declaration of Independence. The National Archives are recognising this momentous period in British-American history with a powerful free exhibition that charts the emergence of the United States of America.

Featuring original maps, correspondence, first-hand accounts and reports, visitors are taken on a journey spanning twenty years that shaped history. A rare, original ‘Dunlap broadside’ of the Declaration of Independence, printed on the night of 4 July 1776, and a recently discovered rare copy printed in Exeter, New Hampshire, between 16-19 July 1776 will be on display.

Alongside the familiar story of Britain and the rebels, discover more about those often overlooked in the traditional narrative - Indigenous peoples, Black Loyalists, and enslaved persons. Uncover the human consequences of the decisions made on both sides of the Atlantic during this time of shifting powers and allegiances.

Revolution 250: America's Independence Story 1763-1783 not only documents the key political events and military manoeuvres on the road to American independence but also explores the impact of the conflict on those who lived through it.

For this exhibition the national Archives team consulted with members of the Onondaga and Mohawk nations, and the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre in Nova Scotia.

This exhibition contains material relating to colonial violence, slavery, and warfare. Some records include ideas, language and imagery that may be offensive or distressing.

Date: 24 June to 29 November 2026

Tuesday to Sunday open 10 am (Sunday 11 am) to 5 pm (Tuesday and Thursday 7 pm, Sunday 4 pm).

Entry: Free, no booking needed except for groups of 10+.

Location: Gallery, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, TW9 4DU

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.²

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.



² 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:

Monday 9.30 to 12.30 and Thursday 14.00 to 17.00.

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.



Bedfordshire Family History Society (BFHS)
Draft Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Held on Friday 5 June 2026 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 20 members in attendance at the Church Hall and 31 online giving a total of 53 members present including the above.

Mark Tresidder gave a special welcome to Brian Payne, the Society website manager, over from the USA. He then 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 Joanna Lang, Janet Lawrence, Bill Levings, Colin West, and Paul Woodcraft.

2. Acceptance of the 2025 AGM Minutes

The President, Pamela Birch, asked if any member present and online had any corrections to the 2025 AGM minutes. No corrections were advised.

Kerr Clement proposed acceptance of the minutes, and it was seconded by Kathy Friend. The minutes were signed as a true copy. The proposal to accept was carried with 19 in the hall, and 25 online. There were three abstentions online.

3. Matters Arising

None were raised.

4. Chairman's Report June 2025 to May 2026

Mark Tresidder advised that his report was published in the AGM booklet for this meeting, and he wished to highlight a couple of areas.

His report had missed thanking our team of volunteers that help run the Research Centre (Claire, Jo and Kathy). We operate an appointment system from our website where members and the public can book to attend. The Centre provides access to our lending and research libraries, transcripts, microfiche collections and also provides free access to the Internet, including a subscription to the *Genealogist* website. Attendance over the last year has been light and whilst we have 18 months remaining on our lease, we may have to consider whether we continue to maintain this facility in the future or look to dispose of some of our assets.

We are also preparing a beginner's course with the help of Anni Berman (a BFHS member and Bedford U3A Family History Group coordinator) for the public and members, which we plan to deliver from the CVS Offices that host our Research Centre. This will take place over 6 weeks from the beginning of September. A leaflet on the course was available at the AGM.

Volunteers are important to the running of the Society, and we cannot function without them. He would like to thank 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 hoped that he had captured all their roles in his report. Apologies to anyone that he may have missed.

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

- Programme Secretary: Last year he stated that Claire Sowah was looking to step down as programme secretary but she is continuing to fulfil the role as we have had no volunteers.
- Memorial Inscriptions Coordinator: Required to complete publication of transcripts that have been collected.
- 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.
- Database Manager: We will also shortly be advertising for someone to help maintain our legacy databases (MS Access) and make them more accessible.

He highlighted his decision to stand down as Chairman at next year's AGM to give the society time to find a successor.

If you feel that you can help the society either on the committee or in fulfilling some of these roles please contact him or one of the other committee members. You do not have to live in Bedford or the county to be able to help. We have Brian managing our website from the United States and Jan editing the Journal from Wiltshire

Finally, he thanked Pamela for the support she gives to the society and for chairing today's meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

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 highlighted some areas from his reports:

Our income was £14,216 and our expenditure was £14,080, so we made a small surplus of £136 in 2025.

Cash at bank and in hand was fairly constant at £61,910. Included in the total is £56,926 which is in NatWest 35-day and 95-day notice accounts with a variable interest rate.

Income from membership subscriptions for 2025 was slightly down at £4,440. This was against the direct costs of membership (journals, postage, meeting/storage rooms, lecturers, Research Centre and governance) amounting to £11,256.

The number of Members, in 2025 was down by 21 to 452 full members, including 48 new members.

Income from publications (Parish Registers and books) increased considerably from £3,673 to £6,997 due to our dataset being placed on *FindMyPast* (*FMP*) from February 2025.

The total expenditure decreased from £18,736 to £14,080. The 2024 amount included a £5,000 donation to Bedfordshire Archives. Currently, 39% of members take the journal in PDF format via email which helps reduce costs.

After each quarter of the year, we make royalty payments to the Bedfordshire Archives (the county records office) in relation to our sales of Parish Register CDs/Downloads. The total royalty paid during 2025 was £268 but this will be higher in 2026 as it will include royalties for the *FMP* dataset.

The society continues to host well attended members' meetings. The cost of the speakers was £892.

He expressed his thanks to our independent examiner, Mr John Hulance, for examining the accounts.

He recommended that the 2025 Financial Accounts presented to the members at the AGM were adopted.

Pamela addressed the members asking for acceptance of the Treasurer's report. Acceptance was proposed by Mary Woldridge and seconded by Kerr Clement. Carried by 50 votes, 20 members in the room, 30 online with one online abstention.

6. Election of Members of the Executive Committee

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

Acceptance for the re-election of Kerr Clement, Kathy Fraser, Cathy Friend, Kevin Friend, Joanna Lang, Brian Payne, Pauline Redpath, Claire Sowah and Mary Wooldridge was proposed by Mary Wooldridge and seconded by Kerr Clement. Carried by 20 in the room and 28 online with one online abstention.

7. Election of Honorary Independent Examiner

Peter Sharp explained that the Examiner in recent years, John Hulance, was very busy and often this created delays in finally signing off the accounts. Peter recommended a change in Examiner to address this issue. Gerald Bygraves, an accountant by profession and local to Bedford, was presented as the candidate for this position. Pamela addressed the members asking for acceptance of Gerald Bygraves for the 2026 Accounts. Acceptance proposed by Peter Sharp and seconded by Cathy Friend. Carried by 18

members in the room, 26 online with one abstention in the room and two abstentions online.

8. Any Other Business

With no other business being raised the President, Pamela Birch, closed the 2026 AGM at 7.50 pm.

Membership Subscriptions 2027

Membership Subscriptions for **2027** are due in January. If you are intending to pay your 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 Barclays bank details for bank transfers to Bedfordshire Family History Society, using sort code 20-05-73 and account number 93516105. Please see the rear cover for the 2027 subscription rates, unchanged from 2026.

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

CLOSING DATE for articles for publication in the Journal are as follows:

March: 31 January.

June: 30 April.

September: 31 July.

December: 31 October.

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



Annual Accounts for the Period

Period Start Date Period End Date
From 1 January 2025 **To** 31 December 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

	Current Year 2025 £	Prior Year 2024 £
<u>Incoming Resources</u>		
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds		
Voluntary Income	4,440	4,604
Investment Income	1,769	1,992
Income from Charitable Activities	8,007	4,670
<u>Total Incoming Resources</u>	14,216	11,266
<u>Resources Expended</u>		
Cost of Charitable Activities	7,670	13,878
Governance Costs	6,410	4,858
<u>Total Resources Expended</u>	14,080	18,736
<u>Net Movement in Funds</u>	136	(7,470)
Total Funds Brought Forward	77,918	85,388
Total Funds Carried Forward	78,054	77,918

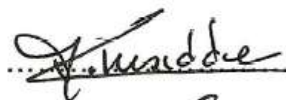
Balance Sheet

		Current Year 2025 £	Prior Year 2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets		15,168	15,168
Total Fixed Assets		15,168	15,168
Current Assets			
Stock of Books and Stamps		1,715	782
Debtors		680	840
Cash at Bank and In Hand		61,582	61,824
Total Current Assets		63,977	63,446
Current Liabilities			
Creditors		1,090	697
Net Current Liabilities		1,090	697
Net Current Assets		62,887	62,749
Net Assets		78,055	77,917
Funds			
Unrestricted		78,055	77,917
Restricted		-	-
		78,055	77,917

Signed by

Date of Approval

Chairman



Mark Tresidder

20-05-26

Treasurer



Peter Sharp

20-05-26

BEDFORDSHIRE

Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire

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

COLIN DAVISON

66 Sudeley Walk, BEDFORD

Bedfordshire MK41 8JH

England

Tel: (01234) 364956

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

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

Professional Service Offered. All Enquiries Welcome

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**.

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, see inside rear cover.

They are 100% cotton and at £5 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.



Find us on
Facebook

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.

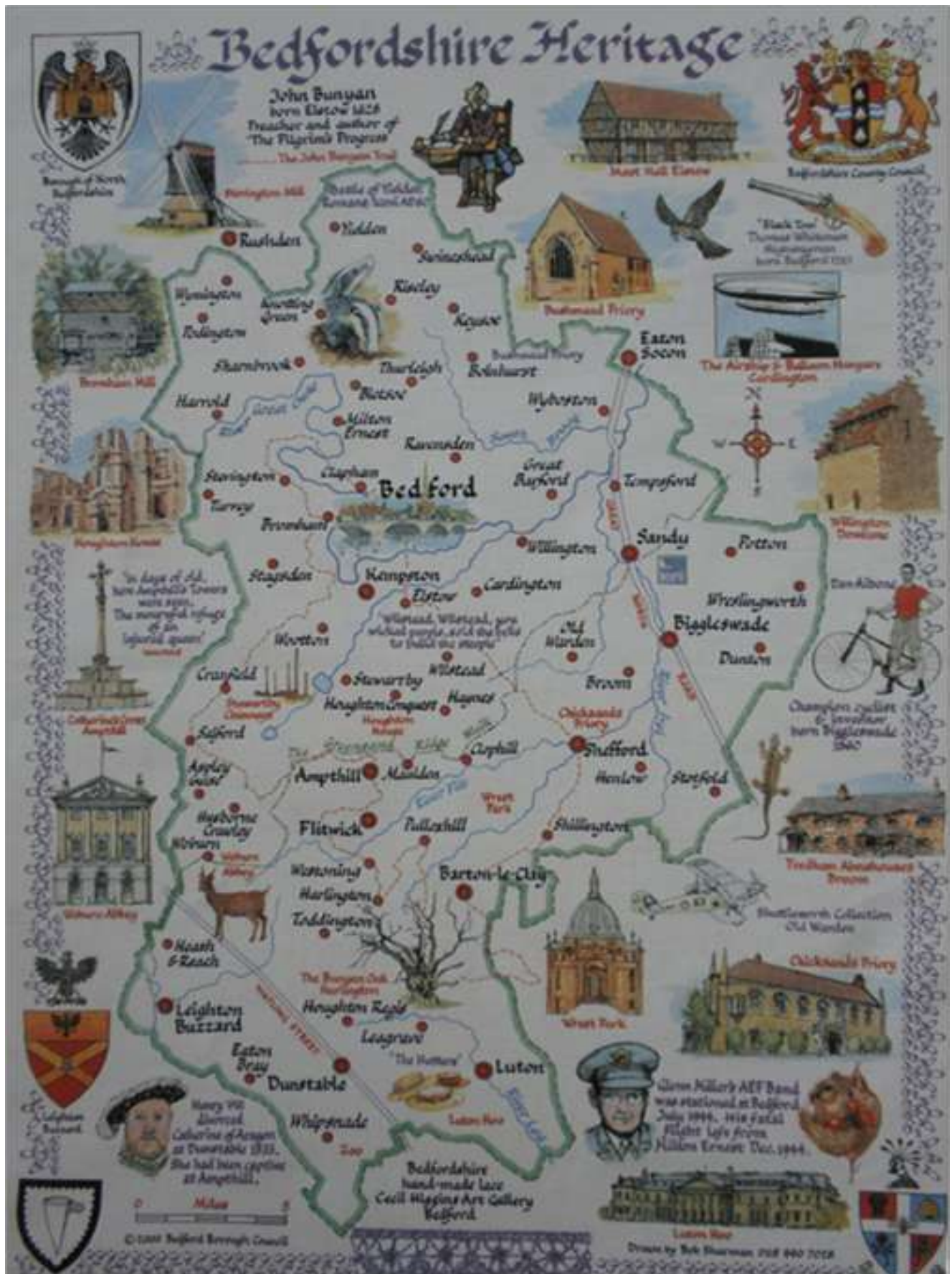
Parish	Price	Issue	Parish	Price	Issue
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