Cheshire Ancestor

The Journal of the
Family History Society of Cheshire

In this edition:

The Murder of Sarah Hough in 1843
Workhouse to University in Two Generations
From Ashton to the Yukon ❖ *Memories of VE Day*
How Good is Your Latin? *and more...*

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Erected by **George Barbour** in memory of his mother, **Janet Andrew Barbour**, who died in 1896. See *Tattenhall and Beeston News (2)* on page 8.

CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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Society website: *www.fhsc.org.uk*

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Cheshire Ancestor is published in March, June, September and December.

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Our society was founded in 1969—one of the first family history societies

Editor's Page

by Rosie Rowley

This issue begins, as usual, with thanks to those who have sent in articles for the journal and the perennial plea for more, please! I have only a few short articles in hand, not enough material to fill the next issue.

I thought it might help if I suggested a theme, which could get those brain cells whirring away. Another society I am a member of recently had a meeting where the members shared their memories of childhood toys and games. I had hoped to write something on this topic myself but unfortunately circumstances prevented me from doing so. However, I have been thinking about it and jotting down my memories, prompted in part by some items I discovered in my late mother's house, which had been the family home for over fifty years and still contained some childhood toys belonging to me and my sister. So please cast your mind back to your childhood and see if you can remember a few toys and games that used to amuse you.

We have just commemorated the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and have one member's memories of that day, but perhaps some of you have ancestors who were involved in the war against Japan in the Pacific, who fought on until the Japanese surrender on 15th August 1945 (VJ Day). Sadly, the men involved in this war had such a long journey home that their eventual arrival back in the UK went virtually unnoticed. If you have a story about VJ Day, please send it in and make sure those who served in the Pacific are also remembered.

ITEMS FOR THE CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

Articles and letters about family history or Cheshire local history for the Cheshire Ancestor are very welcome. Deadline dates are the 10th of January, April, July or October, but please send items as early as possible. Publication is at the discretion of the editor and is subject to space being available. ***Articles should preferably be sent by email in Microsoft Word, Open Office Writer, or plain text, to avoid having to retype them****; or by post as a clearly-written manuscript. Suggested length of articles is 300-2000 words. Please write all surnames in CAPITALS. Illustrations must be your own, copyright-free images, not copied from a book etc. Please email images separately in a high quality (low compression) JPG format, minimum 300 dpi.*

View from the Chair

by Margaret Roberts

The last quarter has certainly been lively in terms of happenings at FHSC. We were 'out and about' at both the Wirral History and Heritage Fair and the Manchester Family History Fair - a heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped out at these events. At the time of writing, I am also making arrangements for FHSC to be represented at two shows in Liverpool, the Mini Family History Fair in April and The Family History Show in at Aintree Racecourse in May; news on those events will be in the next issue.

The Operational Teams are working hard, and reports of their initial meetings can be found on page 13. If you are interested in getting involved then please contact the relevant team leader, we are always on the lookout for members to help keep FHSC fresh with new ideas and initiatives.

As you can read on page 22 the Family History Unit in Crewe has moved to temporary rooms at the Brierley Business Centre, ahead of the permanent move to the Cheshire Archives in Crewe in 2026. We have an open evening and book sale at these new premises on Tuesday 10th June and everyone is welcome. If you have never visited before - or even if you have - this is a great opportunity to see what we offer and browse the books and guides we have for sale.

The talks from the Local Groups during the first three months of the year once again were eclectic, with something for everyone, and included Studying the 3Rs, the Cheshire Home Front in WW1, Buildings of Birkenhead, a Journey down the Macclesfield Canal, Back to School, Treasures from the Staffordshire Collections, Chester in 1824 and hints and tips on researching the women in your family tree and using the online newspapers.

The Seminars were, as always, well attended. In January Dave Annal entertained us with an interesting and though-provoking talk on the work of the census enumerator and February saw Kelly Cornwall give her presentation Transported to Tasmania, with lots of ideas for how to trace your Australian ancestry. Indy Bhullar from LSC was our guest speaker in March; Mapping Rich and Poor was a captivating look at the Charles Booth Archive, which turned out to be much more than his maps. More information can be found in my article on page 31.

The inaugural FHSC Annual Quiz, held in February on Zoom, was a huge success with everyone who attended enjoying both the quiz and the opportunity to meet and chat with other members in smaller groups. This is definitely going to become part of the FHSC event calendar, so if you missed it this year then look out for details of the 2026 event, coming soon - and have a go at answering the sample questions on page 40!

From the beginning of June we will be holding monthly Zoom *Discussion Groups* on a variety of subjects. These are an extension of the previous sub-groups run by members of the Computer Club. Additionally, we are launching our new *Zooming in on Family History* chat session. These groups are designed to allow members to chat about various topics, building on the success of both the Computer Club and Research Buddies. *Zooming in on Family History* is intended to be a wide-ranging session whereby members can come along for help with their research, share success stories or just generally meet other members and chat about family history. All members are welcome, you can attend as often or as little as you wish, no rules, just a friendly meeting place. If you wish to join the mailing list for any of the groups, then in the first instance email me on *chair@fhsc.org.uk* and I will put you in touch with the group leader. The themes of the Discussion Groups, the current group leader and the meeting dates are listed in the FHSC calendar on page 5. Full details of our meetings and events are on the website, in addition to the brief details included in the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR.

It just remains for me say enjoy your summer and thank you to everyone for your support in keeping FHSC a friendly and helpful Society. If you think you can offer help at whatever level from publishing the journal, assisting at fairs or helping out at a group meeting then please don't be shy, contact me today, I can always find something for you to do!

Tattenhall and Beeston News (1)

from the Cheshire Observer, 11 July 1925

TATTENHALL SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY - At the Congregational Church on Sunday the Sunday school anniversary was held. Sermons were preached by the ***Rev. A. Wakelin****, the pastor.* ***Miss Mabel Owen*** *was the soloist, a noted singer from Mold. Recitations were given by* ***Ruth Viggars, Enid Price, Florry Allman, Doris Rowland, Molly Wright, Willie Allman****, special singing by scholars, a duet by* ***Misses Lily Jones*** *and* ***Doris Wilson****.* ***Mrs G M Corbett*** *presided at the organ.* ***Mr W Wilson*** *is secretary.* ***Mr Robert Walley****, of Brassey Green, presided.*

Society News and Notices

For the Society's Latest News

Keep up-to-date between journals by reading the society's email newsletters, or follow the FHSC on Facebook, Blue Sky or Twitter (now known as X). Provided that you have given us your correct email address and permission to contact you, you should receive society news by email. Log in to the FHSC website to choose which emails you wish to receive.

Society Diary Dates

Below is a list of events and meetings planned at the time of going to press; for full details, or for changes to seminars and group meetings, please see the FHSC website or contact your local group (contact details inside back cover). To join the mailing list for any of the new Zoom Discussion Groups, please email *chair@fhsc.org.uk* to be put in touch with the Discussion Group leader.

Note: meetings are in one of three formats - online using Zoom (Z), face-to-face at a local venue (F), or hybrid, using both face-to-face and Zoom (H). If no format is stated please check on the Group pages which follow, or the FHSC website *www.fhsc.org.uk*

Date	Group	Subject
4-Jun	Runcorn Group	Research Evening
6-Jun	Discussion Group	2pm Z: Historical Online Newspapers, led by Margaret Roberts
9-Jun	Northwich Group	*Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act (1793)* by David Shaw
10-Jun	Crewe & Nantwich Grp	F: An Informal Get-Together at the New FHU Premises
11-Jun	Sale Group	*Anecdotes of a Registrar* by Carole Cook
16-Jun	Discussion Group	2pm Z: Mac & Reunion Users, led by John Reed
16-Jun	Alsager Group	*Did your ancestors go on holiday?* Please share your recollections and mementos.
17-Jun	Congleton Group	TBA
18-Jun	Society Seminar	Z: *Tracing your Policing Ancestors* by Tom Andrews
19-Jun	Discussion Group	Z: Family Historian software, led by Geoff Johnson

23-Jun	Discussion Group	2.30pm Z: Publishing/Disseminating our Family History, led by Victoria Doran
23-Jun	Bebington Group	*Victorian Villa Estates* by Elizabeth Davey
23-Jun	Discussion Group	Z: DNA, led by Peter Rowley
24-Jun	Macclesfield Group	*From Roe to Roe-naissance: 250 years of Christ Church* by Sandra Hargreaves
25-Jun	Discussion Group	Z: Zooming in on Family History (General Chat), led by Margaret Roberts
26-Jun	Chester Group	*Stories from the Queen Hotel* by Liz Allen
28-Jun	Research Buddies	Z: Crewe area
July	Alsager Group	Visit TBA
July	Congleton Group	Visit TBA
July	Macclesfield Group	Visit to Christ Church; date TBA
2-Jul	Runcorn Group	AGM followed by Research Evening
4-Jul	Discussion Group	2pm Z: Historical Online Newspapers, led by Margaret Roberts
8-Jul	Crewe & Nantwich Grp	F: *Progress and Records at the New Crewe Archive* by Paul Newman
9-Jul	Sale Group	Visit to Stockport Air Raid Shelters, £10 pp. Tel 0161 973 7791 for information.
14-Jul	Northwich Group	*The Northwich Contribution to Winning WW2* by Clive Brookes
16-Jul	Society Seminar	Z: *Did he Leave me Anything?* By Anne Mealia
17-Jul	Discussion Group	Z: Family Historian software, led by Geoff Johnson
21-Jul	Chester Group	*Family Memories from WW2* - Members and Visitors contributions
21-Jul	Discussion Group	2pm Z: Mac & Reunion Users, led by John Reed
23-Jul	Discussion Group	Z: Zooming in on Family History (General Chat), led by Margaret Roberts
26-Jul	Research Buddies	Z: Frodsham
28-Jul	Discussion Group	2.30pm Z: Publishing/Disseminating our Family History, led by Victoria Doran
28-Jul	Bebington Group	*Myths, Neston & Much More* by Clive Edwards
28-Jul	Discussion Group	Z: DNA, led by Peter Rowley

August	Alsager Group	No Meeting
August	Chester Group	No Meeting
August	Congleton Group	No Meeting
1-Aug	Discussion Group	2pm Z: Historical Online Newspapers, led by Margaret Roberts
6-Aug	Runcorn Group	Research Evening
11-Aug	Northwich Group	TBA
12-Aug	Crewe & Nantwich Grp	F: AGM followed by *A Story to Tell or Share*
13-Aug	Sale Group	AGM followed by *Disputed Wills in Chancery* by David Lambert
18-Aug	Discussion Group	2pm Z: Mac & Reunion Users, led by John Reed
18-Aug	Bebington Group	*Topic TBA* by Sheila Jones
20-Aug	Society Seminar	Z: *Adoption: History and Records* by Kathy Wilshaw
21-Aug	Discussion Group	Z: Family Historian software, led by Geoff Johnson
25-Aug	Discussion Group	2.30pm Z: Publishing/Disseminating our Family History, led by Victoria Doran
25-Aug	Discussion Group	Z: DNA, led by Peter Rowley
26-Aug	Macclesfield Group	*Delving into your Family History: Resources at Mobberley* by Joan Irving
27-Aug	Discussion Group	Z: Zooming in on Family History (General Chat), led by Margaret Roberts
30-Aug	Research Buddies	Z: Poynton and Prestbury
3-Sep	Runcorn Group	*Brick Walls* by David Guyton
5-Sep	Discussion Group	2pm Z: Historical Online Newspapers, led by Margaret Roberts
8-Sep	Northwich Group	AGM followed by a talk TBA
9-Sep	Crewe & Nantwich Grp	F: *Foden Ladies Football Team* by Margaret Roberts
10-Sep	Sale Group	Open Forum: *Your School Memories* (please bring photos etc if you have any)
15-Sep	Discussion Group	2pm Z: Mac & Reunion Users, led by John Reed

15-Sep	Alsager Group	Group Leaders' review of the year followed by a short talk or discussion TBA
16-Sep	Congleton Group	AGM
17-Sep	Society Seminar	Z: *Elizabeth Gaskell* by Diane Duffy
18-Sep	Discussion Group	Z: Family Historian software, led by Geoff Johnson
22-Sep	Discussion Group	2.30pm Z: Publishing/Disseminating our Family History, led by Victoria Doran
22-Sep	Bebington Group	*Local History - Rock Ferry and Surrounds* by Ian Diamond
22-Sep	Discussion Group	Z: DNA, led by Peter Rowley
23-Sep	Macclesfield Group	*People of Paradise Mill (after short AGM)* by The History Hunters
24-Sep	Discussion Group	Z: Zooming in on Family History (General Chat), led by Margaret Roberts
25-Sep	Chester Group	*A House, a Family and an Architect* by David Guyton
27-Sep	Research Buddies	Z: Tattenhall and Beeston

Tattenhall and Beeston News (2)

from the Chester Chronicle, 4 July 1925

TATTENHALL WAKES: CARNIVAL AND SPORTS - To see the village of Tattenhall clad in its summer raiment is to appreciate its delightful amenities.... The sports were held on the delightfully situated recreation ground - commanding a fine view of the pretty countryside. The roundabouts, of course, were well patronised, and a few placid - but at times obstinate - donkeys did good business... On Sunday the annual dedication festival services were held at St Alban's Church... The organist was ***Mr J Woodcock****. The treble solo was taken by* ***Master George Windsor****, of the Church of England Boys' Home, Tattenhall... Monday afternoon's proceedings began with the assembly of the children from the schools at the Barbour Institute, where they were met by the Tarporley Silver Band, which, led by* ***Mr C Welch****, of Newton-by-Tattenhall, headed the procession around the village. A halt was made at the War Memorial, where the children joined with the onlookers in singing Kipling's "Recessional," accompanied by the band. The children then proceeded to the church, where a service was conducted by the rector. The procession was then re-formed, the next step being the Flacca Field, where the sports were held....*

Group News and Information

For the latest news from the Society's groups, please see the FHSC website or contact the Group. You can receive emails from any group; log in to the FHSC website to choose which emails you wish to receive.
Contact details for all groups are inside the back cover.

FHSC Seminars
By Margaret Spate, Jean Laidlaw and Margaret Roberts
These Zoom talks take place at 7.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. An email is sent out on the first day of each month with details of the talk and how to register.

PLEASE NOTE - we are unable to record Seminar talks for later viewing.

Cheshire Research Buddies
By Margaret Roberts
Our online helpdesk takes place via Zoom at 2pm on the last Saturday of the month (except October). This is the ideal opportunity for members with research queries, photograph requests or 'brick wall' questions to talk to other members with local knowledge. Please check the topic each month and join us if you have local knowledge or a query.

Register for Seminars and Buddies meetings on the FHSC website. Log in, click on *Events* on the left-hand menu, find the event you want, then click the *Register [Individual]* button at the bottom left of the event details. You will receive a confirmation email and links will be sent out a day or two before the meeting.

Discussion Groups
By Margaret Roberts
From the beginning of June we will be holding monthly Zoom Discussion Groups on a variety of subjects. These are an extension of the previous sub-groups run by members of the

Computer Club. Additionally, we are launching our new *Zooming in on Family History* chat session, which is intended to be a wide-ranging session which members can join for help with their research, share success stories or just generally meet other members and chat about family history. To join the mailing list for any of these new Discussion Groups, please email *chair@fhsc.org.uk* to be put in touch with the Discussion Group leader.

2pm, 1st Friday: Historical Online Newspapers, led by Margaret Roberts
2pm, 3rd Monday: Mac & Reunion, led by John Reed
7.30pm, 3rd Thursday: Family Historian, led by Geoff Johnson
2.30pm, 4th Monday: Publishing & Disseminating our Family History, led by Victoria Doran
7.30pm, 4th Monday: DNA, led by Peter Rowley
7.30pm, 4th Wednesday: Zooming in on Family History, led by Margaret Roberts
No set dates, arranged as required: Family Tree Maker, led by Bill Pearson

Alsager Group
By Hazel Rugman
All meetings, unless otherwise indicated, currently take place at 7.30pm in Alsager Library (postcode ST7 2AF) and admission is £2 for FHSC members and £3 for visitors.

Bebington Group
By Bob Wright
Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the 4th Monday of the month (excluding Bank Holidays) at St. Barnabas Village Institute (Church Hall), Church Square, Bromborough, CH62 7AB. Admission is £2.

Chester Group
By Helen Elliott
Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month in the Pavilion, Wealstone Lane, Upton by Chester, Chester CH2 1HD. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Admission is £2 for members and £3 for visitors, including refreshments. On site car parking is available.

Chester Group Helpdesks
We have a helpdesk in Storyhouse, Hunter St, Chester CH1 2AR on Tuesday mornings 10am - 12noon.

Computer Club
Meetings are held online via Zoom at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, and are open to all members. The subject of each meeting is usually announced the week before, by email or on the Club's Events page on the FHSC website.

For information or to join, please email *computerclub@fhsc.org.uk.*

Congleton Group
By David Smetham
Meetings are usually held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Congleton Library. Doors open at 7.15pm for a

7.30pm start. Entry is through the lower door facing the bus station. Updates about meetings are emailed to subscribers on our newsletter list. Please sign up to the newsletters of the Congleton group on the Family History Society of Cheshire website, or check the group pages on the FHSC website.

Crewe & Nantwich Group

By Margaret Spate

Crewe & Nantwich F2F meetings are usually held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Jubilee House, St Paul's St, Crewe CW1 2QA. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Admission is £2 for members and £3 for visitors, including refreshments. Nearby parking (free after 6pm) at the adjacent Victoria Centre Car Park, Crewe CW1 2PT.

Crewe Family History Unit

Please see the FHSC website or elsewhere in this issue for information about the Society's research facilities.

Macclesfield Group

By Dennis Whyte

Meetings are usually held 7.30pm-9.00pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month at The Salvation Army Church, Roe Street, Macclesfield, SK11 6UT, opposite Churchill Way car park in the centre of Macclesfield. Admission is £2 for members and £3 for visitors. We usually visit a place of interest in July, and there is no meeting in December.

Nantwich Group

By Sheila Mitchell

Although Nantwich Group has now merged with Crewe Group, members run a free helpdesk, usually at 2pm on the 3rd Monday of the month in Nantwich Library. All welcome. Please check the FHSC website for full details.

Future Helpdesk Dates:

23rd June, 14th July (note change to 2nd Monday for this month), NO Helpdesk in August, 22nd September.

Northwich Group

By Dave Thomas

Meetings are usually held on the 2nd Monday of the month at Hartford Methodist Church Hall, Beach Road, Hartford, Northwich CW8 3AB. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Admission is £2, and visitors are most welcome. Car park available.

Runcorn Group

By Sue Bowden

Meetings are usually held on the 1st Wednesday of the month (except January), from 7pm until 9pm, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Clifton Road West, Runcorn WA7 4TE. Visitors are most welcome.

With the help of Church members, we now have a beginner's Power Point presentation which will be of help to anyone who is beginning on the road to researching their family history. If anyone is interested in attending this presentation, they can book a place with one of the Committee. This is a very informal presentation where you can listen or ask questions and enter into a discussion with the presenter.

We encourage everyone to bring along their own laptops as you can access *Family Search Centre Documents*, *Ancestry*, *Find My Past*, *Geneanet* and *Puzzilla* free of charge when at the Church with your own laptop. We can also use the Group's laptops and the Church desktop computers. We can also use a disabled desk which has a desktop connected, which rises and falls to help anyone who may need this facility. The building is also very disabled user-friendly.

Our Committee now comprises Sue Bowden (Acting Group Leader), Jackie Kayll (Treasurer), Verina Atkins (Secretary), and Committee Members Linda Wilding, Pat Eastup and Jenny Taylor.

Sale Group

By Marion Hall

Our open forums allow members and visitors to share their research with the whole group, and they have proved extremely informative for everyone.

Meetings are usually held at 7.30pm, for the talk at 7.45pm, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Sale Moor Community Centre, Norris Road, Sale M33 2TN. Visitors are always welcome. Admission is £2 for members and £2.50 for visitors.

Tameside Group

By Gay Oliver

Tameside group meets online using Zoom. For details please see the FHSC website.

Tameside Group Helpdesks

We hold a helpdesk on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at Tameside Local Studies and Archives Library to help anyone who is stuck or who wants to start their family history research.

Wallasey Group

Although Wallasey Group has now closed, members continue to run a helpdesk every Friday from 10am to 1pm at the Wallasey Central Reference Library, Earlston Road, Wallasey CH45 5DX. Step-free access to the library is available via a ramp and internal lift. All members and non-members are welcome.

Tattenhall and Beeston News (3)

from the Cheshire Observer, 6 February 1875

ANNUAL RAILWAY SUPPER AT BEESTON STATION - The different employees in the railway service at the stations of Tattenhall Road, Beeston Castle and Calveley, dined together on the evening of Friday week, the occasion being their annual meeting, which has now been held for some years. Though but a short time was placed at the disposal of the men they seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly, as well as the substantial dinner... the chair was occupied by ***Mr Frost****, Station Master at Beeston Castle Station.*

Governance Notes

by Sheila Jones
Hon. Secretary

The new governance structures brought in following the last AGM are now starting to bed down. The Board of Trustees has met formally on two occasions between January and April (with the addition of a session where all Trustees received training on trustee responsibilities as set out by the Charity Commission). A summary of business discussed at the Board's meetings is provided on the Society's website at *www.fhsc.org.uk/governance-documents/summary-of-business.html*

The Operational Teams have also now been set up and all have held at least one meeting to date. There are vacancies for additional members on all of the Teams except the Local Groups Operational Team. Could you bring any skills to one of these Teams to help the Society? More details about the remit of the Teams is available on the Society's website at *www.fhsc.org.uk/governance-documents/operational-teams.html*, together with an application form which can be completed for submission to the Honorary Secretary (*secretary@fhsc.org.uk*).

Communications Operational Team
The first meeting of this group took place in March. The group discussed items listed under the duties and purposes of this team. Actions were identified but not all prioritised; they included:

- Updating social media policy which is already in place and producing a new publicity policy.
- Continue to advertise for help with the social media post
- Discussion about all newsletters sent out by FHSC
- Liaising with other Operational Teams with publicity for events
- Reviewing content and format of the website
- Recruiting more members for this team

Educational and Research Operational Team
At this first meeting the Team took stock of current projects and agreed they should continue to run until completed. It was also agreed that local groups should be encouraged to create their own projects, subject to approval by the Team to ensure compliance with the Society's remit and obligations as a charity, as well as maintain a high quality, realisable and relevant product with

measurable outcomes. The Team proposed that the Computer Club sub groups should be opened up to the general membership (not just Computer Club members). The logistics of when and how best to achieve this will be decided in consultation with Computer Club sub-group leaders.

There was a good discussion on how to develop and expand courses at all levels of experience both for members and non-members of the Society. These should be both face-to-face and online. More details will be announced in due course.

The Team discussed how best the Society might be represented at local fairs and shows. Volunteers from across the whole membership, resident both in and out of Cheshire would be sought to help out from time to time. Similarly, volunteers would be needed to operate help desks (temporary or permanent) in local libraries and FHSC research centres. All of this with a view to raising the profile of FHSC within the county and beyond, and growing the membership. In a similar vein, it was agreed to expand cooperation with other Family History Societies with a view to exchanging speakers for lectures or courses. This might also include arranging visits to other local and regional archives.

There was some discussion about how to target younger potential members and develop their interest in local and family history. The Team also discussed the state of play re. Cheshire Archives and Local Studies and the future move of the Society into its new premises.

Financial Operational Team
The Team has set its objectives:

- Oversee the smooth change over from the external bookkeeping service we currently use to our own internal system.
- Review and update as required the Society's internal financial controls that protect its funds and assets
- Ensure the Society is complying with the relevant laws and its own internal controls.
- Create helpful financial reports that Trustees and members can understand.
- Review the current year's budget and adjust if necessary.
- Create a budget for the next financial year.

Local Groups Operational Team
The Team met for the first time towards the end of March with most of the local groups represented. The first focus of the meeting was on the need to update the Society's Regulations for the Running of Groups, which had not been revised

since 2000. These are therefore now out of date given other changes in the Society's structures and, in particular, the changes to the way that 'membership' of the local groups has evolved from just those attending face-to-face meetings to include now those who sign up online for newsletters and Zoom meetings held by some of those groups.

There was also considerable discussion about the financial operations of the local groups. There was general agreement that, in order to take advantage of better interest rates, it would be better for local groups to deposit larger balances with the Society's main funds, retaining for their own immediate use just what they need to operate on a yearly basis with a small contingency. It was agreed, however, that the balances deposited in the main funds should continue to be ring-fenced for use by the individual local groups.

Consideration was also given to providing hybrid meetings so that out of county/country members could attend. One group does not have Wi-Fi in their meeting hall and others cited lack of suitable IT equipment as a barrier to providing this. The main hurdle, however, was with speakers; many of the speakers at local group meetings are local speakers who do not wish to use Zoom.

Membership Operational Team

The first task which the Team identified was to review its terms of reference to confirm that it was suitable for the members. This led to a wide-ranging discussion and some conclusions:

- Because some activities are shared by different operational teams, there will be overlap in responsibilities.
- Better statistics are required to understand how the membership can be increased.
- The development of a Member Handbook as a standalone document was seen as not ideal given the cost of distributing paper documents. The Team felt that information for this purpose could be included in the Cheshire Ancestor and on the website.
- The Team felt that the Cheshire Ancestor should contain a prominent section explicitly stating how to join as a new member.
- Efforts to attract new members should be supported by proper resources and the recruitment of more volunteers to attend family history events.
- The status and purpose of web users should be clarified as the area is not currently well understood.

The current process for handling new members and renewals was also explained to the Team. Using the website for these purposes is to be encouraged because it

handles both the payment and update of the member database, whereas cash, cheque, standing orders or direct bank transactions require manual intervention to update the member database.

Volunteers Wanted

The Society is run entirely by volunteers, without which it could not function. Please consider whether you might be able to offer your help in some way.

The society is seeking volunteers for the following roles:

Journal Editor

Rosie Rowley has now been producing the journal for nine years and intends to resign by the end of 2025 at the latest, by which time she will have completed ten years as editor. It is therefore vital that a new editor is found by October 2025 to allow time for training during the production of the December 2025 issue (or earlier if possible).

For more information, please contact Rosie Rowley (*editor@fhsc.org.uk*)

Book/CD Sales Officer

A volunteer is needed to manage our book and CD sales. David Smetham is fulfilling sales until we find a replacement volunteer.

For information, please contact David Smetham (*book.sales@fhsc.org.uk*)

Mobberley Research Centre

Unfortunately, due to a lack of volunteers we have had to temporarily close Mobberley on a Tuesday. If you are interested in joining the band of volunteers then please **contact the Mobberley Research Centre directly on 07712 103715** and leave a message.

Tattenhall and Beeston News (4)

from the Cheshire Observer, 13 June 1925

*TATTENHALL: DR DWYER'S RETURN – **Dr M Dwyer** has resumed his professional duties after his recent illness. During two months' convalescence he has been absent from Tattenhall, and his many friends welcome his return. For his services with the RAMC during the war Dr Dwyer was awarded the M.C.*

Surname Interests

Are you researching any of these names? If so, log in to the FHSC website and click on *Research*, then *Search Surnames*, to contact the person or people who registered the name as one of their surname interests.

If you haven't already registered your surname interests on the FHSC website, why not do it today? You may make contact with someone who holds the key to your brick wall!

These names were added between 25 January and 30 April 2025:

Bestwick/Beswick, Bowker, Clare

Davy, Dean, Dod/Dodd, Evans, Gresty

Kettle, Moxey, Norbury, Pedley, Percivall

Steen, Stretch, Stubbs, Swan/Swann, Youd/Yould

Help Wanted

1. Transportation Question

I found that in the 1840s an ancestor was tried for stealing a sheep and was sentenced to be transported for six months. As well as people being transported to the antipodes, they could be transported to places such as Gibraltar or the West Indies. Unfortunately I missed the February Zoom meeting on transportation as the link arrived Thursday for the previous day's meeting.

I wondered when the sentence started. Was it from the day of conviction, the date of departure or when they arrived at the destination country?

Similarly, when did the sentence end? Was it six months after arriving in the destination country or when they got back to the UK? Indeed, was he given a passage back?

Can readers help?

Gren Dix
Membership no. 4174

If you can help with the answer, please reply to the editor so it can be published in the next issue of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR.

2. Can Anyone Identify this Cottage?

I have a small watercolour painting which is part of a collection by Eva Arden, an ancestor of my late husband. She lived in Warmingham, Cheshire, and some of her amateur work are local scenes. Some pictures are not titled or dated, but this one is definitely over one hundred years old. I wondered if anyone recognises the cottage? The painting is on thick paper and measures 9 inches by 6 inches.

If anyone would like it they can have it, I would be willing to post it.

Sylvia Mitford
Membership no. 7456
sylmitford@gmail.com

Tattenhall and Beeston News (5)

from the Cheshire Observer, 13 June 1925

*TATTENHALL: SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS – **Master Dennis Corbett**, son of **Mr G M Corbett**, has won the County Council scholarship for the City and County School. **Miss Nellie Wilding** has also passed the first examination and is to go up for further examination at West Kirkby High School for Girls.*

Members' FREE Research Lookup Service

Note that this is a free service for members only, and is subject to the time available to volunteers.

We will search our research resources (held at the Mobberley Research Centre or at the Crewe Family History Unit) for specific information about one named person. For example: a search for a marriage, baptism or burial record or a search for a memorial inscription. We will also check other indexes that we hold. We will respond as quickly as possible but please remember that the Research Centres are staffed by volunteers who also have other duties.

Lists of the resources held at Mobberley can be found on the FHSC website at *Research Centres > Mobberley Research Centre > Mobberley Holdings*

Lists of the resources held at Crewe can be found on the FHSC website at *Research Centres > Crewe Family History Unit > Crewe Holdings*

Please note we cannot undertake in-depth family history research. Members wanting that sort of service should engage a professional genealogist.

Requests can be submitted:

- **Online at *www.fhsc.org.uk***
  Sorry, this option is not available at present while the website is being updated.
- **By post**
  Please include your name, membership number, contact details and a correctly stamped, addressed envelope (at least C5 size - 162mm x 229mm). Send to: *Family History Society of Cheshire Lookup Service, Mobberley Research Centre, Rajar Building, Town Lane, Mobberley, Cheshire, WA16 7ER.*

  Or to: *FHSC, Family History Unit, Floor 2, Municipal Building, Earle Street, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 2BJ*

Why not ADVERTISE your

Cheshire or Genealogy BUSINESS** or **PRODUCT

in this quarter-page space?

Just £14 per issue, or £50 for four consecutive issues

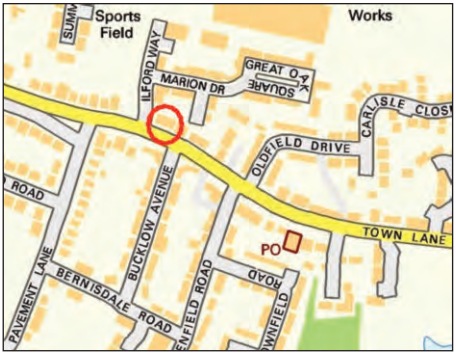
Please contact the Editor for full details

Research Centre News

Manned by experienced volunteers, visitors can obtain help and advice on family and local history research. Please see the FHSC website for holdings and up-to-date news about changes to opening hours, etc. If in doubt, please phone before visiting to ensure the centre is open and a computer/film reader is available.

MOBBERLEY FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE

Rajar Building, Town Lane, Mobberley, WA16 7ER
Please note our new telephone number: 07712 103715
For non-urgent enquiries you can now email us on *researchcentre@fhsc.org.uk*



The Rajar Building is on the corner of Town Lane (A5085) and Ilford Way. The entrance is at the front on Town Lane, and the Research Centre is on the first floor (stairs only, sorry, no lift). Parking is on nearby streets. There is a bus stop nearby (Bucklow Avenue) for D&G Bus No. 87/88. See *www.dgbus.co.uk*

FREE access to *FindMyPast*, *Ancestry* and *The Genealogist*
Extensive library of books and films/fiche for many areas, not just Cheshire
Searchable computer archives * Small charge for printing/copying
Fiche/film scanning available

Usual opening hours: 10am-4pm Monday, Thursday and 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month.

Closed on bank holidays and over the Christmas-New Year period.
If the weather is bad, please phone to check we are open before travelling.

Daily admission charge £3 for members, £5 for non-members (refundable on joining the Society on day of visit), including FREE tea or coffee.

Non-members should please contact us in advance to book a place.

Mobberley Research Centre News

by Joan Irving
librarian@fhsc.org.uk

The Royal Cheshire County Show is once again being held at Tabley near Knutsford on June 17th and 18th 2025. The Show is a long-established event in the Cheshire calendar and visited by people from various communities with an interest in all things rural.

Timeline

The Cheshire Agricultural Society was founded in 1938. It was introduced by Lord Combermere and fellow landowners *To promote agriculture and encourage the industrious and moral habits of the labouring portion of the community.*

1838: First Show was at Nantwich.
1839: Second Show was at Sandbach.
1840: Third Show was at Northwich.
1841-1892: the Show moved between various places – Chester, Nantwich, Sandbach, Northwich, Knutsford, Congleton and Crewe.
1893: Then there was a move to the Roodee at Chester for many years.
1959-1972: the Show moved to Hooton Park.
1973-1974: next a move to Poulton on the Eaton Estate.
1975-1976: the Cheshire Show was not held due to financial problems and public apathy.
1977 -1989: the Show moved to Tatton Park.
1990 - date: Tabley has become the latest showground to hold the Cheshire Show.
1999: Princess Anne became the First Lady President.
2001: The Show was cancelled because of foot and mouth disease nearby.
2013: Princess Anne became President again.
2016: The Show became The Royal Cheshire County Show.
2020: The Show was cancelled because of Covid.
2025: Tabley again hosts the Royal Cheshire Show.

The Cheshire Show was founded to display the best of Cheshire agriculture for animals, food and farm machinery. Today those principles still are the basis of the Society and the now Royal Cheshire County Show.

Details of the events from 1838 -1985 can be found in the book *The Cheshire Show* by Michael Arnold, published 1985; held at Mobberley ref: CH/GEN 142.

Crewe Family History Unit News

by Margaret Spate
crewe@fhsc.org.uk

A new home from June 2025!

By the time you read this, the Family History Unit will have moved to new premises as you will see on the next page. The FHU is now housed in Units 3 and 4 in the Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe, CW1 2AP. This is about 600 yards from our previous location in the Municipal Buildings and is close to Grand Junction Retail Park. Note that although it is named Brierley Business centre, the entrance is on Mirion Street, not Brierley Street.

The inter-connected rooms which we occupy in Units 3 and 4 are on the ground floor of the building and all of the usual facilities are provided, including on site car parking with designated disabled persons parking spaces. To gain access to the building, press the doorbell button for FHSC and one of our volunteers will come to the door and let you in.

It will take a short time for this relocation to be completed during late May/early June and temporary closure dates will be posted on the website.

The FHU will be opening on the evening of Tuesday 10th June for FHSC members to drop in to view our new interim research facilities. This one-off evening opening will take place from 5.30pm until 9pm. Depending on how busy we are, volunteers may have time to assist you with your research. Please do come and visit us in our new home!

The FHU will be housed here at the Brierley Business Centre until the new Cheshire Archives History Centre is completed, when FHSC will have a presence in this new building. This is expected to take place in 2026.

For more information about the new Crewe History Centre which is under construction on the site of the town's former library next to Memorial Square, see *www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/business/major_regeneration_projects/crewe-town-centre-regeneration-programme/crewe-history-centre.aspx*

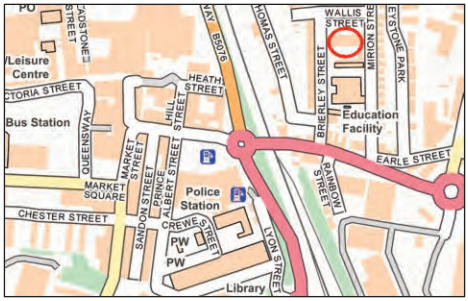
Tattenhall and Beeston News (6)

from the Chester Chronicle, 25 July 1925

TATTENHALL: WELCOME RAIN - Heavy rain fell here on Wednesday night, accompanied by thunder and lightning, which continued through the night. The heat on Wednesday was very oppressive.

CREWE FAMILY HISTORY UNIT

Units 3 & 4, Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe, CW1 2AP
Tel TBA



The Business Centre is situated on Mirion Street, about six hundred yards from our previous location in Crewe Municipal Buildings.

The Business Centre has free parking with disabled parking spaces.

We occupy units 3 and 4 on the ground floor. Press the doorbell button for FHSC and one of our volunteers will come to the door and let you in.

FREE access to *Ancestry, FindMyPast, British Newspaper Archive*
and *The Genealogist*
Local parish registers on film - extensive library of books
Crewe Collection (formerly Crewe and District Local History Archives)
For full details of our holdings, please see
the Crewe FHU Library Holdings lists on the FHSC website

Usual opening hours: 10am-4pm Monday and Tuesday
plus one Saturday morning each month (see website for date)

We recommend arriving no later than 3pm. For Saturday dates and changes to usual opening hours, please see the FHSC website.

N.B. Anyone wishing to visit on a Saturday morning (between 10 am and 12 noon) **must email *crewe@fhsc.org.uk* at least 2 days in advance** to confirm their attendance. If no notification is received, the FHU will not open on that Saturday.

Non-members visiting for the first time will be offered (for a small donation) time with a volunteer to explain the facilities available and advice on family history research. Membership of the Society is encouraged for further visits.

Letters to the Editor

If you have any comments about any of the articles in the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR*, or any aspect of the society, please share them – I'd love to hear from you! Just send an email to editor@fhsc.org.uk or post a letter to the address inside the front cover, including your name and membership number, and tell me if you also want your email/postal address to be printed so other researchers can contact you.*

CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, March 2025: *Seeing Double* and *Ruyton of the Eleven Towns* - plus a bit more church history

The church of St George, Tyldesley was originally built as a chapel of ease to St Mary, Leigh. According to Wikipedia, it was designated as a District Church in 1829. Wikipedia seems to indicate that this made it a Parish Church, but I do not believe this to be correct. District churches were normally, in effect, 'daughter' churches of a larger 'mother' parish. I don't know when St George's would have become a parish in its own right, but I expect it would have been in the 1840s.

In any case, St George's would not have been a parish church in 1826. I suspect that the record from St Mary, Leigh may be the Bishop's Transcript, which the Vicar of the parish was required to send each year to the diocesan Bishop. This would include details of baptisms, marriages and weddings carried out during the year at the parish church AND at any Chapels of Ease or District churches within the parish. The parish would have been in Chester diocese in 1826, as the Manchester diocese was not created until 1847.

So only one baptism - as recited in the Nicene Creed!

As a Shropshire lad, I used to think that *Ruyton of the Eleven Towns* had the longest village name in England. But now I know differently. Also to be found in Shropshire is *Preston upon the Weald Moors*, an even smaller village, which had a population 204 in 1921 - one letter of its name for every 8.5 inhabitants! Plus, it was an 'Ancient Parish', so it has had a parish church for centuries.

Many new churches were built in the 19th centuries as mechanisation brought migration of population from the countryside to towns and cities. However, only Ancient Parishes had vicars. The new parishes, which generally had no income from land or property and had to rely entirely on contributions of money from

congregations, had ‘Perpetual Curates’ as their incumbents. This practice continued up to about the end of the 19th century, although such incumbents were allowed to use the term Vicar from 1868. Revd Charles Brooke GWYNNE was appointed as Perpetual Curate of Bollington in 1897.

There has been a church on the site of St Michael, Macclesfield (originally All Hallows) since soon after 1220, but it was a chapel of ease to St Peter’s Church, Prestbury until it became a parish in its own right in the early 19th century. The pages in the registers from St Michael's are often inscribed *Chapelry of Macclesfield.*

All the churches in the Macclesfield area, including, for example, Taxal and Gawsworth, were part of Prestbury parish. At the time of the Norman conquest, there were 35 townships within the parish, so when the Chester diocese was created in 1541, Prestbury would have been one of the largest parishes within it.

One reason that many chapelries and district churches did not become parish churches until Victorian times was that the creation of a new parish required an Act of Parliament. Funds were often not available to support this.

So, it is important to remember that entries shown in the Bishops Transcripts from a parish may not necessarily refer to ceremonies performed in the Parish Church!

The ‘Prest’ in the names of both Preston and Prestbury probably refers to ‘priest’, suggesting that places with those names have ancient ecclesiastical origins.

Incidentally, many of the registers for Prestbury that can be found on FindMyPast are wrongly ascribed to Chelford church!

Dave Williams
Membership no. 7539

Ed.: A good source for finding information about a church, or finding what churches existed where your ancestor lived, is the GENUKI Churches Directory at www.genuki.org.uk/churchdb. Enter the place name, distance and choose whether to show the results as a list or on a map. Click on the name of a church to find out more about it, such as when it was founded, the boundaries of the area it serves, and where to find records. The information available for each church varies, as everything is submitted by volunteers.

Family History Events

For news of family history events, see these online calendars

http://geneva.weald.org.uk/doku.php
www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events
www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/online/genealogy/
https://conferencekeeper.org/

Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies 'Ken Your Kin' Summer School

Wednesday 4th – Wednesday 11th June 2025
Graham Hills Building, 40 George Street, Glasgow G1 1QE

The Ken Your Kin summer school will both celebrate and bring Scottish ancestry and heritage to life! Price of £1,000 includes lectures, coach transport, admission to museums, some lunches, gala dinners but no accommodation.

www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/genealogy/kenyourkin/

Wirral Archives History Workshops

5 June: The Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead by Mike Clarke

3 July: Victorian Wirral by William Meredith

For further information, or to book a place, please contact the Archivist, William Meredith, on 0151 606 2922, or e-mail *archives@wirral.gov.uk*

www.wirral.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/wirral-archives-service

Families in British India Society (FIBIS) Open Meeting and Annual General Meeting

10am - 4.30pm on Saturday 28th June 2025
at Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London SE1 8UJ

Q and A session with FIBIS experts and two talks.
Admission free but booking is essential.

https://one-name.org/mc-events/dna-seminar-2025/?mc_id=2607

The Halsted Trust Conference
'Secrets & Lies: More Hidden Voices of Our Ancestors'

Friday 19th – Sunday 21st September 2025
at the Holiday Inn, Peterborough West

This event will delve deeper into the lesser-known stories of our ancestors—stories of mystery, hardship, and resilience that have shaped the history of the British Isles.

https://secretlives.org.uk/

The Family History Show (London)

10am - 4pm, Saturday 4th October 2025
at Kempton Park Racecourse,
Staines Road East, Sunbury-on-Thames TW16 5AQ
Talks - Exhibitors - Ask the Experts
Kempton Park railway station on site - Ample free parking
Advance tickets £8.00 each or two for £14
https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/

The Guild of One-Name Studies
DNA Seminar 2025

9.30am - 4.45pm on Saturday 18th October 2025
at Beauchamp College, Oadby, Leicestershire LE2 5TP

Our team of expert speakers will help members with varying levels of knowledge make the best of DNA technology.

The seminar is open to both Guild members and non-members.

https://one-name.org/mc-events/dna-seminar-2025/?mc_id=2607

Tattenhall and Beeston News (7)

from the Chester Chronicle, 13 June 1925

*CHESTER BRANCH NFU: TATTENHALL ROAD REQUIREMENTS - The Secretary (**Mr A Booth**) reported that he had heard that there was a likelihood of a telephone being installed at the Tattenhall Road station. **Mr Tom Peacock**, speaking [about] the additional siding accommodation [for livestock], said he had met the transport officer there. Better accommodation had been wanted for some time, and he thought that the Railway Company would do something.*

Family History News

A selection of recent updates to websites, and other family history news. Remember, if you don't have a subscription to *Ancestry, Find My Past* or *The Genealogist*, our Research Centres have free access to these sites. You may also be able to access *Ancestry* or *Find My Past* through your public library - and look out for offers of free access on special occasions such as Remembrance Day.
Bear in mind that record collections on the Internet may be incomplete.

The Genealogist

Go to *www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news/* for *The Genealogist* news.

Lloyd George Domesday Records for Cambridgeshire
www.thegenealogist.co.uk/search/advanced/landowner/1910-survey/
Records of the Valuation Office Survey 1910-1915 for Cambridgeshire are now available online. These include transcriptions and images of the original maps and ledgers, which give details of property owners and occupiers, plus descriptions of the properties and sometimes a sketch plan.

The site now includes records for Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Dorset, Essex, Greater London, Hertfordshire, Kent, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey and Wiltshire.

These records are held by the National Archives at Kew, London (reference IR58). For more information see *www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/valuation-office-survey-land-value-ownership-1910-1915/*

Ancestry

Go to *http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/cardcatalog.aspx* for a list of all record sets, and click on *Sort by > Date Updated* to find the latest additions.
Go to *www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/recent-collections* for *Ancestry* news.

Scotland and West Dumbartonshire records
Ancestry has recently added many records relating to Scotland, including Church of Scotland Burials 1655-1854 and Baptisms and Marriages for 1615-1854, plus directories, school records, employee records and several other records for West Dumbartonshire.

Ancestry has also added indexes to some military records but the full transcriptions can only be viewed with a Fold3 subscription.

Find My Past (FMP)

Go to *http://search.findmypast.co.uk/historical-records* to see a list of all record sets. Go to *www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new* for FindMyPast news.

Swindon Great Western Railway Hospital Records, 1883-1916
https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/wiltshire-great-western-railway-hospital-records-1883-1916
The GWR Medical Fund Society was founded in Swindon in 1847 by weekly subscription and the hospital opened in 1872. These records, transcribed by the Wiltshire Family History Society, provide details of those who were treated at the hospital. A great deal of information about the records can be found under the heading *Discover more about these records* below the search form.

Guernsey Records 1563-2022
www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new/guernsey-parish-civil-bmds-land-records
https://www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new/guernsey-poor-relief-gazette
Parish registers, civil birth, marriage, divorce and death records, cemetery, census, and land records. Plus poor law records, prison registers, hospital records, passenger lists, and German occupation registration forms, evacuee forms and occupation orders. All offer a vivid insight into the lives of Guernsey's people from the 16th century to the present day.

Suffolk Records
www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new/suffolk-baptisms-marriages-graves
Suffolk baptism and marriage register entries transcribed by the Suffolk Family History Society, plus grave and memorial inscription records, including photographs of the gravestones.

Tattenhall and Beeston News (8)

from the Cheshire Observer, 13 June 1925

TARPORLEY BAPTISTS ANNUAL GATHERING AT BEESTON - The annual summer gathering of the Tarporley Baptist Church was held on Thursday at Castle Side Farm, Beeston, the residence of ***Mr Samuel Winward****. The membership of the Baptist Church includes a very large proportion of the principal farmers of the district, hence it was largely an agricultural assembly which gathered on Thursday... After the service the company adjourned to Castle Side where tea was served, at which 160 people were present.After tea many of the visitors... explored the castle grounds.*

Book Review

by Margaret Roberts
FHSC Chair

The Hollywood Strangler (Venator Cold Case Series Book 3)
By Nathan Dylan Goodwin

The Hollywood Strangler is the third instalment in Nathan Dylan Goodwin's Venator series, a gripping mystery that blends genetic genealogy with the suspense of a cold-case investigation. Building upon the foundations laid in the previous books, this novel offers readers a deeper dive into the methodologies of forensic genealogy while unravelling a gripping narrative. Without giving away too much of the plot, the book is set in 1980, and the story follows Detective Ted Marsden, nearing retirement from the LAPD, as he works with Madison Scott-Barnhart (Maddie) of Venator, an investigative genealogy firm, to solve the decades-old case of the Hollywood Strangler. Using DNA evidence, they trace family connections to uncover the identity of the killer.

The characters, particularly Ted Marsden and Maddie, are well-developed, with distinct personalities and motivations that keep the story moving. The structure, alternating between the past and present, keeps readers hooked, offering both suspense and intellectual stimulation as the mystery unfolds. One of the book's greatest strengths is its authentic description of genealogical techniques. As in his previous work, Goodwin's expertise in forensic genealogy shines through, offering readers an in-depth look at the process of analysing DNA and constructing family trees. This not only adds credibility but also enriches the plot, making it both educational and engaging for genealogy fans.

While *The Hollywood Strangler* can be enjoyed as a standalone novel, readers of previous books in the Venator series will find even more depth in the characters and investigative methods. Overall, the book masterfully combines the art of genealogical research with the thrill of solving a decades-old mystery. Whether you're a genealogy enthusiast or a fan of suspenseful mysteries, this book offers a rewarding and enlightening journey.

Paperback: 353 pages, ISBN 979-8332474941
Available in paperback, hardback, digital and audiobook formats via the author's website at *www.nathandylangoodwin.com*

The Family History Society of Cheshire
Subscription Renewals
and Methods of Payment

Dear Member,

Registered Charity: 515168

If this copy of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR that you are reading belongs to someone else and you want to join the Family History Society of Cheshire, click on the *Join FHSC* icon on the website *www.fhsc.org.uk*, email *membership@fhsc.org.uk*, or contact Mrs Angela Moore, 6 Woodlands Close, Stalybridge, SK15 2SH.

If you have a current membership first taken out before 2021, your membership expires on 30th June each year. For newer members it expires 12 months after the initial payment. You may renew your membership by a continuing standing order, payment through the website or by sending a cheque. Whichever method of payment you use, please ensure you include your unique membership number as identification.

Standing Order If your standing order is set up for the correct amount (see tariff on the renewal side of the form overleaf) and your Gift Aid status is unchanged, you have nothing to do. The arrival of the standing order payment triggers your membership renewal. As well as being easy for you, this method minimises the work for our volunteers.

If you wish to set up or amend a standing order for your subscription and you have no online access to your bank account, you may use the standing order form overleaf, which you must complete in full and SEND TO YOUR BANK.

Payment Through The Website You can pay online at *www.fhsc.org.uk*. Log in and click on the *Upgrade/Renew* icon. Follow the links to select the type of membership you want to renew. The PayPal option allows you to pay using a card even if you have no PayPal account. If you do have a PayPal account, you may set up a recurring annual payment – like a standing order.

Sending A Cheque To continue your membership, please:

- write a cheque, payable to ***FHS of Cheshire***, for the appropriate amount as shown in the table on the form overleaf,
- write on the back of the cheque your unique membership number,
- post the cheque to:

Kevin Dean, 7 Fields Drive, Sandbach, CW11 1YB

Please do not send a post-dated cheque.

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Membership Team (Angela Moore & Kevin Dean)

Location of Groups

The Charles Booth Inquiry: Shedding Light on Victorian London's Social Fabric

by Margaret Roberts
FHSC Chair

In March the subject of our seminar was the *Charles Booth Archive*, presented by Indy Bhullar of the London School of Economics (LSE). It was a fascinating talk and there is certainly much more to the archive and Charles Booth himself than most people are generally aware of.

In the bustling streets of Victorian London, amidst the clatter of carriages and the cries of street vendors, there existed a hidden world of poverty, inequality, and hardship. It was within this tangled maze of streets and alleys that Charles Booth embarked on a monumental task: to uncover the true socio-economic conditions of its inhabitants. The result was the pioneering *Inquiry into the Life and Labour of the People in London*, commonly known as the Charles Booth Inquiry. Today, this work is preserved in meticulous detail at the LSE, providing a permanent resource for historians and social scientists alike.

Context and Motivation

Charles Booth (1840–1916), a successful Liverpool-born businessman turned philanthropist and social reformer, initiated the inquiry in the late 19th century against the backdrop of rapid industrialisation and urbanisation. London, the world's largest and wealthiest city, was experiencing unprecedented growth, drawing in people from all corners of the country and beyond in search of work and opportunity. However, alongside prosperity, there existed appalling poverty

and squalor, largely hidden from the view of the affluent classes and, perhaps more importantly, the policymakers.

Booth's motivation for the inquiry was both personal and ideological. He was alarmed by claims made by the Social Democratic Federation in the 1880s, which suggested that a quarter of Londoners lived in abject poverty. Booth, a man of rigorous thought, doubted these numbers but was determined to uncover the truth for himself. His intention was not only to confirm or refute such claims but also to better understand the root causes of poverty and inform social reform.

Methodology and Scope

The *Inquiry into the Life and Labour of the People in London* was an ambitious project that stretched over seventeen years, from 1886 to 1903. What set Booth's work apart was its combination of statistical precision and human observation. Booth and his team surveyed the entire city, street by street, house by house, creating an extraordinary level of detail and accuracy. These results were later published in seventeen volumes, an extraordinary achievement that remains an invaluable resource today.

The Researchers

Booth did not work alone. He employed a diverse team of social investigators, many of whom had backgrounds in social work, education, and the church. Several of his researchers were women, which was unusual at a time when women rarely held such professional positions. Among the most notable was Beatrice Potter (not to be confused with the author Beatrix Potter), later Beatrice Webb, a prominent social reformer and co-founder of the LSE. Potter's observations, particularly on working-class families and women's roles, added significant depth to Booth's reports.

Other investigators included school board visitors, who already had intimate knowledge of the neighbourhoods from their work monitoring school attendance and welfare. Clergymen were also involved, offering insights into the moral and spiritual lives of their congregations. Policemen accompanied many researchers on their rounds, ensuring access to areas deemed dangerous or unwelcoming. Booth's reliance on these varied perspectives enriched the inquiry. His researchers recorded not only income and employment but also attitudes, habits, and social customs.

The Poverty Maps

One of the most famous outcomes of Booth's work was his poverty maps, colour-coded to represent the economic status of each street in London. Areas shaded in black were deemed *lowest class, vicious, semi-criminal*, while dark blue

represented the *very poor, casual, chronic want*. In contrast, red and yellow areas represented the well-to-do and wealthy classes. These maps remain an iconic visualisation of social inequality, and their use of colour-coding and systematic mapping has influenced modern urban studies and social cartography.

Findings and Impact

Booth's inquiry provided irrefutable evidence that poverty was far more extensive and complex than the middle and upper classes had imagined. His research estimated that roughly 30% of Londoners lived in poverty, a figure even higher than the Social Democratic Federation had claimed.

More importantly, Booth challenged prevailing assumptions about the causes of poverty. His work demonstrated that structural factors, such as low wages, irregular employment, poor housing, and lack of social support, were often to blame, rather than personal moral failings or laziness. This marked a significant shift in public understanding, paving the way for more compassionate and interventionist social policies.

Booth's conclusions helped shape early 20th-century reforms, including the introduction of old-age pensions and the establishment of free school meals. His evidence-based approach also influenced the development of the welfare state in the United Kingdom.

Legacy and the LSE Archive

The Charles Booth Inquiry stands as a testament to the power of empirical research in challenging social norms and driving progressive change. Through his meticulous investigation into the lives of London's inhabitants, Booth not only exposed the harsh realities of poverty but also paved the way for a more compassionate and informed approach to social policy. Booth's legacy endures not only through his direct contributions to social reform but also through the preservation of his work. *The Charles Booth Archive*, held at the LSE, includes his original notebooks, maps, and reports. These archives offer an extraordinary glimpse into the lives of ordinary Londoners at the turn of the 20th century.

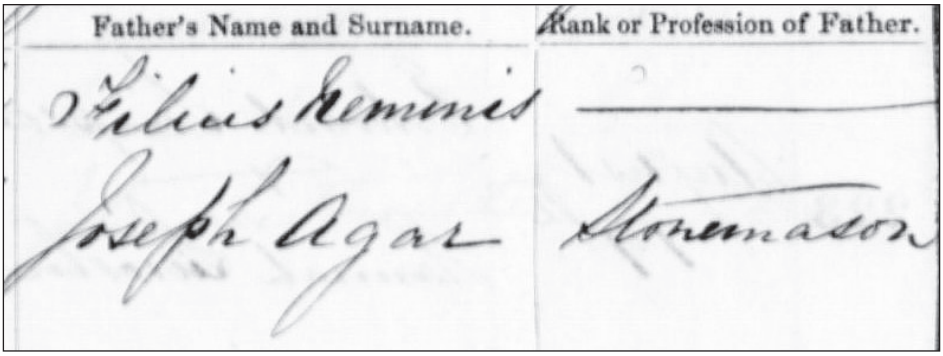
Researchers today can explore Booth's findings through the LSE's *Charles Booth Online Archive*, which provides digital access to his poverty maps and notebooks. The online resource is an invaluable tool for historians, sociologists, urban planners, and anyone interested in the history of social research. Booth's particular attention to detail, combined with the personal reflections of his researchers, make this archive a uniquely rich source of information.

You can explore the archive on the LSE website: *https://booth.lse.ac.uk/*

How Good is Your Latin?

by Peter Rowley
Membership no. 3298

Looking through Parish Registers for Middlesbrough, I came upon the following entry:



Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
Filius Neminis	
Joseph Agar	Stonemason

The bride was a minor, but what about the groom's father? In place of the groom's father's name was the phrase ***Filius Neminis***!!

I had not come across this before; I knew that *filius* meant son - I passed Latin at O-level (a long time ago) - but what about *neminis*? I turned to my bookshelves and found my copy of *A Latin Glossary for Family and Local Historians*, by Janet Morris, published by the FFHS and reprinted in 1997.

I found that *filius neminis* means *son of nobody or no-one* - yet another way to say he was illegitimate. I also found the equivalent phrases *filius nulli* and *filius populi*.

Tattenhall and Beeston News (9)

from the Chester Chronicle, 1 August 1925

FASHIONABLE WEDDING AT TATTENHALL - A merry peal of bells ringing out from St Albans Church, Tattenhall, signalised (sic) the wedding on Thursday afternoon of ***Mr Wilfrid Holland****, stockbroker, of New York, youngest son of the late* ***Mr and Mrs Joseph Holland****, formerly of Hooton, and* ***Miss Dora Field****, elder daughter of* ***Mr Henry H Field****, of* ***Messrs Rylands Bros****, wire manufacturers, Warrington, and* ***Mrs Field****, of "The Righi," Tattenhall. The marriage attracted a fashionable throng....*

Memories of VE day

by Renee Brown
Membership no. 9187

In May 1945 I was two years and eight months old. I was the baby of the family, with two much older brothers who were both serving in the Forces. My brother Ernest, aged twenty-four, was in the army which had fought its way north through Italy from Sicily. My brother Jimmy, twenty-two, was in the Royal Navy, serving on a ship in the Pacific; he and his fellow crew members would not be celebrating the end of the war until VJ day on 15th August 1945, and he didn't come home until 1946.

I lived with my parents in a terraced house in Salford. From the end of the street we could see the walls of Manchester Docks. We had a big square air-raid shelter in the yard at the back and all the windows were criss-crossed with black tape to minimise the shattering of glass in a bombing.

That May I was excited because strings of flags and bunting were being fixed across the street. To do this my mother and the lady opposite had the sash windows in their bedrooms open and were using the long pit props, which normally held up the lines of washing, to pass over the flags. My mother turned away from the window and I decided to see what was happening. To do this I hitched myself up onto the window sill and leaned forward as far as I could. I felt myself slipping! Suddenly my mother grabbed my clothes, hauled me back, slapped my bottom, hugged me and burst into tears. Eighty years later I remember this incident in detail but have no memories of a tea party or any other VE day events.

It was only years later that I realised that the *crofts* where I played with other children were the remains of bombed houses. There was a croft between our terrace and the dock walls, and another between our street and the church. Most parts of the houses had been cleared away and only the piles of broken bricks remained. These were between two and three feet high, and excellent for games of hide-and-seek. We would come home very dirty and grazed - remember in the 1940s girls always wore dresses and younger boys wore short trousers.

William Potts, Letter Carrier

by Judith Rye, née Ashmore
j.jrye@hotmail.co.uk
Membership no. 4350

I've been a member of FHSC for many years as I was born in Holmes Chapel and my ancestors come from several areas of the county. I read my quarterly FHSC magazine with interest, but don't often find anything relevant to my family, until I opened the December 2024 issue and read the newspaper article on page 41 about my 3x great-grandfather William POTTS, letter carrier of Nantwich.

William was baptised on 7th January 1807 at Nantwich, the son of William POTTS and Mary ANKERS. He married Catherine POTTS on 10th June 1829 at St Mary's church, Nantwich. He was a single man, cordwainer of Nantwich, and she was single, of Wrenbury.

By 1841 they were living in Welch Row, Nantwich with their five children, including twin boys Thomas (who lived for 5 months) and William (who lived for 10 months), daughter Maria, born in 1838, whose twin sister Sarah had died in 1840 at the age of 15 months of inflammation of the lungs. The couple had already lost daughter Mary (born in 1837, died in 1839). William was still a cordwainer.

In 1851 William is still living in Welch Row as a shoemaker (Journeyman) with his family, including two more children. On 18th November 1851 he is listed in the UK, Postal Service Appointment Books as a *Messenger, Nantwich to Wybunbury.*

In 1861, still living in Welch Row, William is listed as a *Postman*, with his daughter Maria also living there with her husband Charles CORN, a farmer's son from Wybunbury, recently married at Nantwich St Mary's on the 28th March 1861.

By 1871, still living in Welch Row, William is listed as a *Post Messenger*, but with a new wife, Ann, because Catherine had died in 1864, aged 57, of *Natural Decay*. By 1881 William is living alone at 95 Welch Row, (next to the *Oddfellows Arms*) with the occupation of *Pensioned Postman*. On the 22nd November 1890 William died in his 80th year at the Alms House, Beam Street, Nantwich, a *Retired Letter Carrier*, from *General Debility*.

Charles CORN, the husband of William's daughter Maria, also became a *Letter Carrier* and they were living in Wybunbury in 1871. In London Road, Stapeley in

1881, he was then a *Rural Messenger*. By 1891 he is widowed, Maria having died in 1889, and living at Stapeley as a *Postman* with his daughter Maria as *Housekeeper*.

On 23rd December 1897 Maria CORN married Thomas WOOLLEY at St Mary's Church, Nantwich. They had two sons: Frank born in 1899 who died at the age of four months from acute gastroenteritis, and Charles Edward born in 1902 who died at fourteen months from whooping cough and bronchopneumonia. Then my grandmother, Catherine (Kitty) WOOLLEY, was born on 20th August 1900.

Maria and Thomas Woolley with daughter Kitty

Catherine married Christopher ASHMORE at St Mary's church, Nantwich in January 1925. My father Christopher Thomas ASHMORE was born at the end of August 1925, the eldest of four sons, although the youngest, Alan, died in infancy. My father suffered ill-health in later years; I believe this was connected with his mother's Rhesus Negative blood.

There were family stories about twins in the family dying, but this was further back in the tree than I had expected. I feel quite lucky to be here, with my grandmother's siblings dying young and her mother's twin sister also dying young.

William POTTS seems to have been quite healthy with all the miles he walked delivering the post! According to the records on Ancestry he received a glowing reference when he retired and drew his pension.

Maria WOOLLEY née CORN died a few years before I was born but I have many photos of her wearing dark glasses, which I believe was because of a cataract operation which went wrong.

My great-granddad Thomas WOOLLEY came to live with his daughter and son-in-law Kitty and Chris ASHMORE in Holmes Chapel, next to the house where I was born. I have many memories of him sitting in the back yard shelling peas into a bucket and always reading out loud *"The End"* as a TV programme finished. He died on the 25th January 1965 - pleased that he'd outlived Winston CHURCHILL, if only by one day!

Workhouse to University in Two Generations

by Mike Hodgkinson
Membership no. 7929

When our first grandchild was born, my wife and I took her to Leek in Staffordshire to visit my paternal grandmother Elizabeth BRADDOCK. For the first time, my grandmother told me that her mother's maiden name was DOXEY and that her maternal grandmother had come from Shropshire.

Decades later, I started to build my family tree. After obtaining the birth records of my grandmother and her mother and their parents' marriage records, I identified my grandmother's mother as Sarah Ann DOXEY. Sarah Ann's parents were Creswick DOXEY and Margaret GOODBY.

The 1881 census recorded Creswick and Margaret DOXEY living in Leek with three children including Sarah Ann. Margaret was thirty-nine and had been born in Shrewsbury, as my grandmother had told me. I found an 1842 IGI baptism record for a Margaret GOODBY at Wem, Shropshire with parents William and Elizabeth (IGI stands for the International Genealogical Index, a fore-runner of the FamilySearch website). I also found an 1835 IGI marriage record of William GOODBY and Elizabeth EDWARDS at Upton Magna, Shropshire, and baptismal records of four other children ranging from 1837 to 1845. I decided to visit Upton Magna and the county record office in Shrewsbury to obtain more information.

Upton Magna is a small village close to Attingham Park mansion, now owned by the National Trust. Attingham Park was the seat of the Barons BERWICK of Attingham. When I visited Attingham Park, I was told that the third Baron who owned the property between 1832 and 1842 was notorious for failing to pay his staff of whom there was (not surprisingly) a large turnover.

The Shrewsbury record office provided more details of the GOODBY family. William GOODBY was a chimney sweep. Their first child William was born in Shawbury Almshouse, Shropshire in 1835 and died a year later. The second child John died within a year of his baptism in Wem, Shropshire. The next child Stephen was baptised in Wem in 1837 and died in 1841. Their last child Eliza was born in 1845 and died ten months later.

My ancestor Margaret was the only child to survive and was living in Wem Workhouse with her mother Elizabeth at the time of the 1851 census. Her mother

is described as a house servant and Margaret is described as a scholar. I asked the Shrewsbury record office if they had any information about them. The only record is that Margaret had missed some school time as she had gone with her mother to carry out domestic work. I also tried to find out whether William or Elizabeth GOODBY had worked at Attingham Park. Although the record office held information on staff payments for Attingham Park, there were no records of payment to staff during the time that they may have worked there.

Where was Margaret living during the 1861 census? A Margaret GOODBY aged nineteen from Shropshire was living as a boarder in Queen Street, Buglawton, Congleton and working as a cotton winder. Her landlady Ann BUTLER was a widow with three sons and is described as a house keeper. I can only guess how Margaret came to Congleton. Presumably the mill management had contacts at workhouses, as we know happened at other mills – Quarry Bank for example - and arranged employment for young people. Margaret then moved to Leek where she was married five years later.

I cannot find convincing death records for Margaret's parents. However when there was a free weekend for newspaper records on Findmypast, I typed in William GOODBY, who seems to be my poorest known ancestor. I came across the following article in the Shrewsbury Chronicle of 17 September 1858.

A BEGGING IMPOSTER – An old rogue William GOODBY by the name, and by trade a sweep, was committed to three months hard labour on Tuesday for collecting alms under fraudulent pretence. GOODBY was found by the police carrying about a petition in which were a number of statements likely to excite the compassion of the benevolence and which were all proved to be untrue.

Was William GOODBY a lazy man who left his wife and surviving child? Was he depressed due to the loss of four of his children in childhood? Was he sick or injured? Was he driven into poverty by a rich aristocrat who did not pay his staff? We will never know.

I do know that his daughter Margaret GOODBY had three children and lived to the age of 73. She had several grandchildren including my grandmother's younger brother George BRADDOCK, who went to Durham University in the 1920s and became a vicar. We know it was rare and expensive for working-class young men to attend university in the 1920s, so how did this happen?

Like his three older sisters, including my grandmother, George started work at the nearby mill in Leek after leaving elementary school at the age of twelve. His daughter told me that while working at the mill he was entrusted by the union

with the job of collecting workers' contributions to a sick pay fund, and of visiting the homes of absent workers to give them their sick pay. He was obviously an intelligent and a trustworthy young man. Did the union help to fund him through university? Or, as I think more likely, did the Church help to fund him to become a future vicar? We do know that this happened in other cases.

Given the right opportunities, people can escape from poverty. Unfortunately his grandmother Margaret, who started life in the workhouse, did not live to see him go to university.

Cryptic Cheshire

by Sheila Jones
Hon. Secretary

Did you enjoy the first Annual Quiz in January? Did you miss it but wish you had been there? Can't wait until we run it again? Here's a little teaser. Can you identify these Cheshire places from the cryptic clues?

The answers will be published in the next edition of the Ancestor or, for those who can't wait, on the website at the beginning of July at *www.fhsc.org.uk/new-cheshire-ancestor-3/cheshire-ancestor-2025.html*.

1. An Oxbridge academic who doesn't work

2. Sounds as if a sailor has been taken a bit ill

3. Crossed the rough ground on horseback

4. Inter a sweet roll? But what makes you do it?

5. Grandmother with a definite tic

6. Continue to take part in a play

7. Annoyed clergymen

8. Entrance into a grand estate

9. Where Hazel or a monkey might cross the river

10. Go out on one?

The Murder of Sarah Hough, 1843

by Joan Irving
FHSC Librarian

From research material passed to the former FHSC Alderley Edge Research Centre from the late John Bennett, former member of FHSC.

From *The Times*, April 16, 1843.

A Woman Killed By Her Husband – Extraordinary Case.

(From the *CHESTER COURANT*)

Very great excitement has prevailed during the past week at Castle Northwich, in consequence of suspicious circumstances attending the death of **Sarah Hough**, wife of **William Hough**, captain of a flat which plies to and from Liverpool. The poor woman died on Thursday, the 6th instant, and on the 8th instant an inquest was held before **Mr. J. Roscoe**, coroner for the Knutsford division, when a verdict of "*Died by the visitation of God, from natural causes*," was returned. On the following day (Sunday) the corpse was buried at Witton, when a scene of great disorder ensued; the husband, who attended the funeral, being hooted and grasped at by the spectators as he left the churchyard. After the interment many painful rumours were freely circulated, and facts were elicited which induced an application to be made to **Mr. H. Churton** to hold another inquest, for it appeared that Castle Northwich is not included in the Knutsford division, and therefore the investigation taken before **Mr. J. Roscoe** was irregular and illegal. **Mr. Churton** consequently gave instructions that the body should be exhumed, and on Saturday last proceeded to hold his inquest. The excitement in the neighbourhood was intense. A most respectable jury had been summoned for the occasion, and among those who attended were **Mr. G. Wilbraham**, **Mr. J. F. France**, **Mr. G. Shackerley**, and **Mr. J. H. Harper**, magistrates of the county.

Catherine Alcock, daughter of deceased, with whom she resided, deposed that the health of deceased had been very good during the last two years; deceased has been confined about seven months ago, she continued to suckle the child till Sunday the 2nd instant, and she was then in her usual health. My stepfather (**William Hough**) had been about (sic) several days. He came home that Sunday morning about 6 o'clock. He was somewhat in liquor. In about half an hour he left the house and returned at 10 o'clock very much intoxicated. He laid himself

down on the squab, and shortly after he had a quarrel with the deceased. I and my sister were present when my stepfather's son came in, who complained of not having had sufficient food. My mother was preparing dinner and had put on the fire two saucepans containing a dumpling and potatoes, which my stepfather removed off the fire, and placed it at the back of the door, which he fastened. He then clinched his fist, and asked my mother "*Where she would have it!*" My mother was then sitting down suckling the child. She said, "*Anywhere.*" He then struck her on the right breast, which scarred her breast and the child's face. I took the child from my mother and carried it out of doors, but before I did so deceased received another blow from him on her side, he having previously pushed her back on the sofa, and held her down with his knees. Before this occurred deceased and her husband lived happily together. Before my stepfather struck deceased, she took up the poker and said, "*By G---, I am sworn to take care of my children.*" Deceased, after she had been beaten, went to **James Marsh**'s; her face was nearly covered with blood. She had bled very much from the nose. **Mrs. Marsh** washed her face. Deceased sent for the Hartford constable and afterwards broke her own back-door open. Myself, my sister, and deceased remained at home the whole of the afternoon. Deceased complained very much and was unable to take any food till half-past 4, when she had some tea and a slice of bread and butter, about 9 o'clock she had a teacup-full of stew; deceased did not go to bed, as she was afraid her husband would come in and abuse her. **David Marsh** and my stepfather came home at 12 o'clock, both very drunk. The whole of us remained up all night.

Marsh went away at 4 on Monday morning, and **Kitty Leather**, a neighbour who had sat with us, at half-past 5; soon after, my stepfather awoke and told my mother that he "*had some stuff about him which would lay either her or any other person asleep.*" (This, we believe, refers to a superstitious notion entertained by persons in these parts, that the men who accompany the flats in their voyages have about them a kind of charm, for producing certain talismanic effects.) Witness continued her statement by deposing that **Hough** threatened to send the bailiffs (deceased kept a shop); deceased left the house, and went to an attorney's office to know whether he could send the bailiffs; she afterwards went to **Lucy Poynton**'s house, where she complained of being unwell, and went upstairs , where she said, "*Oh dear, you must let me lie on your bed, for I shall die.*" She afterwards said, "*Oh **Bill Hough**, Oh **Bill Hough**, thou hast done my job.*" Deceased was perfectly sensible. I remained with her the whole afternoon. I left her and returned the following morning; she was then very ill and rambling. She complained very much of her head. There were present **Lucy Poynton** and several other persons. **Ann Hitchin** was also present applying leeches to both

temples. My stepfather came to see deceased in the afternoon, but my mother refused to see him. I remained with her till 10 o'clock. I did not see her again till Wednesday morning. She was then worse. I remained with her about ten minutes. I did not see her alive after this time. (We may here remark that **Hough** was a widower when he married deceased, she being a widow, and both having children, the offspring of their former marriages, who, it appears, all lived together when this unhappy transaction occurred).

Nancy Allcock, another daughter of deceased, corroborated her sister's testimony in all its main particular.

Sarah Marsh confirmed the previous evidence.

Sarah Harrison, landlady of the *Wheatsheaf* public-house, stated that deceased called there on Monday morning, the 3rd instant. She was very sick and had a little brandy and water. She went away much excited, leaning on **Mrs. Poynton**'s arm.

Catherine Leather deposed – On Sunday, the 2nd inst. I was in the shop of **James Marsh**, when I heard deceased scream out "*Murder.*" I went into the back yard and saw deceased leaning against a rain tub. She said, "*Oh woman, will you see me murdered!*" **William Hough** was behind her. He struck her two blows on the back part of her head. I said, "*Oh, William Hough, don't hit her;*" and he said, "*I'll knock her b-----y neck off.*" He appeared to be tipsy. On Sunday night deceased sent for me, and said she durst not stay in the house alone, for she was afraid her husband was getting more drink. I remained with her the whole night. I left at 5 o'clock on Monday morning. **Hough** came in at 12 o'clock on Sunday night. There was no quarrelling while I stayed. We had nothing but coffee and some stew. Deceased complained very much of her head in the course of the night, and said, "*This is what I wanted, I wished him to strike me, for then I could swear my life against him.*" She said she had no comfort amongst them. She did not blame her husband so much as his son; he had been a good husband to herself, and a good father to her children. Deceased and her husband had appeared to live on good terms with each other. I never knew them to have words before this quarrel.

Jane Weedall, who had been called to draw deceased's breasts, deposed to the appearances. Deceased said, "*Oh dear me, I doubt **William Hough** has done my job.*"

Lucy Poynton corroborated the testimony of the first two witnesses as to the facts mentioned by them; and further deposed, that on the Monday **Mr. Dean**, a surgeon, was sent for, whose attentions witness described. **William Hough** (she added) came to my house on Wednesday, where he remained the whole day; he

was apparently in great distress. At 2 o'clock he went up-stairs with me and assisted in rubbing his wife's hands; he kissed her, and she kissed him. Deceased appeared sensible, but unable to articulate; she became gradually worse, and expired about 6 o'clock on Thursday morning. **William Hough** remained with her the whole of the night and left my house about a quarter of an hour before deceased expired.

Mr. James Dean, surgeon, of Winnington, deposed that he visited deceased on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and described the remedies he applied, as well as the result of a postmortem examination of the body on the 7th inst. He was of the opinion that death was caused by inflammation of the brain; a blow on the chest might cause such inflammation.

Mr. Samuel Dean, surgeon, also saw deceased, accompanied by his brother, on the Wednesday evening, and attended the postmortem examination. His opinion was, that she suffered from affusion on the brain, caused by previous inflammation; in his judgment, she would not have died had she not received several contusions and concussions prior to her death.

Samuel Birt identified the body as that of **Sarah Hough**.

The investigation occupied 10 hours; but the above are the most material points in the evidence adduced.

After consulting together for about half an hour, the jury returned the following verdict:- "*That deceased came to her death by inflammation of the brain, brought on by concussion, which was occasioned by injuries inflicted on her by her husband, and that she would not have so died if such injuries had not been inflicted on her, and that such injuries were not inflicted with malice aforethought.*"

William Hough, who had been detained in custody to await the result of the inquest, was then committed by the coroner, **Mr. H. Churton**, to Chester Castle, to take his trial at the next assizes on the charge of manslaughter.

***The Times*, Aug 11, 1843, pg 7, Issue 18372; col E. Category: Law**

"Chester Assizes". Chester, Wednesday Aug 9.

MANSLAUGHTER

William Hough, 35, an athletic man of respectable appearance, was given in charge for the wilful murder of his wife, **Sarah Hough**, at Great Budworth, by striking her in various parts of the body.

Mr. Hill and **Mr. Trafford** conducted the case on the part of the prosecution; and the prisoner was defended by **Mr. Temple** and **Mr. Townsend**.

It appeared that the case was first inquired into by a jury empanelled from the Knutsford district, and that that jury had discharged the prisoner from custody. It was subsequently proved that the inquest held upon that occasion was an illegal one, and that the coroner for the Knutsford district had no power whatever to hold that inquisition. The proper coroner, **Mr. Churton**, instituted a second inquisition, and upon this latter inquisition it became necessary to have the body exhumed for the purpose of being examined. After having heard the case the second jury came to the merciful conclusion that the prisoner was guilty of manslaughter, and he was then committed on that charge; but when the was laid before **Mr. Trafford**, he directed that an indictment should be drawn up against the prisoner for murder, conceiving, with the counsel for the Crown, that there were not any circumstances which could reduce the crime to that of manslaughter.

The evidence tended to show that the prisoner was the captain of a flat trading between Northwich and Liverpool; that, in discharge of his duty, he was frequently from home, and that his wife kept a small shop at Great Budworth. He had a family of children by his former wife; he also had a family by the deceased; and it would appear that the children of the first and second marriages frequently disagreed.

He returned home about 3 o'clock on the morning of Sunday, the 2nd of April. The deceased had prepared some victuals called "a stew", but he declined to take anything, remained but a short time, and then left the house. He returned about 10 o'clock, rather intoxicated, and after having locked the front door lay down upon the sofa. At this time the deceased was preparing dinner. She had two stewpans upon the fire, and the son of the deceased came in and complained that he had not had enough to eat. Some words passed between the prisoner and the deceased, upon which the former got up, took the stewpans off the fire, and put them out into the back yard, and then returned. As soon as he has locked the back door, he went up to the deceased with his fist clenched and said, "*How will you have it*?" She was at this moment suckling a child seven months old at her left breast, upon which breast he struck her a most violent blow. One of the daughters then took the child from her, lest it might be hurt in the scuffle; whereupon the prisoner pushed the deceased down on the sofa and struck her, first on one side and then on the other side of the head, with great force, but she, having succeeded at length in releasing herself from his grasp, ran out by the back door and called to a person in the yard "*Murder! Murder! – will you see me*

murdered!" The prisoner followed her, struck her in a most violent manner, first with one hand and then with the other, and knocked her down on the pavement in the yard. After those repeated beatings she was removed to a distance, when she became very ill and made use of expressions to the effect that "*the prisoner had done her job.*" She died on the 6th of April, four days after the beatings, of effusion of blood upon the brain, produced by the blows received either on the head or breast. It appeared the that she had taken up a poker at the time when the prisoner first shut the door, and said, "*I must protect the children,*" but that she had neither made any use of it nor returned any of his blows.

The prisoner was found *Guilty* of manslaughter.

From Ashton to the Yukon

by Richard Ardern
Membership no. 4796

Lawrence Leigh ARDERN was twenty-three years old when he set off by steamer from Liverpool for the Yukon on 10 March 1898. He died at his home in Dawson City on 23 September 1950 and returned to the UK only once for some three years in 1924 to be with his parents, William and Sarah, during the last year of their lives. William and Sarah were by then living in retirement in Blackpool. After they had died, Lawrence visited family, bought bicycles for the young ones (including my father) and made his will in Hyde on 25 February 1927 before going back "home". He never married. Men far outnumbered women in the Yukon.

Our family came from the Altrincham area and many are buried in Bowdon churchyard. The family bible, which my daughter now has, begins with John ARDERN, a farmer, of Hale Barns, born 22 February 1801. He married Ellen LEIGH (born 15 May 1811) in the early 1830s, and the couple had at least eight children.

Mary, born 19 December 1835, married at WHALLEY in 1856.

James Leigh (a solicitor), born 26 August 1837, married on 7th May 1868.

Sarah Elizabeth, born 29 November 1839, married on 12 March 1873.

John, born 3 February 1842, married Maria JACKSON on 11 February 1867 at Budworth Church.

William was born in Ashton-under-Lyne on 18 March 1844. He became a draper, one of many in the family, and married Sarah Lydia HOLT in Leeds Parish Church

on 18 May 1871.

Lawrence's father William was living at 251 Stamford Street, Ashton, in June 1873 when his daughter May Edith, his first child, was born. Lawrence Leigh was born on 17 December 1874.

Lawrence's father subsequently lived at The Mallinsons, Currier Lane, Ashton from at least 10 October 1876 until not later than 8 December 1914, by which time William was living at Jesmond Dene, in Grasscroft near Oldham.

Family lore suggests that Lawrence failed one of his final medical exams at Owens College (now Manchester University) and his mother gave him money to try his luck in the Yukon Gold Rush. There were no resits in those days!

The New World

The SS *Californian* of the Allen Line left Liverpool at 5pm on Thursday 10 March 1898 bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia. It arrived there on Saturday morning, 19 March. The prospectors left by train at 5pm and reached Vancouver on Monday 28th. Lawrence and his immediate travelling companions bought their outfits there for £117.73 and Lawrence's clothes came to £89.25. Lawrence kept a diary of his journey to the Yukon and this is all listed in detail over four pages.

The diary is an amazing survivor. It is a black notebook which covers March until November 1898 with a few further entries up to January 1900: 250 pages in total. Diary entries are written in pencil and it will have been kept in a watertight tin to avoid being damaged.

Lawrence sailed on from Vancouver at 8pm on 1 April 1898. He takes up his story:

4 April

Accounts we hear of Skagway are not encouraging but we are well armed. Got there at 8 pm on 6th. There were wrangles with Customs; payments for packers to carry loads up to the White Pass summit (2,800ft). Then we had lots of really hard relaying on to Lake Bennet in the headwaters of the Yukon River. Cut logs to make the boat.

2 May

Boatbuilding and then waiting for ice on Lake Bennet to break up.

29 May

Named the boat Lancashire Witch and started our voyage along Lake Bennet and down the Yukon River. Big storm on lake, then long wait for wind. Started down the Yukon River on 11 June. Camped above Miles Canyon. River narrows and rushes at a tremendous rate through a 20 yard wide channel with rocky walls about 50 feet high.

788219

(In corresponding about this permit refer to both name and serial number.)

"Any person to whom such written permission to leave Canada has been granted shall carefully preserve the same and keep it always about his person. — (Sc. 3, Sec. 1, Order-in-Council 1433.)"

PERMIT TO LEAVE CANADA

(Schedule B. to Order in Council P. C. 1433 of May 24, 1917.)

I, Lawrence Leigh Ardern

of Dawson
(If town or city give street address).

in the Province of Yukon Territory, make oath and do say that I was born at Ashtonie-Lynn England on the 17 day of Dec 1874, that I am a ~~(an)~~ British (subject) (~~citizen~~) by (birth) (~~naturalization~~); that I have resided at the above address for Twenty years (Length of residence), that I am personally known to and refer for identification to :—

J. Lee of Dawson
R. Doran of "
G. Earsman of "
J. Almarh of "

that I desire permission to leave Canada to go to Prince Rupert B.C. (Give address in Canada) via Skagway for the purpose of business in Transit that I wish to be absent from Canada for two weeks (Length of absence)

My height is 5.10; my weight is 165

My eyes are brown; my hair is medium

My occupation is Miner

I am (~~married~~) (~~widower~~) (~~single~~) X Single

I have — children living.

The attached photograph is a good likeness of me taken One (~~months~~) (days) ago.

Lawrence Leigh Ardern
Wm J Dempster
Imm Insp

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and correct and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act.

Declared before me at Dawson in the Province of Yukon Ter.

this 14th day of Sept. 1918

L. Ardern
Signature of Applicant.

W. J. Dempster
Notary Public, J.P., Commissioner.

I have been personally acquainted with the above-mentioned applicant for a period of 3 (years) (months). I recognize the above attached photo as a true likeness of him. I believe the statements which he makes above to be correct and have seen him in my presence attach his signature on the same line on which my own appears.

L. Ardern
Signature of Applicant.

[signature]
Signature of Bank Manager, Chief of Police Clergyman or Dominion Government Officer

Permit to leave Canada on or before the 21st day of Sept., 1918, is hereby granted to L. L. Ardern

Lawrence Leigh Ardern
Canadian Immigration Inspector.

Date of Issue. 16th Sept 1918

White Pass Bd

Through before we knew it. Then White Horse Rapids same - almost before you know it you are through – or wrecked! Saw lots of wrecks including a steamer which had been raised.

"The country is one big flower garden, all sorts of colours. A paradise if it were not for the mosquitos."

Some men allowed to join the team turn out to be lazy and "part company."

They reached Stewart River on 26 June and cached some of the goods on a platform erected on posts 6 to 8 ft high to protect them from animals and insects. Their idea was to prospect up the Stewart and for this they built another, smaller, boat. It was hard work for Lawrence and Robinson, his partner, to tow this up river and on one occasion the tow rope snapped and away went the boat.

We never expected to see it again, but set off in pursuit over mountains and cliffs, where one slip meant death for the banks fell clean to the river with a drop of two to three hundred feet. To our inexpressible joy we found it in an eddy on the same side of the river about 1½ miles lower down.

In total they spent two months on that river system, recovered a little gold but not a sustainable amount. Lawrence and Abraham ROBINSON quarrelled and Lawrence decided to go on down the last few miles to Dawson. It was agreed that he should take the big boat and the cooker and ROBINSON would keep the tent.

HAYES went along to help with the boat and they reached Dawson in two days on 30 August. *In the evening went over to see the town which was crowded with people.* They decided to build cabins near the mouth of Bonanza Creek, two miles from Dawson.

The daily diary finishes there on Monday 5 September 1898, but continues in summary form until January 1900.

Logs were obtained and a cabin built, although there was little work to be had. New partner Otto ROTHS, an American of German descent, who was an electrician. They built a cabin 10ft 6 by 12ft 6 by 7ft at highest point. It had two bunks *not one above the other, a table, chairs, stools, ventilator etc. Above the bunks is a platform with all of our cache on.* They broke up the big boat to construct much of this, but Otto kept his smaller one for them to use.

As there was very little work to be had, they spent months travelling around, even in the depths of winter when the temperature reached minus 40 on both

Fahrenheit and Centigrade (now Celsius) scales. The Yukon finally froze over at Dawson on Thursday 2 November. There is supposed to be a regular monthly mail service to the outside world during the winter. The post office in Dawson was a victim of one of the fires in the town.

The 5 March 1899 entry tells of two perilous sledge trips over the Great Divide to Dominion Creek. Lawrence's descriptive writing is an entertaining feature of the diary throughout.

My wife and I visited Dawson City for a few days in early July 2000 and travelled by car to Dominion Creek, speaking to the miners claiming the valley floor. They said that as far as they knew very little gold had been found on Lawrence's hillside claim but the valley floor was still productive. We learned that Lawrence had worked as a janitor in the school in his later years and we saw where his last cabin had been on 8th street, which is just scrubland now.

There are seven cemeteries on the Dawson hillsides. Two Americans have kindly mapped them all. This was a big task as most graves would only have a wooden cross. By the early 1950s, my grandfather, Douglas ARDERN, was the sole survivor of Lawrence's generation and he received all the legal documents from the Yukon District Attorney. Eventually the net amount available for distribution in 1951 was £5,569. The effects found in his cabin were few; just a few tools and a few samples of mineral bearing rock, plus the usual domestic items.

Douglas requested a gravestone. This had to be made one thousand miles away in Vancouver and missed the last boat down the Yukon before freeze up in autumn 1951, but it enabled us to find Lawrence's grave nearly fifty years later. It is close to a group of Mounties and near a propellor blade memorial to a pilot. Lawrence is also remembered on a family gravestone in Audenshaw Cemetery, Manchester. Photos of both gravestones are available on the FindAGrave website:

www.findagrave.com/memorial/117507548/lawrence_leigh-ardern
www.findagrave.com/memorial/241153794/lawrence-leigh-ardern

As far as I know, very few of Lawrence's letters home have survived, but he was one of a big family so there may be well be other collections still extant.

My wife transcribed the diary so that it could be published in Whitehorse with the proceedings of the 1997 Edinburgh Conference on the Klondike. It is on pages 267-320 of issue number 19 (winter 1998) of *The Northern Review* published by Yukon College (now Yukon University). Copies may still be available from them in paper or digital form.

Net That Serf

The Computer Section

Compiled by Geoff Johnson

Email: nts@fhsc.org.uk Tel: 01829 760422

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From the Desktop

Does anybody read this? I push members for some really good articles, and thank them for that, but receive no reader responses as to whether they're helpful or otherwise.

Do our ideas work for you? Do you disagree? Do you want something different? Please tell me!

How good is my Internet Connection?

and can it be faster?

By Nantwich & Computer Club's Bill Pearson

Testing your speed

For many years I used to rely on the BT Wholesale Speed test, but this was de-commissioned on 10th January 2025. (*https://speedtest.btwholesale.com*). However, there are numerous alternatives. Which? offers a speed test (*https://broadbandtest.which.co.uk*) and has the facility to compare deals in your area, showing scores for providers based on how satisfied recent customers were and how likely they would be to recommend the company. If you are a member of Which? they also offer incentives for some providers if you choose to switch with their service.

The speed test by Ookla is also popular (*https://speedtest.net.uk*) and they claim that they are more accurate, since speed tests depend on the server sending you the file. Some servers are fast, others are slow. Ookla's speed test also uses the

closest server to you, so you get the actual best speed possible for your internet.

When testing your speed, it is important that you are not doing other things using your connection at the same time. If someone is downloading a large file (e.g. a HD film) this will slow down your speed. It may be helpful to think in terms of sewers - how fast a sewer empties is depends on the diameter of the pipe and also on how many people are using it at the same time.

The time of day of your test can make a huge difference. Usually, speeds are much faster early in the morning (especially on Sundays) when many users are asleep - and not using the internet.

For the most accurate results, use an ethernet cable to connect your computer to your router before running the test. If you need to test wirelessly, get as close to your router as possible – but speeds will be lower.

Items measured in a Speed test

Most speed tests give a download speed and an upload speed. For most people download speed is the most important (how quickly you can download files and information from the Internet). However, uploads - the speed at which files are sent from your computer to a location on the internet - can be important, especially if you are doing online backups or emailing large files. Also, many VOIP services (Voice Over Internet Protocol – i.e. telephony using your Internet connection) need fast upload speeds.

Ping is a network utility used to test the connectivity and latency (or response time) between a device and a destination (e.g. a server). It measures the round-trip time (RTT), or the time it takes for a data packet to travel from your device to the destination and back. A lower ping value (measured in milliseconds) indicates a faster and more responsive connection, which is crucial for real-time applications like online gaming and video calls.

Jitter refers to the variation or inconsistency in the time it takes for data packets to arrive at their destination. It measures how much the ping (or latency) fluctuates over time. High jitter can lead to issues like lag, choppy audio, or buffering, especially in real-time applications. Think of it like traffic: ping is the average travel time, while jitter is how much the travel time varies due to unpredictable traffic conditions.

Improving your results

Crucially, your results will depend on how much of your connection is Fibre (which is much faster). Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) broadband uses fibre optic

cables from the telephone exchange to a street cabinet, then traditional copper cables from the cabinet to your home, offering speeds faster than ADSL but not as fast as full fibre - known as Fibre To The Premises (FTTP). I live over 1300 metres from my cabinet, so will never get fast speeds until I get a FTTP service.

A quick and easy fix can sometimes be obtained by replacing the cables and filters between the BT Socket and your router (and plugging directly into the master socket on some BT sockets).

Close any unnecessary background programs and applications that may be using up your bandwidth. Make sure that there are no viruses on your computer.

Check your **Router Placement**. Ideally your router should have a central location in your home, if you use Wi-Fi in several rooms around the house. Place your router in a central location, away from walls, metal objects, and other devices that can interfere with the signal. Don't hide your router in a corner, under a cupboard, or inside a drawer, as this can restrict the signal's reach. Elevating your router can also help improve signal distribution.

Always use **Wired Connections** where possible. For devices that need the most reliable and fastest speeds, use an Ethernet cable to connect them directly to your router.

Sometimes, restarting your router and modem can clear temporary glitches and improve performance - but avoid restarting your router too often.

You should also **Check for Updates**. Ensure your router and modem have the latest firmware updates, which can include performance improvements and bug fixes.

Check for **Interference**, ensuring that other devices (e.g. microwaves, cordless phones) are not causing interference with your Wi-Fi signal.

Are devices connected directly to your router (by cable) faster than those that use your Wi-Fi? Investigate changing Wi-Fi channels, etc.

If all the above fails it may be time to get some better equipment (e.g. a newer router) or consider changing your ISP. If you change your ISP, check for penalties for leaving a contract early. I was recently promised very fast (67 Mbps) speeds which I knew were unobtainable (due to the distance of my home from the cabinet) so it pays to check that they offer guarantees and/or provisions to leave without penalties if they fail to deliver the promised speeds.

How Artificial Intelligence Can Help Us

A First Experience of ChatGPT

By Sue Gibb, Computer Club and Northwich member

After the Society's talk on Zoom by Andrew Redfern, a wave of enthusiasm came over me. I downloaded and signed up for ChatGPT. What is ChatGPT? Google defines it as *A type of artificial intelligence that can understand and generate natural language text*. So, what did it do for me?

The program was able to extract details from a long newspaper article, and create a table listing the information I had requested. Andrew Redfern had underlined the importance of giving the AI clear instructions and parameters for your required task. He warned that if it doesn't know something, AI will make it up. To give it a good start, *fact checking* is very important.

I was in a hurry to try this marvellous tool so I quickly photographed the newspaper article with my phone (right). The article is long so I photographed it in three separate parts.

This is a partial example of the extracted information produced by ChatGPT; there were in fact over thirty names.

Names, Addresses, and Presents (Alphabetical Order)

1. "A Friend"
   Address: Not specified
   Presents: Silver tea and coffee service, Silver salver
2. Annie Griffiths Williams (Claremont, Upper Bangor)
   Role: Mother of the Bride
   Presents: Gold brooches for the bridesmaids, representing daisies

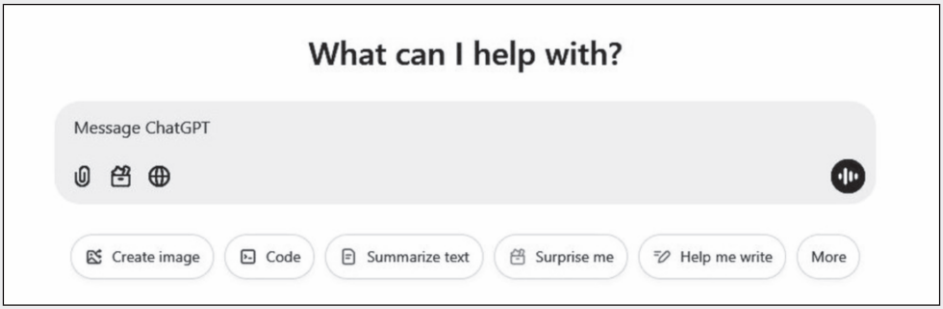
Rev. D. Clarke (High Wycombe), and carried unanimously. 26 · 4 · 1888

MARRIAGE OF MISS WILLIAMS, CLAREMONT, UPPER BANGOR.—A pretty little wedding was solemnized at the Bangor Cathedral at noon on Thursday, the contracting parties being Mr Edward John Berwick, of Sydenham, London, and Miss Williams, eldest daughter of Mr R. D. Williams, Claremont, Upper Bangor. The weather left nothing to be desired. There was not the slightest sign of rain, and the sun shone with brightness. Considerable interest was taken in the event; and some time before the arrival of the wedding party, the approaches to the ancient Cathedral were crowded. Shortly after twelve o'clock the bride arrived, and leaning on the arm of her father she was conducted to the altar. The Very Rev. the Dean of Bangor officiated, and the ceremony was watched by a large and reverent gathering. The bride wore a dress composed of white duchesse satin, trimmed with orange blossoms. She carried a magnificent bouquet, wore a wreath of orange blossoms, had a veil of Brussels lace, and was adorned with a necklace of brilliants, the gift of her mother. She was attended by four bridesmaids, viz., Miss Florence Williams (her sister), Miss Lizzie Lloyd (Elwy Grove, St. Asaph), Miss Maggie Wilson (Liverpool), and Miss Sarah Williams (Wylfa). The first two were attired in skirts of cream nun's veiling, skirts with bodice and panels of crimson plush, and cream lace hats trimmed with wide crimson ribbon plush to match. Miss Wilson and Miss Lloyd wore white dresses and white lace hats to match. Each of the bridesmaids wore small gold brooches, representative of a daisy, and each carried handsome bouquets, the gifts of the bridegroom. The mother of the bride wore a handsome dress of satin and moire antique, with white chip bonnet trimmed with cream plush and white lilac, with jewellery — gold chain, locket and bracelet. The mother of the bridegroom was attired in black velvet trimmed with jet, and black bonnet trimmed with slate feathers. The best man was Mr Veale (Stanmore, London), and the wedding party consisted of the following among others, Mr and Mrs R. D. Williams, Mr Harry Williams (Claremont), Mrs Berwick, and Mr T. Berwick. The bride was given away by her father. During the ceremony Dr. Roland Rogers very kindly presided at the organ, and as the bridal party left the Cathedral he played Mendelssohn's "Wedding March." A perfect shower of rice fell upon the happy couple as they left the sacred edifice, and cheer were raised as they took their seats in the carriage and drove off to Claremont, the residence of the bride's father, where breakfast was served. The bridecake, which was large and handsome, was supplied by Mrs Hopson and Sons, Upper Bangor. Appended is a list of the principal presents:—Servants at Claremont, hot water jug and china cups; Mrs Williams, Glanrafon, antique china; Miss Williams, Wylfa, silver toast rack; Miss Lloyd, St. Asaph, silver fish carvers; Mr John Hughes, ironmonger, brass urn; Mr and Mrs Grey, brass dinner gong; Mr W. O. Williams, draper, a counterpane; Mr Gregory, High-street, silver sugar sifter lined with gold; a Friend, silver tea and coffee service and a salad bowl oak and silver; Miss Jones, toilet service; Mrs Owen, High-street, a china sugar basin bound with silver; Miss Dew, Menai Bridge, half-dozen dinner knives; Miss Thomas, Menai Bridge, linen damask table cloth; Miss K. Thomas, worked comb and brush bag, also toilet bag; Miss Owen, Menai Bridge, Honiton lace pocket handkerchief; the Misses Bond, album, illuminated card with poetry composed for the young married couple; Mrs Owen, London, an umbrella stand; Mr and Miss Edwards, Station Hotel, a valuable flower stand; Miss Wilson, Liverpool, handsome pair of fans; Mrs Williams, a piano; Mr Williams, tea and coffee service; Mr W. Bond, a water-colour picture; a silver salver from a Friend; Mr Jones, chemist, painted mirror; Mrs Hopson, sardine box; Mrs Griffith, Kings Arms, albums; Mr J. W. King, silver salver; Miss Lizzie Lloyd, fish carvers; Mr and Mrs John Evans, ivory and silver-mounted carvers; Mr O. Jones, painted mirror; Miss Wilson, wall fans; Mr Bond, Bryneg, water-colour picture; Mr and Mrs J. B. Lewis, oak salad bowl; Mrs Owen, jam and sugar bowl in silver frame; Misses Dew, dinner knives; Miss Jones, toilet service; Mr and Mrs Veale, one dozen fish knives and forks in case; Miss Veale and Miss Chapman, silver toast rack and butter dish;

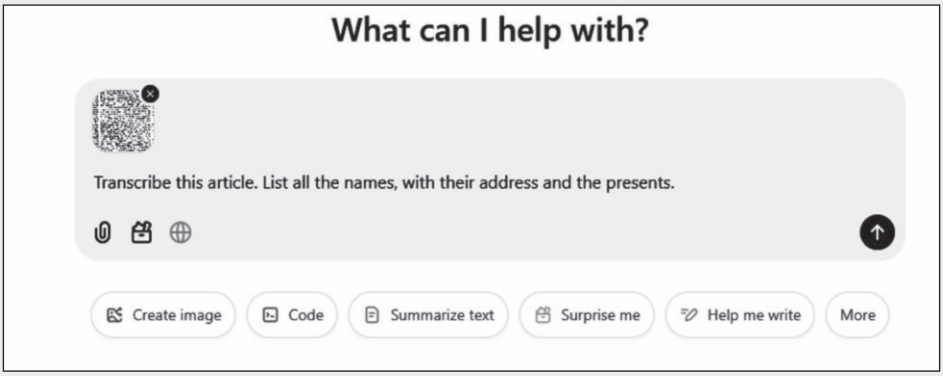
3. Elizabeth Stephenson Berwick
   Role: Mother of the Bridegroom
   Presents: Not specified
4. Edward John Berwick (Sydenham, London)
   Role: Groom
   Presents: Not specified
5. Florence Williams
   Address: Not specified
   Role: Bridesmaid (Sister of the Bride)
   Presents: Not specified
6. G.J. and W.F. Veale
   Address: Not specified
   Presents: Salad bowl
7. Jane Ellen Williams (Claremont, Upper Bangor)
   Role: Bride
   Presents: Not specified
8. John and Mrs. Evans
   Address: Not specified
   Presents: Ivory and silver-mounted brushes
9. Lizzie Lloyd (Elwy Grove, St. Asaph)
   Role: Bridesmaid
   Presents: Silver toast rack
10. Maggie Sutton
   Address: Not specified
   Presents: Silver salad bowl

Using ChatGPT
This is how I went about it. First, I registered with ChatGPT - it is free to try. Go to *https://openai.com/chatgpt/download/*

When logged in this page will appear:



I uploaded the three photographs of the newspaper article from The *North Wales Chronicle* of 26 April 1888. The article is about my great grandmother's wedding; it describes the weather, clothes worn by the wedding party and lists the guests and their presents. I added my instructions as follows:



As you see, the AI responds and within seconds a list appears. The list will need to be checked but that is an easy job compared with transcribing and listing from scratch myself.

The result was produced in seconds, from very three poor quality photographs. The system also put this into a table that could be directly downloaded to Excel, and wrote a description of the weather and dresses etc.

However, not all the information was correct and it did require some corrections. This could be down to poor quality photographs and my inexperience in giving the instructions.

Google Calendar

The tool you didn't know you needed

By Margaret Roberts, FHSC Chair

In today's fast-paced world, where time management is crucial, Google Calendar stands out as a powerful tool for organising schedules, keeping track of events and meetings, and adding notes and information of all kinds. I personally use it for everything: organising all my meetings (Zoom and face to face), setting deadline reminders for book or article submissions, adding links for websites I need to check, or simply to write notes as an aide-mémoire for a particular day or event. Beyond its basic functions of scheduling events and reminders, Google Calendar offers advanced features like search capabilities and the ability to add detailed notes, which significantly streamline daily activities.

Google Calendar's primary function is scheduling events and appointments. Whether it's a business meeting, a doctor's appointment, or a social gathering, the intuitive interface allows you to quickly add events, set reminders, and organise the day with ease. The colour-coding feature further enhances clarity, allowing you to sort events by type or priority at a glance.

One of the standout features of Google Calendar is its robust search functionality. You can effortlessly locate past or upcoming events by searching with keywords, event titles, or even attendees' names. This capability is particularly useful for those who need to retrieve specific information quickly or for individuals managing busy personal schedules.

Beyond scheduling, Google Calendar allows you to add detailed notes to events. This feature enables you to include specific details such as meeting agendas, Zoom links or other URLs, preparation notes, or directions directly within the event itself.

Google Calendar's integration with other Google Workspace tools, such as Gmail, Google Docs or Google Meet, means you can create events directly from emails, share calendars with colleagues or friends, and even schedule virtual meetings effortlessly. This integration not only saves time but also ensures that everyone involved is on the same page regarding schedules and commitments.

The mobile app version of Google Calendar extends its functionality further by allowing you to manage your schedule on the go, whether updating events, setting reminders, or checking availability.

Google Calendar offers various options which allow you to customise to suit your own preferences and plans, from choosing different calendar views (such as day, week, or month) to setting recurring events and defining notification preferences. There are also illustrations that the calendar sometimes automatically adds to events based on keywords in the event title; you can't control or customise these illustrations but they are excellent at making events stand out, especially on the mobile app, and there are hundreds of keywords, from Archery to Yoga.

Google Calendar then is not just a scheduling tool, its search capabilities help simplify information recovery, while the ability to add detailed notes enhances organisation. Whether you choose to use it for personal planning, professional scheduling, or collaborative projects it’s a tool you never knew you needed!

How to Set Up and Use Google Calendar: A Simple Guide

Setting Up Google Calendar

1. Create a Google Account (If You Don't Have One)
- Go to *https://accounts.google.com*
- Click "Create account" and follow the prompts to set up your new Google account.
- If you already have a Gmail account, you're ready to go!

2. Accessing Google Calendar
- Web: Go to *https://calendar.google.com* and log in with your Google account.
- Mobile App:
  - Download the Google Calendar app from the Google Play Store (Android) or App Store (iPhone/iPad).
  - Open the app and log in with your Google account.

Basic Features and How to Use Them

1. Creating an Event
- Web:
  - Click the "+ Create" button on the top-left or click directly on a date.
  - Add event details: Title, Date & Time, Location, and Guests.
  - Use the Add description or attachments section to insert notes, links, or documents.
  - Click Save.
- Mobile App:
  - Tap the "+" button (bottom-right corner) → select Event.
  - Fill in the details and tap Save.

2. Adding Notes to Events
- In the event window, use the "Description" box to write notes like meeting agendas, tasks to do, directions, or links.
- You can also attach files directly from Google Drive.

3. Setting Reminders & Notifications
- When creating/editing an event, scroll to "Notifications".
- Choose when you want to be reminded—minutes, hours, or days before.
- You can set multiple reminders for the same event.

Using Search to Find Events

- On the web, click the magnifying glass (Search) icon at the top.

- Type keywords, guest names, or locations.
- On mobile, tap the magnifying glass and enter your search term.
- Google Calendar quickly filters and displays related events, helping you find what you need fast.

Creating Multiple Calendars

You can organise your life by creating different calendars (e.g., Work, Personal, Family), and add bank holidays or other global calendars.

On the web:
- On the left side, click the "+" next to Other Calendars → select Create new calendar.
- Name your calendar and customise it.
- On the left side, click the "+" next to Other Calendars → select Browse calendars of interest.
- Under Regional Holidays > Browse all, choose Holidays in United Kingdom.
- Switch between calendars by toggling them on/off from the sidebar.

Sharing Calendars and Inviting Others

Share your calendar with coworkers, friends, or family.
On the web:
- Go to Settings → Settings for My Calendars → Select your calendar → Share with specific people.
- Add people's email addresses and set permission levels (view only, edit, etc.).
- When creating an event, add Guests by entering their email addresses. They'll get an invite and can RSVP.

Syncing Across Devices

- Once you're logged in with the same Google account, Google Calendar automatically syncs your events across devices (computer, phone, tablet).
- Any changes you make on one device update in real time everywhere else.

Bonus Tips

- Recurring Events: Set events to repeat daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly (great for birthdays, meetings, etc.). Use the Custom option to repeat the event every two weeks, first Monday of the month, etc.
- Goals (Mobile Only): Set personal goals like "Exercise 3 times a week," and Google Calendar will find time slots for you automatically.
- Integrations: Link with other apps like Google Meet for video calls, Google Tasks, and Google Keep for to-do lists and note-taking.

Mrs.....
and her late husband Keith are very proud to announce the birth of their Grandson Samuel Thomas ..... on Thursday, April 11, 1996, weighing 5lbs 7oz, son of Karen and Keith. Thanks to all the staff at the Royal Surrey Hospital, Guildford

Closing Snippet

Thanks to Peter Rowley - Peter found this when looking at a page of a newspaper, and wondered who told him!

I rely on your input to keep this forum active, so keep the responses coming, and please let me know how useful it is – GJ

Tattenhall and Beeston News (10)

from the Chester Chronicle, 25 July 1925

*OPEN DAY AT TATTENHALL COUNCIL SCHOOL - Parents and friends of the scholars at the council school were delighted with the work of the children on view at the open day... great credit is due to the headmaster (**Mr W Bond**) and his co-helpers on the staff, **Miss Wallace** and **Miss Houseley**. The exhibition of drawing, handwork models, science, apparatus (made by the boys) and examples of work in various other subjects - all commanded rapt attention....*

*Among the lighter and more entertaining attractions, the mock election (which saw **S Brown** elected to the parish council) was a favourite. Then there were pretty country dances by the girls, and the singing of classical songs.... the parents were in a very satisfied and appreciative frame of mind when **Mr Bond** appealed for their co-operation in order to obtain the best results from the children.*

*The vote of thanks to the headmaster was warmly carried on the motion of **Mr G Cooke, J.P.**, and a most successful gathering ended with parents convinced that real progress is being made, and with not a few of them prouder than ever of their boys and girls attending the Council School. In connection with the school it is interesting to add that scholarships have been lately gained by **Nellie Wilding** and **Dennis Corbett.***

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AGL: Acting Group Leader
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Back cover: *Beeston Castle, Cheshire* © Jeff Buck (cc-by-sa/2.0)
geograph.org.uk/p/1935302

Naturally defended by steep cliffs on three sides, Beeston's spectacular crag attracted prehistoric settlers. The best-preserved part of the castle, the inner bailey, commands views across eight counties, from the Welsh Mountains in the west to the Pennines in the east. The castle well is over 100 metres deep and one of the deepest in any English castle. Beeston Castle experienced a final blaze of glory as an important English Civil War stronghold, which finally surrendered to Parliament in November 1645 after a long and eventful siege.

www.fhsc.org.uk

Beeston

Beeston Castle, Cheshire © Jeff Buck (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Beeston is a small village located about 10km south-east of Chester and known for its rich history and picturesque surroundings. The area has a long history dating back to Roman times, with archaeological evidence suggesting that it was inhabited during the Roman occupation of Britain. The name *Beeston* itself is derived from Old English, meaning *Bee* (a type of dwelling or homestead) and *ston* (stone), which might reference the area's early use of stone for construction.

One of the most prominent historical landmarks in Beeston is Beeston Castle, a medieval fortress built in the 13th century by the Norman Lord of the Manor, Ranulf de Blondeville. The castle, perched on a rocky hilltop, was strategically positioned to control the surrounding area and to defend against Welsh incursions. The castle played a key role in local military and political affairs during the medieval period, though it was largely abandoned by the 17th century.

Over the centuries, Beeston developed as an agricultural village, with its economy centred on farming and local industries. Today, Beeston retains much of its historical charm and serves as a popular spot for visitors interested in both history and nature, with Beeston Castle and its surrounding woodland offering beautiful views and hiking opportunities.

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