Cheshire Ancestor

The Journal of the
Family History Society of Cheshire

In this edition:

Eric Arthur Rogers, Fleet Air Arm Pilot
Frederick Jenkinson - Sole Survivor (Part 1)
Scarcity of Doctors in 1915 ❖ *Cholera in Macclesfield*
The History of Motoring (UK) *and more...*

Volume 56 December 2025 Issue No. 2

ISSN 1460-0277

SOCIETY CONTACTS

OFFICER TRUSTEES

CHAIR
Margaret Roberts
4 Dunns Cottages
Butterton Lane
Oakhanger
Cheshire CW1 5UU
Tel: 07587 007217
chair@fhsc.org.uk

HONORARY SECRETARY
Sheila Jones
Broomhill
11 Brancote Gardens
Bromborough, Wirral
CH62 6AH
Tel: 07799 510373
secretary@fhsc.org.uk

HONORARY TREASURER
Robert Brown
Tel: 07952 971554
treasurer@fhsc.org.uk

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Margaret Spate
communications@fhsc.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
Kevin Dean
7 Fields Drive
Sandbach CW11 1YB
renewals@fhsc.org.uk

TRUSTEES

Peter Davenport
fhsctrustee.pd@fhsc.org.uk

David Guyton
fhsctrustee.dg@fhsc.org.uk

Geoff Johnson
fhsctrustee.gj@fhsc.org.uk

Alan Turley
fhsctrustee.at@fhsc.org.uk

Ian Worthington
fhsctrustee.iw@fhsc.org.uk

ADMINISTRATORS

HONORARY EDITOR
Jan Keane
Units 3 & 4, Brierley
Business Centre
Mirion St., Crewe CW1 2AP
editor@fhsc.org.uk

JOURNAL DISTRIBUTION
Mrs Angela Moore
6 Woodlands Close
Stalybridge SK15 2SH
Tel: 0161 338 3129
magazines@fhsc.org.uk

MOBBERLEY RESEARCH CENTRE LIBRARIAN
Joan Irving
62 Orme Crescent
Macclesfield SK10 2HS
Tel: 01625 421545
librarian@fhsc.org.uk

CREWE FAMILY HISTORY UNIT MANAGER
Margaret Spate
Units 3 & 4, Brierley
Business Centre
Mirion Street
Crewe CW1 2AP
crewe@fhsc.org.uk

BOOK/CD SALES & OUTSIDE EVENTS
David Smetham
Little Trees, Gawsworth Rd
Gawsworth
Macclesfield SK11 9RA
Tel: 01625 426173
book.sales@fhsc.org.uk

WEBMASTER
Alan Bennett
8 Barford Drive, Lowton
Warrington WA3 1DD
webmaster@fhsc.org.uk

WEB ADMINISTRATION
Gay Oliver
26 Woodville Drive
Stalybridge SK15 3EA
web.admin@fhsc.org.uk

ELECTRONIC PROJECTS
Peter Davenport
electronic.projects@fhsc.org.uk

CHESHIREBMD & UKBMD
Ian Hartas
webmaster@cheshirebmd.org.uk

Front cover photo: World War II Mk.I. Wellington Bombers - view from rear gunner's position (cropped)

https://www.flickr.com/photos/whatsthatpicture/4822040300/
Copyright-free photo uploaded by James Morley (WhatsThatPicture)

See *Frederick Jenkinson - Sole Survivor* on page 30.

CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

Registered Charity: 515168

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

Contents

Editor's Page	2
View from the Chair	3
Society News and Notices	5
Society Diary Dates	5
Sandbach News (1)	8
Group News and Information	9
Surname Interests	12
Volunteers Wanted	13
Members' FREE Lookup Service	14
Research Centre News	15
Sandbach News (2)	18
Family History Events	19
Family History News	21
Book Review	24
Help Wanted	25
Letter to the Editor	26
Scarcity of Doctors in 1915	28
Sandbach News (3)	28
Cryptic Festive Song Quiz	29
Frederick Jenkinson - Sole Survivor (Part 1)	30
Sandbach News (4)	34
U3A Peak District Family History Conference 2025	35
The History of Motoring (UK)	37
Raphael Holinshed, English Chronicler	41
TRUMPed Again	43
Cholera in Macclesfield	44
Sandbach News (5)	52
A Legitimate Question	53
Eric Arthur Rogers, Fleet Air Arm Pilot	54
NTS: The Computer Section	56
Sandbach News (6)	63
Cryptic Festive Song Answers	64

Back Cover: Elworth, near Sandbach

Cheshire Ancestor is published in March, June, September and December.
The opinions expressed in this journal are those of individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of either the editor or the Society. Advertisements do not indicate any endorsement by the Society. No part of this Journal may be reproduced in any form whatsoever without the prior written permission of the editor and, where applicable, named authors.

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

Editor's Page

by Rosie Rowley

I am pleased to be able to tell you that after ten years I will be retiring from my role as Journal Editor - this will be my last issue. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Jan Keane who will take over from the March issue. Please help her by sending in plenty of letters and articles over the next two to three weeks so she can start getting them ready for publication before Christmas. Please read the information in the box at the bottom of the page before submission. Thank you.

As this issue is published three weeks after Remembrance Day, I have included two articles and a book review relating to those who served in World War Two. We also have a diverse selection of other articles, including a relative who was a famous Chronicler in the 1500s, euphemisms in parish registers for illegitimate babies, cholera in Macclesfield in the mid-1800s, the history of motoring, the Peak District U3A Family History Conference at Buxton, and a special festive quiz.

I would like to thank everyone who has sent in letters and articles over the last ten years, and wish you all an enjoyable festive season. As for me, I am looking forward to having some spare time next year in which to do some in-depth family history research and potter in my new greenhouse which I am hoping Santa will bring me for Christmas.

ITEMS FOR THE CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

Articles and letters about family history or Cheshire local history 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 images, not copied from another publication or website.*** *If using images of official records and documents, please check that you have publication permission. Please email images separately in a high quality (low compression) JPG format, minimum 300 dpi, and include the name of the copyright owner and source of the image. Please include your membership no. and say whether you want your email address to be published.*

View from the Chair

by Margaret Roberts

This edition of our journal marks the end of a chapter in the history of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR. Rosie is stepping down as editor after ten years in the role and our new editor is Jan Keane, who will be taking over in the New Year. I welcome her to the position, as well as thanking Rosie for her dedication and hard work getting the journal out to us all each quarter. Enjoy your newfound freedom, Rosie!

On a sad note, Tameside Group folded at the end of June, due to falling attendance at meetings and no one able to take over from Gay, who has done a sterling job as Group Leader for 21 years. I hope that the Tameside members will carry on attending Seminars, Discussion Groups and all the other events we have on offer. I also wish to extend my huge thanks to Gay for all her hard work and enthusiasm over the years and to remind FHSC members that the Tameside Help Desk continues to run at Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre on the first and third Tuesdays of the month between 2.00pm and 4.00pm.

October saw our AGM and I would like to thank Dave Annal for his wonderful talk *Bringing it up to date: Research in the 20th Century* - we definitely all went away very much the wiser, thanks to Dave for staying to answer questions. A full AGM report will be in the March ANCESTOR.

The Crewe Research Centre will be hosting a series of book sales in November. These will be advertised on the FHSC website and I will send out an email newsletter to everyone with the dates. The majority of the books will be either non-Cheshire related or duplicates of our Cheshire titles, but all will be at bargain prices. Members are welcome to pop in and browse the books and guides; we can take payment in cash or by debit card.

The Local Groups have offered a tremendous range of talks and events this last quarter. We started with an informative presentation at Crewe & Nantwich Group by Paul Newman (Cheshire Archives and Local Studies Manager) and Lisa Greenhalgh (Senior Archivist, Cheshire Archives), who explained all about the material which will be in the new Cheshire Archives Crewe later next year, as well as a update on the project. Macclesfield Group had a visit to the town's Christ

Church and both Runcorn and Northwich hosted research and discussion evenings. Talks included the story of Gertrude Meadows, who for four years masqueraded as a man and was called up to the colours in WWI, the history of the King's School, Macclesfield, the Servants of Erddig Hall, Families at War, Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act, Queens of Crime and the Detection Club, Anecdotes of a Registrar, Northwich's contribution to winning WWII, Conscientious Objectors in WWI, Knutsford Prison, the history of Foden's Ladies Football Club, the People of Paradise Mill and the history of the Rock Ferry area. I'm quite confident in saying that together with the Seminar Series and all our Discussion Groups, the Computer Club and Research Buddies that FHSC offer one of, if not the best, programme of events across the UK family history community. Huge thanks to everyone for keeping up such a fantastic standard.

The July Seminar was one of our highest attended for the year so far with over 130 members zooming in to listen to Anne Mealia talking about wills. I thoroughly enjoyed Anne's presentation and there were some great hints and tips on how to interpret wording and phrases as well as why people left a family member only a shilling or a pound. The August talk on Adoption was extremely informative and our speaker, Kathy Wilshaw, took us through the various Acts of Parliament, such as the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act and the 1872 Infant Life Protection Act to the 2005 Adoption Information and Intermediary Services Regulations and right up to date with the 2014 Children and Families Act. All these Acts had some impact on adoption in its various forms over time. Kathy's knowledge as a trained mediator for PAC UK meant that she was able to explain the many pitfalls you may encounter, including DNA testing, results and regulations and best practice surrounding making contact. The many questions posed at the end resulted in Kathy having to add some more details to her already comprehensive handout, which if you missed the talk can be downloaded from our website by logging in and navigating to the Library tab, then clicking on Members Documents, or log in and go straight to *www.fhsc.org.uk/members-documents/3969-adoption-a-guide-for-family-historians.html*. Our guest speaker for September was the very knowledgeable Dr Diane Duffy, Chair of the Gaskell Society, who presented Elizabeth Gaskell's Cheshire. Once again almost one hundred members attended and if my inbox and the chat on the evening was anything to go by, the talk was thoroughly enjoyed by all and we will be asking Diane to return with another of her informative Gaskell talks.

The various Discussion Groups continue to be popular, covering DNA, Publishing, MAC users, Family Tree Maker, Family Historian and Historical Newspapers. These online sessions are complemented by our Research Buddies

virtual helpdesk and the 'Zooming in on Family History' session, which has covered many subjects from nicknames to brick walls and has been great fun to host. To find out how to join any or perhaps all of the Discussion Groups, please see pages 9-10.

As Christmas approaches, may I wish you all good health and happiness and an enjoyable time, wherever and however you celebrate. I conclude by reminding members that we are always looking for volunteers to assist with the running of FHSC, every little helps, so if you find that you have some spare time please contact me - I will easily find you something to do! Thank you all for your continued support, it is very much appreciated.

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	*www.facebook.com/CheshireFamilyHistory*
Blue Sky	*https://bsky.app/profile/fhsofcheshire.bsky.social*

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 a Zoom meeting, please see the instructions in the Group News and Information pages which follow this Diary Dates section.

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 News and Information pages which follow, or see the FHSC website *www.fhsc.org.uk*

Date	Group	Subject
December	Alsager	Christmas meal at a local restaurant for members of the group and guests only.
December	Congleton	No Meeting
December	Discussion Grp	Mac & Reunion Users - No Meeting
December	Discussion Grp	Publishing your Family History - No Meeting
December	Discussion Grp	DNA - No Meeting
December	Discussion Grp	Zooming in on Family History - No Meeting
December	Discussion Grp	Family Tree Maker software - No Meeting
December	Macclesfield	No Meeting
December	Research Buddies	No Meeting
December	Sale	No Meeting
3-Dec	Runcorn	Research and Mince Pies!
5-Dec	Discussion Grp	Z: Historical Online Newspapers (2pm)
8-Dec	Bebington	Christmas Social - details to be confirmed by email
8-Dec	Northwich	Hotpot Supper and Quiz - Members and Guests only
9-Dec	Crewe & Nantwich	H: Christmas Social at the Wishing Well, 6.15pm start. Quiz will be hybrid via Zoom, 7.30pm start
10-Dec	Sale	Quiz Night and Christmas Nibbles
17-Dec	Society Seminar	Z: Tracing your Nursing Ancestors by Jude Rhodes
18-Dec	Discussion Grp	Z: Family Historian software (7.30pm)
January	Discussion Grp	Historical Newspapers - No Meeting
January	Discussion Grp	Family Tree Maker software - No Meeting
January	Northwich	No Meeting
January	Runcorn	No Meeting
13-Jan	Crewe & Nantwich	Z: What DIDN'T You do in the Great War, Daddy? By Sheila Jones (2pm)
14-Jan	Sale	A Glimpse of Sale in the Past (Illustrated) by Michael Riley

15-Jan	Discussion Grp	Z: Family Historian software (7.30pm)
19-Jan	Alsager	Z: Are You Sitting Comfortably by Janet Few
19-Jan	Discussion Grp	Z: Mac & Reunion Users (2pm)
20-Jan	Congleton	TBA
21-Jan	Society Seminar	Z: Industrial Ancestors by Nick Barratt
22-Jan	Discussion Grp	Z: Family Tree Maker software (7.30pm)
26-Jan	Bebington	Liverpool Blitz by David Hearn (10.30am)
26-Jan	Discussion Grp	Z: Publishing your Family History (2pm)
26-Jan	Discussion Grp	Z: DNA (7.30pm)
28-Jan	Discussion Grp	Z: Zooming in on Family History (7.30pm)
29-Jan	Chester	New Chester Archives Centre and Opportunities for Volunteers by Paul Newman and Margaret Roberts
31-Jan	Research Buddies	Nantwich Area
4-Feb	Runcorn	TBA
6-Feb	Discussion Grp	Z: Historical Online Newspapers (2pm)
9-Feb	Northwich	Member Discussion
10-Feb	Crewe & Nantwich	Z: The Real Downton Abbey: Domestic Service Before the Great War by Ian Porter (2.30pm)
11-Feb	Sale	What Work did your Ancestors Do? Members' Open Forum
16-Feb	Alsager	Z: My Ancestor Left A Will - Well, They Should Have! By John Hanson
16-Feb	Discussion Grp	Z: Mac & Reunion Users (2pm)
17-Feb	Congleton	TBA
18-Feb	Society Seminar	Z: Everything you Wanted to Know about Heraldry... by Chris Broom
19-Feb	Discussion Grp	Z: Family Historian software (7.30pm)
23-Feb	Bebington	Research session, breaking down brick walls - Sheila Jones (10.30am)
23-Feb	Discussion Grp	Z: Publishing your Family History (2pm)
23-Feb	Discussion Grp	Z: DNA (7.30pm)

25-Feb	Discussion Grp	Z: Zooming in on Family History (7.30pm)
26-Feb	Chester	A Life on the Ocean Wave (Coastguard Henry Deane) by Carolyn Barnwell
28-Feb	Research Buddies	Sandbach Area
4-Mar	Runcorn	Research Evening
6-Mar	Discussion Grp	Z: Historical Online Newspapers (2pm)
9-Mar	Northwich	My Journey into Historical Fiction by James Bryan
10-Mar	Crewe & Nantwich	Z: Researching and Writing The Mourning Brooch Trilogy by Jean Renwick (7.30pm)
11-Mar	Sale	Cheshire's Historic Houses by Tony Bostock (new talk)
16-Mar	Alsager	F2F: Mary Fitton of Gawsworth by Tony Bostock
16-Mar	Discussion Grp	Z: Mac & Reunion Users (2pm)
17-Mar	Congleton	TBA
18-Mar	Society Seminar	Z: Tracing Postal Workers by Susannah Coster
19-Mar	Discussion Grp	Z: Family Historian software (7.30pm)
23-Mar	Bebington	Raising the Workforce by Elizabeth Davey (10.30am)
23-Mar	Discussion Grp	Z: Publishing your Family History (2pm)
23-Mar	Discussion Grp	Z: DNA (7.30pm)
25-Mar	Discussion Grp	Z: Zooming in on Family History (7.30pm)
26-Mar	Chester	Adventures in DNA Testing by Sue Foy
26-Mar	Discussion Grp	Z: Family Tree Maker software (7.30pm)
28-Mar	Research Buddies	Runcorn Area

Sandbach News (1)

from the Runcorn Examiner, 13 November 1875

The proprietors of the Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser were charged at the Sandbach petty sessions on Monday with having published a malicious and defamatory libel upon the officials of the Manchester Unity branch of Oddfellows at Sandbach. After the case had been opened, the plaintiffs agreed to accept an apology, and, on that being tendered by the defendants, the summons was withdrawn.

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 Zoom access links will be sent out shortly before the meeting.

Discussion Groups
By Margaret Roberts
The Discussion Groups are open to all members to 'dip in and out'. The title of each group is self-explanatory, while *Zooming in on Family History* is a wide-ranging chat session which

members can attend for help with research, share success stories or just generally chat about family history. To join the mailing list for any of these Discussion Groups, simply log in to the FHSC website and click on *Discussion Groups* in the left-hand menu. In the window that opens click on *Subscribe* alongside the group you are interested in; you will then receive the Zoom links for each meeting and any news from that group.

2pm, 1st Friday: *Historical Online Newspapers*, led by Margaret Roberts
2pm, 3rd Monday: *Mac computers*, led by John Reed
7.30pm, 3rd Thursday: *Family Historian*, led by Geoff Johnson
2pm, 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
7.30pm, 4th Thursday of alternate months: *Family Tree Maker*, led by Tony Cox

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
NOTE: from January 2026, meetings will be held at 10.30am (instead of 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.

At our Group AGM the officers for the Group, David Smetham, Sue Parker, Lesley Smetham and Phil Walton were elected.

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 at the adjacent Victoria Centre Car Park, Crewe CW1 2PT **(NB charges now apply after 6pm)**. To join a Zoom meeting, please email Margaret Spate, the Crewe & Nantwich Group leader.

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.

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.

Our Research nights are fast becoming group discussion nights with advice from our advanced members. We are also engaging in one-to-one help between new and more advanced researchers.

We are hoping to include the following short presentations into our next few

meetings:

- Research Your Family History
- Research Methodology
- Sense of Time and Place

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

Although Tameside group has now closed, members hope to continue to run a helpdesk from 2pm to 4pm on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre. Please check the FHSC website for details and to book.

Wallasey Group

Although Wallasey Group has 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. Everyone is welcome to come along.

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 1 August and 19 October 2025:

Baskerville, Bettson, Brough, Brunt, Corwell/Curwell

Davenport, Earle, Gardner, Garner, Gendall/Gendal

Heaward, Hiccock, Lawrinson/Lorinson/Laurinson

Maddock, Norton, Pickering/Pickerill

Shawcross/Shallcross/Shalcross, Tattum

Woodvine/Woodbine, Youd/Youde/Yewd

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.

Digital Newsletter Editor and/or Editorial Assistant

One person could carry out both of these roles.

A volunteer is needed to put together news for the new version of the monthly society email newsletter. This will have a lead article of between 1000-1500 words plus snippets from around the various Local and Discussion Groups, as well as family history news and events; much of the content will be supplied and just needs to be checked and formatted into the newsletter.

A volunteer is also needed to help the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR editor with tasks such as resizing images and converting them to greyscale, and collating meetings information into a spreadsheet.

For more information, please contact Margaret Roberts (*chair@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, please **contact the Mobberley Research Centre directly on 07712 103715** and leave a message.

Crewe Family History Unit

More volunteers would be very welcome, to work either in the Research Centre at Crewe or at home working on projects. **For more information, please contact Margaret Spate, Crewe Group Leader (contact details inside back cover).**

FHSC Governance Team Members

There are still vacancies on all of the Teams, except the Local Groups Operational Team, and details and an application form are available on the Society's website at *https://www.fhsc.org.uk/governance-documents/operational-teams.html*

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.
- **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, Units 3 & 4, Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe, CW1 2AP*

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

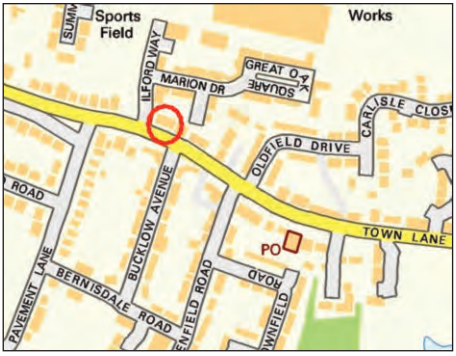
Please contact the Editor for full details

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
Tel: 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.

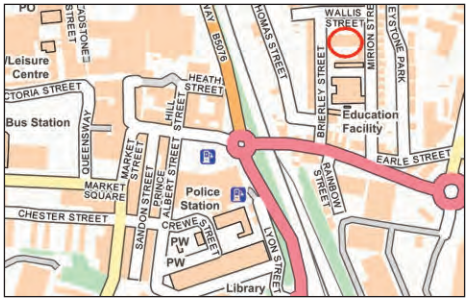
Closed on bank holidays and over the Christmas-New Year period.
If the weather is bad, please phone to check we are open before travelling.

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.

CREWE FAMILY HISTORY UNIT

Units 3 & 4, Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe, CW1 2AP
Tel 07352 454501



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.

Mobberley Research Centre News

by Joan Irving
librarian@fhsc.org.uk

Another year has almost passed, and Christmas is nearly here. A time to reflect on the year just gone. A time for partying, present giving and feasting. But in the past that was only true for the wealthy people of the country. Poor families had little money to spend on presents and special food and for many, Christmas Day was the only day they didn't have to work. Most people went to church or chapel on that special day of the year, and it was a popular day to get married.

Whilst we enjoy the festive season this year, we could reflect on the kind of Christmases our ancestors had and if we are lucky, we may have stories and possibly pictures passed down through the generations showing their happy celebrations.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year and I hope one of your New Year resolutions is to delve more deeply into your family history by coming to Mobberley Research Centre and discovering more.

Crewe Family History Unit News

by Margaret Spate
crewe@fhsc.org.uk

We are pleased to have welcomed new people and overseas visitors during the last quarter. As we have settled into our new rooms there have been a few changes to procedures etc, but we are happy with the response of our visitors both old and new.

The one Saturday opening per month will continue but can I ask that you notify me in advance please on *crewe@fhsc.org.uk.* Unless someone has booked to visit on the Saturday opening day we will not be open.

Please also make contact if you are planning to visit and travelling a distance; this enables us to check that we have the records or works that you wish to see and make sure that there is a volunteer to help you.

The maps collection has recently been in use for a variety of research trails. Many of these maps will be transferred to 'Cheshire Archives Crewe' on its completion.

There will be an ongoing book sale, initially of duplicate books, followed by a series of single subject sales. These will be advertised in the FHSC email newsletters and also on the *Crewe in the Past* Facebook page *www.facebook.com/groups/399058150702364*. Feel free to email an enquiry if you have any particular area of interest or there is a book that you are seeking.

Sandbach News (2)

from the Northwich Guardian, 9 October 1875

Carriage Accident at Sandbach *– On Monday last a serious carriage accident happened at Sandbach. About three o'clock* ***Mrs Bradshaw*** *(wife of* ***Mr John Bradshaw****, of Sandbach) and* ***Mrs Royds*** *(wife of the* ***Rev. Edward Royds****, rector of Brereton), accompanied by a page, were out for a drive in a light four-wheel carriage,* ***Mrs Bradshaw*** *driving. When they got to the top of the hill the horse ran away. It came at full speed down the hill, and just opposite the almshouses it ran against the edging stones.* ***Mrs Bradshaw*** *and* ***Mrs Royds*** *were thrown violently out, and the page was also pitched out. The horse still kept on at the top of its speed until it got to the bridge, where a cart laden with sand was standing, and it ran with full force into the sand cart, the cushions flying over the bridge. This brought it to a stand. A lad named* ***Bratherton****, who was with the sand cart, was run over across the loins, and badly hurt.* ***Mrs Bradshaw*** *and* ***Mrs Royds*** *were taken into one of the almshouses, and* ***Dr Davies****, who happened to be on the spot at the time, attended to them, and* ***Dr Latham*** *was in attendance a few minutes afterwards. It was found that* ***Mrs Bradshaw*** *had sustained severe wounds on the head.* ***Mrs Royds*** *also had several very severe wounds on her arms and other parts, and both ladies were badly shaken. The page was also badly hurt, had several scalp wounds and was hurt about the neck and shoulders. The boy* ***Bratherton****, who was with the sand cart, had a narrow escape, the wheel going over him. It was feared at first that his thigh was broken, but happily this is not the case. The horse (a valuable one) is hurt very much. The carriage was also much damaged.*

It seems marvellous that no lives were lost, considering the way the occupants of the carriage were pitched out, and the horse coming at the speed it was down the hill; but there can be no doubt that it would have been more serious if they had been in the carriage when it came into collision with the cart on the bridge. After the injuries had been attended to by ***Drs Latham and Davies****, the parties went to their respective homes in a carriage, where they are progressing very favourably.*

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/

The Family History Show (Online)

10am - 4pm on Saturday 7th February 2026
Talks - Exhibitors - Ask the Experts
Talks are available to watch throughout the day and for the next 7 days.
Visit societies and exhibitors in our virtual exhibition hall.
Advance tickets £7 each with free £15 goody bag (£10 on the day)
https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/

The Guild of One-Name Studies Seminar: From Waterways to Railways

10am - 4.45pm on 21st February 2026

at Colonel Dane Memorial Hall, Church St, Alwalton, Peterborough PE7 3UU

The seminar is open to both members and non-members. Booking essential. Further information may be obtained by telephoning the Guild HelpDesk on 0800 011 2182, or by email from *seminar-booking@one-name.org*

https://one-name.org/mc-events/from-waterways-to-railways-2026/?mc_id=2805

Rootstech 2026

Thursday 5th – Saturday 7th March 2026 at Salt Lake City, USA and online

The world's largest family discovery event. Join in-person in Salt Lake City, Utah (passes from US$69) or online world-wide (free of charge).

Online event includes 200+ new online sessions in over 26 languages, many available after the event. Plus chat online with other attendees worldwide.

www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration

The Family History Show (Midlands)

10am - 4pm, Saturday 14th March 2026
at Severn Hall, Three Counties Showground, Malvern, WR13 6NW
Talks - Exhibitors - Ask the Experts
Ample free parking - closest railway station is Great Malvern
Advance tickets £8 each with free £15 goody bag (£12 on the day)
https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/midlands/

The Family History Federation: The Really Useful Family History Show

Saturday 18th April 2026
at the Burgess Hall, St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 6WU
Talks - Exhibitors - Cambridgeshire Archives Service
Car parking adjacent to the venue, or take the train to Cambridge or Huntingdon and the guided busway to St Ives bus station, about one mile from the venue. Timetable at *www.thebusway.info/routes-times.shtml*
www.facebook.com/groups/rufhsstives2026/

The Guild of One-Name Studies 2026 Conference: Navigating the Future

Friday 24th – Sunday 26th April 2026 at the Marriott Hotel, Portsmouth
The conference will showcase tools, techniques and data sources underpinned by AI which will boost our studies. The conference is open to both members and non-members. Booking essential.
https://one-name.org/guild-conference/

Register of Qualified Genealogists Conference: Exploring the Past, Embracing the Future

9am - 5pm, Saturday 25 April 2026
at Birmingham & Midland Institute, 9 Margaret St, Birmingham B3 3BS
There will be a wide range of talks and presentations on genealogical and family history research. The Institute is within about half a mile of Birmingham's New Street and Snow Hill railway stations.
The conference is open to both members and non-members. Booking essential. Early bird tickets £65 including a light lunch and refreshments.
https://www.qualifiedgenealogists.org/2026-conference

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.

Sussex: 1910 Lloyd George (Valuation Office) records
This significant addition allows family and local historians to pinpoint where ancestors lived or owned property in Sussex in the early 1910s.

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.

UK and Allies, Far East Prisoner of War Portraits, 1939-1945
www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/63298/
This collection contains portraits of prisoners of war drawn by British Army Chaplain Fred Stallard while he was held prisoner of war by the Japanese during the Second World War. The index that accompanies the portraits contains information about the prisoners that was written at the bottom of each portrait. Over two-thirds of the portraits in this collection include names. It's also possible to browse the collection to find portraits which are not named.

Wiltshire Church of England Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, 1754-1924
www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61187/
www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61188/
www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61189/
www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61190/
Provided in association with Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council. Records do not cover all parishes for all dates.

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.

British Armed Forces and Overseas Birth, Marriage, Death records
https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/british-armed-forces-and-overseas-deaths-and-burials
https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/british-armed-forces-and-overseas-browse
An extensive collection of records from The National Archives and the General Register Office. The first record set includes members of the British armed forces who died while serving their country overseas, British civilians who died while overseas, and individuals, including seamen, who died at sea.

The second set of records, which is not indexed, includes images of:

- Registrations of British armed forces (including serving members who were not British nationals) posted overseas.
- Births of the children of passengers, seamen, and Royal Marines, of both British and other nationalities
- Regimental registers and chaplains' returns for army births, marriages, and deaths which took place in the British Isles.
- A card index of naval officers who were killed between 1914 and 1920, including some Royal Marines and Naval Reserve officers, as well as officers of the Canadian and Australian navies.
- A card index of ships lost from 1914 to 1919.
- A war graves roll from 1914 to 1919.
- Statistical casualty books 1914-1933.
- Registers and indexes of births, deaths, and marriages at sea from 1891 to 1972 maintained by the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen. The registers include both British and foreign subjects, passengers and seamen.

Suffolk, Coroners' Inquest Records 1767 - 1921
https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/suffolk-coroners-inquest-records
This new record set contains partial transcriptions by the Suffolk Family History Society of 5,373 coroners' inquests from Suffolk, England. These records span from 1767 to 1921.

International Bomber Command Centre

The IBCC is a visitor centre and memorial to those who served with Bomber Command in WWII. It is located near the village of Canwick, just over one mile from Lincoln railway station.

The IBCC Losses database was listed in the last issue as being available on The Genealogist website, but in fact it is accessible free of charge on the IBCC website at *https://losses.internationalbcc.co.uk/*

The IBCC, in partnership with the University of Lincoln, is also creating a digital archive of copies of documents, photographs and interviews with former servicemen and women, and civilians who have memories to share. Contributions are welcomed. The digital archive can be searched on the University of Lincoln website at *https://ibccdigitalarchive.lincoln.ac.uk/*

Free UK Genealogy

www.freeukgenealogy.org.uk

Free UK Genealogy provides free, online access to family history records, working with a team of dedicated volunteers to create high-quality transcriptions of public records from governmental sources, parish churches, and other trusted institutions.

Free UK Genealogy is the home of three websites which may already be familiar to family historians: FreeBMD (for transcriptions of the England and Wales GRO indexes), FreeCEN (for census records) and FreeREG (for parish registers).

There is now a new version of the FreeBMD website (FreeBMD2) but you can continue to use the original website for the time being as both are being updated. The new website is at *www.freebmd2.org.uk*

FamilySearch

Go to *www.familysearch.org/en/blog/* for FamilySearch news, including details of new record sets.

At the time of going to press, the latest records were added in September: see *www.familysearch.org/en/blog/new-records-september-2025*. New records included 3.6 million civil registrations from Italy, 300,000 cemetery records from Chile, and almost 300,000 Catholic Church records from Portugal.

If you have ancestors from around the world, it's definitely worth looking at the FamilySearch website. To view some of the records, you must visit a Family Records Centre or Affiliate Library.

Book Review

by Rosie Rowley
FHSC Editor

Never Forgotten:
The Story of the Japanese Prisoner of War Camps in Taiwan during World War II
By Michael D Hurst, MBE.

Many people know about the hardship and suffering of the prisoners of the Japanese who were forced to work on the 'Death Railway' in Thailand and Burma, but few know about the 'hell-camps' of Taiwan. The Taiwan POW camps held over 4,350 Allied POWs and were some of the worst in all of the Far East, including those on the infamous 'Death Railway'. More than ten per cent of the Taiwan POWs died in captivity from starvation, sickness, overwork and beatings from cruel guards, including my mother's brother.

The book opens with two chapters on the war in Asia and events leading up to the British surrender in Singapore on 15th February 1942. These are followed by chapters on the POWs being transported to Taiwan (then known as Formosa), and chapters about each of the fourteen camps on the island. For each camp, its location and the names of the Japanese staff are given, along with dates of opening and closing, the number of POWs in the camp, and the number of POWs who died there. There are contemporary sketches of people and plans of the camps, plus maps and photos, as well as modern photos of the remains of the camps and places where the POWs had worked. Much of the information about the camps comes from diaries, documents and oral testimonies supplied by surviving POWs and their families.

The final chapters cover the transfer of many POWs to camps in Japan and China, and the liberation of surviving POWs at the end of the war. At the end of the book is an appendix listing the names of former POWs who supplied information; unfortunately, there is no index of all the names mentioned in the book.

A great deal of the book is very painful to read, especially if a relative was a POW in Taiwan. However, this book, the result of twenty-four years of research, is a must if you want to learn about the fate of WWII prisoners of the Japanese who were held there.

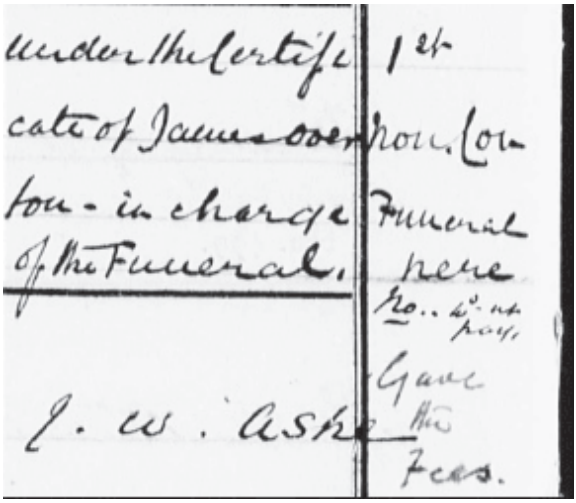
More information about both the book and Far East Prisoners of War (FEPOWs) can be found on the Taiwan POW website *www.powtaiwan.org* Click on *The Book* on the left-hand menu to find out more about the book and to order by email.

Published by Mei-hua Publishing, Taiwan. Softback, 621 pages, over 800 illustrations, 23.5cm x 16.5cm. ISBN: 978-986-89430-1-8.
Price including delivery is approximately £45/US$55, depending on exchange rates and delivery charges.

Help Wanted

By Peter Rowley
Computer Club Secretary

Found in a burial register in Lincolnshire:



The burial occurred on 14th Jun 1882 in Lincolnshire.

In the column titled *By whom the Ceremony was performed*, the note in the margin appears to read:

> *1st Non Con Funeral here No .... W^d not pay*
> *Gave his fees*

Can anyone explain what it means?

Letter to the Editor

Tragic Causes of Death, CHESHIRE ANCESTOR Sept 2025

The story in this article (below) from the *Nantwich, Sandbach and Crewe Star*, 29 January 1892, concerns a youngster who drowned while trying to save two friends who were playing on dangerous ice. The tragic hero was Benjamin BLACKBURN. One of those rescued was his nephew Albert, although Albert was actually a little older than his uncle Ben. Ben's brother was my great-grandfather Henry BLACKBURN, who grew up to marry Mary Jane BILLINGTON: Mary Jane's mother was Jane WRIGHT and so Ben's other rescued friend, *a youth named Wright* could have been another relative-in-waiting.

Nick Blackburn, London
Membership no. 11011

FATAL ICE ACCIDENT AT NANTWICH - GALLANT RESCUES AND NARROW ESCAPES
*On Sunday afternoon a youth named **Benjamin Blackburn**, son of **Mr Samuel Blackburn**, of Cow Fields, was drowned in a pit of water near to his home. It appears that some lads went to the pit about two o'clock and commenced sliding on the rotten ice with which it was covered. Two of them, named **Albert Blackburn**, aged 13, and a youth named **Wright**, finding the ice was giving way, called out to **Benjamin Blackburn** to come and help them. He was standing at the side of the pit, and bravely went to the assistance of the boy, **Albert Blackburn**, to whom he was uncle. He fell through the treacherous ice, and an alarm having been given, a man named **Hennessy**, who was passing, jumped into the pit and successively brought **Albert Blackburn** and **Wright** out of the water. He went in a third time for **Benjamin Blackburn**, who was making frantic efforts to keep afloat by clutching at the ice, which kept breaking away from his grasp. **Hennessy** was much exhausted with his previous efforts, but he made a desperate effort to save the drowning lad, and got within arm's length of him when he sank. **Hennessy** is step-father to **Albert Blackburn**, and was partaking of dinner when word was brought to him that his lad had fallen into the water. A large crowd, including some men, by this time gathered round the pit, but with the exception of **Hennessy**, who had saved two of the boys, none of them seemed to have the pluck or presence of mind to render effectual assistance. The body of the drowned lad was recovered about a quarter of an hour after the accident and taken home.*

Ed: It's always worth looking for other newspaper reports to see if any more information can be obtained. In this case, a report of the inquest, printed in the

***Nantwich Guardian* on 30 January, differs in the names of the boys involved, and the sequence of events, although the report later provides other evidence.**

On Wednesday, an inquest was held at the Red Cow, Beam-street, Nantwich, before ***Mr Churton****, coroner, on the body of* ***Benjamin Blackburn****, aged 13 years, who was drowned on Sunday afternoon in a pit in the Cow-fields... Coroner proceeded to take evidence of a young man named* ***William Wright****. He said the deceased was the son of* ***Samuel Blackburn****, a retired shoemaker... witness saw the deceased and some other boys sliding on a pit covered with ice, which witness did not consider safe. After being on the pit about fifteen minutes, the ice broke and the deceased fell into the water, which was about five feet deep. There were several persons present who did everything they could to rescue him, but twenty minutes elapsed before the body was found and... conveyed to his father's house.*

This was the only witness called.... The father of the deceased, who had been in the room, asked if he might speak, as the witness had not correctly stated the facts. The Coroner said if he were not present when the accident happened he did not think he could throw any further light on the unfortunate occurrence.

Another person, who was not on the jury, said the lad ***Blackburn*** *really lost his life in trying to save another lad who fell through the ice first.*

The Coroner said that would not affect the verdict (of "Accidentally drowned") but the father persisted that all the facts ought to be brought out.

A man named ***William Hennessey*** *had been warned to attend as a witness, and was present in the Coroner's court, but the jury had apparently made up their mind to dispense with any further information, and so a verdict of "Accidentally drowned" was recorded... The man* ***Hennessey****, having been interviewed after the inquest, said he was stepfather to* ***Albert Blackburn****, who with the deceased and another lad, named* ***Frederick Bostock****, fell into the pit.... **Wright** came running up to him with the news that his son was drowning in the pit... On his getting to the pit he found his stepson and the other two boys struggling in the water. He jumped into the pit and succeeded in dragging out* ***Albert Blackburn****. He went in a second time, and caught hold of* ***Fred Bostock****, and saved him. He was very much exhausted by his exertions and the icy cold water, but he went in a third time to save the deceased,* ***Benjamin Blackburn****, who was about eight yards from the edge of the pit. He managed to get near enough for the drowning boy to catch his wrist, and* ***Hennessey*** *pointed to a scratch in proof of his statement, but the poor boy was apparently too benumbed to retain his hold... and* ***Hennessey*** *with great difficulty got upon the ice and lay down quite exhausted. A man named* ***Farmer*** *succeeded in dragging him out. The boy* ***Blackburn*** *had, however, sunk,*

and was drowned. During his struggles he called out to his relative ***Albert Blackburn****, who had been saved, and told him to wish his mother "Good-night."... Much sympathy has been shown towards the parents of the drowned lad in their bereavement, and it is openly stated that had some of the bystanders round the pit had a tithe of the courage of* ***Hennessey****, the unfortunate lad might have been saved.*

The body of the lad was interred in the Old Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, in the presence of a large and sympathetic concourse of people.

Scarcity of Doctors in 1915

by Rosie Rowley
FHSC Editor

I came across this report in the *Manchester Evening News*, 14 April 1915. I was quite put out by the statement *they had to do the best they could!*

LADY APPOINTED AT STOCKPORT INFIRMARY - At a meeting of the Stockport Infirmary Board today it was reported that a lady doctor had been appointed house surgeon.

*The chairman (****Mr E F Ward****) said this was the first time a lady doctor had been appointed at the Stockport Infirmary. The circumstances were quite exceptional. They had been advertising for six weeks, and could not get a male surgeon, so they had to do the best they could.*

Mr William Lees *asked if any difference in remuneration had been offered because doctors were now getting extraordinary sums.*

Mr Pierce*: We offered 50 per cent more than we had previously given for a male doctor.*

The Chairman understood that the house surgeons at both Rochdale and Ashton-under-Lyne Infirmaries were lady doctors.

Sandbach News (3)

from the Runcorn Guardian, 25 December 1875

St Thomas's Day at Sandbach *- As usual on the 21st December in every year, 100 8lb loaves of bread were distributed to the poor of Sandbach from the Sandbach charity.*

Cryptic ~~Cheshire~~ Festive Song

by Sheila Jones
Hon. Secretary

Christmas Number Ones these days seem to be made up of regurgitated phrases, doggerel and dubious scans. So why not create one of our own? In similar vein, this one is made up of the second lines from various seasonal songs. Can you identify each of the 36 songs concerned?

Answers are on page 64.

I've been an awful good girl
Underneath the mistletoe last night
Like fireworks with no fuse
All is calm, all is bright

At the Christmas party hop
Let earth receive her king
With the kids jingle belling
Jingle bells swing and jingle bells ring

The old has passed, there's a new beginning
Do you see what I see?
With a corncob pipe and a button nose
My true love gave to me

There is just one thing I need
Ev'rywhere you go
These two teeth are gone as you can see
Just like the ones I used to know

All seated on the ground
How still we see thee lie
Oh, I can't wait to see those faces
You better not cry

Oh, my friend, we've had our hopes and fears
Let nothing you dismay
Got to keep on plodding onwards with your precious load
For to preserve this day

Bearing gifts we traverse afar
To hear the news the angels bring
With heart and soul and voice
Glory to the new-born king

In the lane, snow is glistening
And the sky is grey (and the sky is grey)
At Christmastime, we let in light and we banish shade
So the Holy Bible say

But the fire is so delightful
Just like the ones I used to know
In heav'n the bells are ringing
Let us our homage show

Frederick Jenkinson - Sole Survivor (Part 1)

by Michael Watts
Membership no. 2794

971969 Warrant Officer Frederick JENKINSON (1915-2001)

"My father was the only survivor of six crew whose Wellington Bomber was shot down following a raid on Germany in November 1941."

When our friend, Paul JENKINSON, told me this, my Family History research nose smelt a good story to explore! Paul already had some interesting items but had never followed up using modern resources. He had a tape recording made by his father, recalling what he could of the crash landing, and also had copies of some recent German newspapers, provided by a local historian in the area where the plane landed.

RAF Service Record

My first suggestion was to acquire Frederick JENKINSON's RAF service papers. Service papers for World War II combatants had become available free of charge from April 2023 to next-of-kin and to non-family members. These may be redacted unless one proves family descent in the application. Also, they may take as long as nine months to arrive. However, eventually a copy of Frederick J JENKINSON's two-sided RAF Service Record Card was received.

This record is very detailed but most of it can only be understood if the abbreviations are interpreted. Fortunately, I knew 'a man who can'! This was Graham CALDWELL, a family historian and expert in all recent military matters, with a compendious understanding of all the 'shorthand' used at the time. Beside his research consultancy, he writes regularly for the UK magazine *Family Tree* and his commentary on Frederick JENKINSON's record is published in the issue for August 2024 (see acknowledgements for more information). Some of his findings are summarised here.

Personal data has been largely redacted, merely confirming name and birth details: born 1 May 1915 at Altrincham, in the parish and county of Timperley, Cheshire. His Postings start on 10 November 1939 with 289 Squadron at Padgate near Warrington, then on 5 June 1940 with 214 Squadron, based at Stradishall, Suffolk. Next on 31 March 1941 to Newmarket, and on 21 September 1941 to an operational bomber Squadron 149 flying Wellington bombers from Mildenhall, Suffolk. He is recorded on 7 November 1941 as a Prisoner of War.

Mustering details show JENKINSON's "trade appointments". Initially on 10 November 1939, he was "ACH U/T F.M./F.R.", which Graham Caldwell helpfully expanded to "Aircraft Hand – Under Training, Flight Mechanic/Flight Rigger", which he identifies as a "general category for new entrants being assessed for best trade fit". By 28 July 1941 Frederick JENKINSON was an "Air Gunner 5" (A/G 5) and on 20 September 1941 he was a "F/M A/G" - that is, a Flight Mechanic/Air Gunner – a dual role when airborne.

A Miscellaneous section gives his date of enlistment, 10 November 1939, for the "Duration of the Present Emergency". "FB POW" on 7 November 1941 refers to "Flying Battle Prisoner of War", when he was shot down, and very fortunately survived. Repatriation to the UK was noted on 31 March 1945 with a medical board on 4 April 1945.

Promotions come next: Aircraftman classes 2 and 1 are followed by Leading Aircraftman and up to Temporary Flight Sergeant, then to "T/WO" or Temporary Warrant Officer on 1 May 1943 while a POW, having seniority from 1 December 1942 in the RAF NCO's list.

World War 2 Operational Record Books

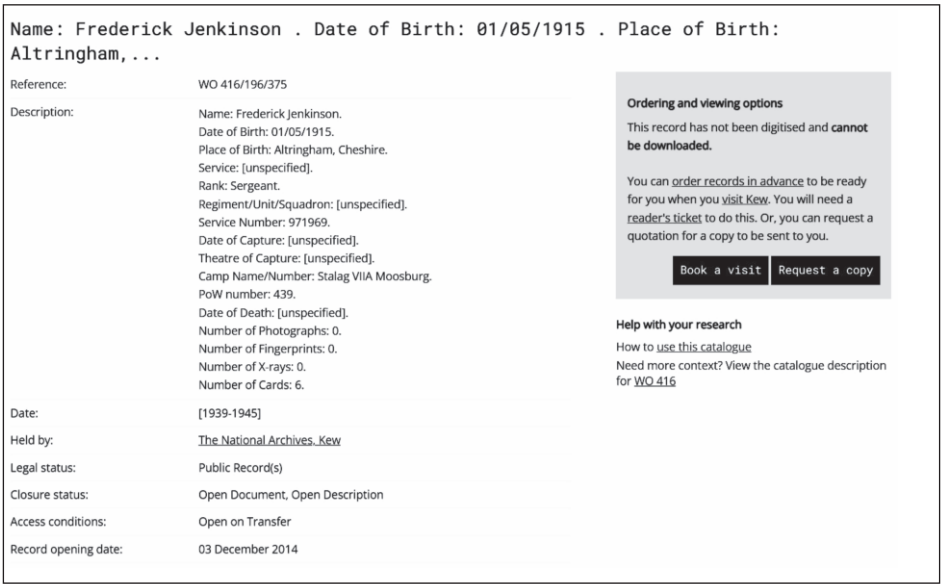
Operational Record Books (ORBs) for RAF squadrons in World War 2 are available to download free from the National Archives website, after registration, which is also free. This notes that Wellington Bomber X9878 took off from RAF Mildenhall at 1726 hours on 7 November 1941 for a night raid over Germany. (AIR 27/1001/22 – Summary of Events for November 1941). The six crew are listed, Sgt JENKINSON A(ir) G(unner) at the bottom. Under "Details of Sortie or Flight" is the single word **"Missing"**.

A parallel series of Record of Events (AIR 27/1001/21) gives some more details about the flights by 149 Squadron on 7 November 1941. Five aircraft had been detailed to attack Berlin; only one of these actually succeeded and one of the five failed to return – clearly the one with Frederick JENKINSON aboard. General comments showed that there had been 10/10 cloud in many areas and several aircraft had icing-up problems with bombs failing to drop.

Prisoner of War Cards kept by German forces

Our next official source of information, following the RAF record of a missing Wellington bomber, is the series of Prisoner of War cards, kept by the Germans and now available at the National Archives at Kew.

Transcriptions of some cards can be found on FindMyPast.



Name: Frederick Jenkinson . Date of Birth: 01/05/1915 . Place of Birth: Altringham, ...

Reference:	WO 416/196/375
Description:	Name: Frederick Jenkinson. Date of Birth: 01/05/1915. Place of Birth: Altringham, Cheshire. Service: [unspecified]. Rank: Sergeant. Regiment/Unit/Squadron: [unspecified]. Service Number: 971969. Date of Capture: [unspecified]. Theatre of Capture: [unspecified]. Camp Name/Number: Stalag VIIA Moosburg. PoW number: 439. Date of Death: [unspecified]. Number of Photographs: 0. Number of Fingerprints: 0. Number of X-rays: 0. Number of Cards: 6.
Date:	[1939-1945]
Held by:	The National Archives, Kew
Legal status:	Public Record(s)
Closure status:	Open Document, Open Description
Access conditions:	Open on Transfer
Record opening date:	03 December 2014

Ordering and viewing options

This record has not been digitised and **cannot be downloaded.**

You can order records in advance to be ready for you when you visit Kew. You will need a reader's ticket to do this. Or, you can request a quotation for a copy to be sent to you.

Book a visit | Request a copy

Help with your research

How to use this catalogue

Need more context? View the catalogue description for WO 416

The first one is for 971969 Sergt Frederick JENKINSON from England. Under 'Wounds, Injuries or Death' there is the entry *Tod* – death. However, written across the card are the words *lebt ! lt (laut)...* (the rest is illegible to me) – meaning *he is alive! according to.....* The reverse of the card also records – in difficult to decipher script - that *death had been erroneously reported* and the records were to be amended accordingly. In the space at the bottom of the card, the crash site on 8 November is given as *near Heelden three kilometres south of Isselburg*.

Another card for 9 November 1941 shows Warrant Officer (or NCO) Frederick JENKINSON from Altrincham at Stammlager VI J at Krefeld. It says he has a wounded left knee with a suspected fracture. However, by 16 December 1941 – still at the same camp – he is *arbfg.* (arbeitsfähig) or *Fit to work*!

Cards for over 200,000 POWs are preserved at TNA, Kew. The online index entry for Frederick JENKINSON (one of at least three of that name) is shown here. However, there is a charge for locating and filming specific cards if you are unable to visit in person.

Other PoW cards for Frederick Jenkinson give more details – not yet deciphered – of various moves. On 27 October 1942 a move to Stalag VII A is mentioned; on 22 Jan 1945 he appears to be in a hospital at Schurgast (?).

Historical Perspective

On 9 November 2021 – eighty years on from the *largest RAF bomber raid on Berlin so far* - the RAF website (*www.memorialflightclub.com/blog/80-years-ago-%E2%80%93-largest-raf-bomber-command-berlin-raid-so-far*) featured a photo of three Vickers Wellington Mk 1C twin-engine medium bombers of 149 Squadron, one of the Bomber Command units that took part in the raid on Berlin on 7-8 November 1941. The website continues: *one of the 149 Sqn Wellingtons, X9878 'OJ-A' was shot down by a night fighter when homeward bound over the Netherlands. Only one of the crew... survived to become a POW* - we know that was Frederick JENKINSON.

Stepping back to September 1939, when Germany invaded Poland and refused to withdraw, we were in a state of war with Germany. Little seemed to happen until the Blitzkrieg of early May 1940 and the evacuation from Dunkirk later that month. The aerial Battle of Britain soon followed, from July to October 1940, and an invasion of the UK was successfully avoided by the courage of British fighter pilots. Britain then stood alone, facing a series of nighttime bombing raids on large cities. Churchill managed to obtain much military equipment and civilian supplies from America but the latter only entered the war in December 1941,

following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. However, by November 1941, Britain had decided on a huge retaliatory bombing raid on German cities. It was not a success as the RAF account continued:

A force of nearly 400 bombers, including 160 Vickers Wellingtons drawn from all 19 Wellington bomber squadrons, along with 61 Handley Page Hampdens, 42 Armstrong Whitworth Whitleys and smaller numbers of four-engine heavy bombers – Short Stirlings, Avro Manchesters and Handley Page Halifaxes – from units across Bomber Command, were launched against Berlin, Cologne and Mannheim. 169 aircraft were sent to Berlin, which was at the extreme range of many of the RAF bombers then in service. The bombers carried mixed loads of 1,000, 500 and 250 pound bombs, plus canisters and incendiaries.

The raid was a disaster. The bombers targeting Berlin encountered bad weather and severe icing, and some suffered from fuel exhaustion. In addition, the German defences were extremely effective. Of 169 aircraft sent to Berlin, only 79 reached their target and 21 failed to return. The bombing was largely ineffective and caused little real damage. Total losses amongst the RAF bomber force that night amounted to 37 aircraft, representing a loss rate of 9.4%, which was completely unsustainable and more than double the previous highest for night operations. In human terms, 160 bomber air crew were killed, with more shot down and escaping death only to become POWs. Each and every one of those was a sad loss to their family and friends and left holes in their units which had to be filled with fresh crews.

The disastrous results of this raid on 7/8th November 1941 led to the dismissal of Peirse as the AOC-in-C of RAF Bomber Command in January 1942. He was replaced by the then ***Air Marshal Arthur Harris****, whose emphasis on the area bombing of cities remains controversial, but whose determination to sustain the bombing offensive against the enemy undoubtedly helped to turn the tide of the war in Europe. Bomber Command did not attempt another raid on Berlin for one year, two months and nine days.*

Part 2 will be printed in the next issue of CHESHIRE ANCESTOR.

Sandbach News (4)

from the Runcorn Guardian, 25 December 1875

VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT *- We understand that Drill Instructor* ***Sergeant Hilton****, who has been with the Sandbach Volunteers for about 13 years, is about to be removed to Macclesfield, and that the Drill Instructor from Macclesfield is to take the Sandbach Corps. We hope the change will be a step in the right direction for* ***Sergeant Major Hilton****, who has been much respected by the officers and men of the 16th Cheshire Regiment.*

U3A Peak District Family History Conference 2025

by Jackie Jones
Membership no. 6971

I was very happy to attend this year's U3A Family History Conference at The Palace Hotel, Buxton this year, particularly as at the end of last year's conference it was thought that, due to rising costs, the likelihood of a 2025 conference was very much in doubt. I was therefore very surprised to receive an email this spring from the organiser to say that a 2025 conference would indeed take place, giving details of speakers and presentations – and what an interesting group they were.

So, with tickets booked, travel plans sorted, we made the journey by car from South Wirral, arriving at 9am in good time for a 9.30 start. The ticket included a free draw ticket, refreshments and a light lunch. I wasn't lucky in the draw but my friend received an excellent book entitled *The Family Detective - A Forensic look at the History of Family Photography* by Stephen Gill, who later presented a talk about photographic conservation and preservation.

There were four presentations – two in the morning and two in the afternoon, with a tea break between each one. At the end of each presentation was a question and answer session.

The first presentation was *Researching a War Memorial* by Peter Threlfall and Judith Beastall. Peter and Judith specialise in military history and genealogy, from the Boer War through to World War One, encompassing not just war memorials but how to research the people named on them, and providing excellent pointers on locating resources, either online or in archives, repositories, military museums etc. Their table display was never short of visitors where they answered queries and gave hints and tips to all.

The second presentation, by Karen Evans, was *Unlocking the secrets of DNA Testing*. Karen was very enthusiastic and entertaining and had an excellent method of explaining the basics of DNA and how to manage your DNA test. She explained what sort of matches to look for and how to use the resources provided by the test sites. A very enjoyable journey down the DNA route and how to get the best out of your results.

This was followed by a generous lunch break, allowing the opportunity to meet other family historians or just stretch your legs.

Following lunch, the third presentation was by Steve Gill, on *Photographic Restoration and Conservation*. Steve gave a very entertaining presentation with plenty of humour. He explained the origins of photographs and the different methods of producing them. He began with a great example of dating and placing a photograph – asking the audience to guess the date and where it was taken. The picture was of a family gathered around a car – the answer was on the number plate on the car! It was a Canadian plate which included the place and the year. He discussed restoration of photographs pointing out that a photograph is a piece of history and too much "restoration" could actually alter the historical nature of the original. And, of course, when we arrived at AI and photographs – that was a whole new type of entertainment! All I can say is that the Donald Trump AI example was hilarious and the AI version of the group of family historians which had been "tidied-up" resulted in a photograph of a group of people containing a spare leg and a skirt which didn't belong to a body! (Perhaps you had to be there!) This was an excellent and entertaining presentation.

After a break we came to the final presentation. This was by Debbie Bradley on *Progressing Your Family History*. Debbie's talk provided copious hints and tips on where to search for information other than the usual censuses and Civil BMDs. Lots of information, leaving us with plenty to think about.

There were also several exhibitors to browse during the breaks, including Military and Family Genealogy, Nottingham FHS, Family History Federation, Family & Community Historical Research Society, Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society.

All in all, I very much enjoyed this year's conference – the enthusiasm and knowledge of the presenters, along with the humour thrown in, made this an extremely pleasant Saturday day out, enjoying the hobby that we all love.

If you happen to see this event advertised next year, please consider attending. I definitely found this year's conference worth the trip. Last year I stayed in Buxton on the Friday night (which was much easier than getting up at silly o'clock in the morning) and was therefore very much more relaxed. The hotel gave a preferential discounted rate to attendees.

In all honesty, such conferences are few and far between these days within a reasonable travelling distance of Cheshire, and thanks to the hard work of the organisers we can have a day out with like-minded folk, enjoying our hobby.

The conference was publicised on the U3A Peak District Family History Network website at *https://peakdistrictnetwork.wixsite.com/familyhistory*

The History of Motoring (UK)

by The Imp Club
and Rosie Rowley
FHSC Editor

First published in The Imp Club magazine *Impressions* in December 2000 and reprinted by kind permission of the club, with some amendments by Rosie Rowley.

Founded in 1980 by Richard Knight, The Imp Club promotes the use, enjoyment and preservation of all types and variants of the Hillman Imp. The club can be contacted through their website at *www.theimpclub.co.uk* or by post at The IMP Club Ltd, 15 Apollo Park, Ironstone Lane, Wroxton, Banbury, OX15 6AY.

1860 The first internal combustion engine patented
1865 Anything with an engine required to have at least three drivers, plus a red flag frontman, speed limit 4mph (the Locomotive Act)
1885 Carl Benz produces his first car
1886 Daimler produces his first car
1888 Dunlop invents the pneumatic tyre
1896 Speed limit increases to 12mph
1897 The RAC formed
1900 London-Scotland-London "Thousand Miles" trial held; the future King Edward VII takes delivery of the first car owned by the Royal Family, a Daimler
1901 Dennis Brothers of Guildford open the first purpose-built car factory
1902 Society of Motoring Manufacturers and Traders formed
1903 Drivers now need a licence, cars need a number plate; speed limit 20mph
1904 8465 cars registered in the UK as records begin
1905 The AA founded with 90 members; motor buses appear on London streets; first Isle of Man race
1906 Horsepower rating system introduced; Rolls-Royce shows its Silver Ghost at the Motor Show, Olympia
1907 Brooklands, the world's first racing circuit, opens
1908 Rolls-Royce factory opens in Derby; 100mph speeds reached at Brooklands
1909 Petrol duty introduced (a mere 3d per gallon); first roundabout appears, in Letchworth

1910 Road tax introduced; over 100,000 cars now on UK roads
1911 Ford Model T factory opens in Manchester
1912 Roadside telephone boxes appear for the AA
1913 First British motor exports recorded
1914 The AA sends ambulances to France for the war effort
1919 War over, Ministry of Transport formed
1920 First roadside petrol station appears
1921 Log books introduced; discs appear for road tax
1922 The Austin Seven is launched
1923 UK vehicles top one million (but 40% are motorcycles); the first Le Mans race takes place
1924 With hindsight, was this a bad year for Britain? The import levy on cars was lifted and imports spiral
1925 King George V opens the Great West Road, London, the country's first dual carriageway
1926 First electric traffic lights appear in Piccadilly, London – manually operated by a policeman in a cabin
1927 First London to Brighton (now veteran) car run
1928 First permanent automatic electric traffic lights installed in Leeds
1929 Bentley win first four places at Le Mans
1930 Compulsory third-party car insurance required; Road Traffic Act abolished all speed limits but introduced driving offences of dangerous, reckless and careless driving, and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs
1931 The Highway Code introduced; Ford moves to Dagenham
1932 Mersey tunnel opened after 7 years in construction
1933 AA membership now tops half a million
1934 Driving tests introduced, cats eyes invented, first British car (a Hillman) fitted with a radio as standard
1935 Pedestrian crossings introduced; 30mph speed limit in built-up areas (but still no limit elsewhere)
1936 Ministry of Transport assumes responsibility for main roads
1937 Speedometers and safety glass now required; petrol now costs 1s 7d per gallon
1938 Britain's cheapest car (a Morris) costs £128
1939 petrol rationing; headlamp masks introduced to dim lights at night as war begins
1940 Night speed limit 20mph, but accidents at record levels due to the blackout
1941 Road fatalities reach all-time high of 9,169

1945 War ends
1946 Fifty years of Britain's motor industry
1947 Roads grind to a halt under arctic conditions, with minimum temperatures of -20 degrees C in some areas
1948 Motor Show restarts following the war, with 275,000 visitors
1949 Cars started with ignition key instead of cranking with a starting handle
1950 Petrol rationing ends; AA membership tops one million; 4 million vehicles on the roads
1951 Zebra crossings appear
1952 BMC formed as Austin and Morris merge
1953 Branded premium petrols reappear following the war
1954 Flashing indicators introduced
1955 A good year for British drivers, Stirling Moss wins the Mille Miglia, Mike Hawthorn wins at Le Mans
1956 Suez crisis means petrol rationing is back
1957 Double white (no overtaking) lines introduced
1958 Parking meters appear
1959 The Mini launched; first stretch of the M1 opens, along with the first motorway services at Watford Gap; Volvo invents the three-point seatbelt
1960 MOT test introduced
1961 Jaguar E-type enthusiastically received; AA and RAC salutes from patrolmen to members discontinued for safety reasons
1962 New car models launched include Ford Cortina, Triumph Spitfire, MGB
1963 Ford Anglia and Hillman Imp launched, number plates include a suffix
1964 Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port factory produces its first car – the Viva; at 4am on 11 June Jack Sears drives an AC Cobra Coupe GT up the M1 at 185 mph during a test run in preparation for Le Mans, the highest legal speed ever recorded on a British motorway
1965 Top speed limit of 70mph introduced, still in force today
1966 BMC merges with Jaguar to form British Motor Holdings
1967 Breath test introduced; fitting (but not using) front seat belts in new cars compulsory
1968 BMH and Leyland merge to form BLMC; first self-service petrol pumps appear
1969 MOT test now applies to three-year-old cars
1970 Heavy Goods Vehicle driving test introduced; Range Rover launched
1971 Rolls-Royce nationalised; decimal currency replaces £ s. d.
1972 Britain's motor industry at its peak, 23 million vehicles produced; Spaghetti Junction (Junction 6 of the M6 in Birmingham) opened

1973 Motor industry suffers during three-day week, a consequence of strikes
1974 Ongoing energy crisis prompts temporary 50mph speed limit
1975 BLMC renamed BL as Government takes control
1976 Hillman, Sunbeam, Humber brands replaced by Chrysler name; Imp ceases production; first mini roundabouts appear
1977 Ford launches its supermini, the Fiesta
1978 Motor Show moves to NEC Birmingham
1979 Honda and BL jointly develop the Triumph Acclaim
1980 Spitfire and MGB sports cars phased out; gallons replaced by litres at the petrol pump
1981 Citizens Band (CB) radio now legal
1982 Driving offences now attract points on licences
1983 Front seat belt wearing becomes compulsory
1984 Jaguar privatised; Dunlop sold to the Japanese
1985 First lead-free petrol appears
1986 M25 motorway finally completed
1987 Government sets 30% reduction target for accidents by 2000
1988 Unleaded fuel now a must for new cars; Rover group privatised; Land Rover Discovery launched
1989 £1.5 billion investment promised for roads; children must wear rear seat belts if fitted
1990 Red Routes introduced for London; motorcycle training now compulsory
1991 20mph urban zones appear; adults must wear rear seat belts if fitted
1992 Honda opens Swindon factory and Toyota opens Derby factory; speed cameras introduced; catalytic converters now standard on new cars
1993 Fuel tax escalator introduced to run at 5% above inflation; traffic calming measures start to appear
1994 Channel tunnel opens
1995 Variable speed limits introduced on the M25
1996 AA membership tops 9 million; driving theory test introduced
1997 Photo driving licences introduced
1998 Annual road deaths reaches all-time low of 3,421 since records began in 1924
1999 Road tax changes to vary according to size of engine, encouraging use of smaller more economical vehicles
2000 US military stops scrambling satellite signals used by civilians, thus opening the door to accurate SAT-NAV devices; 27.2 million cars on UK roads

Raphael Holinshed, English Chronicler

by Mike Hodgkinson
Membership no. 7929

After several years of research and the purchase of a digitised copy of a seventeenth century marriage licence, I found that my family's BULKELEY branch of Stanlowe near Leek were landed gentry. The mother of Arthur BULKELEY (1563-1614) was Catherine, daughter of Hugh HOLINSHED of Bosley, Cheshire. Hugh said he was the uncle of Ralph (Raphael) HOLINSHED (1525-1582), who was an English Chronicler. I had never heard of him, so I resolved to discover more about my distant cousin.

Raphael HOLINSHED was most famous for his work on *The Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland*, commonly known as *Holinshed's Chronicles*. It was the first complete printed history of Britain composed as a continuous narrative. The *Holinshed Chronicles* was a major influence on many Renaissance writers, including Shakespeare, Spenser and Marlowe.

Raphael HOLINSHED was probably born in about 1525, the son of Ralph HOLINSHED of Cophurst in Sutton Downes near Macclesfield. Student records from Christ's College, Cambridge show two students under the name HOLINSHED attending the College in the 1540's. The first was Ottiwell, who was Hugh HOLINSHED's son. He became a fellow of Trinity College and then a canon of Windsor. The second was Raphael who matriculated in 1544.

Ralphael moved to London where he worked as a translator for the printer Reginald WOLFE. WOLFE gave him the project of compiling a world history from the Flood to the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. HOLINSHED was only one contributor to this work; at least three other people were involved in its production.

Vernon SNOW, an author who writes an introduction to *Holinshed's Chronicles* in a later edition, remarks that HOLINSHED was an experienced, Cambridge-educated translator. As far as anyone knows, no other known works by HOLINSHED are available.

As a London printer, WOLFE was one of the original members of the Royal Stationers' Company. In 1548, WOLFE conceived the idea of creating a *Universal cosmography of the whole world, and therewith also certain particular histories of every known nation*. He wanted the work to be printed in English, with maps and

illustrations in the book as well. His main source was the works of the antiquary John LELAND (1502-1553). As chaplain to Henry VIII, LELAND had access to the King's library, which contained many manuscripts taken from dissolved monasteries. WOLFE constructed chronologies and drew maps that were up to date. This took over twenty-four years of his life; however, when WOLFE realised he could not complete this project on his own, he hired Raphael HOLINSHED and William HARRISON to assist him.

WOLFE died with the work still uncompleted in 1573 and as the original project to write a history of the world was too ambitious, it was changed to a more manageable work about England, Scotland and Ireland. The revised project was run by a consortium of three members of the London stationers. They retained Raphael HOLINSHED, who employed four assistants. In 1577, the work was published in two volumes. A second edition was issued in 1587.

William SHAKESPEARE used the 1587 edition of the *Chronicles* as the source for many of his historical plays, such as Richard III, the plot of Macbeth, and portions of King Lear and Cymbeline. One critic said, *We care about the Holinshed Chronicles because Shakespeare read them*. It is because of Shakespeare's writing that the public was educated on many important events in history.
Two examples are:

King Lear: *Holinshed's Chronicles* go into depth about the Welsh King Llŷr from the 8th century BCE, which accurately describes the plot of King Lear. The king's madness is Shakespeare's own creation; the rest of the play follows *Holinshed's Chronicles* closely, such as the emphasis on Cordelia's love for her father. The added dramatics and of course Shakespeare's language are what make the play an effective popular piece of culture.

Macbeth: *Holinshed's Chronicles* tell the story of the reign of Duncan of Scotland. It is now believed that King Duncan is based on a legend rather than an actual king. Holinshed's Duncan is characterised as an honourable king with a *soft and gentle nature*, while Macbeth is a cruel leader. Shakespeare gives Lady Macbeth a larger role in his play and includes her sleepwalking habits and suicidal thoughts in his characterisation.

Like Shakespeare, Christopher MARLOWE was greatly inspired by the *Chronicles*, particularly in writing his play Edward II. Details he borrows from the *Chronicles* include class issues and inheritance and details of Edward II's brutal murder at Berkeley Castle.

Holinshed's Chronicles was an *extremely popular work when it was first published,* but *by the seventeenth century it was already considered outdated and inaccurate*, losing its popularity and credibility.

A few months after the *Chronicles* had been licensed, HOLINSHED retired to the countryside near Warwick, where he died around 1580.

TRUMPed Again

by Gren Dix
Membership no. 4174

While tracing back one of my wife's ancestors I came across the surname GENT. I eventually got back to Thomas born about 1852. I assumed that this was the correct Thomas as the surname of the children's mother was the same as that of Thomas's wife. From his birth and baptism, I traced even further back resulting in about three dozen names. Looking for the birth of Thomas I found:

1. Thomas had a GRO reference 1852Q4 Basford 7b 81, mother PURDY
2. He was born 8 November 1852 and baptized 3 May 1853 at Ironville, son of Thomas and Susan of Golden Valley
3. He was one of 15 siblings (3 of whom were named Herbert)

At this point I thought that I had done all that I could with this generation. One last trawl and I found that he had married 28 July 1872 at Alfreton and had father William. Note that the Thomas I had been following had a father named Thomas.

This was my TRUMP moment, when I completely ignored the facts and stayed with my prejudices. I had originally put in a lot of work finding the ancestors of Thomas with parents Thomas and Susan. I assumed that the reference to his father being William on his marriage was an error (I have written on the subject of wrong parents before) and therefore ignored it.

As a final act I looked for Thomas GENT, born about 1852. As well as the 1852 birth above, I found another Thomas GENT born 1853Q1 Basford 7b 73 mother WALTERS and his baptism 3 April 1853 at Codnor to William and Mary. The other father's forename! Codnor, Ironville and Golden Valley are all about 2 miles apart and a little south of Belper, Derbyshire. Thus I have two Thomas GENTs born about a year apart and living within spitting distance of each other.

I should have been more thorough in my original checks. I ignored the inconvenient facts. Where else have we seen this happen?

Cholera in Macclesfield

by Joan Irving
FHSC Librarian

Information found in the *Macclesfield Courier and Herald.*

Cholera and its symptoms

Cholera is a severe and often fatal disease of the gastro-intestinal tract, caused by a bacterial infection. The early symptoms are profuse diarrhoea and vomiting, causing serious and potentially fatal dehydration. Severe cramps quickly follow together with extreme thirst. Death may occur within 24 hours.

Treatment today consists of replenishing the massive fluid loss and killing the bacteria with antibiotics.

The Cholera Outbreak in Macclesfield, 1849

Cholera first appeared in England in 1831, coming along the trade routes from Asia. By the end of 1832 it had killed around 22,000 people in England and Wales. The second epidemic to sweep the country took place in 1848/9 and was even more deadly.

In 1849 there were 53,000 deaths in England and Wales. Although other diseases flourished in the squalid towns and cities and accounted for more deaths in the long run, cholera epidemics were more traumatic.

Symptoms of cholera were agonizing and remedies proved ineffective. The spread of the disease had no predictable pattern and whilst cholera spread rapidly in nearby towns like Newcastle under Lyme, Nantwich and Manchester, Macclesfield was much less affected. Only about thirty deaths were recorded but the threat of the disease hung over all the inhabitants.

Cholera was spread through the pollution of water supplies from open sewers that carried faeces and vomit from cholera sufferers. It was widely believed that the endemic 'English Cholera' or 'summer diarrhoea' could develop into 'morbid' or 'Asiatic Cholera' by drunkenness and intemperate living in general. It was clear to the doctors in Macclesfield that the spread of the disease was intimately connected to the poor facilities for the disposal of sewage.

In 1832 medical men had made inhabitants aware of the *pernicious effects of the dunghill*, and even though the general cleaning up that followed had helped to prevent the spread of cholera and the usual fevers for a time, standards had slipped again by the 1840s. The Public Health Act of 1848 and the Macclesfield Waterworks Act of 1849 brought some improvement to the health of the inhabitants of Macclesfield.

Cholera Victims Buried At Christ Church

Inquests were held on the following victims and reported in the Macclesfield Courier.

Ann Pickford - Inquest reported on 30th June 1849

On Monday an inquest was held at the Town Hall, on view of the body of **Ann Pickford**, aged 34 years, who resided in West Street, Chester Road, and who died on Sunday night after about 8 hours illness, during which she had exhibited all the signs of Asiatic Cholera.

The following is the evidence adduced:-

Samuel Pickford, husband of Ann: *The deceased was my wife; she was a very healthy woman. I had never known her to have an hour's illness. She was a char-woman. We were out together on Saturday night in the Shambles and went home about 9 o'clock. She had some tea after she got home and at 10 o'clock we went to bed. She seemed quite well at that time. We got up about 7 o'clock and she went to the Talbot, as was her custom, to clean. She came back about 10 o'clock and complained of being rather poorly, she kept rubbing her hands and after some time she went to bed. I took her some tea up and she drank a little of it. She was purged and also sick. After some time she called for some cold water, which she drank. She had at the time the cramp in her hands, toes and the calves of her legs. It was about 11 o'clock that the cramps came on. I sent for a doctor about 1 o'clock and Mr. Mayer came immediately. She took worse and died about 8 o'clock in the evening.*

Mr. Mayer, surgeon, deposed that he found the deceased in a state of collapse, quite livid and discoloured. He had no hesitation in saying that the death was caused by spasmodic Cholera, assuming all the appearances of Asiatic Cholera.

Several of the jury said they had heard that the deceased had been addicted to intemperate habits but on the husband being questioned on the point by the coroner, he denied it emphatically.

Ann Pickford was buried at Christ Church on 27 June 1849.

Joseph Albinson - Inquest reported 7th July 1849

An inquest was held at the *Ring O'Bells* on Wednesday on the body of **Joseph Albinson** aged 46 who died on Tuesday from malignant Cholera.

The following is the evidence which was adduced:-

Ann Albinson stated: *The deceased was my husband, he was a shoemaker. He was at work all day on Monday. He began to be relaxed on Monday morning at about 6 o'clock and it continued with him all day, so he had great difficulty in keeping to his work. He drank large quantities of cold water during the day, and at about ½ past six in the evening he went to bed. He requested me to fetch him a pint of ale as he felt weak. I did so and he drank it nearly all. He soon afterwards called out to me saying that he had the cramp. I went up and rubbed his legs but he kept getting worse. A doctor was sent for about 8 o'clock. The deceased died at ½ past 6 o'clock in the morning. He was an intemperate man and had been so for 20 years. He had never been subject to illness, except the rheumatism.*

Mr. James Wright, House Surgeon of the Macclesfield Dispensary stated that he saw the deceased about 9 o'clock on Monday night. He found him on the floor suffering from cramp in his feet and legs. He was vomiting and appeared to be much purged but did not complain of the least pain in the bowels. He was very cold and the surgeon administered stimulants. The cramp abated after this but collapse came on and he kept sinking till he died. He had ascertained that the deceased was drinking heavily the whole of last week. On Sunday he had some veal and gooseberry pie for dinner. He was told that on being seized with the bowel complaint in the night he went down into the yard and sat there in his shirt for an hour. **Mr. James Wright** had no doubt **Albinson** had died from spasmodic or malignant Cholera brought on by his habits of living. At first it might simply be English Cholera, but the veal, the gooseberry pie, the ale and cold water could scarcely fail in making it a more fatal character.

The jury returned a verdict of 'Died from Spasmodic Cholera'

We understand that at the back of the premises in Royal George Row, where this man lived, there is an open unobstructed sewer, which is an intolerable nuisance to the neighbourhood. Living in such a tainted atmosphere there can be no wonder **Albinson** should have been predisposed to the attack; and numbers in the locality are now suffering from the premonitory symptoms of the epidemic. Complaints on the subject have been general, if the dormant germs are allowed thus to remain in such places awaiting only a cause to bring them into fatal activity, how can the town escape the ravages of so fatal a disease as Cholera.

Joseph Albinson was buried at Christ Church on 5th July 1849.

Richard Brindley - Inquest reported 14th July 1849

An inquest was held on Tuesday at the *Turk's Head* in the Watercotes on the body of a man named **Richard Brindley** who died on Monday of Asiatic Cholera.

The following is the evidence which was adduced:-

Elizabeth Bradley (sic) stated that the deceased was her husband, he was 51 years of age. On Sunday night about 11 o'clock, while in bed, he was taken with a bowel complaint. She thought it was merely a cold and told him so, but about 12 o'clock he was seized with the cramps so violent that she durst not leave him and she cried out of the window for assistance. A doctor was sent for but the deceased continued to get worse and died about 2 o'clock on Monday afternoon. He had been rather poorly and was taking medicine, which he had from the club.

Mr. Firth, surgeon, deposed that he was called in to this case about 3 o'clock in the morning, when he first saw the deceased. He found him in bed very restless and bathed in a cold perspiration and evidently in a state of collapse. He applied external warmth and administered stimulants. The deceased continued in a state of prostration till he died. There was a total suppression of urine, which is an unmistakable symptom of cholera.

Mr. Firth had no doubt that cholera was the cause of death, and he had never seen a case more suddenly fatal, or marked in its symptoms.

The deceased was very muscular and strong. It is understood **Brindley** was not intemperate. He could take his glass but always ate plenty with it and was in the habit of living well. He had previously had an attack of bowel complaint, and perhaps if that had been properly treated it might have prevented this one.

In reply to the jury **Mr. Firth** stated that the Orchard, Bank Top, the neighbourhood where the deceased lived was a very unhealthy one. The houses were low, dirty and unventilated and there were large open sewers surrounding them, the unobstructed contents of which kept accumulating and spreading and poisoning the atmosphere. A child had died there last week and from symptoms described to him **Mr. Firth** had no doubt it was from Asiatic Cholera.

A Juryman stated there had been another seized with Cholera in the same house.

The whole of the jury expressed themselves warmly on the matter. It was a disgrace to the town that such plague spots should be allowed to remain.

Richard Brindley was buried at Christ Church on 10th July 1849.

Elizabeth Briscall - Inquest reported on 18th August 1849

We regret to state that the disease has been on the increase since our last edition. On Saturday 2 inquests were held at the Town Hall on the bodies of persons who had died from its effects.

The first was **Elizabeth Briscall** sister of the police officer of that name, who resided with him in the Gutters.

Mr. Briscall deposed that on Friday night, about 9 o'clock, his sister was taken violently ill with sickness and relaxation of the bowels. She had been in generally good health, but within 4 or 5 days had suffered from diarrhoea, which had been relieved by a little brandy. He went for **Mr. Bland**, surgeon, to attend her.

Mr. Bland stated that he found the patient cold and livid with all the symptoms of Asiatic Cholera. He ordered small and repeated doses of opium, calomel and capsicum, with friction and mustard poultices for the cramp, which was very violent in the legs and thighs. At his second visit he found her relieved by the remedies, but a comatose state appeared to be setting in. He received a message respecting her state at midnight, and saw her early the next morning. She never rallied from the state of collapse and died in 12 hours.

Mr. Bland was confident it was Asiatic Cholera as he had treated the disease on its first appearance in this country.

Although the situation of the house where the deceased lived was an open and airy one, the neighbourhood abounded with putrified surface accumulations.

Mr. Bland also wished the jury to be aware that the disease was easily controllable if treated in the premonitory symptoms which always preceded it. His object in stating this was to make the fact as public as possible and to allay alarm.

A verdict in accordance with the evidence was then returned.

Elizabeth Briscall was buried at Christ Church on 12th August 1849.

Sarah Bracegirdle - Inquest reported 22nd September 1849

The only cases of Cholera this week were that of an Irishwoman who had recently come into the town and a widow named **Bracegirdle** aged 69 who lived in Park Lane. She was taken ill on Sunday evening and died the following morning.

Both cases were undoubted cases of Asiatic Cholera.

The district registrars of this town received yesterday, for the first time, a circular from the General Board of Health desiring them to send in a daily statement of the deaths in their districts from Cholera and diarrhoea.

Sarah Bracegirdle was buried at Christ Church on 4th September 1849.

NOTICE OF A DAY TO BE OBSERVED, IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE HAND OF GOD, IN THE VISITATION OF CHOLERA

BOROUGH OF MACCLESFIELD

In compliance with an application made to me by the Clergy and Dissenting Ministers of the Town and Neighbourhood, I give notice that the Different Churches and Chapels in the Town of Macclesfield will be Opened for Divine Service at the hour of Eleven a.m. and Seven p.m. on WEDNESDAY the 26th day of this month for the purpose of addressing special supplications to Almighty God for the Deliverance of the Country from the Visitation of Cholera.
I venture to hope that all persons will concur in this design of setting apart the day as much as possible for the purposes of Fasting and Humiliation before God, attending the Public Service themselves, and giving their dependents encouragement and opportunity to do the same.

FREDERICK LALLEMAND
Mayor
September 17 1849

DAY OF PUBLIC HUMILIATION

WEDNESDAY NEXT, September 26th 1849,
Having been fixed as a Day of Special Humiliation and Prayer, for the Borough of Macclesfield and neighbourhood, on account of the prevalence of Cholera in this country, We the undersigned, affectionately recommend the religious observance of it in BOLLINGTON, RAINOW, and SHRIGLEY.

BRABAZON LOWTHER	GEORGE PALMER
GEORGE HARRISON	JAMES SUMNER
G.L.WHITEHOUSE	W.R.ROGERS
THOMAS OLIVER	BROOKE & SWINDELLS
GEORGE SWINDELLS	JOHN BRIER

CHOLERA

The Mayor and Magistrates recommend to the public in general, and more especially to the poor, the following directions, as preventive measures of the Cholera:-

1st. Great benefit will be derived by the cleansing of dwellings, both internally and externally, white-washing &c

2nd. Thorough ventilation; chimneys in bedrooms should be unstopped; the windows left open in the day time and every apartment kept as airy and as dry as possible.

3rd. To allow of no sinks &c, close to the house; to admit of no live poultry or animals within the house; and to prevent the crowding of inmates. Should a member of the family fall sick, at once to separate the patient.

4th. Attention to personal cleanliness and warm clothing. Flannel should be worn next the skin, and a bandage of flannel round the body.

5th. Strict attention to diet is suggested. Meals should be neither too hearty, nor at long intervals. The diet should be solid rather than fluid; well cooked animal food, well baked (but not new) bread, rice, oatmeal and good potatoes. Every article of food, which is known to favour a relaxed state of the bowels, should be avoided, such as green vegetables, whether cooked or not, as cabbage, cucumber, salad &c. To abstain from fruit, pickles, salted and smoked meats, pork, fish, cider, ginger beer, sour liquors, and ardent spirits. One single act of drunkenness has been known to be followed by a speedy and fatal attack.

6th. All persons attacked with looseness of bowels are recommended to apply immediately for Medical Assistance, as in this stage of disease dangerous symptoms are easily prevented, whereas a few hours neglect often lead to a fatal result.

FREDERICK LALLEMAND, Mayor

Town Hall, September 21 1849

Sanitary State of Macclesfield 1850, as reported by a Government Inspector

Mr. Smith's Report, 15th June 1850, Macclesfield Courier. (extracts)

The population within the borough is taken at 34,709 and the average number of deaths in seven years amounts to 1156.9, being 33.33 per thousand. The mortality of the 17 townships adjoining Macclesfield is 16.4 per thousand ... there is every probability that by adopting proper sanitary measures, and removing the causes of such a fearful excess of mortality, the deaths in the town may be reduced to the same percentage as that of the country.

The average age of all who die in the borough is 24 years; in the rural districts it is 34 years. The average age of all who die above 21 years is 52 years and in the rural districts 56 years.

Thus each adult who dies in Macclesfield loses 4 years of useful working life.

Housing was cheaply built and shoddy and the town failed to extend adequately its piped water supply or provide sewerage and draining facilities of any sort for large areas of the town.

Housing. As in most other towns, cottage property is built in general without due regard to sewage or ventilation. Damp prevails to a great extent, generally from an obvious cause, such as an open sewer, or a dungstead touching the wall. At a street called Temple Bar I found a scene of squalid misery and wretchedness seldom seen in towns of moderate size. These half-sunk cellars were low-roofed, very damp and the back yards covered with water, become green from long standing, and quite covered with rubbish.

High Street and some adjacent streets in the Sutton district have the best finished cottage property, as a whole they are very cleanly kept, and look comfortable, but even here such property is without sewers of any kind. There are no model cottages in Macclesfield, which is to be regretted.

Water supply. The number of houses supplied with water by the Corporation is:

Macclesfield township - 3,287 houses supplied, 2,872 not supplied.
Sutton township (municipal) – 37 houses supplied, 1, 409 not supplied.
Hurdsfield township (municipal) – 248 houses supplied, 503 not supplied.

Corporation water was available in some areas from 5.30am to 4.30 pm, but in other areas for as little as 2 hours per day.

Ratepayers, previously hostile to expensive improvements, began to realize the hidden costs of illness and death; they were faced with their susceptibility to an agonizing death from cholera which thrived in the absence of good sanitation.

In 1852, following the Inspector's report, a local Board was set up, whose energy in cleaning, draining and sewering caused a fall in mortality from 33 to 25 per 1,000 by 1854, and a reduction in sickness, drunkenness and crime.

As a result, the two later cholera epidemics, in 1853/4 and 1866, were less deadly.

Sandbach News (5)

from the Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser, 6 November 1925

Co-operative Society's Fancy Dress Dance: the Prize Winners *- A fancy dress dance was held in the Senior Council School, Sandbach, on Friday evening, under the auspices of the Sandbach Co-operative Society. The proceedings opened with a varied entertainment to which* ***Mr McRoberts, Mr E Broadhurst, Mrs Cooke, Mr W Bowyer, Mrs Scragg, Miss Cullen, Mr Eric Mason, Miss Sherwin, Miss Adshead*** *and the members of the choir contributed.* ***Mr T Platt, J.P.****, presided.*

Many of the dancers did not appear in fancy dress but great originality was shown by many [who did]... The judges were ***Mrs Jackson, Mrs Flockton*** *and* ***Mrs S Wood****, and prizes were awarded to the following characters: 1.* ***Mrs Moses*** *(Autumn), 2* ***Mrs Martin*** *(Mother Hubbard).*

Fancy Dress: 1 ***Mrs Booth*** *(Golden Butterfly) 2* ***E Chadwick*** *(Persian Rug Dancer)*

Original Costume: 1 ***Miss Clough*** *(Safety First)*

Advertisements: 1 ***A Hampson*** *(Safety and Justice) 2* ***Mr L Cullen*** *(C.W.S. Jam and Marmalade) 3* ***Miss L Platt*** *(Bold Street Tea Shop)*

Juvenile Section: 1 ***T Hampson*** *(Indian Prince) 2* ***Irene Wassall*** *(Modern Pierrott) Consolation prizes,* ***Edna Heathcote*** *(Robin Hood),* ***Eric Wassall*** *(Gondolier)*

Other characters were: Chinaman, ***Mrs Dickenson****; Oriental Lady,* ***Miss E Dickenson****; Queen of Clubs,* ***Mrs Isherwood****; Superstition,* ***Miss N Bradley****; Pirate,* ***Miss Dalton****; Kate Greenaway,* ***Miss Bennett****; Picnic,* ***Miss Healey****; Folly,* ***Mrs Browning****; Dutch Girl,* ***Miss Booth****; Pom-pom,* ***Miss Hulme*** *and* ***Miss Coppenhall****; Japanese,* ***Mrs Hampson****; Jester,* ***Mr Sylvester****; Modern Egyptian,* ***Miss E Dickenson****; Dutch Boy,* ***W Booth****; Lucky Spot Dancers,* ***Miss Simcox*** *and* ***Mr S Harrison****. Music was by the Elworth Excelsior Orchestra.*

A Legitimate Question

By Gren Dix
Membership no. 4174

Some hundreds of years ago the word *bastard* was seen in the description of the illegitimate offspring of the aristocracy and talked about fairly openly. In fact the state of illegitimacy was legitimized (pardon the pun) with the use of the prefix *Fitz* as in Fitzgerald.

Moving on to parish records in the 18th and 19th centuries, I found four descriptions in the baptisms of illegitimate children. One of the least judgmental took the form

> *John, son of Mary Smith, spinster.*

A more common form is

> *John, illegitimate son of Mary Smith*

A variant of this is

> *John, illegitimate son of Mary Smith, reputed father George Jones*

I found an interesting document from the Quarter Sessions and corresponding Orders of 1777 for Lancashire. In summary, the Justices of the Peace judged that Henry PIMBLOTT was the reputed father of Joseph, bastard child of Betty SIXSMITH. Henry was ordered to pay £1 16s 4d, the amount thus far having been expended by the Overseers of the Poor for Betty's lying in and support for Joseph. They further ordered that he was to pay 10d per week while the child was chargeable to the township of Ashton.

NB in this document Betty is described as *otherwife*.

One of the most endearing baptism descriptions takes the form

> *John, chance child of Mary Smith*

Finally, the most shocking descriptions that I have seen is:

> *Benjamin, baptized 2 October 1802 at South Normanton, spurious son of Mary GENT.*

I would like to hear of any other variations readers have found.

Eric Arthur Rogers, Fleet Air Arm Pilot

by David Sewell
Membership no. 9185

It's surprising how easy it is to make assumptions when exploring family history. A name on the back of a photograph, a uniform, or even a vague description can lead us down the wrong path—or, as in this case, to an unexpected discovery.

I inherited a collection of documents and photographs from my uncle, Roland SEWELL, who emigrated to Canada after the Second World War. Among the items were three photographs of a young man in uniform. On the back of each was written the name *Eric Rogers*, accompanied by only the briefest of notes: *At home 1942*, *USA? Aug 1942*, and *circa 1943*.

For years, I assumed Eric ROGERS must have been related to my uncle's first wife, Hannah CONNOR. Hannah's mother had been born a ROGERS, and it seemed reasonable that my uncle might have been given photographs of his fiancée's cousin - especially as both Eric and Roland were apparently serving in the forces, Roland being with the RAF as a navigator.

But assumptions in family history can be dangerous. When I set about writing my uncle's life story, I found myself questioning once again: who exactly was this Eric ROGERS?

My first step was to see whether Eric was in fact related to Hannah CONNOR's family. After reaching out to another researcher who had worked extensively on the CONNOR line, I quickly hit a dead end. With that avenue closed, I turned my attention back to the photographs themselves. What uniform was Eric wearing? On closer inspection, it became clear that the insignia and style matched that of a pilot in the Royal Naval Fleet Air Arm. This small but crucial clue led me to a

specialist database devoted to Fleet Air Arm personnel of the Second World War (1) - and there he was: Eric Arthur ROGERS.

A search on Find My Past revealed more. Eric was from Bournbrook, Birmingham—the very same area where my uncle had lived before enlisting in the RAF. Turning to the 1939 Register, I made an unexpected discovery: both Eric ROGERS and Roland SEWELL had been employed as Public Assistance Clerks with Birmingham Council. This suggests that the two men had known each other well before the war, their friendship forged not just in uniform but in the offices of local government.

The story then took a poignant turn. Both the Fleet Air Arm database and Find My Past records revealed that Sub-Lieutenant (A) Eric Arthur ROGERS, RNVR, was killed on 13 January 1945. He had been serving in the Far East with 1833 Squadron aboard HMS *Illustrious*. While flying a Vought Corsair (serial number JT576), Eric's aircraft spun into the sea after a sharp turn during a landing circuit. His body was never recovered. He had been operational since July 1943, and by the time of his death was an experienced pilot. Tragically, the day he died was also his 23rd birthday.

The Royal Navy Research Archive (2) provides a vivid account of 1833 Squadron's operations, which gives valuable context to Eric's service and the dangerous conditions under which he flew. Reading these records, I could not help but imagine the impact this loss must have had on my uncle—knowing that a friend he had worked alongside in civilian life, and perhaps trained alongside in wartime, had been lost in such tragic circumstances. For Eric's family, the grief must have been compounded by the absence of a body to lay to rest.

That handful of photographs, once puzzling, now represent something more profound: a testimony to friendship, service, and sacrifice. They remind us how, in genealogy, the smallest clues—a name, a date, a uniform—can unlock stories that connect us not just to our families, but to the broader human experience of history.

References

1. Fleet Air Arm Database

https://aircrewremembered.com/RoyalNavyFleetAirArmDatabase/?q=Rogers&qand=&exc1=&exc2=&search_only=&search_type=exact

2. Royal Navy Research Archive
www.royalnavyresearcharchive.org.uk/SQUADRONS/1833_Squadron.htm

Net That Serf

The Computer Section

Compiled by Geoff Johnson

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

Contents

From the Desktop 56
Ending Support for Windows 10 56
The Infamous Win 11 Pressure 57
Using DNA to Find Great-Grandmother's Scottish Roots 59
Continuing to Delve Deeper into DNA 61
From the Inbox 62
Closing Snippet 63

From the Desktop

My thanks to Rosie and Margaret for stepping in to get the September issue out. Some of this issue's articles are therefore carried over from September. I've then gone on to focus a bit on the Windows 10 to 11 issue, and we have a couple of pieces on DNA successes. Please let me know if you want to enlarge on the Windows 11 issues.

Ending Support for Windows 10

From Gawsworth member Peter Ogden

I've not previously consulted you or other members of the computer group and this may not be something for inclusion in the FHSC journal, but I'm looking for some help and advice from those vastly more knowledgeable and experienced in computer matters than myself. In short, I'm seeking some advice, guidance, and/or recommendations for the replacement of my home PC kit, prior to the ending of support for Windows 10 this coming October.

My current kit – we have a small desktop set-up, and are looking to replace the entire set of kit, which is all quite old and currently includes:

An HP Tower, circa 15 years old, using Windows 10 OS and running Microsoft Office 2007, with a Wi-Fi 'dongle' plugged into the back of the tower to pick up the broadband router in the room next door. An AOC circa 23 ins Monitor (no camera), a Dell Keyboard, a wireless Logitech mouse, a pair of independent DELL speakers, and an Epson SX215 printer/scanner.

Our current usage/needs – whilst my wife and I both use the PC, I am the predominant user, utilising:

- Microsoft Outlook, Word, and Excel from the Office 2007 package.
- Online Internet reading, searching, and buying, some BBC iPlayer and YouTube, but not gaming or other film streaming.

Current recommendation/requirements – I previously had the benefit of a former IT work colleague and self-employed IT support but, unfortunately, he is no longer in the area. However, he confirms that this is an opportunity to replace all of my ageing kit with modern, compatible items, and his recommendations are based on suggested system requirements of a separate, but not integrated All-in-One, tower unit. No particular preference for the manufacturer, e.g. ASUS, or Lenovo. Intel Core i3 or i5 processor and built-in wireless card, an SSD of 512 GB and 8 or 16 RAM, and a Monitor with camera and speakers included.

I would propose to engage the services of a professional set-up service. In summary therefore it would seem that we do not need the most basic or the most expensive, but a Microsoft-based, not Apple Mac, system that meets our current usage needs. I have suggested a budget of maybe £750. Any help, advice or guidance would be very welcome.

GJ: I had a talk with Peter who's now found a helpful local guy who will help him set things up at home. I suggested that Peter looks at:

- Scan 3XS systems: they'll build to a configuration you want. *www.scan.co.uk/3xs/configurator/scan-home-intel*
- I'd suggest an i5 processor with a 1tb SSD to future-proof the kit
- Or alternatively that the Asus V500 range is worth reconnoitring.
- There's an ASUS 27" 1080P Video Conferencing Monitor with camera (BE279QFK)
- That he keeps his existing monitor, and pairs them up!

The Infamous Windows 11 Pressure

By Geoff Johnson

Peter's above letter caused me to raise the matter and briefly discuss it at October's Computer Club. I also enlarged there, what I was personally doing to overcome the problem.

Many members, other than Peter, have been expressing concern at the looming need to upgrade or replace their computer. The reason is quite simple from Microsoft's point of view; they want you to spend your money and buy a new computer using their software. But it is clear from conversations I'm having, that many people don't really have a good reason for wanting to do that.

Microsoft have now, at the last minute, offered to continue support for Windows 10, and some of you may well move in that direction. However, the best reason for replacing your computer is because you alone really feel that there is a need for improvement: improvement that would be to your own benefit.

I need to do just that. I've bought a new laptop as well as a replacement for my desktop system. Like its owner, my kit's getting a bit too old and a bit slow! The twelve-year-old laptop was fine, but its Wi-Fi connection card was unreliable and of a flaky, non-replaceable design. My desktop, heavily used for nine years, was becoming slower and fault-prone.

I was discussing at the Club the inevitable problems that arise when one makes a change to both new hardware and new software together. It needs planning, thought and care.

Firstly, I observe two or three important points to consider when buying a new device. Think ahead to what you might need over the next ten-year lifetime. Over-specify rather than scrimp on it just to save a few quid!

- the benefit of over-specifying the hard drive capacity - the new solid-state drives (SSD) are generally smaller than older disk drives because they are more expensive and because data is more often stored in the cloud these days
- the grade of central processor driving it: manufacturers are always trying to get rid of their old stock
- the amount of memory available: ever-more in demand by system upgrades

A hard drive of 512GB storage should be considered a minimum. If you can afford a little bit extra to have one terabyte (1024GB) you are unlikely to regret it. Better still, you can find systems that are a bit expandable, leaving space to add further SSD disks.

Look for processors from Intel at the i5 or i7 level rather than i3, or AMD Ryzen 7000 series.

I suggest you only consider systems with at least 16GB of memory.

Secondly, plan how you are going to set the device up when you've got it. It's not a five-minute job!

A key point that I always advise is to partition the hard drive (split it into two chunks). That gives you an extra SSD Drive in which you can store your own data. Then you can keep that data away from Microsoft. Microsoft have an idiosyncrasy of trying to manage what you do by interfering with your C: drive. They love to have you stuff all your data into a Documents folder, stuck within their control on the C: drive, along with all your programs and their data. They then know what you're doing all the time! By creating a D: drive, you provide yourself with a completely un-interfered with storage area.

I have split the 512GB drive in my new laptop into 150 GB for C: and 350 GB for D:. On the 1 Terabyte desktop, it's 165 GB for C: and 760 GB for D:. The laptop's C: drive is currently about half full, with all the Windows and basic programs already installed. Its usage will increase a bit as I add more programs, but experience tells me that my 150GB setting is going to be about right. The D: drive, which is already accommodating increasing data, is still sitting with only 10 GB of the 350 in use: more importantly, what's in there is 'mine'.

The User Interface

The Windows 11's user interface is significantly different from what you've been used to with Windows 10 or earlier. You are likely to find it quite frustrating. I personally install in my PCs a small piece of software called Start10 or Start11:

www.stardock.com/blog/523496/introducing-start11-v2

PCWorld suggests *Start11 solves Windows 11's worst Start menu and taskbar sins*. It will cost you £9.99 for one user with discounts for more and there is the inevitable 30-day free trial. I would recommend it. Other members use a similar and free version called *StartAllBack* which may help you: *www.startallback.com*

Please let me know if you would like help with partitioning your drives or other points raised here and I will try to write a more detailed piece in the March NTS.

Using DNA to Find Great-Grandmother's Scottish Roots

From Peter Smith, a regular Computer clubber in Newport

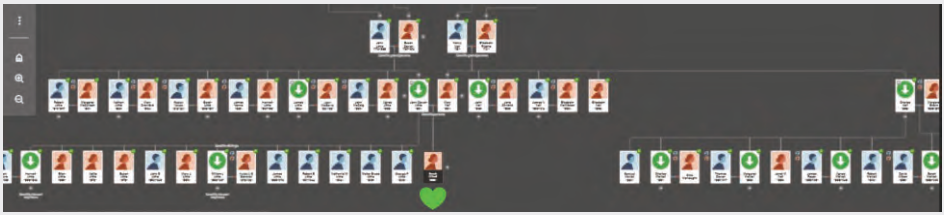
The birthplace of my great-grandmother Sarah ROBINSON is a mystery. She married my great-grandfather Henry DUKE in 1877 at Christ Church, Doncaster. On the marriage certificate Sarah stated she was single, living in Bennetthorpe, and that her father was a Labourer, named William ROBINSON. On the following

Census records, up to her death in 1915, Sarah was listed as having been born in Scotland, around 1855. Following years of research by both me and my Yorkshire cousins, Sarah has not been found prior to her marriage in 1877.

I and some of my cousins have taken DNA tests with Ancestry. On Ancestry I found we all had several DNA matches in the south-west corner of Dumfries and Galloway. I therefore decided to try using DNA to find Sarah's roots.

Firstly, I created a private non-searchable family tree on Ancestry. Then I used data from the trees of those Scottish DNA matches to slowly build up my own private tree. I needed to check each entry in the matched tree to confirm I was including accurate data, using both Ancestry and Scotland's People as the source.

I wanted to make this new tree as visually informative as possible. So, I used a downward facing green arrow against a person within the tree, to indicate where a DNA match could be found, as can be seen in the following diagram:

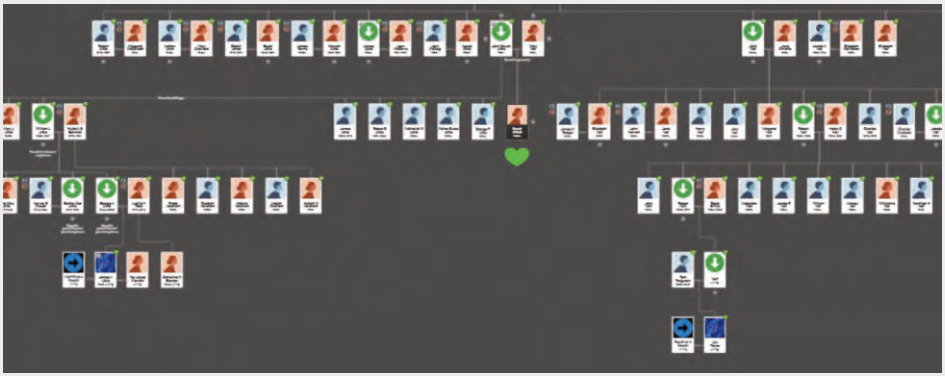


This was a revelation! You will see in the diagram that I have placed a heart under the person who I believe to be my great-grandmother, Sarah. To the left of her are matches that stem from the surname LITTLE. To the right are matches that stem from the surname NEIL (or O'NEIL, or McNEIL; depending on how that person's records were recorded). There was no commonality in DNA between the LITTLE family and the NEIL family, leaving the 'hearted' Sarah O'NEIL in the centre as a common point for my personal match. Sarah's father was John LITTLE, and her mother was Mary NEIL. Sarah O'NEIL was born in Sorbie in 1855 which matches the date on the census records for my great-grandmother.

Why the surname O'NEIL for Sarah and not LITTLE? Through records on Scotland's People, I found that Sarah's birth was outside of marriage, and the Kirk Session for 1854 (whilst her mother Mary was still pregnant with Sarah) named John LITTLE as the father. John LITTLE emigrated to Canada in 1856, following another illegitimate birth in 1856 in Sorbie. I believe William ROBINSON on Sarah's marriage record therefore to be her stepfather.

I included further visual clues in my private tree to help confirm the DNA match with Sarah O'NEIL. For each DNA matched person found, I made their profile image a picture of DNA. I also added a special person as their spouse, whose

profile image was a sideways blue arrow, naming that spouse against the match value, e.g., *Half-Third Cousin*. This can be seen in the following:



Now the hard work begins - trying to match records for Sarah O'NEIL against Sarah ROBINSON. So far, nothing has come to light, but I do have a strong contender of a William and Mary ROBINSON as parents. However, through various records found for them, and with unfortunate circumstances of dates, Sarah has not been shown to be with William and Mary ROBINSON. Also, that William and Mary ROBINSON never officially married! My Yorkshire cousins have access to my private tree, so that between us we can collaborate with the research needed.

Continuing to Delve Deeper into DNA

By Computer Club Committee member Paul Reeve

Following on from my notes in the March issue of the ANCESTOR, I have now managed to work through nearly all of my DNA results' shared matches. You may recall that in those notes I said that, in my Excel spreadsheet, I had included up to ten shared matches for each person. I later realised that this would be insufficient, so I changed it to twelve - and for those who have more than that, I added in one or more additional lines. These were colour coded with red text on a blue background to help distinguish them. We each have one group of shared matches where there are over 50 people in the list – and, of course, most of these have very similar matches with just one or two differences. This has rather added to the time taken on this exercise!

As those of you who have done an Ancestry DNA test probably know, only matches of 20cM and above are listed. I have managed to get through all those as far as 21cM in my own results, (with only 84 matches of 20cM to go!), and to 22cM in my wife's results – but with a huge 236 still to go through. It is a long

drawn-out process which cannot easily be simplified, but I have identified 63 of my results and 129 of my wifes; with whom we share a mutual common ancestor so far. I have therefore been able to add these matches to the groups (clusters) which I have set up for us. I have also added a new group (starting with "Z" so that it always appears last) which identified these matches. I suspect when I have a chance to work through the remaining matches, I will be able to add a few more to some of the groups.

During this exercise, I occasionally came across new or updated DNA matches, including my first one with over 100 shared cM. Typically, this match has no trees! Luckily, there is a mutual common ancestor there, and so I have been able to allocate the match to my direct paternal line. I have also realised that, due to Ancestry's insistence on using one of your groups which you can allocate people to as "starred ancestors", I cannot increase the groups to include 4 x great-grandparents; you need 64 groups for this. (Luckily, I realised this before I decided to allocate 1 group to those with a mutual common ancestor)

I am still trying to find time to make a meaningful comparison with the matches which My Heritage has shown. I know there are a fair number there who are also in my Ancestry matches. For now though, it's back to the Ancestry hints in my wife's DNA tree...

From the Inbox

Findmypast has added WORKSPACES to your account.

Computer Club Secretary Peter Rowley advises:

FMP has added Workspaces to the website to allow you to save newspaper clips and record transcripts without adding them to your tree. This allows you to make notes about your research, adding your thoughts alongside each item and so keep track of your research. To access this facility: log on to FMP > Click on *My Research* (in the top toolbar) > then select *Workspaces* (it currently has New in a blue highlight).

There is a help article which introduces Workspaces and shows ways in which they can be used, at *www.findmypast.co.uk/help/articles/28421175494557-how-do-i-use-workspaces* The article includes a link to a YouTube video which can be accessed directly on the YouTube FindMyPast channel at *www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5y1G438qrA*

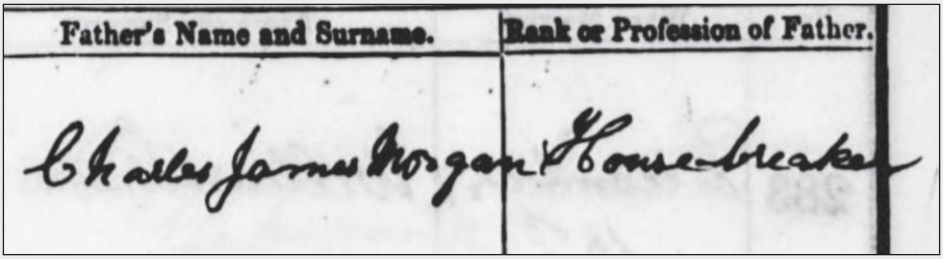
With the *Create new* button, you can create folders to organise your work however you'd like (this may be by project, by theme or by a specific research question you're trying to answer).

Personally, I think it is aimed at people who do not use family history software, but store their tree data online; as a regular user of OneNote and Evernote, it seems to be a duplication of effort.

Closing Snippet

From Peter Rowley

Found in a marriage entry for 1897 - was he known to the police?



In case you can't read it, it says:

Father's name: Charles James Morgan

Rank or Profession: Housebreaker

I rely on your input to keep this forum active, so keep the responses coming please – GJ

Sandbach News (6)

from the Crewe Chronicle, 5 December 1925

***Northwich Cricket Club** – In order to clear up a misunderstanding which appears to exist among some of the Northwich Cricket Club, the Sandbach representative of the Chronicle has interviewed the umpire, who, apparently, was the cause of the trouble. **Mr J H Scragg**, the umpire, said he had been acting as an umpire for 23 years... Never had he been subject to such conduct as in the last Northwich home match. Explaining, **Mr Scragg** said **A Dickinson** stepped out to a slow delivery and missed the ball completely. Before he could regain the crease, his stumps were brought down. **Mr Scragg** admitted that **Dickinson** was out of his crease at the time, but it was the method employed by the wicket keeper to obtain a decision that led to the batsman remaining. To this particular wicket keeper he would say: "Don't use knees for stumping purposes. The ball must be in the hand."*

Answers to the Cryptic Festive Song from page 29.

Cryptic Festive Song Answers

1. Santa Baby
2. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
3. Christmas Without You
4. Silent Night
5. Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
6. Joy to the World
7. It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year
8. Jingle Bell Rock
9. Mistletoe and Wine
10. Do You Hear What I Hear?
11. Frosty the Snowman
12. The Twelve Days of Christmas
13. All I Want for Christmas is You
14. It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas
15. All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth
16. White Christmas
17. While Shepherds Watched
18. O Little Town of Bethlehem
19. Driving Home for Christmas
20. Santa Claus is Coming to Town
21. Thank God it's Christmas (Queen)
22. God Rest You Merry Gentlemen
23. Little Donkey
24. Coventry Carol
25. We Three Kings of Orient Are
26. Sussex Carol
27. Good Christians All (Good Christian Men) Rejoice
28. Hark the Herald Angels Sing
29. Winter Wonderland
30. California Dreamin'
31. Do They Know it's Christmas?
32. Mary's Boy Child
33. Let it Snow
34. White Christmas
35. Ding Dong Merrily On High
36. In Dulci Jubilo

GROUP CONTACTS

ALSAGER GROUP
GC: Hazel & Peter Rugman
157 Sandbach Road North
Alsager
Cheshire ST7 2AX
Tel: 01270 876386
alsager@fhsc.org.uk

BEBINGTON GROUP
GL: Bob Wright
9 Lough Green
Bebington
Wirral CH63 9NH
Tel: 0151 334 6345
bebington@fhsc.org.uk

CHESTER GROUP
GL: David Guyton
Springfield
22 Lache Lane
Chester CH4 7LR
Tel: 01244 675978
chester@fhsc.org.uk

NOTE:
GL: Group Leader
AGL: Acting Group Leader
GC: Group Contact

COMPUTER GROUP
GL: Geoff Johnson
Garth Nook, Well Lane
Little Budworth
Tarporley CW6 9DA
Tel: 01829 760422
computerclub@fhsc.org.uk

CONGLETON GROUP
GL: David Smetham
Little Trees, Gawsworth Rd
Gawsworth
Macclesfield SK11 9RA
Tel: 01625 426173
congleton@fhsc.org.uk

CREWE & NANTWICH GROUP
GL: Margaret Spate
FHSC Crewe & Nantwich Group
Units 3 & 4, Brierley Business Centre
Mirion Street
Crewe CW1 2AP
crewe@fhsc.org.uk

MACCLESFIELD GROUP
GL: Dennis Whyte
29 Thirlmere
Macclesfield
SK11 7XY
Tel: 01625 617557
macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk

NORTHWICH GROUP
GL: Dave Thomas
1 Arley Court
Wrenbury Drive
Northwich CW9 8RX
Tel: 01606 46938
northwich@fhsc.org.uk

RUNCORN GROUP
GL: Sue Bowden
runcorn@fhsc.org.uk

SALE GROUP
GL: Angela Jenkinson
41 Keswick Road
Timperley WA15 7DU
Tel: 07970 174388
sale@fhsc.org.uk

JOINING THE SOCIETY

Non-members can join the society on our website. Go to *www.fhsc.org.uk* and click on the *Join FHSC* link on the left, below the login area. Alternatively, visit one of our research centres or group meetings, or contact the Membership Services Officer (contact details inside front cover), enclosing an SAE if writing by post.

Back cover photo: From L to R, (1) James Edwin Foden, son of William Foden; (2) William Foden, son of the founder Edwin Foden; (3) Reginald Gordon Foden, son of William Foden; (4) David Colville Foden, son of James Edwin Foden; (5) Hugh Foden, son of David Colville Foden. The vehicle is the *Pride of Edwin*, a 5-ton compound-engined machine now held by the Science Museum at their Wroughton store.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Street Maps: OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2017 and 2025

www.fhsc.org.uk

Elworth, near Sandbach

The Foden family, circa 1961 © David Bloor archives: CC BY-SA 3.0

Elworth, situated approximately one mile east of Sandbach, has evolved from a rural settlement into a vibrant community. Evidence of human habitation in the Elworth area dates to the Bronze Age, indicating a long-standing presence. Elworth is home to two notable churches: St. Peter's Anglican Church and Mount Pleasant Methodist Church. St. Peter's, designed by the renowned architect George Gilbert Scott, features a 15th-century tower. In February 2010, St. Peter's Church Hall, the village's former school, was significantly damaged by a fire. The rebuilt church hall officially re-opened in March 2012.

The industrial heritage of Elworth was exemplified by Foden's, a renowned manufacturer of heavy goods vehicles. This company played a pivotal role in the local economy and left an indelible mark on the village's industrial landscape, as well as the legacy of Foden's Brass Band. Elworth's connectivity improved with the opening of Sandbach railway station in 1842, located within the village. This station, on the Manchester and Birmingham Railway, facilitated travel and trade. The village also benefits from its proximity to the Trent and Mersey Canal, which runs to the southwest, enhancing its transportation network.

Today, Elworth boasts a vibrant community life, including Elworth Cricket Club, established in 1913, which is a testament to the village's sporting culture. Elworth is a thriving residential area within the Sandbach civil parish, with a population of 4,412 as at the 2011 census.

Printed by DXG Media Ltd *www.dxgmedia.com*
t. 07795 075 914 e. *steph@dxgmedia.com*