



ISLE OF WIGHT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



February 2025

Number 156

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Programme of Events Spring 2025

Date	Subject	Speaker
3rd March	Apprentices from the Workhouse	Jean THOMPSON
7th April	TBA	TBA
12th May	National Coastwatch	Jeremy THOMAS
2th June	AGM + TBA	TBA

For an up-to-date list of future events visit www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/events

Monthly Meetings are held (unless stated otherwise) at
Arreton Community Hall, Main Road, Arreton, Newport PO30 3AD

Doors open at 1:30pm talks start at 2:00pm

Admission members £2, non-members £3

2025 Calendar Year Subscriptions

Standard Membership (eJournal)	£8
Classic UK Membership	£16
Classic Rest of the World	£30

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The Isle of Wight Family History Society takes no responsibility for articles submitted to the Journal, nor does it necessarily agree with opinions expressed.

Authors are expected to have checked for factual accuracy and to have obtained the necessary permissions for lengthy quotations and the use of illustrations.

Editorial

Preserving the stories of our ancestors binds us to our roots and illuminates the path for future generations. As members of the Society we have the opportunity to contribute to this invaluable history. By sharing our research and discoveries, we honour the lives of those who came before us and can inspire others in their genealogical journeys. Your contributions to the Journal are not just articles; they are legacies in the making.

The theme for our One Day Conference (ODC) this year is 'Licensed Premises and Licensees'. The wheels are already in motion and we are planning to organise a workshop for volunteers who would like to be involved in research. The ODC will take place in the Autumn on the same weekend as a special lunch with which we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Society. Initial details are published in the pages below.

My huge appreciation to Peter SPENCER for his efforts as Journal Editor over many years and special thanks to those members whose articles appear in this issue.

Steve NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member 2189)

Journal Editor

journal.editor.iowfhs@gmail.com

Cover Picture

'The New Inn at Steeple' (Steeplehill IoW) by Thomas ROWLANDSON 1756 - 1827.

ROWLANDSON's first documented tour of the Isle of Wight was made in 1784.

The theme of our ODC in September this year is 'Licensed Premises and Licensees'.

For more information see [page 40](#)

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The deadline for the May Journal is 1st April 2025

Heritage Resource Centre

West Chapel,
Northwood Cemetery,
Newport Road,
Cowes PO31 7ER

Opening Times

Tuesdays 1 pm to 4 pm
Wednesdays 10 am to 1 pm

Please do not use this street address for correspondence

Email enquiries to research.iowfhs@gmail.com

We can also be available at other times by arrangement with the Librarian, Hazel PULLEN.

The Friends of Northwood Cemetery will have representatives on hand at other times during the week.

We are pleased to be part of the Heritage Resource Centre at the West Chapel, Northwood Cemetery.

Northwood Cemetery is a working cemetery, managed by the Isle of Wight Council Bereavement Services section. Priority is given to any funeral services and visitors should be respectful of the needs of people attending such services and other visitors to the grounds.

There is very limited parking at the Cemetery. Visitors **must not** use the nearby Medical Centre Car Park. The Park & Ride car park at Somerton is a few 100 metres away (one bus stop).

Southern Vectis bus service (Route 1) from Cowes Red Jet Terminal or Newport Bus Station stop at Cowes Medical Centre. Use the service showing '**Park & Ride**' which operates approximately every 15 minutes. Buses showing 'Round House' use a different route.

A DDA compliant toilet facility is available to visitors. We have facilities to copy, scan and print materials for personal use (subject to copyright restrictions).

The Heritage Resource Centre will be 'free to use' but donations towards our running costs and any materials will be welcomed.

Non-members will be asked to become temporary members (just a quick signature and a suggested minimum donation of £1 is all that is required) to enable us to offer access to privileged material available to our full members.

Chairman's and Webmaster's Report

Firstly let me say a big "Thank you" to our outgoing Journal Editor, Pete SPENCER, who has prepared our Journal and its indexes for more years than he may care to remember. We wish you well in your second retirement. He becomes an Honorary Vice-President as a result. And welcome to Steve NEWBERRY, who will put his own stamp on the Journal in years to come.

Any messages addressed to journal.editor.iowfhs@gmail.com will be picked up by Steve.

The past three months have seen the usual activities at the Heritage Resource Centre, plus a couple of workshop sessions run by Steve and Sharon BEDDARD which have been well received. If there are any specific areas of research you would like to explore in such a session, please let us know.

We continue to experience a problem common to many groups such as ours, in that our ageing demographic can sometimes be off putting for new and younger members. Any initiatives to widen our membership will be welcomed too!

Our programme for next year is taking shape, but once again I have to put out a plea for people to let us know of any speakers who might be of interest – have you seen a talk at another group or society, where the speaker might give us a talk also? – let us know. Hazel PULLEN is still putting together the programme with help from other committee members but as she and John PULLEN approach their ninth decade, can someone help out in this respect?

The theme for next year's conference (on Saturday 27 September 2025) will cover the general topic of '**Licensed Premises and Licensees.**' We are building up a set of related data for these, concentrating mainly on the people, and any anecdotes, press cuttings and photographs of publicans and their families are welcomed. Already we have received a great deal from Barry MURSELL related to the MURSELL clan, at least 6 branches of which were involved in the pub trade in the late 19th century into the mid-20th century.

We hope to run a volunteers' workshop for existing and potential volunteers who would like to help fill in the gaps – full training will be given – it involves research into Census, BMD and directories, other sources such as the many online “Pubs of the Isle of Wight” sites, and then filling in the gaps using shared Google work sheets.

Our 40th anniversary comes up next year, so we will be hosting an Anniversary lunch at the Lakeside Park Hotel on the Sunday following the Conference. More details will be found on [Page 36](#). If you would like to come, please get in touch with our Membership Secretary, Gerry NEWBERRY.

We have also decided to separate the AGM from the Conference, thus giving more time at the Conference for talks and viewing displays. The AGM will be held at Arreton Community Hall on 2 June 2025. Further details can be found on [Page 24](#).

In terms of web work, the main efforts have been in tidying up the menu choices, and in putting in place the structure to handle the Licensed Premises data, but as usual I have been doing my own bit in filling in gaps, especially related to my own interest in War Service Reports and War Memorials, including Island people named on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. Gary NEWMAN of the CWGC volunteers team has already helped with images of grave markers and memorials in places further afield such as Malta.

Geoff ALLAN (IWFHS Member 392)

Chairman and Webmaster

chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com

Membership Secretary's Report

Many thanks to you all for your cheery correspondence over the past year, along with Christmas good wishes accompanying payments which have been sent. It has been so nice to correspond with you all and I look forward to doing so again throughout 2025.

The Membership Information page and Self-Service User Guide are there to guide you through use of our website. We are keen to iron out any glitches which occur, so please let me know of any issues you may come across, giving as much detail as you can to point us to the area of difficulty.

A new payment option has been set up for those wishing to make a card payment. The IOW Family History Society Sumup store can be used for purchasing memberships, along with tickets for events. Here's the link: <https://isle-of-wight-family-history-society.sumupstore.com/products>

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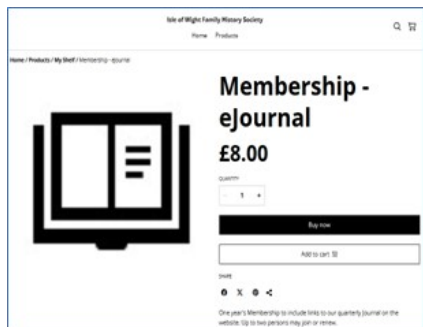
Membership - UK
£16.00

ODC Member ticket
£5.00

ODC Non Member ticket
£7.50

7

Paying by card is easy – select the item you wish to purchase:
Enter your name etc, then payment card details and you are done. You
will receive an e-mail acknowledgement of the payment.

A screenshot of the payment form titled 'Pay with Credit/Debit Card'. It includes fields for 'Name on card', 'Card number', 'Expiration date', and 'Security code'. There is a 'Billing' section with a checkbox for 'Add billing information'. The form is styled with a light blue border and includes Visa and Mastercard logos at the top.

Thanks go to all prompt membership renewals - this makes it so much easier. Also thanks to those members who have included donations which will contribute to the success of our Society over the coming year.

A reminder to members regarding our new subscription rates which changed from 1st January 2022 – please ensure that you have cancelled any recurring PayPal payments which now do not cover the subscription fee. I'm happy to take any queries about making payments.

My good wishes to you all for the coming year and I look forward to meeting many of you at this year's AGM, One Day Conference or Anniversary Lunch.

Gerry NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member 2189)

Membership Secretary

membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com



From the Desk in Westward Ho!

Firstly, I would like to thank Peter SPENCER for his many years at the helm of this journal and to welcome Steve to his new role. I know from personal experience that 'editing' a journal often means frantically dredging up articles from nowhere and writing them. Please do support Steve by sending in journal items.

Although I have no Isle of Wight ancestry, it is surprising how often my research links back to the Island. Many of you will know that I am part of the team behind A Few Forgotten Women

www.fewforgottenwomen.com, who seek to preserve the stories of women who might otherwise be forgotten. We regularly hold collaborative research days, when about fifty volunteers investigate the lives of women from a particular institution or dataset. Recently, we were looking at those who were found in refuges for fallen women and I was allocated staff member Fanny Sophia AUSTEN.

Fanny had been born in Ryde in 1821 and can be found in the 1871 census, residing in The House of Mercy Magdalen Home, Toldish Hall Road, Great Maplestead, Essex. The home had been established in 1868 under the auspices of the Diocese of Rochester and at this time was staffed by members of the religious order The Sisters of the Name of Jesus. Fanny, listed as an assistant sister, was one of three sisters, who, along with the lady superior, appear to be staffing the home, with the aid of a cook. It seems that The Sisters of the Name of Jesus was a Catholic order, yet Fanny's family contained several Anglican clergyman and there is no other suggestion in her life story that Fanny was a Catholic, or took religious vows. I won't tell you the whole story here, because you can read it for yourself on the website but it turned out that she was the niece of the author Jane AUSTEN.

One of my 'editing' jobs is a newsletter for the local history group for the village of Buckland Brewer in Devon, where I used to live. This is definitely a 'for *edit*, read *write*' task and in an attempt to find a long

running series, I decided to see what I could find out about the vicars of the parish. One such was Robert LUCK(E) who was the incumbent from 1744-1749. He had been born on 10 June 1674 in Newport, Isle of Wight, the son of Thomas 'a gentleman'.

He attended Christ Church Oxford, matriculating in 1692 and then gaining a BA and MA. He became the master of a school in Barnstaple, Devon in 1699 and the vicar of nearby North Down in 1713. He is probably the Robert LUCK who married Mary MEDFORD in 1700 and then Mary LEE in Barnstaple in 1720. They do not appear to have had any children. A Reverend Robert LUCK of West Down subscribed to a book of sermons in 1748. Robert died in 1749 but no burial record has been found. It seems likely he was one of several Buckland Brewer vicars who held more than one living and left the care of the parish in the hands of a curate.

Janet FEW (IWFHS Member 50)

Vice-President

ifewhistory@gmail.com

Revitalising Newport Minster

A Talk given to the Society on 2nd September 2024

A sixteen-year project came to an end in the early summer of 2024 when Newport Minster was re-opened to the public after the final phase of a £2.6 million project was completed.

The most recent phase of works has involved repairing the external stonework and replacing the roof. Internally the floor has been lifted to repair issues with subsidence. Underfloor heating and new radiators have been installed. New kitchen and meeting pods have been built and new accessible toilet facilities have been constructed to help make this a multipurpose, accessible space for church and community use.

As the work progressed, Archaeologist Ruth WALLER who conducted the watching brief discovered an unexpected clergyman, a time capsule from the 1960s and the colours of the Bombay fusiliers as well as a huge number of oyster shells and some German drinking vessels amongst other things!



The building is open again for Sunday services, week day mornings visitors are welcomed to explore the building, take a moments reflection or grab a coffee with friends. Evenings see various events, activities and performances. The Minster is open to everyone and it is hoped that this work will make the building fit to tackle the next 1000 years of its history.



To find out more about worship or visiting the Minster¹ please visit our website <https://newportminster.org/> or follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NewportMinster/>

Hannah GRIFFITHS (non-member)
Community Engagement Coordinator - Newport Minster

¹ Newport Minster will be the location for the Society's One Day Conference on Saturday 27th September. See [Page 12](#)

SAVE THE DATE

ONE DAY CONFERENCE, SATURDAY 27TH SEPT 2025



Newport Minster, Church of Saints Thomas, St Thomas' Square, Newport PO30 1SL

This year's One Day Conference will be held in Newport Minster. Recently refurbished, it is a well-used venue for conferences and exhibitions. With display space and a modern café, we have already exhibited there at a Heritage Day in September 2024. More details and booking information in May and August Journals 2025.

Proof Reading

We have recently lost the services of two of our best Journal proofreaders and are looking for volunteers willing to join the team as their replacements. Journals are published quarterly and a draft is circulated in advance to be scrutinised, corrected and approved by the proofreaders. Their comments help eliminate errors and inconsistencies, enhancing the readability and professionalism of the content. If you feel you could help, please contact me.

Steve NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member 2189)
Journal Editor
journal.editor.iowfhs@gmail.com

The Auxiliary Units of the Home Guard

For our talk in October 2024, Sam BILES delivered a talk on the Auxiliary Units on the Isle of Wight during WW2 and the involvement of his grandfather, Harold BILES.

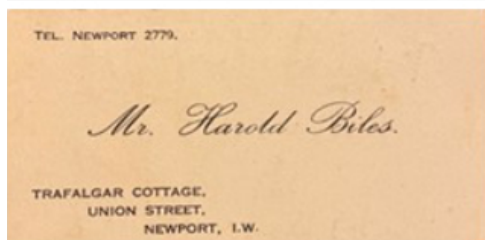
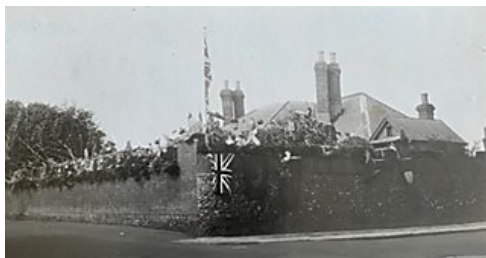
These highly secret units were set up around the time of the Fall of France when the threat of invasion was high. There were around 15 patrols on the Island made up of 5-7 men who, in the event of a German invasion, were to disappear into pre-prepared underground bunkers from which they would emerge to cause havoc amongst the occupying forces.

Highly-trained and well-equipped these Auxiliers would assassinate British collaborators and enemy soldiers, sabotage infrastructure and equipment and generally disrupt supply lines. They would also gather information which would be relayed via secret radio networks to British HQ Home Forces on the mainland. With

a life expectancy of 1-2 weeks these men, mainly made up of farmers and countrymen, would have put their lives on the line and those of their family. Sworn to secrecy and not officially recognised at the War's end, many took their secrets to the grave.



Harold BILES 1898-1961



Sam has collected documents, photographs, stories and rumours to put together an interesting presentation on his secret aspect of the Island's wartime history.

Although many of the names of the men who were Auxiliers are not known, Sam also presented this photograph of a group of men from Group 10 (203rd C.H.Q.) Bn. at their stand down ceremony in 1944, outside the Sun Inn in Wellow. We do have some biographical information on some of these men, but any further information from family members would be welcomed.



The overall commander for the West Wight units was Lieut. James Thomas WOODFORD (1905-1988), of Brighstone, while his second in command was 2/Lieut. Charles Warne BURT (1902-1953) of Shalfleet. Both were dairy farmers.

There is a nationwide group of researchers (Coleshill Auxiliary Research Team) whose website may be of interest:

www.staybehinds.com

Sam BILES (non-member)
with additional comments from Geoff ALLAN (IWFHS Member 392)
Chairman and Webmaster
chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com

How did I get here ?????

A Talk given to the Society on 4th November 2024

We as a family came to the Island in 1981, some 43 years ago. This was after John at the age of 35 decided he didn't want to work for Rolls Royce as a toolmaker any more. There was at that time always the threats of redundancies, so he made his application to join the Prison Service. "We are going to the Isle of Wight", he informed me when he had completed his training. I think my reply at the time was "Where is that?"

We arrived with 2 young children aged 7 and 9 and I had the feeling that after Bristol and the outlying Cribbs Causeway shopping and retail park, the Island was still in the era of the 1950's. "Where is the best supermarket?" was my first question. "Oh, a Gateways at the top end of the High Street opposite Woolworths". "Is there a car park" was my next question. The answer to that was "No".

Later, I was in Ralphs at the top of the High Street. The lad who was working there was asked to go round to a local old lady to check if she was OK as she had not been into the shop for her two slices of ham that day! Service like that is not to be had these days with our busy lives and rush rush everywhere.

My daughter at the time had been doing some gymnastics in Bristol and I asked about clubs on the Island. "There is the Wight Flyers who work on trampolines in Ryde". I already had the Island's way with words with my reply to that; "What, all the way to Ryde???" I soon settled into a much quieter way of life and have never looked back.

My younger brother had started working on the family tree which was the FITZJOHNS, so my thinking was "Let's have a go at this" and delve into the PULLEN line who were born in Bristol...and here I am 40 years later.

I didn't need to join the IOW Family History Society as I had no Island family then, only Bristolians from John's side of the family and my London roots which my brother had done a lot with. I took myself along to the Church of the Latter-Day Saints in Newport.

With my friend Valerie, we started researching our respective families. Off we went every Tuesday evening. I had actually met Richard SMOUT

at the Gloucester records office where he had worked previously before coming to the Island himself. This was when I was on one of my forays into that area of the country that John's family had inhabited. Full of hope and expectation, we did find a lot about our relevant families. In fact, in 1994 I produced a booklet that I gave to family members, setting out what I had learned. I titled this booklet 'The Pullen Family Tree' and the opening paragraph read:

'This is June 1994 and we are away on holiday in our motor van. During this holiday away from the kids and the phone (mobiles were in their infancy), it is my intention to compile a history as far as I can of the PULLEN family. The data for this I have collected over the last few years along with information that I have collected from family members.'

Here is one of Abraham PULLEN, John's Great Grandfather.



No Ancestry, no Find my Past.
Where was I going to go next?

Now, fast forward to a new century. I have a granddaughter soon to be 18 having just passed her driving test and taking her A-Levels.

I joined the Isle of Wight Family History Society and booked my place at the records office in Newport; what was I going to find? My first true Islander was my son-in-law's mother Joan and her mother Laura BREWER born with her twin sister Bertha in 1908.

Annie BREWER their mother and Charles GUSTAR said on the 1911 census that they had been married for 6 years. I have yet to find this marriage on any records that are now available to us all. They were at the time living at No 2, Blackhouse Quay, Newport from where Charles worked as a mariner.

Charles was born on the 24th June 1876. He was the son of George GUSTAR and Mary Ann CASS; he died at the age of 38 in February 1914. Charles was a River Mariner and General Carrier of goods to and from Newport and Cowes. On this census they also have Annie's

brother Jack BREWER living in the house at Blackhouse Quay and Daisy, a stepdaughter, is also mentioned.

I asked Sharon if she would check for me what happened in between these census records because Annie appears to have had a child in 1893 on the Island. This was Daisy BREWER, only registered as a BREWER, no other surnames. She is the stepdaughter mentioned on the 1911 census.

Annie had already had this child called Daisy BREWER born in 1893 and with the help of my friend Sharon she was able to confirm that Annie at the age of 23 took Mr Berman DEFRIES to court. He had to pay 5 shillings a week for the child which had been conceived whilst Annie was in his employment at his home in Willesden, Middlesex. This payment was to continue until the child reached the age of 14 years. The next child in line was Lillian who was born in 1906. Lillian was marked as Lillian Gustar BREWERE, a strange middle name, do you think? Laura and her sister Bertha were both born in 1908 with again no other surname on the register and it was only the last son Victor Charles GUSTAR who had the name of GUSTAR. From our website; Daisy, Laura, Bertha and Kathleen, who was born in 1912, all had blanks by their names, so no father's surname and certainly not Charles GUSTAR.

I tried very hard to research Kathleen Eva BREWER; no marriage or death on our website or the BMDs. The only mention of a Kathleen Eva BREWERE was strangely in Bristol with her death in 1990 under the same name Kathleen Eva BREWER. I will leave a question mark under that one to research later on.

Daisy, the illegitimate daughter of Annie who was born in 1893, later married Albert John GREEN in the registry office in Newport in 1914. He later became the Landlord of the Grapes Hotel at 30 Sun Hill, later to become Rawlings Hotel. They appear together on the 1939 register at this address. This is such a useful resource. It was the records that were used to create our NHS numbers in 1948 and was still in use until 1970 for various records.

Certificates show that Charles GUSTAR, a Mariner and General Carrier, had married a Sarah Jane BROWN in May of 1898. He was 22 and Sarah was 19. They gave the same address on their

marriage as Fairlee Road, Newport, with both of the fathers deceased. He would appear to have carried on his relationship with his wife Sarah Jane, having a child in September of 1910 called Charles Andrew GUSTAR whilst still in his relationship with Annie BREWER.

It is worth doing a time line for these people. You then get a good indication of where they are living, how close the addresses were and if they knew of each other's family.

By the 1891 Census, Charles at the age of 14 is an errand boy living in Pyle Street with Annie now 21 living as a domestic servant in Clarence House, Willesden, Middlesex with Mr Berman DEFRIES and his sister.

John BREWER and Ann MUNDELL. John was born in 1838 in Newport and died in the workhouse in 1917 at the age of 79. He had been there since the 1911 census, a widower and inmate of the Newport workhouse. Prior to this they had addresses in St Cross Lane, Chain Lane, Barton Village, Little London then finally the workhouse. He does not appear with his wife on the Island census again. His wife Ann MUNDELL had died in 1895.

At 15 years of age Anne MUNDELL is a servant to Frederick and Eliza MEW in Crocker Street, Newport. She married John BREWER in 1866. The children from this marriage were John William, Annie, Henry Dean, George, Charlotte Ann and Joseph. They took in lodgers at this time and this shows on the 1871 census when they had John and Annie WILLIAMS living with them. They went onto have 5 children.

They were all living, as was the case, very close to the Brewery and the River, with all the shipping that was taking place. Lots of mariners; John, Henry Dean, Joseph and Jack to name but a few.

John's parents were next in line with a brewer's labourer this time by the name of Joseph born in Newport in 1803 who married Jane LEIGH in 1833. 8 children from this marriage and again Crocker Street and Chain Lane given as the addresses that they lived in. The first child from this marriage Fanny Jane BREWER was a needlewoman. Her brother Joseph was a labourer at the cement works just along the River Medina.

With the help of our website, I have been able to get much further back with what I can now claim as my Island relatives.

Joseph BREWER was the son of another Joseph and an Ann SELSBY. This takes me back to the birth of Joseph in 1763 and the marriage to Ann SELSBY in Newport in 1788. Another big family of some 7 children.

One more generation with another Joseph and a possible birth date of 1737/38 and a marriage to Ann PRICE in 1766; a little late for the birth of the first child Joseph in 1763. But who can tell what was going on then? Another item for me to look further into.

Charles GUSTAR's parents were George GUSTAR and Mary Ann CASS. He was marked as a Mason's Labourer and an Army Reservist. They married in St John's in Newport in 1863 at this time in the parish of Carisbrook although in the middle of Newport in St John's Road, just up from Node Hill School. They went on to have 8 children.

I try to use the Family Record Sheets which helps put people into families, obviously, but also allows me to add marriages and dates and death dates. With also the census dates and when they appear or do not appear.

As on this one George Henry, son of George born in 1868, marries in Canada in the Garrison church there in 1924 having disappeared from the relevant census records. A lot of our Islanders went to Canada in search of a better life. Arthur, his brother, marries in Gibraltar having disappeared from the 1901 Census, but appears marrying Emma MOBERLY in 1899.

Going back a further generation, I have James GUSTARD, his father and Sarah COX. Note the GUSTARD name not just GUSTAR. Depends on how you say it to the census enumerator that called each spring to collect all the information about your household.

The couple appear on the census for The Marsh, Newport in 1841 and also in 1851. By the time of the 1861 Census, they have moved to Cross Street in Newport. On the 1871 and 1881 census they appear again in Newport at 11 Chapel Street to be exact. He said all through his working life that he was a farm labourer.

Let me finish on a funny note. My brother loves old newspapers and very kindly found a note about our 3 times great grandad from the Bucks Herald dated 1859 from the British Library Newspapers archives.

John FITZJOHN was very drunk and was charged with this and brought into custody.

The Bench: You are charged with being very drunk.

FITZJOHN: I was not drunk sir, I only had four pints and that was from a very bad brewery.

Constable JENNINGS: Last evening at about half past eight I saw the prisoner in the street creating a great disturbance. I went up to him and asked him to go home. He refused saying he was on the King's Highway and would go home when he wanted to. I tried again to persuade him but he would not so I took him into custody.

The Chairman: Was he creating a disturbance at the time?

Constable JENNINGS: He was and making use of very bad language.

FITZJOHN: I was not drunk neither was I making a disturbance. I was only talking to the people and they laughed at me and if the policeman done his duty he would have taken me home.

The Chairman; You are fined 5s.

FITZJOHN: I shan't pay. I have no money.

Constable JENNINGS then informed the bench that when at the police station he was searched, 5s was found on his person.

Hazel PULLEN (IWFHS Member 2650)

Librarian

librarian.iowfhs@gmail.com

Old Gurnard

Geoff ALLAN, at the December meeting in Arreton, gave a presentation based on the late Charlie TAYLOR's own slide show which we believe he gave in November 2011.

Consisting mainly of copies of old postcards, plus some older and newer material, the history of Gurnard is concentrated mainly on its relationship with the sea. Gurnard is, of course, the name of a fish, although whether the village was named after the fish or vice versa, who can tell?

There is evidence of a Roman settlement (now lost to the sea, excavated in the 1860s) near Gurnard, with Rew Street taking the course of a Roman Road to meet the south coast of the Island. During the medieval period, a map drawn up by Lord William Cecil BURGHLEY (spymaster to Elizabeth I), possibly for the CHEEK family, shows a church labelled GURNER on the shoreline – was there ever such a church or chapel there?

The majority of the development of Gurnard itself, from a tiny fishing hamlet to the sailing and tourist centre it is today, took place towards the latter part of the 19th century, and was well documented by photographers who turned their images into postcards.



Major roads such as Worsley Road and Solent View Road established links between the higher parts of the village, where the hotel, shops and church were located, with shoreline features such as the marshes and the Gurnaries. The marshes were used as rifle butts, training mostly volunteers who later became regular soldiers, or members of the Territorial Forces. The Gurnaries were an early commercial attempt to capitalize on sea bathing with ramshackle huts built to let out to holiday makers – these huts have developed into the tangle of properties which now cluster on the banks above the Sailing Club. Some names associated with these developments are CLARKE and ELLIS, but there is little documentary evidence about these proprietors of beach huts and tea rooms respectively.

An ancient feature appears in one photo – the sheep dip in the sea at the marshes. Charlie quotes from someone “Before my father died I had a small school at Gurnard ... this picture was taken of some of my pupils, including Margaret HARRISON, and girls named Mada and Faith.” Unfortunately these girls have not been identified positively. In 1911 the assistant schoolmaster for the Education Committee was Charles JACKMAN (born 1883 in Tavistock, Devon) – we don’t know if this was the person making the quote, who may just have been a private teacher.

As is typical of many villages, life centered around the church and pub – in this case the Gurnard Hotel. We have photographs showing the Bowling Club which had a green behind the Hotel – but no names!



Contemporary newspaper reports give details of committee and other members, so some further research could be undertaken to expand on this thread. A nice photograph of WW I peace celebrations shows a group of mostly boys in front of an enormous bonfire which presumably was lit to mark the end of the War. Again no names are given, but of the dozen or so Gurnard residents who served, either in the forces or as members of the Voluntary Aid Detachment, we know of three who died – these being Gordon Clarence John COLENUTT, William Cornelius HAWKINS, and Maurice Edgar LUCAS.

Coming further up to date, the village shop's window display appears to show the portraits of the late Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip – presumably at the time of her Coronation in 1953.

A further two sets of images document the holiday camps in the



neighbourhood – Gurnard Pines and Gurnard Heights, mainly from the 1930s to the 1960s. Gurnard Heights was swallowed up by the Woodvale estate developed post WW II, but Gurnard Pines still exists in a slightly different form as holiday chalets.

We have made the full presentation available as a PDF (39 Mb) with a copy of the presenter's notes (you can see these if you open the file in Adobe) and this can be downloaded with this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/rkzyh5vn>

If you can help put names to any of the people portrayed, please let us know.

Geoff ALLAN (IWFHS Member 392)

Chairman and Webmaster

chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com

With Acknowledgments to the late Charlie TAYLOR, plus suppliers of the images originally given to Charlie, plus images "lifted" from eBay auction listings.

Annual General Meeting 2025

Notice is hereby given for Members to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Isle of Wight Family History Society.

Monday 2nd June 2025 at 1:30pm

at Arreton Community Hall, Main Road, Arreton, Isle of Wight, PO30 3AD

Agenda

- Minutes of AGM 2024 to be agreed
- Chairman's Report for 2024
- Treasurer's Report for 2024
- Nomination for President¹ 2025-28:
- Nominations for Officers and Committee Members²

Chairman:	Geoff Allan
Vice-Chair:	vacant
Programme Secretary:	vacant
Secretary:	Gill Glasbey
Treasurer:	Claire Willis
Membership Secretary:	Gerry Newberry
Systems and Pedigree Index:	Mike Hoar
Research Officer:	Sharon Beddard
Journal Editor:	Steve Newberry ³
HRC Liaison:	John Pullen
Librarian:	Hazel Pullen

An online voting system for election of officers and committee members will be provided as well as taking votes at the AGM.

Any further Proposals or Nominations of other Members for the above positions should be forwarded to the Chairman by 1st March 2025.

¹ Jon Matthews' term as President will complete in May 2025

² All but one of the 2024 holders have agreed to stand again although Hazel Pullen requested in 2023 that she stand down as Vice-Chair and Programme Secretary and no replacements have since been appointed

³ Steve Newberry was co-opted during 2024 replacing Pete Spencer who has retired

Annual General Meeting 2025

The Annual General Meeting of the Isle of Wight Family History Society
will take place on Monday 2nd June 2025 at 1:30pm at the
Arreton Community Hall, Main Road, Arreton, PO30 3AD

Please accept this as the required notice to members of the AGM

Nominations for Committee members (their specific roles are currently allocated at the Committee meeting to be held in June - not at the AGM) and Motions for the meeting are invited from all members and should be returned direct to the Chairman:

Mr Geoffrey Allan, Apartment 3, Sandbanks, Esplanade, Sandown,
Isle of Wight PO36 8DW **no later than 19th May 2025.**

I wish to nominate:

Membership no:

PROPOSER

Membership no:

SECONDER

Membership no:

Please ensure that your nominee is willing to stand

I wish to propose that:

--

PROPOSER

Membership no:

SECONDER

Membership no:

Volunteers, we need you

Can you help?

We are in great need of volunteers to help with various tasks either on the committee or otherwise. You could live on the Island or the mainland, and in some cases even overseas.

What skills do you have? Can you talk to people?...if so come and help in our Heritage Resource Centre, only one or two sessions a week or even just cover when we are away on our holidays.

Are you good with computers? We could do with help sorting some of the databases that make their way onto our website, of which we are very proud.

We also need some help with some of the transcriptions that are in our library waiting to be put into shape and then these can then be added to our vast list of things available for our members to access.

Perhaps you can give a talk in front of our members who attend our regular monthly meetings held in Arreton Village Hall? These obviously need to be Island based with stories of the past or even your own family trees, how you got the information and in what format do you keep it.

As a society like all others that you may belong to, we need your input and help in many forms whichever and whenever you can give it.

We are working on many current projects, these include, War Service Reports, Charlie TAYLOR's huge family tree project, Military Tribunals, Sharon's pet project at the moment which will include illegitimate children and the court cases that resulted in articles in the papers. The Municipal Cemeteries in Sandown, Shanklin, Ventnor and Wroxall.

We will of course provide training if needed and with help offered at all times.

Come along we are a friendly group, but we do need your input with ideas and suggestions of the way we need to go in the future in this fast paced world in which we all live.

Hazel PULLEN (IWFHS Member 2650)

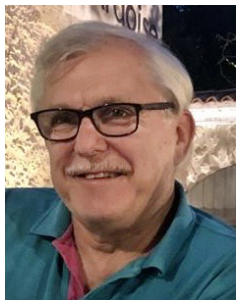
Librarian

librarian.iowfhs@gmail.com



Di Harding Award Winners 2024

At the Annual General Meeting held in May 2009 it was agreed that, in order to perpetuate the name of Di HARDING (1950-2008), a stalwart of the IWFHS, an award would be given annually to the authors of the best three articles submitted by members and published in the Journal.



Anthony LAVERS (IWFHS Member 6282) wins 3 years' free subscription for his article 'From the Isle of Wight to the USA - LAVERS Emigrants' which was published on page 35 of the November Journal.



Steve STOTESBURY (IWFHS Member 3664) wins 2 years' free subscription for his article 'Unravelling the Identity of William SALTER's Families' which was published on page 19 of the May Journal.



Tony EWEN (IWFHS Member 34) wins a year's free subscription for his article 'Story of the ODELL and MEW Families of Barton Village' which was published on page 27 of the November Journal.

Steve NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member 2189)

Journal Editor

journal.editor.iowfhs@gmail.com

Female Ancestors

Tracing your female ancestor in the 18th century records can be difficult. Proving what you have found can be impossible until genealogical DNA came along to help.

Colin CHAPMAN said one in four baptisms never got into the Church of England registers. I would like to add that some that did were not always correctly entered. For example, my 3x great grandmother, Sophia MOSES, who married John LOVEGOD in St. Lawrence in 1801, does not appear in the baptisms of IOW parish registers.

However, Sarah MOSES was baptised in Godshill on 9 June 1782. She was the daughter of Richard and Dinah MOSES. The previous entry was for Sarah, daughter of Robert and Mary ROLF. I think the parish clerk made a mistake in the given name, copying the previous entry. Because when Sophia MOSES married, Richard MOSES witnessed the wedding.

I tried to double check this. Richard MOSES of Chale and Dinah MARCH of Godshill were married at Godshill on 15 October 1781. Richard signed the register with a very shaky hand while Dinah made her mark. Richard MOSES' signature on his marriage entry and his signature on Sophia's marriage entry as a witness are nearly identical. But that was as far as I could prove her parentage.

Richard and Dinah MOSES had six more children baptised, including Anne in 1784 (Godshill), William 1786 (Whitwell), James 1788 (Whitwell), John 1793 (Godshill), Jane 1795 (Godshill) and George 1800 (Godshill).

Looking for Dinah MARCH's baptism, I found none, but the Godshill burial register says Dinah MOSES, wife of Richard MOSES, aged 46, was buried 27 May 1809. Yet her memorial inscription in Godshill churchyard reads "Diana Moses, daughter of William and Mary Marsh, died May 1809, aged 46," and on the same stone "Ann, wife of Elias Lambert of West Cowes, died 31 Dec. 1814, aged 30." Ann MOSES had married Elias LAMBERT in 1802, so she was buried with her mother. Thus, Dinah or Diana was married as Dinah MARCH and buried as Diana MOSES, daughter of William and Mary MARSH. I'm convinced that this was my 4x great grandmother.

From this point, things get murky. William MARCH, the father of Dinah, was baptized in Newchurch on 13 Nov. 1739, the son of William and Elizabeth MARCH. William MARCH of Wroxell(sic), (a small village in Newchurch) named William MARCH as his son in his will signed on 25 Apr. 1752. He was buried at Bonchurch on 16 Dec. 1798. This was my 5x great grandfather.

The marriage of William MARCH to Mary does not appear in the Consolidated Index of IOW Parish Registers, and thus, I cannot find her maiden name. But given that Dinah was born about 1763, the marriage probably took place that year or in 1762. Mary MARCH, wife of William, was buried at Bonchurch on 30 Mar. 1785, which supports the connection — a little.

William MARCH (1698-1752), the father of William and grandfather of Dinah, was baptised on 25 October 1698 at Newchurch. He was the son of another William MARCH, but the mother wasn't named as was fairly common at the time.

Calling her only "my loving wife" without giving her a name, William MARCH left everything to her when he died in 1752. It was her mother-in-law, Mary Smith MARCH, who named Elizabeth in her will as the wife of William. Elizabeth inherited the farms called Wm. Marches, Thos. Snuddens, Late Cottons. Only after her decease, according to the will, would they pass to the sons, who probably occupied and worked the farms for their mother and made their living from them.

With this William, I finally got back to yet another William MARCH whose baptism is not recorded, but he married Mary SMITH on 31 October 1695 at Newport. This William was buried on 24 October 1743 at Newport. This William MARCH and Mary SMITH had eleven children but only four survived to adulthood:

William (1698-1752), (my ancestor), Thomas (1707-1782) and Frances (abt 1713 - abt 1765). Frances married Thomas SNUDDEN in 1733 at Newchurch. She was named as Frances SNUDDEN in her father's will.

All this may seem conjecture to your readers until genealogical DNA came along. I had a mitochondria test with <https://www.familytreedna.com/> an American company in 2008, but it was not until 2015 when I requested a further test called autosomal DNA that I struck it lucky in the first week after my results came back. I matched with two first cousins whom I already knew, but it turned up a man with whom I had

only 69 centimorgans in common. That wouldn't be promising except he had entered his ancestors' surnames. Among them were MARCH, SMITH and SUDDEN. I wrote to him and was indeed descended from Frances MARCH and Thomas SNUDDEN. He had good documentation which he had submitted to <https://www.ancestry.com/> another American company.

Mike ZAPOLSKY, whose mother came from England, and I match! We are 7th cousins once removed! That is as far removed as I have ever discovered. However, the only reason we could prove the connection was that Mike had done his family history research as well as I had. In effect, we validated each other's research. I also think the SNUDDENS kept better records than my line.

Nevertheless, people who dive into DNA, thinking they are going to find their relatives may be disappointed. The DNA connection may be there however distant, but unless both parties have done the research back to that point, they cannot prove it. I was lucky finding Mike. I haven't found anyone else since then.

Kay DEVONSHIRE (IWFHS Member 166)

Santa Monica, California

kaydevonshir@verizon.net

Forest of IOW Family Trees - A Year-end 2024 Update

I have previously written about my pilot project that attempts to start creating a 'consolidation' of the genealogies of the many families who were part of the history of the Island .. in essence, a 'forest of IOW family trees'. My previous Journal article can be found on page 36 of the August 2023 Journal No 150 and gives some background information on why and how I started this project. Since that article there has been significant progress so I thought it might be time for an update. If you haven't read the article yet, you may want to before proceeding.

For the pilot, I chose to continue to use Family Tree Maker (FTM) software because:

- I have used it for over two decades so I'm familiar with it
- It can easily handle over 12k individuals
- It supports having multiple unconnected trees in a single instance (useful when merging trees)
- It has built in functions to warn of possible duplicate individuals
- It is easy to backup
- It would be easy to carve off the IOW elements of my own personal family tree to create the new base for the Forest (about 3.5k individuals).

I also own a copy so there would be no additional costs for the pilot.

In addition FTM has built-in support for Ancestry trees (to create a backup for my FTM copy), including easy creation and uploads; easy synchronization of changes; and (with my subscription) the ability to access Ancestry hints and to easily add supporting sources. And Ancestry has strong management options to allow me to keep the online tree private; to control who can access it and what they can change; and to demonstrate, via IOWFHS executive access, that it could, in the future, be taken over by the IOWFHS should I no longer be able to (or no longer want to) continue the project. Again, there would be no incremental costs for the pilot.

Some Clarifications

As a result of recent questions, I feel I need to clarify a few things. I'm retired and this is a volunteer, 'give back to the Family History Society' project and I have no intent to commercialize the end result. It will be 'donated' to the Society and they can decide if/how to make it available. My desire would be that it be used to help assist current and future IOW

researchers and maybe even become part of efforts in the ongoing documentation of the Island's history through its people.

And when asked how the Forest project compares to Mike HOAR's ongoing heroic efforts to put the Society's Pedigree Index (PI) online, I would say they are not competing but there are two important differences: (a) although many of the original contributions to the PI may have been hand-drawn, 'descendant-style trees', the information was extracted and stored in a database as individual records which include parents; spouse; etc. This is not a criticism, merely an acknowledgment of the way the PI information was kept, and that there's no easy way to create a visual ancestor or descendant image of families or how they're interconnected. The ability to display this visual image is a fundamental way the Forest (or any online Ancestry tree) displays relationships and is critical to easily understanding and extending them.

The second major difference is that the information in the PI has never been subjected to any Society-supported genealogical accuracy assessment and much of it is not supported by formal sources. This is not to say that the Forest is any more 'correct' (and I'm certainly not interested in becoming the final arbiter) but at least some checks are being done as new information is added and formal processes are being developed to recognize and highlight inconsistencies; identify the logic and research efforts used to resolve those inconsistencies; and if point-in-time best efforts decisions are able to be made, they can be more easily revisited in the future if better information becomes available.

Through these open processes and documentation, and the support of a wider group of volunteer members, the fundamental hope for the project is that as new information is added, the Forest will become more 'correct' over time. As imperfect as it may start out to be, I feel great pride (as I hope most of you will) in building and contributing to a project that will hopefully shed light on the many families who contributed to the history of the Isle of Wight.

The Initial Journey

Having constructed the initial base Forest; replicated it to Ancestry as a private tree; and invited and confirmed access by alternate users, the next step was to start collecting and integrating more family tree information from available sources.

While we have access to a wonderful varied collection of IOW information sources, it's important to recognize that it's not all easily ingested into the project. Some, like the Record Office's Birth/Marriage/Death index cards aren't even in digital form. Another option might be to revisit old Journals for articles about specific family research. But even if some records are available digitally they would need to be manually entered in order to make them usable and they often lack relationship context.

Perhaps another good source of (hopefully digital) tree information would be Society members who have been designated as IOW One Name Study (ONS) leaders since they've done the hard research and may be able to provide access via a mutually acceptable interchange format.

But from a 'low hanging fruit' perspective, the largest source of digitally-available family tree information (which is already in the proper format with associated relationship information) is the huge number of online Ancestry public trees. I expect that a number of you are recoiling in horror at the thought of me adding questionable information from Ancestry trees, and I understand the concerns. So, I've primarily relied on the trees of current (and previous) Society members who I have previously connected with and have come to respect their research. I recognize that this does not 'guarantee' accuracy, it's just my attempt to improve the initial quality and minimize the number of potential discrepancies.

I think it's also important to recognize that most owners of online Ancestry trees have chosen to make them 'public' to benefit from the open exchange of information and therefore have implicitly given their consent to any copying. And in support of this exchange, Ancestry has also created a standard 'save to tree' function which allows other users to freely and quickly copy some (but not all) of individuals and their relationships to other family members (such as spouse(s), children and parents). Unfortunately, sources typically don't get included nor does the name of the tree/owner in order to acknowledge them or be able to follow up if information becomes questionable in the future.

Using the above approach, and with the implied consent/support of a number of large, excellent, IOW-focused family trees, I am happy to report that by November 2024, the Forest has grown over 500% in size from its initial base of about 3.5k individuals to now in excess of 18k people; over 4000 marriages; and about 1800 surnames and I expect it

will exceed 20k by year end. Many surnames are as early as the 1500 and 1600, which is exciting as research that far back is hard to get.

One of the key objectives of this initial 'expansion phase' was to verify that the pilot software and platform could scale up and handle significant growth without issues and that seems to have been a success. A second objective was to work out the processes and documentation needed to identify any likely discrepancies; the status of their resolutions (if any); and the tactics and details of any associated research actions to attempt a resolution.

This second objective is critical for the long term 'health' of the project as there will inevitably be conflicts and in order to avoid 're-inventing the wheel', we need to be able to quickly assess whether issues are new or previously identified, and in the latter case, what research was done and how a resolution was chosen .. or maybe there wasn't one in which case new information may help to resolve. This second objective has been mostly met but is a work in progress.

Lessons Learned/Shortcomings

Over time, a number of what I'll call 'shortcomings' have come to light. The first is the fact that the project lacks what I'll call a 'user interface'. For anyone who has built or used an online Ancestry tree, there is no 'intro' or 'welcome' screen when you ask to view a tree. It simply displays a 'tree view' of the person (and some of their ancestors and descendants) the tree owner has designated as the 'home person'. From here you can visually navigate their tree up/down/left/right or search for someone else. You can also change between the viewing formats (horizontal, vertical, and fan) but there is no 'master index' or structured outline. I have queried Ancestry support who have confirmed they don't offer a custom welcome page.

The other thing many people don't understand about an Ancestry 'tree' is that it is really a generic workspace which can have multiple connected and unconnected trees within it. This is ideal for the Forest project where there are bound to be hundreds of connected and unconnected tree segments (ie a Forest of trees) but which can be presented and managed as a single 'entity'. However, there's no easy way to know how many segments there are or who the 'top of tree' individuals are. FTM works the same way but there are tools to discover the tops of trees.

Other reasons a 'Welcome to the IOW Forest of Trees' interface is needed are:

- Providing some background information on the project (how it began; why; etc)
- Provide some acknowledgments of key contributors to the project. I am only one of four DENNETT/ROACH researchers who contributed nearly all of what I called the 'base' for this project but there were additional small contributions from other far-flung relatives who all deserve some recognition
- Acknowledgment that some content came from IOW-focused Ancestry trees
- Acknowledgment of ONS leaders and others, such as IOWFHS member Steve STOTESBURY, whose recent guidance and contributions deserve an acknowledgment
- Maybe a collection of information about the quirks of IOW research

This last topic could include the unique issues of researching certain IOW surnames. Although our Island relatives often used common/popular given names (John, Henry, Mary, etc), they also seemed to delight in doing it over and over again in succeeding generations. If your surname is Roach, this isn't a huge problem but when it's Smith or Bull or Jolliffe, it can be very confusing and requires a lot of detailed research to sort out and could benefit from some form of documentation to help others from needing to having to re-do it again. This could be extracted from the conflict resolution document mentioned earlier.

This document could also have a 'families' focus if there was enough information to support it. For example, the Record Office has family files some of which have been further divided by where they typically lived (eg 'of Arreton', or 'of Freshwater') which might be useful in directing researchers into the appropriate 'cluster of trees' in the Forest and/or be useful in resolving cases of conflicting identities. Some of the supporting material might be extracted from past Journal articles that chronicle the movements of families over time. But care needs to be taken to acknowledge that Parish boundaries also changed over time which had an effect on the implied location descriptions in formal sources.

On another topic, one of the questions/suggestions I've fielded is about my artificial constraint of including only those born before the 1850s and that it maybe should be relaxed. The reasons are (1) the government's

privacy concerns, and (2) it would also mean much larger impact on the size of the project that I'm not yet prepared to accept. However, I've recently managed to convert a PDF copy of the 1841 Census to a spreadsheet so I could manipulate it essentially into family units based on address info which would make it easier to check against the Forest to identify and add missing ones. It is becoming a valuable resource though to help deal with identity conflicts though back to the late 1700s which covers a large part of the Forest. But the 1841 Census has over 32k people which would be a huge data entry task.

Unexpected Surprise

Something that wasn't originally in the project but has become a pleasant surprise is the emerging ability of the Forest project to assist with people's DNA research. To those who have done some DNA testing, it is common to get a bunch of DNA matches with no real way to figure out what the connection is. It's a bit of a 'needle in a haystack' type of problem. There are solutions that can create a 'smaller haystack' by including only those matches who think they have IOW ancestors.

But the problem is still the same - exchanging surnames until you get some common ones, and then relying on people to have wide enough trees to include members from your branch. This is where the Forest could help as a possible easier way to find overlaps in trees. I'm also finding that the Hampshire/IOW DNA Facebook group members are also good at providing snippets of their own (often DNA-proven) family trees which I have been adding to the Forest or helping to resolve conflicts. I'm considering asking the group if they'd be interested in providing help in resolving specific conflicts in exchange for me identifying possible DNA relationships.

An added benefit to my use of FTM (although not currently available in Ancestry) is that it has a function which attempts to highlight how a given person is related to another both as a label (ex. 3rd cousin 1x removed) but also the intervening relatives that form the connection. It's not perfect but I've already used it to figure out relationships I never would have been able to on my own especially with the growing Forest size. It also has a function which can be used to colour code all descendants of any given person which can be a great visual clue when lost in a large tree.

Next Steps

I've been asked recently what my 'next steps' are for the project and at the moment I'm leaning toward whatever will create the most growth with the least effort as opposed to things which will add more formal sources. So I will be focusing on trying to add content from ONS leaders and will have another look at whether there's a way to rapidly fact check and ingest some of the PI. But based on this year's experience with the number of conflicts recorded, it has been a small percentage and some have been easier to resolve than I expected and the unresolved ones are not yet causing major problems. As I mentioned, the 1841 Census has become more valuable and I'm considering the value of adding the 1851 Census as well.

From a manpower perspective, I have not reached out yet to ask if any volunteers would be interested in assisting other than my recent contact with ONS leaders. Part of the reason for this is that the project success will rely heavily over time on the documentation of information conflicts; their subsequent research; and of any positions taken and why. Initial versions of these documents are currently being tested for usability and enhancements are being made. In order to be easily shared among volunteers, these documents will need to be shared in an open system, the details of which still need to be worked out.

But I hope that within a year, we can open this project to others who may be interested in making the Forest more 'correct'. In a subsequent update, I plan to create a top 100 surnames list to let people know where we could use trees. In the meantime, if you would like to contribute your family research to the Forest, please get in touch with me.

Questions/comments about the project can be sent to me.

Ian ROACH (IWFHS Member 1415)

iroach@myaccess.ca

SAVE THE DATE

ANNIVERSARY LUNCH, SUNDAY 28TH SEPT 2025



Lakeside Park Hotel, High Street, Wootton Bridge, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 4LJ

Reserve your place(s) at our anniversary lunch by emailing Membership Secretary
Gerry Newberry (membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com)

Special prices are available:

two-course £25.00 or three-course menu £32.00

Payment details and menu choices will be available nearer the time

A 10% discount for accommodation has been extended to our lunch party

Treasurer's Report

I hope you all had a happy festive season and I wish everyone a Happy New Year. As you will probably be aware our financial year runs alongside the calendar year and I am currently in the process of finalising the accounts for the auditor. These will be presented in the next Journal.

We have recently been notified that our Bank, Lloyds will be making changes to our current account from 14 January 2025. This account will be transferred to a Community account which will incur a number of charges including an Account Maintenance fee of £4.25. Having looked at other banking institutions this seems to be a new initiative to charge organisations for holding their accounts. We have decided not to move banks but to accept the charges and hope they will not have too much of an impact on the Society's finances.

The following charges (among others) will therefore be applied by the bank:

- Electronic payments, in and out (including direct debits, standing orders or faster payments) – no charge for the first 100 transactions per month but after this there will be a 10p payment per transaction
- Cash payments into either a Branch or an ATM - 75p for every £100
- Cheques paid in at a Branch or ATM - 50p each
- Cheques paid in with the Business Mobile Banking App – 42p each

These charges will clearly affect us more between November to February when most members pay their subscriptions. I therefore request that if at all possible, can you **please pay for your subscription electronically** by bank transfer, PayPal or SumUp and **not by cheque or cash** to ensure that the Society gets the maximum benefit from your payments.

Claire Willis (IWFHS Member 6145)

Treasurer

treasurer.iowfhs@gmail.com

Update to the County Press Archive

Like other members of the Society, I have subscribed to the digital Isle of Wight County Press Archive since it was first made available online. At the last renewal this cost £49.94 for a year.

The Archive page of the County Press (CP) website informs us:

'Since 1884 the County Press has brought the news to Islanders' and 'You can access more than 6,500 editions of the County Press and search for articles by keywords and dates, or by browsing issues'.



This sounds all very well in theory. But in practice, simply searching for articles often proves problematic. The poor Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software used to scan the smudged and frequently illegible original printed archive copies results in limited successful searches.

It is certainly true that back in the Golden Era of regional journalism, before the days of the internet and social media, the CP was required reading for most Islanders and was chock-full of local information. And it is now a rich resource to mine for all family historians; though this may not be so true of editions in the modern era.

Just before Christmas 2024, I received an email from Newsquest Media, the current owners of the CP:

'We are delighted to be able to reveal that the County Press archive has been significantly upgraded, meaning it is now moving from its current home...and is now brought to you in partnership with Newspapers.com.'

The new website is at <https://www.countypress.co.uk/newspaper-archive/> though at the time of writing, the old website still seems to be available at <https://archive.iwcp.co.uk/>

I am told that 'As a valued subscriber to the existing archive site, we have transferred your access for 6 months to the new archive facility' and that after this time '...you will need to purchase a new County Press subscription to continue your access to the new archive'. In addition to the archive, I will then also benefit from digital subscriber access to

countypress.co.uk including the 'Ad-Lite' Digital Edition of today's newspaper and other 'benefits'.

After the initial reduced price period, the annual subscription is advertised at £34.

So...that's a cheaper subscription, 'significantly upgraded' archive searching, Ad-Lite access to the digital newspaper and other advantages. It sounds too good to be true.

The new website appears to be a 'skin' on top of the Newspapers.com home page (restricted so that it only accesses the CP) so presumably the whole CP archive is also now also available behind the paywall for subscribers to 'Newspapers by Ancestry': <https://www.newspapers.com/>

The most popular subscription option for Newspapers.com is 6 months for £49.99 and this gives access to more than 27,000 newspapers dating back to 1690.

The new CP archive website seems to function as required but I haven't yet had enough experience with it to form an opinion on the performance of the search engine, convenience and quality of the results.

It's worth noting that digital copies of CP archive issues for a limited range of years (1884-1911 and 1913) are available elsewhere online via other subscription sites:

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/newspapers/england/isle-of-wight-county-press>

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

If you are interested in using newspapers for family history research it is well worth reading Sharon BEDDARD's article on page 28 of Journal 152, February 2024, which reviews newspapers local to the Isle of Wight including the County Press.

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Cover Picture

The theme of our One Day Conference in September this year is 'Licensed Premises and Licensees of the Isle of Wight'. So, in keeping with this theme, the cover picture of this issue is 'The New Inn at Steeple' (Steeplehill) by Thomas ROWLANDSON (1756 - 1827).



This watercolour sketch is one of 112 made by ROWLANDSON and his companions during two leisurely tours of the Isle of Wight in the 1790s when they visited and sketched many sites on the Island.

Situated in the Undercliff on the south of the Island between Niton and Ventnor, the New Inn run by Mrs GROVE, was one of the most popular inns and stopping points on the Island. The seated visitors in the painting are Henry WIGSTEAD, Samuel HOWITT and Thomas ROWLANDSON himself; they would have had a fine view of the sea from here.

In June 2002, the Island's Museum Service, with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and The Art Fund, purchased 'The Thomas Rowlandson Collection' of watercolour sketches which came from Longleat House in Wiltshire. They are now held at the Isle of Wight County Record Office.

Reference:

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/libraries-leisure-and-heritage/heritage-and-tourism/museums-exhibits-and-heritage-education-service/museum-collections/>

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Isle of Wight men on Malta in wartime



Malta Memorial

Malta has always been a strategically placed island in the Mediterranean, and never more so than when it came under British jurisdiction. In the Great War it was a major staging post for troops travelling to and from the Eastern Mediterranean. In the Gallipoli campaign of 1915, many Islanders who were wounded at Gallipoli were returned to be treated in hospitals in Malta, and sadly some died of their wounds while in Malta and were buried there, mainly in Pieta Cemetery on the outskirts of Valletta. Unusually, two of the men buried were given private headstones. The majority of burials on Malta, because of the shallow subsurface soil and rocky terrain, were in communal graves (usually 2 or 3 men in each) with flat grave markers, rather than the CWGC normal standard vertical markers.

Those buried in Pieta during WW I are all from the 1/8th Bn Hampshire Regiment (Isle of Wight Rifles), with one exception:

- Thomas Edgar ALEXANDER
Lance Corporal 8/1186
- George Henry ASH
Rifleman 8/1286
- Philip Evershed CHAPMAN
Rifleman 8/2364
- A J GREENHAM
Rifleman 8/1495
- Cecil Hastings WALES
Serjeant 8/1341
- Charles WHITE
Rifleman 8/1996
- Alfred Charles RANN
Trooper 340
[Australian Light Horse]



P E Chapman

A WW II burial noted is for:

- Donald MACPHERSON Private 5495224 [Dorsetshire Regiment]

Malta was also the base for many air operations in the Mediterranean and North Africa, with air crew who died being commemorated on the Malta Memorial in Valletta.

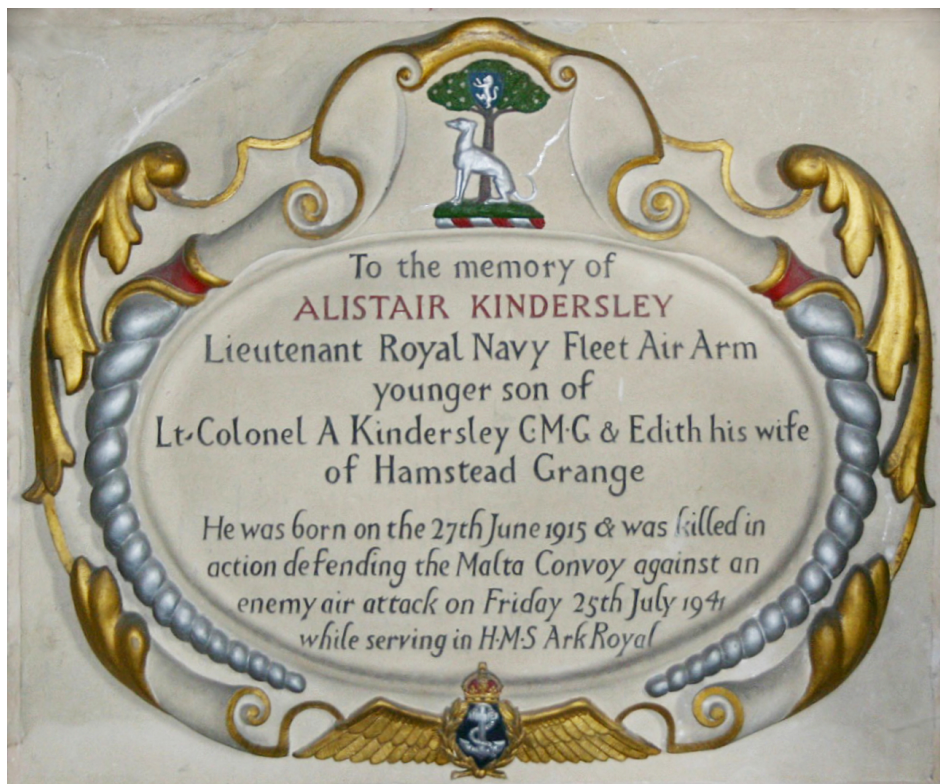
Of those who died we are aware of the following:

- Arthur Hubert ELLIS¹, DFC, Flying Officer
123836 179 Sqn RAFVR
- Reginald Charles Frank YOUNG, L/AC
1276272 RAFVR
- Norman Kenneth ADAMS¹, Flying Officer
120755 202 Sqn RAFVR
- David John MORRIS, Pilot Officer
48095 21 Sqn RAFVR
- Denys Raymond TUFT¹, Flying Officer
124883 RAFVR
- John Mansell Tabor SANCTUARY¹, Flying Officer
138369 219 Sqn RAFVR
- Kenneth TIMMS¹, Flight Sergeant
1196636 153 Sqn RAFVR
- Frederick John TRUSLER, Sergeant
1317617 31 Sqn RAFVR

¹ Indicates that they are not Isle of Wight Men but are listed on the Roll of Honour for the Crusaders' Union held at Seaview.

Another casualty of the air war was Alistair Thomas James KINDERSLEY, a Lieutenant with the Fleet Air Arm, serving with 808 Sqn. Kindersley joined the Royal Navy in 1933. He was mentioned in dispatches on 1 May 1933. He was promoted Acting Sub Lieutenant on 1 Sep 1935, Sub Lieutenant on 16 Jan 1936, and Lieutenant on 16 Jan 1938.

By July 1940 he was serving with 808 Sqn at Wick, flying Fairey Fulmar aircraft on dockyard defence duties. He embarked with the Squadron to the Malta station on HMS Ark Royal on 22 Oct 1940. Engaged on convoy protection work he shared in the destruction of an Italian Air



Force SM.79 aircraft. He was killed in action by return fire from a formation of SM.79 bombers on 25 Jul 1941.

Unusually, he is commemorated on the Battle of Britain Memorials at Capel-le-Ferne in Kent, and on the Embankment in London, since his death occurred within the time frame accepted as being the period when the Battle of Britain was fought. He is also remembered at St Michael's Church, Shalfleet (illustrated), and the Fleet Air Arm Memorial at Lee-on-Solent.

The naval warfare around Malta is also represented by the memorials to boats from HM Submarine Service at the Malta Naval Museum at Fort St Elmo. Of the three vessels commemorated, Isle of Wight men are listed on the Memorials to HM Submarines *Upholder* and *Olympus*.

- Leopold BLAKE DSM
Ldg Telegraphist P/JX 142985
HM Submarine *Upholder*
- Norman Douglas BOARD DSM,
ERA 3rd CI P/MX 55599
HM Submarine *Upholder*
- Percy Murcott RAYNER
ERA 4th CI P/MX 60486
HM Submarine *Olympus*

There are many other wartime burials on Malta but we believe that the only other Isle of Wight man buried during WW I is at Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery:

- Ambrose Ashley MATTHEWS
Sapper 9820
28th Fortress Coy Royal
Engineers



HM Submarine Upholder Memorial

Outside the scope of this article, there are probably a number of other Isle of Wight men (or their dependants) buried on Malta, who were serving with the British armed forces who died in service, but not in wartime – this is another area of research to be followed up!

Geoff ALLAN (IWFHS Member: 392)

Chairman and Webmaster

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More details of service histories can be found at

<https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/databases/warservice>

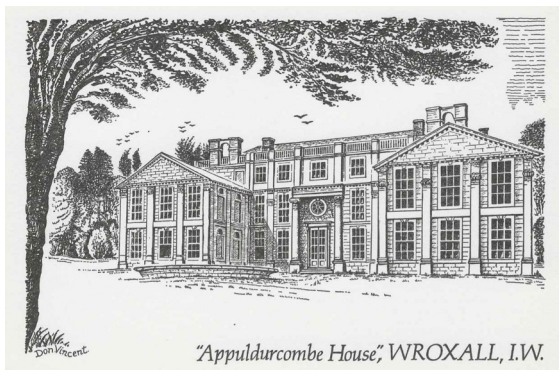
Appuldurcombe House and What the Papers Said

“To the Gentlemen, Clergy and Freeholders of the County of Southampton. The Death of Sir Simeon STUART, Bart. Having occasioned a Vacancy of a Representative for the County, I take the earliest Opportunity of making you a tender of my Services, and entreat the Favour of your Votes and Interest to succeed him. I am, Gentlemen, With great Esteem, Your most obedient, Humble Servant, Richard WORSLEY, Appuldurcombe Park, Nov 20, 1779.”

Hampshire Chronicle – Mon 29 Nov 1779

Newspaper archives are a very good source for tracing names and can be very helpful in finding information that can add to your family trees. I thought in this article that I would search for a house – Appuldurcombe House/ Park in Wroxall.

I have always been fascinated with the house and its history and the notice above, advertising Sir Richard's willingness to stand for Parliament, is the first report I could find.



"Appuldurcombe House", WROXALL, I.W.

Published by Island Cards © 1993 Don Vincent

In October 1782, Sir Richard Worsley advertised the following in the Hampshire Chronicle:

“SIR RICHARD WORSLEY, Baronet, having ordered the Game to be preserved within his Manor of Appuldurcombe, and all his other Manors and estates in the Isle of Wight, it is requested, that no Gentleman will hunt, shoot or course in these Manors, without special leave from Sir Richard Worsley, or his agent, for that purpose; and all Poachers and unqualified persons will be prosecuted to the utmost rigour of the law. Gamekeepers are appointed, and informations against offenders will be attended to and rewarded, by Mr CLARKE, Attorney, Isle of Wight. Appuldurcombe Park, October 10, 1782.”

Sir Richard was to have quite a bit of trouble with poachers!

Newspapers also followed the lives of the Gentry – the Hampshire Chronicle stating on Monday 4th August 1788 that “On Sunday Sir Richard Worsley, Bart, arrived at his seat at Appuldurcombe Park, in this Island”.

In June 1789, “...whilst their Majesties and the Princesses” (King George III, Queen Charlotte) carrying out a Royal Tour of the South of England, were offered the use of Appuldurcombe, should they chose to stay on the Island, was reported in the Hampshire Chronicle.

The Salisbury & Winchester Journal dated Monday 28th December 1789 stated the following:

“Manors of Appuldurcombe, Aple, Binbridge, Chale, North and South Godshill, Nettlecombe, Stenbury, St. Lawrence, Shalfleet, Whitwell, Witcombe, Week, and Walpan. Whereas the game on the above Manors, the property of the Right Hon. Sir Richard WORSLEY, Baronet, hath been lately very much destroyed: notice is hereby given, that all unqualified persons who shall hereafter be found within the said Manors, either shooting, coursing, or otherwise destroying the game, will be prosecuted according to law. N.B. Gentlemen are requested to desist from sporting on any of the above Manors, without the permission of Sir Richard Worsley, Bart.”

Apart from an interesting list of old Manors, Sir Richard was having trouble from poachers once more! In June 1791, it was reported in the Hants Chronicle that:

“The new governor, Mr ORDE, was fitting up the apartments in Carisbrook-Castle and that, or Appuldurcombe is said to be intended for their Majesties residence; and Cowes for sea-bathing and sailing parties, it has the advantage over any other place in the kingdom”.

Again from the Hants Chronicle later in July 1791:

“His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, and his daughter, visited Carisbrook Castle, after which they dined at the Sun Inn, Newport. They also visited Sir Richard Worsley, at Appuldurcombe-House, and then returned to Portsmouth in Commissioner SAXTON’s yacht. They set off for London on Monday”.

In August 1805 the Hants Chronicle reported the death at Appuldurcombe Park, of the Right Hon Sir Richard Worsley, Bart.

“One of his Majesty’s most Honourable Privy Council, and Colonel of the South Hants Militia. Sir Richard’s well known talents and taste for

the Fine Arts, and his liberal encouragement to Science, will make him long remembered with regret, as well by those who had the honour of his acquaintance as by his country in general. He has died without issue, but the title will descend to the Rev. Dr. Worsley HOLMES, of Pitford House, Isle of Wight. Sir Richard Worsley was a candidate for the representation of this county at the memorable contest in 1779, in opposition to Jervoise Clarke JERVOISE, Esq. when the latter gentleman was elected by a majority of 621”.

Appuldurcombe Park passed to Sir Richard Worsley's niece, Henrietta Anna Maria Charlotte, daughter of John Bridgeman SIMPSON by his first wife, Henrietta Worsley, daughter of Sir Thomas WORSLEY. Henrietta married the Hon Charles Anderson PELHAM in 1806

Lesley ABRAHAM (IWFHS Member 540)

Sources: British Newspaper Archives, Wikipedia.

Isle of Wight Record Office Website address Update

Inside the back cover of each Journal you will find a 'Useful Addresses' page. It lists a selection of URLs for the websites of Isle of Wight Heritage and History organisations.

The Isle of Wight Council's snazzy new website, which reputedly cost in excess of three quarters of a million pounds, went live in 2023. The launch followed several delays.



As a result the URLs of the Record Office and Register Office have changed and trying to use the addresses listed in old Journals will lead to a 'Page not found' error.

Our 'Useful Addresses' page has been updated to include the new addresses. The starting point is now the Council's 'Births, deaths and ceremonies' page from where there are links to the relevant pages:

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/births-deaths-and-ceremonies/>

Reference:

<https://onthewight.com/new-isle-of-wight-council-website-is-now-live>

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New and Returning Members

It is courteous to respond to any messages from other members.
Only IOW surname interests will be listed here.

- 7362 Mrs Tania JACOBS: tanjacobs@hotmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7371 Sandra BALL: sandraball8493@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7372 Mrs Andree DOLLERY: andreedollery888@btinternet.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7375 Mr Gary Robert BROWN: gazzablueblood@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7379 Mrs Jan LINTOTT: jan.lintott@btinternet.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7390 Mrs Jodie JONES: dixonjones069@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)

Some Useful Addresses

Isle of Wight County Record Office (closed on Tuesdays and weekends)
26 Hillside, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2EB

record.office@iow.gov.uk

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/births-deaths-and-ceremonies/family-history/>

Isle of Wight Register Office

Seaclose Offices, Fairlee Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2QS

registrars@iow.gov.uk

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/births-deaths-and-ceremonies/>

Bembridge

<https://www.bembridgeheritage.org.uk>

Brading

<https://www.bradingcommunityarchive.com>

East Cowes

<https://www.friendsofeastcowes.co.uk>

Freshwater and Totland

<http://www.fatag.co.uk>

Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries

<https://foncc.org.uk>

Northwood Cemetery

www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk

Isle of Wight History Centre

<https://www.iwhistory.org.uk>

Ryde

<https://www.rshg.org.uk>

Shalfleet

<http://www.sources.shalfleet.net>

Ventnor

<https://ventnorheritage.org.uk>

Family History Federation

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com>

The National Archives

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>



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