



ISLE OF WIGHT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



August 2025

Number 158

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.

There are still places available - booking information is in the yellow pages.

PRESIDENT**Richard SMOUT****VICE-PRESIDENTS****Chris BRAUND****Janet FEW****Peter SPENCER****Jon MATTHEWS****COMMITTEE**

Chairman	Geoff ALLAN	Apartment 3, Sandbanks, Esplanade, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 8DW chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com
Vice Chairman	Vacant	
Secretary	Gill GLASBEY	secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com
Treasurer	Claire WILLIS	treasurer.iowfhs@gmail.com
Friends of Northwood Cemetery Liaison Officer	John PULLEN	Email: via Librarian
Heritage Resource Centre Education Officer	Sharon BEDDARD	research.iowfhs@gmail.com
Journal Editor	Steve NEWBERRY	Mulberry House, Coastguard Lane, Brook, Isle of Wight PO30 4HQ journal.editor.iowfhs@gmail.com
Librarian	Hazel PULLEN	librarian.iowfhs@gmail.com
Membership Secretary and Journal Distributor	Gerry NEWBERRY	Mulberry House, Coastguard Lane, Brook, Isle of Wight PO30 4HQ membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com
Programme Secretary	Vacant	
Systems Development	Mike HOAR	Email: via Webmaster
Webmaster and War Memorial Project Coordinator	Geoff ALLAN	chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com

Contents

Programme of Events Summer/Autumn 2025.....	2
Editorial	3
Heritage Resource Centre.....	4
Chairman's Report.....	5
Dad's Medals	8
My WW2 Memories - Gaining a Father	10
Roy GOSDEN.....	12
John Oscar YATES	14
Aubrey Winter NEWBERRY	17
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting	20
A Short History of the Sportsman's Rest	25
On DNA Analysis in Family History Research - Part 1	29
Appuldurcombe House and What the Papers Said - Part 3	34
Some Isle of Wight MACKETTs.....	38
Finding my roots on the Isle of Wight	39
Further experience with the 1921 Census.....	43
New Members	45
Membership Secretary's Report Aug 2025.....	45

Programme of Events Summer/Autumn 2025

Date	Subject	Speaker
27th September	One Day Conference	See inside front cover
28th September	40th Anniversary Lunch	See inside rear cover
6th October	William Schaw LINDSAY, Victorian Entrepreneur	Bill LINDSAY
3rd November	National Coastwatch	Jeremy THOMAS

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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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

Excitement is mounting as the Society prepares for its One Day Conference (ODC) and 40th Anniversary lunch on the weekend of 27-28 September. There are still tickets available if you haven't booked; details of these prestigious events are advertised on the inside covers of this Journal and booking forms can be found in the central yellow pages.

Following our AGM (see the minutes on [page 20](#)), several of our members presented an informal 'show and tell' about their ancestors' exploits during World War 2. Several articles in this edition expand on the talks that were given.

In line with the theme of our ODC, an article on [page 25](#) gives a flavour of the work that is currently going on behind the scenes as our volunteer team researches and documents the facts.

Many thanks to our members who have provided the fascinating pieces published in this Journal. Why not join them and let the world know about your own researches?

Steve NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member 2189)

Journal Editor

journal.editor.iowfhs@gmail.com

Cover Picture

'The Star' in Niton showing the church of St John the Baptist in the background.

From a book of engravings by J HASSELL entitled 'Tour of the Isle of Wight', published 1 May 1790 by T HOOKHAM of New Bond Street and dedicated, by permission, to His Royal Highness, The Duke of Clarence

Non-Committee Officers

BMD Index Coordinator	Jon MATTHEWS	bmd.iowfhs@gmail.com
Newspaper Reports Project	Tony BEVIS	newspapers.iowfhs@gmail.com
Pedigree Index	Mike HOAR	pindex.iowfhs@gmail.com

The deadline for the November Journal is 1st October 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 hundred metres away (one bus stop).

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

A Disability Discrimination Act (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 Report

We held our 2025 AGM at Arreton on 2 June 2025. The Annual Report and Financial Report appeared in the Journal for May 2025 and I summarised the contents of these for the audience at Arreton. The minutes of the AGM will be published separately, but the main conclusions were that the previous year was generally 'business as usual' with no dramatic events, good or bad! The main issue, as with many Societies (not just Family History) is that the membership profile is ageing with little prospect of younger people being attracted to whatever the hobby might be.

I am pleased to announce that Richard Smout, the former Heritage Services Manager for the Isle of Wight Council, has agreed to take on the mostly ceremonial role of President for the next 3 years. Jon Matthews completed his term as President and becomes an Honorary Vice President. Thanks to Jon for his past, and continuing, efforts for the Society. All the other Committee members agreed to stand and were elected for a further term. We still could do with a dedicated Programme Secretary, and the Vice-Chair role is still awaiting someone to take on this – which is, in effect, shadowing me as Chairman, but not as Webmaster.

Separating the AGM from the One Day Conference seemed to work well; when we have incorporated the AGM at the Conference, it tended to disrupt the flow of the event and reduced the time available to view displays and meet the exhibitors. We shall therefore probably continue to do so as this also gives us flexibility in deciding the date and venue for the Conference. In addition, having members make small presentations, about their relatives' WW II service, after the AGM itself was also well received.

I had a message recently from a member who observed that we didn't seem to have made many updates to our web-based data sets recently. In answer, I sent him this:

'We haven't been idle, but the work we've been doing on various projects isn't quite ready to be made fully public yet:

- We've just finished off the Guardians of the Poor minutes but I need to do a final update on that

- We are working behind the scenes on the Licensees and Licensed Premises project
- We are working on documenting Shanklin and Sandown cemeteries
- We are in the planning stages for a new "Schools and Teachers" project
- We are slowly adding to the BMD Announcements
- I am continuously adding and amending individual records in the other datasets we hold
- We have been heavily involved in the arrangements for the AGM yesterday, and the forthcoming Conference in September'

All this represents not just activities by me and the other committee members, but also the significant effort put in by our numerous volunteers, either remotely, at the Record Office or at the Heritage Resource Centre.

Geoff ALLAN (IWFHS Member 392)
Chairman and Webmaster
chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com



From the Desk in Westward Ho!

This quarter for me has been about trying to surmount genealogical brick walls. We all have them, those ancestors who appear to have been beamed down by aliens as if from nowhere and frustrate us because they just won't reveal themselves in the records.

There are also two other kinds of brick wall. Firstly, the scenario when you have two people of the right name, in the right place, at roughly the right time and you can't decide which is yours. This is often the easiest to demolish. Maybe you can discover that one died as an infant and that rules them out. Or you trace both and find they are first cousins, so your tree can progress, even though there's an 'either/or' in the middle.

The other kind of brick wall is perhaps the most frustrating of all. These are the ones where you are pretty sure who the next generation is but you don't feel that you have enough evidence to 'ink them in' on the tree.

This brings us to the question of exactly how much proof is proof? You may have heard of the genealogical proof standard. If not, there's an introductory video here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfR2yLsXu88

It is the standard expected of accredited genealogists in the US. When this was first put forward, my reaction was that it was merely 'good genealogy' and it was what I and many others had been doing for decades. It consists of five main points:

1. Conducting exhaustive research.
2. Citing your sources.
3. Analysing and correlating sources thoroughly.
4. Resolving conflicting evidence.
5. Producing a soundly reasoned conclusion.

All very laudable and I wouldn't argue with any of it. But, and there is a but, 'exhaustive' is of course a subjective term. Just how much evidence is enough? You may read that you should have three pieces of evidence for any one event. Possible perhaps for the nineteenth and twentieth centuries but it is unlikely that you will find three ways of 'proving' that x was the son of y if you are working in the eighteenth century or earlier.

What indeed is 'proof' anyway? To be honest, I am not a great fan of the word proof in a genealogical context. People lied about who the fathers of their children were and although DNA can uncover some of these lies, there will be more that remain undetected. I believe we each have to make our own decisions about how much evidence we require, how many pieces we feel we need to put in the jigsaw, which will never be complete, before we add a new generation.

Just recently, I have decided that the evidence I have regarding an ancestor that has been a brick wall for nearly five decades, is enough to consider that wall demolished. I have another that is wobbling violently but still needs a final shove. In the end, it is our ancestry, our hobby, our choice to decide when we are satisfied. When we share that ancestry, we need to be able to defend our choices.

Try writing what I call a 'proof argument' (yes, even though I don't like the word proof!) for each generation, as if you were trying to convince someone else. What evidence do you have that x is the parent of y? How reliable is that evidence? Is there an alternative scenario that also fits that evidence and if so, what grounds do you have for accepting one and rejecting the other? Here's hoping your tree stands up to scrutiny. I look forward to seeing many of you at the 40th birthday celebration weekend.

Janet FEW (IWFHS Member 50)

Vice-President

Email: jfewhistory@gmail.com

Dad's Medals

Some years ago, my younger brother passed a box over to me. As the family historian, he thought I should have charge of it. When we got home from our holiday in Devon, I opened the box to be confronted with a large photo album, lots of letters and medals.

My Father did not talk a lot about his time in the RAF but little snippets reminded me of the things he did talk about:

- Egypt - when things got very very hot he could not sleep
- Iceland - he mentioned a shovel inside his hut and wondered what it was for. In the morning when he awoke early, he found after opening the door that there was snow about 4/5 feet deep in front of him which he had to shovel away

At that time, he always said they had to fly from Ireland and stop off in Reykjavik before travelling onto Canada.



Frank Horatio FITZJOHN

He loved his time in Canada where he was showing the airmen how to work radios and complete navigation courses.

The photos in the album showed so many aspects of his life:

- When he was in an airfield and the King made a visit there, he was so proud, standing to attention
- The time he was in Egypt, sitting in a cafe with other airmen enjoying his coffee



Then I got to the medals, what a find, a Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) no less; what did he get that for?

Apparently on one of his flights back from Canada in his role as a navigator he spied a German submarine that was in the process of following HMS Queen Elizabeth. This submarine was bombed and destroyed. Along with his other medals he was awarded the DFC, as were all the crew.

A photo that I do have is him with his brother-in-law, who was also receiving the DFC, outside Buckingham Palace with cigarettes in hand. Alongside him was Mum in her posh frock together with a borrowed fox fur stole, obviously all the rage at the time.

Happy memories of my parents when they retired to Devon in later years.

Dad was always proud of the 25 years he had in retirement after working for the same company who took him back after his RAF service.

Hazel PULLEN (IWFHS Member 2650)

Librarian

librarian.iowfhs@gmail.com

My WW2 Memories - Gaining a Father

Like me, my mother was Sandown-born; in fact we were both born at 89 Broadway. My birthdate was 13th June 1938. Mother's maiden name was Marjory Joan PRANGNELL. She was born in 1914.

Mother's first love was named Frank SHIPLEY. He grew up at Culver coast guard cottages and used to walk from Culver to the 'Top School' at Broadway, this being both ways. What a journey!

Mother and Frank parted; her reason she told me was that he was too amorous!

Eventually she met a new love. He was called Edwin Melville HARDEN. He was born in Ryde. They married at St John's Church in Sandown and had a house at 64 Avenue Road. As a result, I came into this world. I was baptised in the same church.

My father was head waiter at The Queens Hotel in Southsea. I'm sad to say he was knocked off his bicycle in Lee-on-the-Solent and died. I was only three months old so never knew him, just photographs.

Mother and I left Avenue Road for her to take up employment at Dr HEWITT's and we lived at 'Summerlea', Broadway right through the war years; she was the Cook/Housekeeper. I always remember sleeping in an indoor metal cage at night. I vividly remember the doorbell going one night and the Air Raid Precautions (ARP) man saying 'There is light appearing through the curtains'. I remember a few bombs falling but we were very lucky in Sandown - not too many. I did notice the bomb crater in the canoe lake. The doctor was good to me and often took me on his rounds in his Wolseley car, number ADL124.

The shops were very empty in the war years, the shelves being almost bare. Even today I cannot believe it when I see the supermarket shelves so full. I was lucky and had a tricycle, a fort with soldiers and a toy garage and cars bought for me by my uncle who served on the Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth.

My school years were spent at the Top School with Mr MOODY as headmaster. My best friend was David BAKER, son of Norman BAKER. He also was very good to me and treated me like a son. I see there is now a notice at the old school about bomb and fire warnings; this was not to be seen in the war years.

I can remember begging my mother to go to London and buy me a brother and sister. Whatever she thought of me I dare not think about.

At the end of the war, I remember queueing with Mrs HEWITT at Porters (now Ladies Realm) for a Dinky car; we were rationed to only one. I was seven when I had my first banana and ice-cream. We never saw them during the war.

In the meantime, Frank Shipley married another lady and they had a son called Tony.

Frank was in the Navy where he served twenty-four years. He was one of two survivors whilst serving on *HMS Greyhound* near Crete. He was a powerful swimmer but was taken prisoner of war and forced to walk from Italy to Germany. His sole possession was a ten-shilling note which he hid up his back passage when interrogated. (This is in his war log).

At the end of the war when Frank returned to Sandown he had bad news. His wife had been told he was dead and had remarried. This must have happened many times during the war as communications were poor in those days. Frank went on Sandown beach and cut his foot...what did he do? Go to see Dr Hewitt and who answered the door to him? - it was my Mother. Need I say any more? (I did go out with them when they went courting.)

They eventually married and we moved into The Anchorage, Percy Road, Lake where Maureen and I still live.

The story of asking Mum to go to London almost came true as I was blessed with a sister Penny (she now lives in Vancouver) and also a brother Derek. Alas he was killed in an accident on the Brading-Ryde road.

I married my wife Maureen, a Cowes girl, in 1961. For thirty-three years we lived in Cardiff where I was catering manager for BBC Wales. I had to mention Maureen as she also lost her father in 1941 at nine months old - he was also killed in an accident with a bicycle.

To conclude; Frank was a postman in Sandown and this was a real war time romance.

John HARDEN (IWFHS Member 2723)

john-harden@tiscali.co.uk

Roy GOSDEN

My dad never spoke about his WW2 service, so most of my information was from the little he told my mother, backed up by some internet searches. Roy GOSDEN was born at Wootton Bridge in 1923, but his father died in 1938. The 1939 Register listed Roy, aged 16½, with his widowed mother. His entry was annotated stating that he was an auxiliary fireman which actually meant he cycled around the village to raise any alarms.

Without telling anyone, Roy and his best friend in the village, Fred LINTERN, decided to volunteer for war service. His mother must have been horrified when she discovered what her only child planned. They were probably approaching 18 and it seems that volunteers could choose which service they joined. Roy and Fred fancied themselves in the RAF. Fred was OK but Roy was rejected as it was found he was colour blind. So, he joined the army on 19th February 1942 and went for training at Catterick.

On 12th December 1942 he was on board the *Cameronia*, bound for a 'destination unknown'. Online there are two transcripts of detailed diaries made on the voyage, one by a soldier and the other by a crew member. Pre-war the *Cameronia* was a liner carrying up to 1,400 passengers plus crew. As a troop ship, she carried 4,000 troops and the crew. The voyage down to Gibraltar was the roughest they had ever experienced. Once in the Mediterranean the weather was calmer, but they were subject to aerial attacks.

They reached Algiers on 22nd December 1942 but were hit by an aerial torpedo which killed 17 and



Roy GOSDEN

injured 30. Finally, the troops were landed at Algiers at 1am on New Year's Day.

Ten days later Roy sent a postcard to his mother saying he was alright and would write a letter later but no correspondence survives. The censor's pencil is rather heavy but his number T/5350784 is visible. He was a driver in the Royal Army Service Corps. The platoon had their photograph taken in Algiers with hats on and then with hats off. I have a small snapshot of his vehicle which he had to maintain. Any fluids likely to freeze had to be drained off each night as the temperature in the desert would plummet.

He would have been driving ammunition, petrol and other supplies, possibly even personnel, in North Africa for about 6 months. Then Operation Husky began in early July 1943. This was the invasion of Sicily and subsequently mainland Italy. He eventually was driving ammunition supplies at the Battle of Monte Cassino, which took place from January to May 1944. He was there, or possibly at Naples itself, around 17th March 1944 as he witnessed the eruption of Vesuvius. After that I believe he served in Greece.

Roy was going to throw away the only surviving document I have, his Soldiers Release Book. It confirms his number and that he was a good and reliable driver. His military conduct was exemplary. He was demobbed at Bulford, 20th November 1946.

He was issued with his medals, which he never wore - the 1939/45 War Medal, the Defence Medal, the 1939/45 Star, the Africa Star and the Italy Star. In the box was a leaflet describing which ribbons went with which medal.

During the War Roy's mother had met and offered accommodation to a lady visiting her husband serving on the Island. After the War the lady invited Roy to stay with them near Southend. He met the lady's niece and in 1950 my parents were married at Great Wakering, Essex.

Hilary LLOYD (IWFHS Member 14)

Rose Cottage, Burnt House Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 2PW

John Oscar YATES

John Oscar YATES was Gerry NEWBERRY's father and like most men who served in WW2 was reluctant to talk about his war service. He was born on 13 June 1924 and when he first volunteered on 24 January 1943 was made to wait until just before his 19th birthday before being allowed to sign up in May 1943. It was perhaps inevitable he would aim for a flying career - following in the footsteps of his father who had flown (and crashed) Sopwith Camels in WW1.



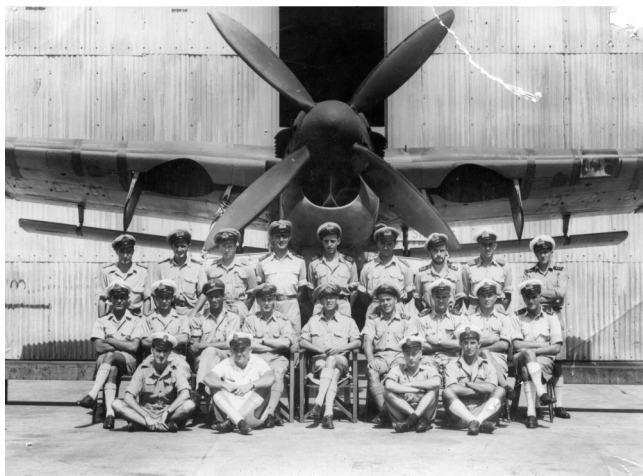
John Oscar YATES

We are fortunate to have John's 'Certificate of Service in the Royal Navy' upon which is noted approval for enlistment in the Fleet Air Arm (FAA). The second page lists the FAA shore establishments where he underwent training and initial promotions. These 'stone frigates' were assigned the name of a ship and were subject to the application of the Naval Discipline Act.

Name of Ship. (Tenders to be inserted in brackets)	Substantive Rating	Non-Substantive Rating	From	To
Darby	NA 2.		19 May 43	19 May 43
St Vincent	---		20 Sep 43	10 Dec 43
St Vincent	A/LA		11 Dec 43	11 Dec 43
Rembroke	---		12 Dec 43	8 Jan 44
Rouen	---		9 Jan 44	4 March 44
Leamington	---		5 March 44	10 March 44
Goshawk	---		11 March 44	12 Oct 44
---	acting to stand		13 Oct 44	14 Oct 44
Darby	---		15 Oct 44	19 Nov 44

Page 2 of John's Certificate of Service in the Royal Navy

The list of 'ships' includes several months at Royal Navy Air Stations (RNAS) Lee-on-the-Solent, Gosport, Chatham and Eastleigh with a short stay at Dunfermline before setting off for a longer period of training (7 months) at *HMS Goshawk* (RNAS Piarco) which was the FAA Observers Training School in Trinidad, West Indies. Family rumour has it that he crossed the Atlantic on one of the 'Queens' which had been pressed into service as a troopship.



Trainee Observers at *HMS Goshawk* in front of a Barracuda

John received his Observer's Flying Badge Certificate (Part II) at Piarco on 14 October 1944 and, fully qualified, returned to Blighty where he was later assigned as an observer to 821 Squadron and was promoted to 'Acting Sub Lieutenant (A) RNVR' flying in Barracudas.

The Fairey Barracuda was designed as a carrier-borne torpedo bomber with three aircrew. The pilot sat up-front, the observer (whose job included bomb-aiming and navigation) had a central section with large windows and a Telegraphist Air Gunner (TAG) was at the rear. Specialisations built into the Barracuda were folding wings to allow it to be



A Barracuda of 821 Squadron in a rocket-assisted takeoff from HMS Trumpeter (TNA)

manoeuvred easily around the decks and onto the elevators of an aircraft carrier and a tail hook which would catch onto wires stretched across the deck to stop it when landing.

Following VE Day, the 12 planes of 821 Squadron and their crews were loaded on to *HMS Trumpeter* before setting off for the Far East via Gibraltar, the Med, the Suez Canal and Aden. *Trumpeter* was an Escort Carrier of the Ruler class. The Americans built nearly 130 of these small and slow 'baby flattops' which were made available to the Admiralty through the US Lend-Lease Act.

The length of the landing and take-off area on *Trumpeter* was about half that of a fleet carrier and was made of wood planks built on top of a very basic commercial cargo ship hull of a type which took the Americans less than a year to construct.



821 Squadron of the FAA at HMS Ukassa, Ceylon. August 1945

821 Squadron arrived and were ready for duty at *HMS Ukassa* (RNAS Katukurunda) near Colombo, Ceylon on 31 July 1945. But following VJ Day (15 August) there was no further need for torpedo bombers so the squadron was immediately disbanded and the personnel were repatriated on *HMS Fencer* and demobbed.

Steve NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member 2189)

Journal Editor

journal.editor.iowfhs@gmail.com

Aubrey Winter NEWBERRY

Aubrey Winter NEWBERRY, my father, was born on 21 March 1917. At the time, his parents were living in a cottage called 'Ducie View' (still there) in Bembridge. His father was the pastry cook at Riddick's Bakery in the High Street but he had been called up and was serving as 2nd Ship's Cook on a Cruiser, *HMS Dido*, the depot ship for a destroyer flotilla in the North Sea.

When he left Sandown Grammar School, Aubrey took a 3-year course at Portsmouth Municipal College and qualified as a pharmacist but because of the outbreak of war in 1939 was required to work as the medicine dispenser at a London hospital for the time being.

He was called up on 27 April 1942 and like many pharmacists joined the Royal Navy (RN) as a Sick Berth Attendant (SBA) Probationer. I am fortunate to have his 'Certificate of Service in the Royal Navy' which gives details of the 'ships' on which he served. His first two months were spent at *HMS Glendower*, an RN training establishment at Pwllheli in what later became one of Billy Butlin's holiday camps.

Name of Ship. (Tenders to be inserted in brackets)	Substantive Rating	Non-Substantive Rating	From	To
<i>"Glendower"</i>	<i>S.B.A. Prob.</i>		<i>27 Apr '42</i>	<i>9 June '42</i>
<i>"Glendower"</i>	<i>—</i>		<i>10 June '42</i>	<i>30 June '42</i>
<i>Drake</i>	<i>—</i>		<i>1 July '42</i>	<i>19 July '42</i>
<i>Drake</i>	<i>S.B.A.</i>		<i>20 July '42</i>	<i>2 Dec '42</i>
<i>Drake (R.N.H.)</i>	<i>S.B.A. (R.N.H.)</i>		<i>26 July '42</i>	<i>5 Dec '42</i>
<i>Drake (R.N.H.)</i>	<i>do (R.N.H.)</i>		<i>6 Dec '42</i>	<i>28 Mar '44</i>
<i>Victory (R.N.S. Maclean)</i>	<i>—</i>		<i>29 Mar '44</i>	<i>28 Nov '44</i>
<i>Victory</i>	<i>—</i>		<i>29 Nov '44</i>	<i>12 Dec '44</i>
<i>Maine</i>	<i>—</i>		<i>13 Dec '44</i>	<i>31 Jan '46</i>
<i>Victory</i>	<i>—</i>		<i>1 Feb '46</i>	<i>5.7.46</i>

Page 2 of Aubrey's Certificate of Service in the Royal Navy

His first posting was to *HMS Drake* (Devonport). Given the heavy bombing around Plymouth and the subsequent need to evacuate the dockyard area, an RN Auxiliary Hospital had been opened in the requisitioned former Union Workhouse in East Street, Newton Abbot. Aubrey spent the best part of two years here, rising through the ranks to become a Sick Berth Petty Officer (SBPO).

His next 8 months were spent at RN Hospital Haslar in Gosport (part of *HMS Victory*) where he worked in the surgical wards and would have been in the front line of nursing the casualties brought back from the D-Day beaches.

His final posting, in December 1944, was as SBPO dispenser on the hospital ship *HMHS Maine* which he boarded in Taranto, Italy.



HMHS Maine

Finally, he was able to use the pharmacist's skills he had learned at college. The ship travelled around the eastern Mediterranean during the last months of WW2 calling at Piraeus, Salonika and Alexandria. Aubrey has left me numerous photos taken at these locations, clearly marked on the back with place and date details.



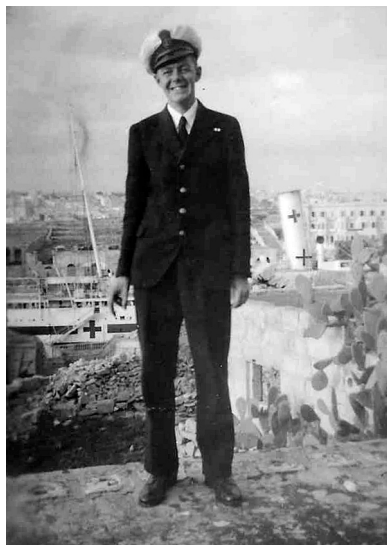
*HMHS Maine PO's Mess
gathered on the poop deck*

From the little the family learned from Aubrey, it seems that tuberculosis (TB) was a prime concern on the ship at this stage of the war. Penicillin was widely available from American sources and was seen as a miracle drug, combatting numerous bacterial infections, but was largely ineffective against TB.

On VE Day (8 May 1945), *HMHS Maine* was at Malta, anchored near to the bomb-damaged RN Hospital Bighi in Valetta's Grand Harbour.

The war in Europe may have ended but there was no prospect of an early demob for Aubrey as the crew of the *Maine* continued to provide hospital services for sick and injured servicemen. I have many photos he took when on shore leave during this period enjoying the sights and beaches of post-war Malta.

His final release from the navy came on 5 July 1946.



Aubrey stands in front of HMHS
Maine anchored in Msida Creek,
Malta

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

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

**held at Arreton Village Hall, Newport
on 2nd June 2025 at 1:30 pm**

There were 34 members in attendance.

Apologies

See appendix

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM. Our Constitution states that we will hold an AGM in May of each year. In the past we have combined the AGM with our annual Conference but this was not possible this year.

After the AGM there will be a break with refreshments. Thank you to those who have provided these. This will be followed by an informal 'show and tell' of people's ancestors relating to VE/VJ Day. Thank you to those who have brought in displays.

The Chairman introduced the Committee (apologies from Sharon Beddard and Mike Hoar) and our outgoing President Jon Matthews. Jon was thanked for his contribution over many years to the Society and his term as President.

Geoff Allan summarised the Annual and Financial Reports, both of which were published in the May journal:

- We continue to be at the Heritage Resource Centre in Cowes twice a week (Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning). Thanks to Hazel Pullen and Sharon Beddard for staffing this. We also thank our volunteers. We now have a banner outside to advertise when we are there, which brings some people in to the HRC. The rental cost of the HRC has increased from £200 per month to £220 per month for the forthcoming year
- Our website is our 'shop window'. We continue to augment this with municipal cemetery records – Sandown, Shanklin, Ventnor and Wroxall
- We have about a dozen people involved with our Licensed Premises project. This will form the basis of our One Day Conference in September. So far, we have about 3000 licensees and 1000 licensed premises with a lot more to be done

- In 2026 we are hoping to look at schools and teachers
- With an ageing demographic some of our members have passed away during the past year and these have been mentioned in the Journal. The main one last year was Janet Griffin who had been involved in the Society from the very beginning. This was very sad and representatives of the Society attended the funeral
- Some of our volunteers are working remotely on licensed premises, BMD announcements from the IW County Press and material we inherited from Charlie Taylor. Rosemary Stewart is now unable to continue transcribing from the Guardians of the Poor Minute Books at the Records Office and Derek Osbourn has completed the last part of this. Geoff Allan will talk to Simon Dear at the Records Office in the coming months about any future projects
- Membership summary for the last year was 401 UK membership, 455 eJournal and 33 Rest of World, giving a total of 889, a shortfall on the previous year's total of 1222. Our main expense is postage for journals
- A common problem amongst Family History Societies is an ageing demographic. It would be very nice to attract people slightly younger than ourselves to join the Society

Financial Report:

- Our accounts prepared by Claire Willis have been audited by Dean Finlayson
- Our total income for the year was £16806.75. Total expenditure was £13891.99 leaving us with a surplus of £2914.76. Our net current assets are £19895.37

Voting Procedure:

Voting can take place in person, online using the form created by Mike Hoar (this has now closed) or by post using the centre yellow pages of the May Journal. Twenty one members have voted prior to the AGM but we have a quorum (currently 25) present at the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Jon Matthews for being President for the last three years. Jon will now become a Vice President. Pete Spencer stood down as Journal Editor last year for health reasons but will now be appointed as a Vice President.

Election of President

The Chairman was happy to announce that Richard Smout had agreed to accept his nomination of President of our Society for a period of three years.

Election of the Executive Officers and Committee

(Already proposed and seconded to allow for online/postal voting).

All the current Committee are willing to stand again but we still have a vacancy for Vice-Chairman and Programme Secretary if anyone is interested in joining us. We are able to co-opt people on to the Committee.

The Chairman then handed over to our new President Richard Smout.

Chairman

Geoff Allan is nominated as our Chairman and has indicated his willingness to stand for office.

There being no other nominations, Hazel Pullen proposed and Sharon Beddard seconded that Geoff be re-elected and this was carried unanimously.

Geoff Allan then took back the chair.

Vice-Chairman

This position is still vacant.

Secretary

Gillian Glasbey is nominated as our Secretary and has indicated her willingness to stand for office.

There being no other nominations, Geoff Allan proposed and Gerry Newberry seconded that Gillian be re-elected and this was carried unanimously.

Treasurer

Claire Willis is nominated as our Treasurer and has indicated her willingness to stand for office.

There being no other nominations, Hazel Pullen proposed and Geoff Allen seconded that Claire be re-elected and this was carried unanimously.

Membership Secretary

Gerry Newberry is nominated as our Membership Secretary and has indicated her willingness to stand for office.

There being no other nominations, Mike Hoar proposed and Sharon Beddard seconded that Gerry be re-elected and this was carried unanimously.

Programme Secretary

This position is still vacant.

Committee

Sharon Beddard, Steve Newberry, Mike Hoar, John Pullen and Hazel Pullen.

There being no other nominations, Sharon Beddard proposed by Geoff Allan and seconded by Gerry Newberry, Steve Newberry proposed by Gerry Newberry and seconded by Mike Hoar,

Mike Hoar proposed by John Pullen and seconded by Sharon Beddard,

John Pullen proposed by Geoff Allan and seconded by Claire Willis and

Hazel Pullen proposed by Sharon Beddard and seconded by Mike Hoar

were re-elected *en bloc* and this was carried unanimously.

At the next Committee meeting we will rationalise and make sure everyone is happy to continue in these roles. Whilst we can generally run the business of the Society, we can co-opt members to the Committee if anyone is interested in joining us.

The Annual Report and Financial Statement were both accepted unanimously.

Questions from Members:

There were no queries raised by members prior to the meeting and no questions from the floor.

The meeting closed at 1.53 pm.

Appendix – apologies were received from the following members:

Sharon Beddard	Mike Hoar
Peter Spencer	Christine Broom
Derek Ive	Ann Barrett
Stephanie Monk	Keith Goodchild

Gill GLASBEY

Secretary

secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com

One Day Conference

Saturday 27th September 2025 from 9:30am to 4:00pm
Minster Church of Sts Thomas, St Thomas' Square, Newport PO30 1SL

Tickets to attend the Talks and Exhibition will be £5.00 for Members and £7.50 for non-members. **Tickets can be purchased online** via <https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/events/74>

Alternatively, tickets may be obtained in advance from the Membership Secretary by emailing membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com or by sending in the Ticket Application form below.

Whilst we will endeavour to accommodate 'walk-ins' on the day, there will be a limit on the number of attendees at the Talks.

ODC Ticket Application

Applications should be received no later than 20th September 2025

I wish to purchase: _____ members ticket(s) at £5.00 each

_____ non-members ticket(s) at £7.50 each

NAME

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER (if known)

NAME(S) OF GUESTS

.....

YOUR ADDRESS.....

..... POSTCODE.....

Applications and cheques, payable to IWFHS, should be sent to:

Mrs Gerry Newberry
Mulberry House
Coastguard Lane
Brook
Isle of Wight
PO30 4HQ

One Day Conference Programme

Saturday 27th September 2025 from 9:30am to 4:00pm
Minster Church of Sts Thomas, St Thomas' Square, Newport PO30 1SL

The theme of this year's Conference is

Isle of Wight Licensed Premises and Licensees

Provisional Agenda

09:30	Doors open	Registration. Café available for light refreshments
10:15	Welcome	
10:30	Geoff Allan	The Mursell families in the pub trade
11:30	Mark Earp	Anecdotes on Pub Life
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	Tony Bevis	The Pub as a venue for Inquests
14:30	Interval	Raffle
15:00	Janet Few	The Family History Revolution: 40 years of Family History
16:00	Close	

Exhibitors will include:

Longley Publications

Cowes Heritage Community Group

East Cowes Heritage

Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

40th Anniversary Lunch

Sunday 28th September 2025, 12:30pm for 1:00pm
Lakeside Park Hotel, Wootton Bridge, Isle of Wight PO33 4LJ

Information is available at <https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/events/75>

Tickets may be ordered from the Membership Secretary by emailing membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com or by sending in the Ticket Application form below.

40th Anniversary Lunch Ticket Application

Applications should be received no later than 13th September 2025

I wish to obtain: _____ ticket(s) at £25pp for a two-course meal

NAME

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER (if known)

NAME(S) OF GUESTS

.....

YOUR ADDRESS.....

..... POSTCODE.....

This application should be sent to:

Mrs Gerry Newberry
Mulberry House
Coastguard Lane
Brook
Isle of Wight
PO30 4HQ



A Short History of the Sportsman's Rest

Gerry and I were enjoying a delicious 'lunch special' of lamb stew at the Sportsman's Rest in Porchfield when we spotted a framed document on the wall giving a short history of the pub and a long list of its 32 licensees since it opened to the public in 1867.

Since the beginning of February, following a couple of Society workshops, a team of volunteer researchers have been beavering away collecting and collating information about 'Island Licensed Premises and Licensees' which are the subjects of this year's One Day Conference. The work involves scouring source documents (censuses, trade publications, newspapers) to discover the facts and entering them into a shared spreadsheet.

And yet here was a document on the wall with much of the required information readily available for all to see with no effort required! But how correct was it and where did it come from? The landlady had added her own name to the list but was unable to answer any questions.

Here is the potted history quoted direct from the pub wall:

'In 1847 the land on which the pub now stands was bought from Lord Ashburton. The cost was £10.00. In about 185 Isaac Arnold, a local builder, erected a house on the site. In 1867 the house became the Sportsman's Inn with Isaac Arnold as its first licensee. Isaac Arnold died 23rd May 1901 aged 80 years, he lies buried in the Congregational Chapel Cemetery, Porchfield, his grave is marked by a headstone.'

Isaac Arnold	1867-1888
George Bartlett	1884-1891
Franck Wills	1891-1892
Mary Ann Harlow	1892-1894
Hodge	1894-1896
George Edwin Jacobs	1896-1897
Barber	1897-1901
Adams	1901-1902
Tanner	1902-1904
Frank Gray	1904-1905
George W.F. Eves	1905-1915
Frank Gray	1915-1919
Albert Golding	1919-1930
Stanley Cheeseman	1930-1934
Jack Stockwell	1934-1963

Licensees of the Sportsman's Rest
(1867-1963) from the pub wall

Sure enough, Isaac ARNOLD (49 years old) was listed in the 1871 Census, living at the 'Sportsmans Rest', Portsfield (Porchfield was consistently and incorrectly named Portsfield by the 1871 enumerator). His occupation was 'bricklayer' and handily there was a brickmaker living next door. He and his wife Fanny were both born in Calbourne and four children (all born in Shalfleet) were living with them. Their eldest son Frank (24) was a carpenter and the three younger children (16, 9 and 3) were still at school. Isaac and Fanny (née SAUNDERS) had been married at Sun Hill Independent Chapel, Cowes in 1843.



Isaac and Fanny ARNOLD's gravestone

Ten years later in 1881, Isaac, Fanny and two of their children were still at the pub. Isaac now gave his occupation as 'Bricklayer and Licensed Victualler' and their son Sam was also a bricklayer while younger daughter Isabella was still at school. By the time of the next census, Isaac had retired. He died on the 23rd May 1901 and was buried in a plot at the Portsfield Congregational Cemetery together with his wife who died a few months later.

The 1891 Census shows that George BARTLETT (58) had taken over as the 'inn keeper' of the 'Sportsmans Rest Public House'. George, who was born in Weymouth, lived with his wife Sarah, an Island girl born in Ryde, and two sons Harry and Frank, both born in Portsmouth. Harry was only 12 but was already working as a farm servant.

LICENSE TRANSFERS.—The following transfers of licenses were sanctioned by the county magistrates at last Saturday's sitting:—Sportsman's Rest, Portsfield, from William Horder to George Hodge;

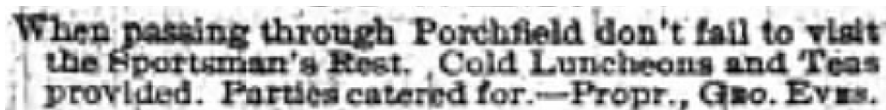
Isle of Wight County Press, 10Aug1895, Page 5

The 1895 Kelly's Directory of the Isle of Wight lists William HOLDEN as the landlord of the 'Sportsmen's Rest PH' but the Isle of Wight County Press reported the transfer of license from William HORDER to George HODGE on page 5 of the 10th August 1895 edition. Neither William Holden nor William Horder appear on the list we found in the pub.

The 1898 edition of Kelly's shows that George Edwin JACOBS had taken over by then. Edwin Jacobs (45) was still the 'Inn keeper' in the 1901 Census. Edwin was a local man and lived at the pub with his London-born wife 'J.M.' (née WHITE), his brother Jesse who was a labourer and three school-age children Robert, George and Kate (9, 8 and 3). But by 1904, they had moved away and Walter J ADAMS had become the landlord according to Kelly's 1904 edition.

The 1911 census tells us that Frank GRAY (40) was the publican. He and his wife Florence Ellen (28) (née SAUNDERS) were married at the Newport Register Office in 1902 but sadly had already lost their first child, Florence Edith b 1902.

Advertisements for the pub in for example, the County Press of 11 April 1914, recommended cold luncheons, teas and party catering by the proprietor Geo EVES.



Isle of Wight County Press, 11Apr1914, Page 7

Frank and Florence Gray were back in residence for the 1921 Census and, happily, living with them was their son, also Frank, aged 9. Frank Gray was still listed as the landlord in the 1927 Kelly's Directory.

According to the pub's list, the licensee at the time of the 1939 register was Stanley CHEESEMAM. Now, Stanley was yet another of those frustrating individuals (we all have them on our trees) who used his middle name. He also suffered from a surname that was capable of many diverse and inaccurate spellings. I eventually found him and his wife Minnie Georgina (née NEWNHAM, b 17Jan1905) in the register where he was listed as Richard S CHEESMAN.

Richard (Stanley) was registered as a 'licensed vitualler' and he also volunteered for the ARP (Air Raid Precautions) organisation, doing his bit during WW2. He was born on 4 April 1897 and married Minnie at St Saviour, Shanklin in 1934.

Thus, the names found in the source documents between 1871 and 1939 mostly correspond well with the pub's list. But where did the list on the wall come from?

I thought it would be worth checking with Keir FOSS's 'Book of Porchfield and Locks Green' and in Chapter 9, which relates tales of the Village Pub and Village Shop, there was the answer; an earlier version of the same list, attributed to Ian BROAD, dated 2006. Keir's book is full of the fascinating yarns he collected about country life in what he calls a 'rural retreat' and is a spellbinding read.

The Sportsman's Rest is in the top ten of the Isle of Wight's Pub of the Year 2024 results as chosen by CAMRA (The Campaign for Real Ale). Worth a visit if you are in the area.



The Sportsman's Rest, Porchfield

Steve NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member 2189)

Journal Editor

journal.editor.iowfhs@gmail.com

References:

<https://www.sportsmansrestiow.uk/>

Census information retrieved from Ancestry and FindMyPast
BMD from IWFHS website

Foss: The Book of Porchfield and Locks Green. Halsgrove

Newspaper information from Newspapers.com

CAMRA IoW: <https://www.wightwash.org.uk>

On DNA Analysis in Family History Research - Part 1

DNA matching has become a recognised tool in family history research – it can be used to prove beyond reasonable doubt whether and how two individuals are related to each other. The IOWFHS hosts a Facebook DNA group for members who have known family links within the Isle of Wight and Hampshire and through it, members of the group can identify other members that they might be related to.

The impetus for this article is to provide a simple overview of the benefits of DNA matching for those who haven't already tried it. However, many others may not be using it to its full potential, and this may help them to better exploit the results that they have. This article has been serialised in two Parts. This, Part 1, presents an introduction to DNA testing and to the Isle of Wight and Hampshire Ancestor Project. In Part 2 the information is probed further to discover the degree of relatedness between individual matches, and even pinpoint the branch of each respective family that connects them.

A Brief Overview of Genetics and DNA Matching for Non-Scientists

Most people should be aware that we all possess DNA which we inherit from our parents and which is unique to each individual, but not everyone will be familiar with the detail and specifically, how to discover whether or not two individuals are related to each other through finding similarities (or matches) in their DNA.

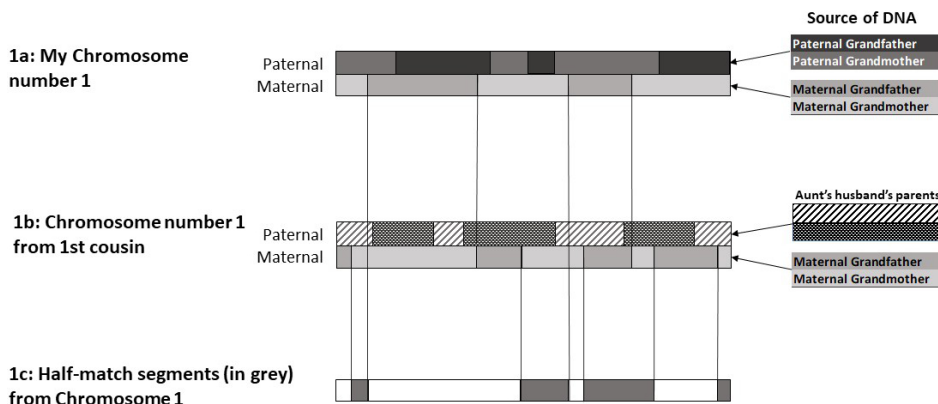
DNA is short for deoxyribonucleic acid which tells you little except to say that it is an extraordinarily long molecule with two strands linked together at regular intervals. In fact, it's probably helpful to think of the DNA molecule as like an incredibly long ladder, helical in shape rather than straight, which is joined together at each and every single location like the individual rungs of a ladder.

Chromosomes consist of essentially a single molecule of DNA together with additional material which is less helpful to consider at this stage. Each person has 23 pairs of chromosomes that vary both according to size and shape. One pair of chromosomes determines biological sex: a female child inherits a pair of X chromosomes, one from each parent, whereas male children receive a Y chromosome from their father and an X from their mother.

The other 22 pairs of chromosomes are the same size and shape in all human beings and they determine characteristics other than biological sex. These are also known as autosomal chromosomes. For each pair, one chromosome is inherited from the biological mother, the other from the biological father.

Acknowledging that there are other types of commercial DNA comparisons available, including Mitochondrial and Y-chromosome, this discussion is intentionally limited to Autosomal DNA matching which focuses on these 22 chromosomes. It might be helpful to imagine each chromosome as like a zip fastener, one side from the mother and the other from the father – each side of the zip equal in length to the other. Furthermore, the side I receive from each parent will in turn contain different sections along its length inherited from each of their parents, ie my grandparents. In a similar way, any of my offspring will receive one whole side of each of their chromosomes from me, and this will consist of different sections along its length contributed from each of my parents at random. Here's a hypothetical example:

Figure 1: Matching Segments with Hypothetical 1st Cousin



Let's imagine a 1st cousin, the child of a maternal aunt. Both I and my cousin will have inherited DNA from our maternal grandparents. In this example the cousin's father has no DNA relationship at all with either of my parents, nor with me. Neither has my father got any DNA connection to this cousin.

Figure 1a shows the different segments that I have inherited from each of my four grandparents for chromosome number 1: paternal in dark grey; maternal in light grey; the darker colour in each case represents segments inherited from the respective grandfather; the lighter colour in each case from the respective grandmother.

Figure 1b shows the makeup of the same chromosome, number 1, from my cousin. This cousin and I share the same maternal grandparents and we will each inherit a different combination of their DNA on the maternal half of each chromosome.

When my DNA is compared with my cousin's, a number of matching segments are likely to be found, and the matching segments from Chromosome 1 are shown in grey in Figure 1c. These are sometimes called half-match segments because they match on one half of the chromosome. In this example we already know that the two mothers are sisters and, therefore, these matches must be located on the maternal half of chromosome 1 in both cases. If the relationship was unknown, you would need additional information to determine whether a half-match segment was maternal or paternal – for example, by comparing matches to other family members, especially from parents where their DNA is available. Note that although some matches in the example are to the maternal grandfather and some to the maternal grandmother these are not distinguished in the matching process.

So, finally, in this example, we have identified four matching segments of DNA, all from the maternal half of chromosome 1. Each matching segment can be described in terms of its starting and finishing position on the chromosome. The length of these DNA segments can also be categorised in terms of centimorgans (cM). (NB the centimorgan is not exactly a unit of length, but for simplification can be considered to be.) This then, should provide enough background information to be able to make sense of the information in the tables that follow.

DNA Testing and Introducing the IOW and Hampshire Ancestor Project

Most people will be familiar with commercial genealogy websites such as Ancestry, MyHeritage, or Findmypast. These offer a number of resources for tracing family history including the facility to build an online family tree and access to a variety of UK, Irish and international

birth, marriage, death, burial, census, wills and many other types of record. Some of these, together with other providers including LivingDNA and 23andme, offer members access to autosomal DNA testing for a small fee, usually from about £70.

All you have to do is provide them with a sample of saliva and within about two weeks the results are available as an online report. The content of a report varies according to which provider you use, but it usually includes information on ethnicity estimates, health and other traits. However, arguably the most valuable benefit is to produce a list of people from the provider's database to whom you are a DNA match, and thereby, probably related to. This information may also include the number of matching segments, total length of all segments (in cM) or whether the match is paternal or maternal. It may also include an estimate of the closeness of the relationship, ie whether the person is likely to be a first or second cousin or whether the relationship is more distant.

One limitation of the commercial DNA test providers is that each only provides lists of DNA matches from their own user community. To widen the number of matches available, there are websites such as GEDMatch which host DNA data for members drawn from different user communities. In addition, GEDMatch has a number of tools that produce detailed information about each of the matching segments. To join, you make a copy of your DNA information held by your provider and upload it as a kit to GEDMatch. One of the facilities that GEDMatch offers is membership of specialist and geographical groups called 'Ancestor Projects'. IOWFHS manages an Ancestor Project within GEDMatch for members that have family links to Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. [See Journals 143, Nov 2021, p32 and 147, Nov 2022, p21] As of 4 May 2025 there were 745 kits in the Project.

The table below is a sample of a few of the matches that I have within the IW and Hampshire Ancestor Project, albeit with some edits to remove email addresses and disguise personal details such as kit numbers and names. By default, the list only includes segments above a threshold of 7cM and the matches are listed with the smallest MRCA (most recent common ancestor) first.

Each matching segment is listed separately, and for some matches there may be more than one matching segment. Multiple matching

segments often indicate a closer degree of relatedness. The list includes the chromosome that the matching segment is from, the significance of the segment in terms of cM and its specific start and end positions.

Table 1: Examples of matches to Steve Stotesbury within the IW and Hampshire Ancestor Project

Kit	Name	Chr	Start	End	cM	SNPs	Overlap	MRCA
A*****2	A*****e	22	46,924,254	49,486,490	11.3	201	117831	4.78
A*****2	A*****e	20	5,843,812	8,947,242	7.8	206	117831	4.78
A*****9	*****d	1	192,514,029	207,894,416	17.7	2281	430315	4.83
C*****5	*F*****y	2	69,012,522	82,248,571	16.1	2039	411749	4.9
A*****6	*****s	1	191,145,367	204,453,320	14.1	1681	396785	4.99
U*****8	M*****r	7	105,256,374	119,277,137	11.6	1580	411712	5.14
M*****7	*B*****3	15	63,144,236	70,473,260	10.5	1085	434492	5.21
F*****8	S*****l	2	216,300,185	220,926,429	9.7	218	117527	5.59
B*****5	G*****s	1	752,721	3,681,831	9.4	449	411619	5.91

SNP is single nucleotide polymorphism which I won't attempt to explain, but each one can be considered to be a marker, so a higher number of SNPs in a segment indicates a greater reliability of the match. The MRCA provides an estimate of the number of generations separating the matching kits, so an MRCA of 5 would be expected from two people who share 3rd Great grandparents, eg 4th cousins. The two decimal places imply a level of precision which is completely misleading. The MRCA can only be an approximate guide as DNA inheritance is random; each descendant of a given pair of common ancestors will inherit different amounts of DNA from them.

Members of the Ancestor Project typically post their results on the Facebook site and connect with other people on their match list to compare their respective family trees. In this way many links have been established or verified which has proved helpful and beneficial to many peoples' research.

This is the first part of an article that has been serialised in two Parts. The next section, Part 2, will consider how to get more from this DNA information and discover more about how each of these matches might be connected.

Steve STOTESBURY (IWFHS Member 3664)

faithalert1@gmail.com

Appuldurcombe House and What the Papers Said - Part 3



APPULDURCOMBE PF



LORD YARBOROUGH'S.

Appuldurcombe Park by Thomas BARBER (1818-1840), Engraver

The Petty Sessions in Newport were reported on by the *Hampshire Independent* dated February 1842:

‘Thomas MOSES of Wraxall (Wroxall) was charged with trespassing in pursuit of game on the estate of the Earl of Yarborough, at Appuldurcombe Park. Joseph DUFF, an assistant keeper said he knew Moses. On Monday last he saw him, in the plantations about seven o’clock in the morning. He had a gin in his hand and was stooping down near a hare’s nest. Witness went to the place when he dropped the gin and ran off, which gin witness picked up and pursued and caught him; he cried out “Oh! Dear. Stop a moment;” witness replied “O, I have been stopping long enough; I shall not stop any longer.” He then escaped a second time, and was a second time taken, when witness, in order to secure him threw him

down, and tied his hands, and then took him to Mr Low, the head keeper. There were three hares caught near the nest and boughs of trees were stuck in the ground to guide the game in that direction, which induced witness to watch for some days until he caught him; he was then suffered to depart, and a summons issued to answer the charge before the court. The Bench commented severely on Moses's conduct, who it appears has, together with his father, uncle, and several other relations, been entirely employed by his Lordship, for very many years, and who in a sense of duty, ought rather to have protected than destroyed the property. A fine of 40s was recorded and a warrant issued for his apprehension.'

In December 1844 the *Hampshire Advertiser* reported

'THE CHRISTMAS SHEW of beef, mutton, &c at our butchers is of the finest description. At Messrs. Woodham and son were several very fine oxen fed on the estate of the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough at Appuldurcombe.'

The *Hampshire Advertiser* in April 1846 reported under

'**Fashionables at Cowes** - The Earl of Yarborough returned to the Island on Tuesday from town; we are sorry to say his lordship since his departure has been very ill, but we have no doubt the genial air of Appuldurcombe (his lordship's seat in the Island) will soon restore him to his wonted health. In fact his lordship felt a decided change for the better on his arrival at Cowes – His yacht, Kestrel, is progressing rapidly in her refitment.'

On the 19th September 1846 the *Windsor and Eton Express* reported the

'...death of the Earl of Yarborough, who died suddenly on the 10th inst. while on board his yacht the Kestrel, at Vigo. The noble Earl left Cowes in July last, and had been cruising up to the moment of the melancholy occurrence, being unaccompanied by any other member of his family. His remains are now being conveyed to England in the Kestrel yacht.'

In January 1847 the *Monthly Times* reported the

'Will of Lord Yarborough – The late Earl of Yarborough has bequeathed to his younger son, the Hon. Dudley Pelham, his

practical nautical books, charts, chronometers, and all nautical instruments, for his own use, and a pecuniary bequest, having conveyed to him all his vested right under settlement; has also left pecuniary legacies to his daughter, daughters-in-law, and his three sisters and liberal annuities and legacies to his servants. By deed, executed in 1842, his lordship conveyed to his eldest son Lord Worsley, now Earl of Yarborough, all his diamonds, plate, pictures, books, prints, drawings, statues, and all other personal property on his estates at Brocklesbury Hall, Appuldurcombe Park, and in Arlington-street, as heir-looms with the settled estates, and has bequeathed to his lordship all the newly-purchased estates, and all estates not in settlement, and those in the counties of Lincoln and Kent, and in the Isle of Wight, and that he may dispose of the Romney Marsh estates, and has appointed his lordship residuary legatee and sole executor. The funded and personal estate was estimated for duty at £80,000.'

I have stated earlier in this set of articles that the late Earl of Yarborough had two children but in fact he had four – Henrietta Lucy b1807, d1814, Charles Anderson WORSLEY b1809, Charlotte b1810 and Dudley WORSLEY b1812.

The *Morning Post* dated August 1848 reported that during Her Majesty's visit to Osborne

'His Royal Highness, the Prince Albert, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Wylde, went, at nine o'clock this morning, to Appuldurcombe, the seat of the Earl of Yarborough, to view the farming stock.'

The *Hampshire Advertiser* dated July 1849 reported

'Pure Southdown Rams – a few of the above, the property of the Honourable Dudley Pelham, will be offered for SALE or HIRE by Auction, at Appuldurcombe Park, in the Isle of Wight, Tuesday, the 24th of July 1849, at One o'clock. FRANCIS PITTIS, Auctioneer.'

On the 30th March 1851 the Census for England, Wales and Scotland was carried out. The one resident in Appuldurcombe House was Ann BRITAIN, Servant, unmarried, aged 51, occupation Servant housekeeper and born in Nottinghamshire.

In July 1851 a large advert was placed in the *Hampshire Chronicle* for the sale of Appuldurcombe.

‘With its most capital stone-built Mansion, rich Park, Manors, Woods, and Farms. Messrs DANIEL SMITH and SON are commissioned by the noble Proprietor to announce that the above magnificent FREEHOLD DOMAIN, delightfully situated between Newport, Bonchurch, and Niton, will be SUBMITTED TO PUBLIC COMPETITION in September, or early in October next, (unless previously disposed of by private treaty.)

Appuldurcome has long ranked as the most extensive and important domain in the island, comprising upwards of 4700 acres, (a great part tithe free,) surrounding a noble and spacious mansion, delightfully sheltered in a superbly timbered Park of above 400 Acres, walled round and boldly undulated, and entered by handsome lodges and gateways together with the manors of Godshell, Whitwell, Sandford and Week. The several capital FARMS, with their superior Homesteads and Cottages, are let to highly respectable tenants, at moderate rents, and are interspersed with ornamental woodlands and plantations, forming excellent preserves for game, and intersected by very extensive land beautiful drives. The various home and distant views embrace a surprising combination of grand and lovely scenery, and spots of delightful seclusion, refreshed by streamlets and many romantic and picturesque features.

It is altogether an estate of very great value and importance, both as a fine and improvable landed investment, and a peculiarly healthy and enjoyable residence.

It can be viewed only by orders, which may be had of Messrs. Tallents and Burnaby, solicitors, Newark; Messrs Sewell and Estcourt, Solicitors, Newport; and of Messrs Daniel Smith and Son, land agents, in Waterloo-place, Pallmall, London, who are authorised to receive offers by private treaty. Descriptive particulars, with plans, are preparing, and will be published in July, with the day of sale.’

The *Oxford Chronicle and Reading Gazette* dated January 1852 reported that

‘the whole property was put up in one lot, and in the early biddings there was much spirited competition, but they did not eventually reach the reserved price, and the estate though not sold, was ultimately knocked down at £149,000.’

The *Hampshire Advertiser* reported from the Newport County Court in May 1852 a case between

‘Buckell v. Lovegod – A plaint to recover £2 14s. The defendant is a native of Greece, and came to this country fifty or sixty years since, and depended principally upon a legacy of £20 per annum, which his master, the late Sir Richard Worsley, left him, chargeable on the Appuldurcombe estate. The debt was for groceries supplied. Mr. Hearn asked for time for the old man. – Order made for 8s per month.’

Lesley ABRAHAM (IWFHS Member 540)

Sources: British Newspaper Archives, Find My Past

Some Isle of Wight MACKETTs

These extracts are from a late Victorian Directory of all then known Oxford University men, it has come to me from across the Pond.

- Alumni Oxonienses: Richard MAKEYT {MACKET} aged 18, from Ryde, Isle of Wight, Fellow of New College. 1505-24. B.C.L. 27 June, 1513, Chaplain 1521
- MA(C)KETT, Thomas B.L.L. & D.L.L. sup. 6 March, 1507-8, Vicar of Colerne, Wilts, 1509. See Foster's Index Eccl.
- MACKETT, William s. William, of Luccombe, Isle of Wight, Pleb. Magdalen College., matric. 28 Jan., 1630-1, aged 19; demy 1630-6, B.A. 11 Feb., 1630-1, M.A. 17 Dec., 1633.

Needless to say, all my known Mackett ancestors, in Binstead and elsewhere, were rather more humble.

Michael McKECHNIE (IWFHS Member 314)

mck@vectisisle.plus.com

Finding my roots on the Isle of Wight

I suspect that, like me, some of you will have grown up with family stories from way back which seem mysterious or intriguing. In fact I have two such family legends, one on my paternal side and one on the maternal. It is the former which I think might interest other readers of this Journal.

Growing up, as I did, in the north-east town of South Shields, the Isle of Wight seemed a distant and unlikely place for my whole existence to stem from, but that turned out to be the case. My mother told me the tale of my paternal great grandfather, which contained an element of scandal and also some true but surprising facts. The garbled tale as it came down the line like a Chinese whisper, was that my great grandfather was born on the Isle of Wight but was considered the black sheep of the family. He left home, ran away to sea and changed his name from HEARN to KENT. His father was also keeper of Carisbrooke Castle. As family legends go it was not too far from the truth.

The story sat unheeded for many years until Covid arrived, and with it the dreaded lockdown. This is when my interest in family history – something which I had occasionally dabbled in over the years – became a fairly serious pursuit. I joined two internet Family Search sites but also made the very good decision to join the IWFHS. Here I discovered the alphabetised version of the 1841 census, and the list of Victorian marriages, which proved to be immensely helpful. With their assistance I was able to make connections so much more easily, and what I discovered was that the whole of the KENT family of which I am a member began on the Isle of Wight in the 1840s.

Beginning with my grandfather, George Alfred KENT, I found from his birth certificate that his father was George KENT and his mother was Margaret Jane MEDDES. I then traced his marriage certificate. When he married Margaret Jane in 1869 he was 28 years old, so he was born in 1841 at the latest. Also, his father was stated to be Alfred HEARN, landowner.

So here is where the IOW alphabetised 1841 Census came into its own. From this I was easily able to locate all of the George KENTs living on the Island in 1841. The most likely candidate was a George KENT, aged 1, living in Arreton Street, Arreton, with James and Ruth KENT (his

grandparents), Charlotte KENT (their daughter) George KENT (their son) aged 15 and another George KENT aged 1. From further online searching I located one year old George's birth certificate which showed he was born on 4th June 1840 in the House of Industry, Carisbrooke. His father was given as Alfred HEARN, yeoman, and his mother was Charlotte KENT.

The KENTs were a poor family of agricultural labourers, in contrast to the HEARNs who were a notable family at the time. Incidentally it was his uncle, Brown HEARN, who was keeper of Carisbrooke Castle, not his father. By the time of the 1851 Census there were only two people still living in the house at Arreton Street. Grandfather James KENT had by that time died, and Charlotte's brother George was married and living elsewhere. Grandmother Ruth is described as a widowed pauper/ agricultural labourer and George is a student. I don't know Charlotte's whereabouts in 1851 but her death certificate shows she died at the House of Industry on 31st January 1855.



Mechanics Institute, South Shields

By the time of the 1861 Census great grandfather George was working as an apprentice on the vessel *Phoebe*. This was a period of huge industrial expansion and there was much shipping traffic from the North East coalfields to London and onwards. The Tyne was a busy trading and shipbuilding river, and 7 miles further south, the River Wear became the largest shipbuilding river in the world. The town of South

Shields, at the mouth of the River Tyne, had become renowned in merchant shipping circles for its Marine School, which took in seamen from around the world who were seeking to gain their various certificates of seamanship. At first this was based in the Mechanics Institute (now a museum) and then a purpose built school was opened in 1869.

A new school was built quite some time ago and the old one is now a pub. The Victorians certainly knew how to erect grand buildings and I wonder if this one might even outlive its successor!

It was also in that year 1869 that George gained his 'Only Mate' certificate. It was also the year he married his wife Margaret. She was a South Shields girl and George presumably met her on his visits to the town. So it was that the family settled down in South Shields. In 1873 George gained his 'Master' certificate. In the same year my grandfather George Alfred KENT was born, followed over the years by 4 other siblings, Emily, Agnes, Margaret and Rebecca.



Marine School, South Shields



George Kent's Certificate of Competency as Master
(Ancestry)

Presumably as a result of gaining better qualifications, George changed from the *Phoebe* to sailing on the *SS Vauxhall*, a bigger vessel, no doubt requiring more crew. He was still sailing on the *Vauxhall* in 1901 according to that year's census. I can find little further information about George or Margaret, except for George's death certificate which shows he died at home on 22nd October 1921 at the grand old age of 81.

I think Margaret predeceased him by some years.

Interestingly, George's grandson (my father) was also a Merchant Seaman, studying for his engineering certificates at the same school that George would have attended. He was involved in long voyages, visiting places such as North America, South America, Australia and India – many during the war.

When he was away my mother would collect his wages from the Customs House, another fine Victorian building located on the riverside. George's wife Margaret may well have done the same. It is now a theatre and cinema and has produced at least one person of talent, that being Joe McELDERRY, who won the 6th series of The X Factor in 2009.



Customs House, South Shields



If you are a fan of the TV series 'Vera' you may well recognise these views of the mouth of the River Tyne, with Tynemouth on the north bank and South Shields to the south. The picture on the right shows the red Herd Groyne lighthouse, which often featured in the programme.

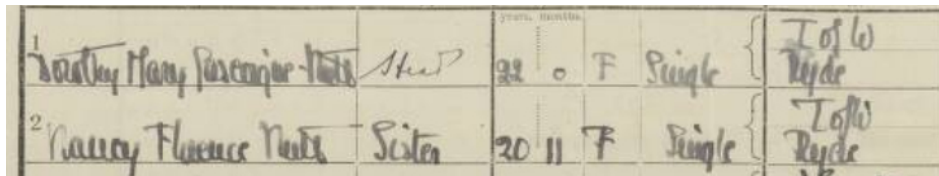
Dorothy SCOTT (née KENT) (IWFHS Member 6103)
dorothy.mse@btinternet.com

Further experience with the 1921 Census

In a previous article (Journal 149 Page 26) I have explained some difficulties with using FindMyPast's (FMP) transcriptions of the 1921 Census. There was a more than 10% error rate in the surname transcriptions of the 562 Island railway workers I identified by their occupation codes. I subsequently submitted 150+ corrections (including family members) to FMP.

For the current licensees project, I have been following a similar path, processing more than 400 licensed victuallers identified by their occupation code (914) in the 1921 Census. This time I have been using Ancestry's transcriptions and database but the error rate seems similar.

The clipping shows part of the 1921 entries for Dorothy Mary Gascoigne NUTT (22) and her sister Nancy Florence NUTT (20) both born in Ryde. By use of BMD and Census data they are easily identifiable as the daughters of bank manager Harold G NUTT and his wife Florence.



1	Dorothy Mary Gascoigne NUTT	22	F	Single	T of W Ryde
2	Nancy Florence NUTT	20	F	Single	T of W Ryde

The problem is that if you are looking for Dorothy or Nancy in the 1921 Census you will not find them. Both FMP and Ancestry transcribe Dorothy's name as 'Dorothy Mary George Weets'. No amount of 'Sounds Like' or 'Soundex' will get round this problem. And because they are identically wrong, it would appear that Ancestry inherited the transcription from FMP.

Looking at Dorothy's handwriting, you can understand how the names were transcribed wrongly but, having found an error and as a worthy citizen, should I submit a correction to FMP or Ancestry or (horrors) both? Are the companies sharing corrections? I'm guessing they aren't.

Steve NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member 2189)

Journal Editor

journal.editor.iowfhs@gmail.com

The History of Carisbrooke Priory

An illustrated talk given to Society members on 7th April 2025

Built remarkably quickly, but also robustly, between August 1865 and November 1866, Carisbrooke Priory, which was known as St Dominic's Priory until it was vacated by the last five Dominican nuns in residence in 1989, stands at the heart of the Isle of Wight, opposite the Castle.

Chair of Trustees and day-to-day leader, Bob WHITE, recounted the history, including some interesting connections with St Mary's Church and Aspire Central (formerly Holy Trinity Church) in Ryde, and shared how it came into its present use, which includes a bustling Tea Room, homelessness accommodation and glorious gardens.

An illustrated tour of the house and gardens encompassed some of the Priory's 'peculiarities', such as a flushing tank, a mysterious mirror and the Prioress's toilet!

Built to house up to 30 Dominican nuns at a time when Roman Catholicism was still somewhat frowned upon, Queen Victoria's remarkable visit in January 1869 certainly helped to build bridges with Protestants, and the architecture was expressly intended to foster positive attitudes among those viewing from the Castle battlements.



Carisbrooke Priory Gateway

Grand trees now limit such views, but the Christian faith remains foundational to Priory activities, the simple strapline being 'An Open Door to the Peace of God'.

Carisbrooke Priory is normally open to visitors on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10am to 4pm. Admission is free.

Bob WHITE (non-member)
Chair of Trustees, Carisbrooke Priory
<https://carisbrookepriory.org.uk/>

Membership Secretary's Report Aug 2025

I am looking forward to meeting you at our One Day Conference in September and also at our Anniversary Lunch (40 years) the next day. We are delighted to see Members at our monthly meetings, workshops and visits of interest too. As ever, your suggestions are helpful in deciding the future programme.

I wish a warm welcome to those of you who have joined or returned to our Society in the past three months. If you have not already done so, please take the time to have a look around our website and familiarise yourself with the self-managed aspects of My Account. Advice and guidance can be found from our Home page under the Help and Membership > Membership Information tabs and you are welcome to either email or write to me for assistance.

Have you changed your email address recently? You can up-date your membership record with the new address - we will need it to make contact with you. You will then be able to use your new email address to log into your account. You can also change your postal address or other contact details if required.

If you are having problems logging in, try the Reset option to create another password. All you need to login are your email address and password. Nothing else is required to access the Members' Area.

I look forward to corresponding with you in the future and, as always, contact me with any queries.

Gerry NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member 2189)
Membership Secretary
membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com

New Members

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

6122 **Miss Abi RIVITT:** abi_rivitt@hotmail.com
(no research interests yet received)

- 6194 **Mr Richard WHEELER:** richardwheeler42@gmail.com
- 7301 **Tony KNIGHT:** knightroots@btinternet.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7438 **Mr Brian Eric MORRIS:** brian123uk@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7440 **Ms Margaret Jean MACRO:** britmaggie77@gmail.com

CHESSEL	IOW	17th-18th Centuries
HOLLIS	IOW	18th-19th Centuries
LONG	IOW	18th Century
RIDER	IOW	18th-19th Centuries
- 7443 **Debra HIBBARD:** debihibbard@hotmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7444 **Ms Laura BUCKLEY:** laurajanebuckley@gmail.com
KELLEWAY IOW
- 7445 **Mrs Nicole Simone ARCHER-WARING:**
myfamilyhistory88@gmail.com

CRITCHLEY-	IOW	Shanklin	19th Century
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SALMONSON
- 7454 **Mr David CROUCH:** dgcrouch@rogers.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7455 **Mr Ian KENNEDY:** ian.kennedy36@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7456 **Mrs Joanne PALFREY:** palfreyjo@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7459 **Mrs Samantha BANTING:** sambanting67@gmail.com

BANTING	IOW	All areas	All Centuries
BENNETT	IOW	Whippingham	All Centuries
- 7470 **Mrs Janice LORD:** janiceclord@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7471 **Mrs Debbie MARFANY:** debbie.marfany@hotmail.co.uk
(no research interests yet received)

7478 **Mr Kevin GRIMES:** grimes8@me.com
(no research interests yet received)

7480 **Mrs NICHOLA ROWLEY:** kevin_nicky@msn.com
(no research interests yet received)

Returning Members

3555 **Mr Martin HOOPER & Mrs Ann HOOPER:**
hoopermr@gmail.com

BUDDEN	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
EDMUNDS	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
HARRIS	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
WOODS	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries

4179 **Ms Treena SARA:** treenasara@gmail.com

ATTRILL	IOW	Billingham, Carisbrooke, Whitwell
DAY	IOW	Brading, Calbourne, Porchfield 17th-18th Centuries
HICK	IOW	Calbourne 17th-18th Centuries
JACOBS	IOW	Brading, Calbourne, Godshill, Whitwell
MARKS	IOW	Fawley, Newtown 17th-18th Centuries

6517 **Mrs Michelle RAMOS:** michelleram3116@gmail.com

MEARS	IOW	One Name Study	19th Century
PARSONS	IOW	One Name Study	19th Century
ROBINI	IOW	All	
ROBINI	IOW	One Name Study	19th Century

6585 **Mr Barry MASON:** barry.mason@hotmail.co.uk
(no research interests yet received)

7085 **Mrs Elaine MACGREGOR:** evm.familyhistory@gmail.com

BARTON	IOW	ALL AREAS	
GRIST	IOW	All Areas	
LONG	IOW	All Areas	
WOODNUTT	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries

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

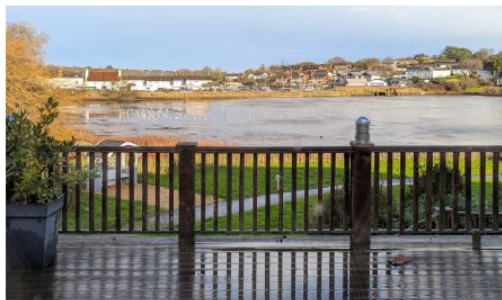
<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com>

The National Archives

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

ANNIVERSARY LUNCH, SUNDAY 28TH SEPT 2025

Oyster Room, Lakeside Park Hotel



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

Join us - there are still some spaces at our anniversary lunch
Flat and accessible access from the car park

Email Membership Secretary
Gerry Newberry at membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com

Choose from the two-course menu @ £25.00
The menu will be sent acknowledging your booking,
along with payment details



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www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk

