

# **Peterborough and District Family History Society**

## **Newsletter**

**May 2021**

### **From the editor...**

It is coming to that time of year when, with the promise of warmer days and the lure of the outdoors, family history can often take a back seat. But I hope you won't abandon your research altogether as the spring and summer can also offer opportunities to expand your research in different ways.

The archives are opening up again so take this opportunity to book your self a slot and get to grips with the original source material. There really is nothing like looking at the documents themselves.

Now we are able to travel again what better time than to take a visit to the town or village where your ancestors lived. Walk in their shoes. Visit the church where they were baptised, married or buried. Find the school they attended. If you are lucky there might even be a pub or coffee shop to visit.

Companies also know that our attention may be elsewhere so look out for discounted subscriptions or even free access weekends. Don't forget there are still many sites that can be accessed for free, such as FreeBmd and Family Search, and don't forget libraries offer free access to fee paying websites.

And when the inevitable rain comes and you head indoors don't forget to share your research with other members of the society. Don't feel you have to write a long article, a few lines, handy tip, or an idea is enough. This is your newsletter and journal. I hope to hear from you.

**Sadie**

### **From the chairman...**

The dispensation from the Government to allow virtual meetings of charitable societies even though not covered in constitutions came to an end on 30<sup>th</sup> March. It is still impossible to meet more than 6 persons in the normal way. We need to add a phrase to our own Constitution to cover virtual meetings and plan to do this at an Emergency General Meeting at the beginning of our next Virtual Meeting on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. We will also ask you to ratify any decisions taken by the Committee at virtual meetings since 30<sup>th</sup> March. This should take no more than 5 minutes. We will send you the proposals two weeks before then. Thank you.

**Michael**

### **Dates for Your Diary**

**Wednesday 5th May 7.30pm AGM followed by brickwalls**

**Wednesday 2nd June 7.30pm Jenny Mallin**

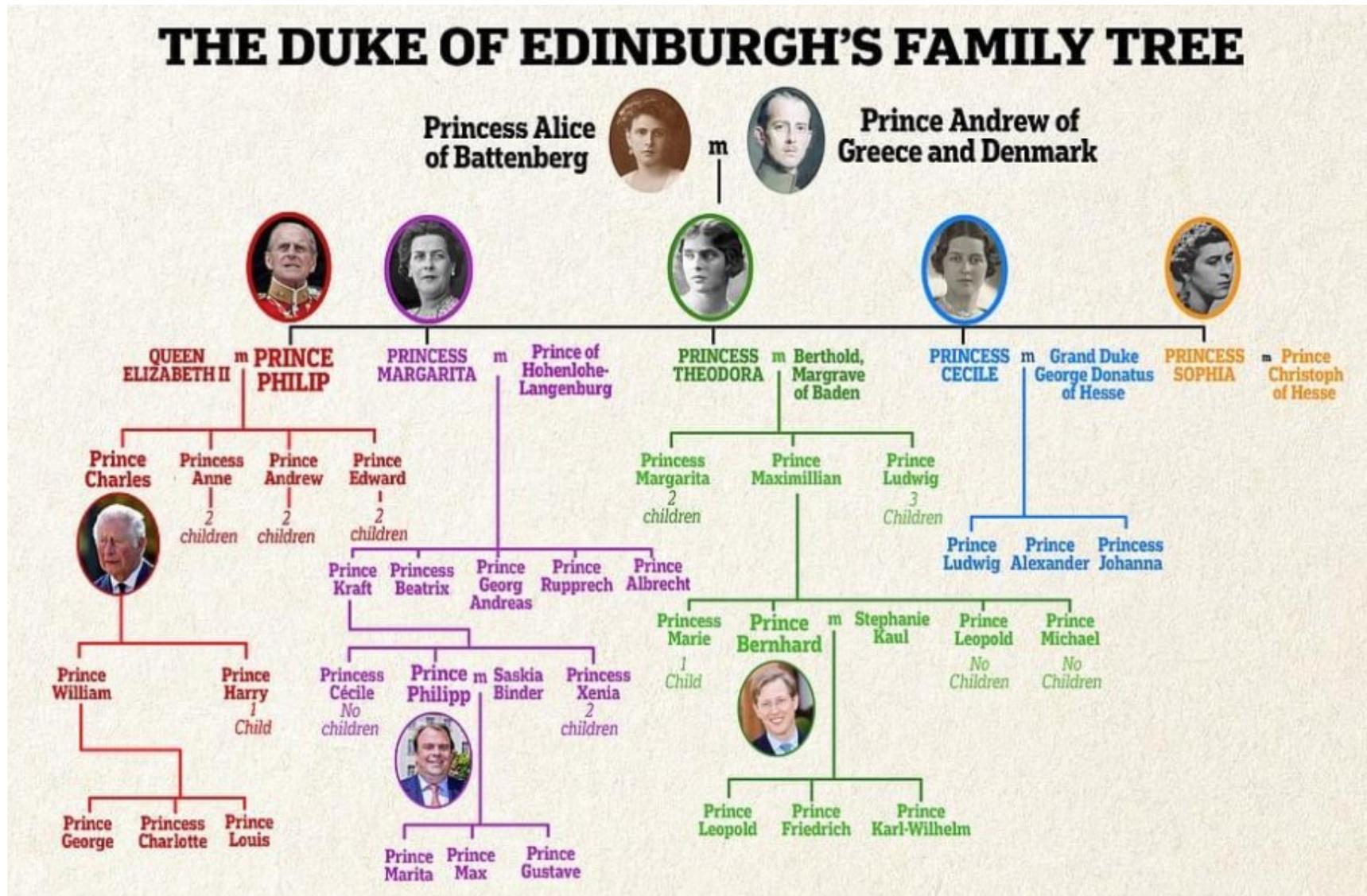
**'A grandmother's legacy...Raj in India'**

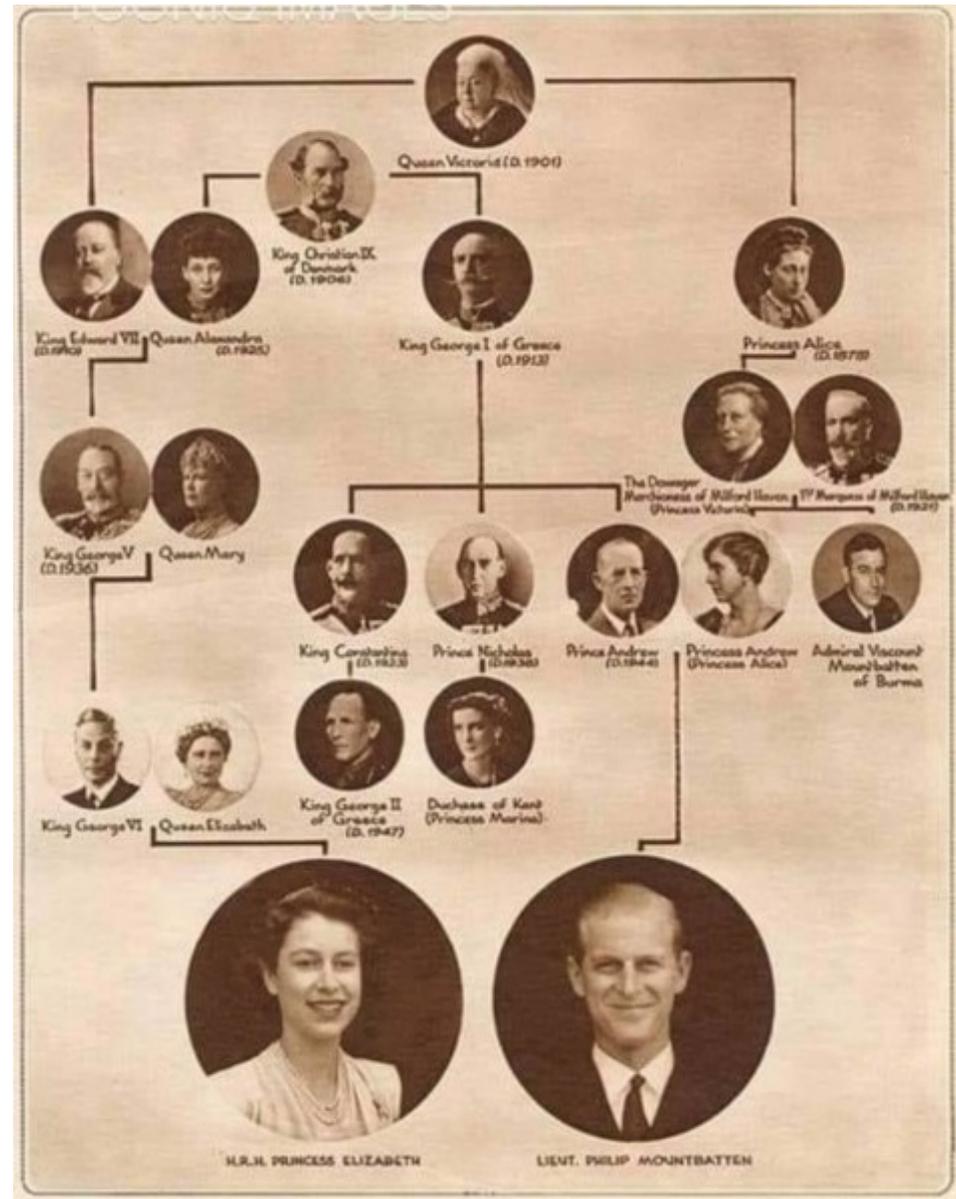
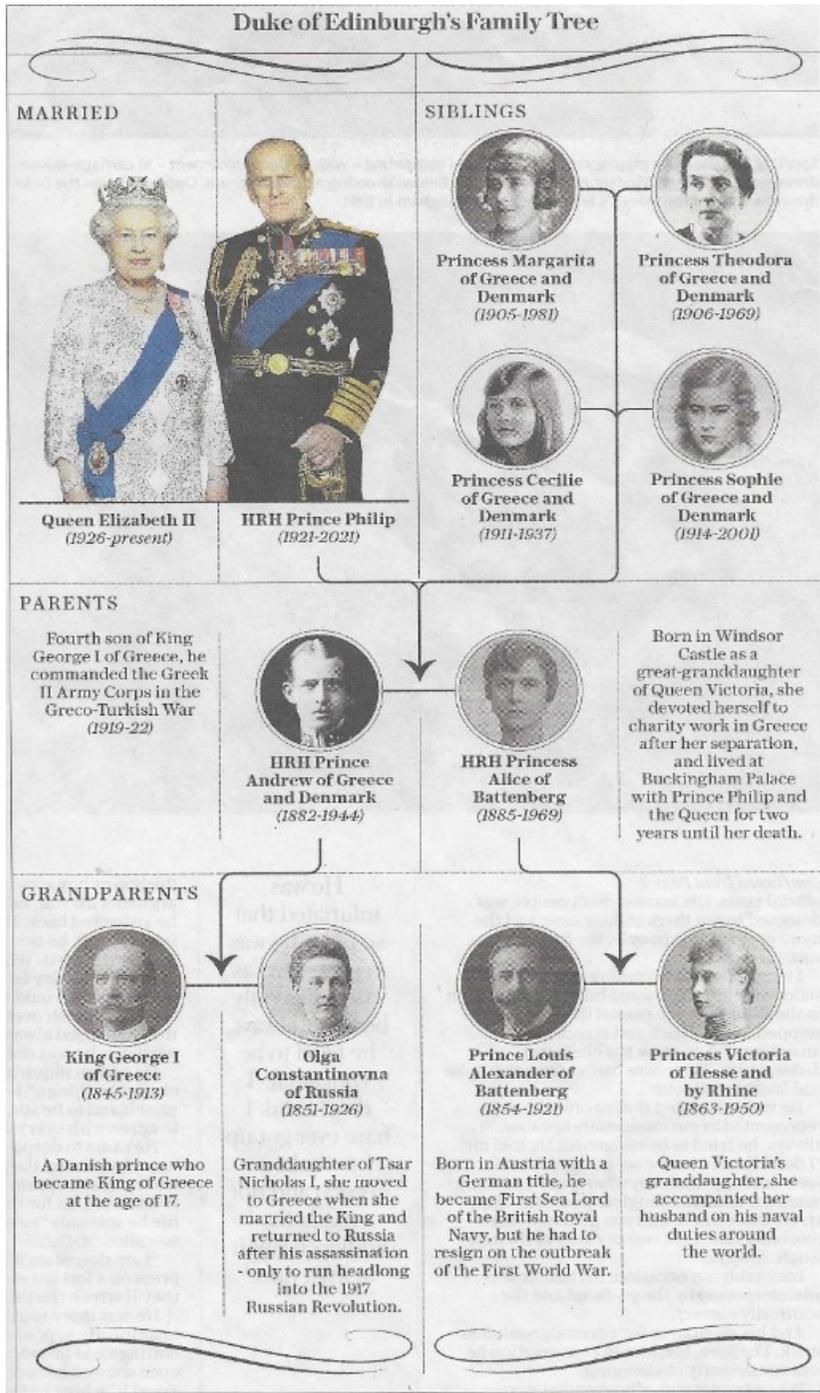
**Zoom invites will be sent out prior to the event**



## HRH Prince Phillip The Duke of Edinburgh 1921-2021

On the 9th April 2021 The Queen lost her husband and consort when Prince Phillip died, aged 99. But how much do we know about Prince Phillip's family? These three family trees will hopefully shed some light on his wider family, highlight details about his closer family and finally show a family link that we may encounter in our own family tree. Thank you to Pauline Kennelly for suggesting this article.





The tree above shows that Prince Phillip and the Queen were in fact related, third cousins through Queen Victoria and second cousins 1x removed through Christian IX of Denmark.

This was not uncommon, although more unusual today. Do you have any close family relationships via marriage in your trees? The editor would love to hear from you? Put pen to paper and tell your story.

## Mystery Object

I am fascinated by articles in newspapers , magazines or facebook reminding us of objects that were once part of everyday life but have now been forgotten. They can give us a fascinating insight into our ancestor's life.



It was reported in the *Peterborough Standard* on the 27th February 1931, that the interesting object, pictured left, had been donated to the Peterborough Museum by Mr. Sidney Edwin of 217 Belsize Avenue, Woodston.

The report goes on to say that it 'is rather a good specimen...and its natural home is on the side of the fen dykes and drains'.

But what is it? And what does it do? Please send your suggestions to the editor (but don't google for the answer).

*If you have a mystery object, or an object that is not used anymore that might provoke discussion and memories, then please send the editor a picture for the next newsletter.*

## Research tip

I was researching Peterborough's first female Mayor , Lilly Bryant, in the online newspapers. Entering Mrs Lilly Bryant, Councillor L. Bryant, Mayor L. Bryant and many other derivatives brought a blank.

Then I realised married women were referred to by their husband's title. So in this case, Mrs C. W. Bryant, or Councillor C. W. Bryant and even Mayor C. W. Bryant.

## Blogs, websites and youtube

### WW2 Peterborough

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovMAI7hohJk>

Have you ever wondered what Peterborough looked like at the close of the Second World War? This short video shows some amazing footage. Click this [link](#).

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### Obscure occupations

<http://www.worldthroughthelens.com/family-history/old-occupations.php>

Have you ever looked at a census record and wondered what occupation your ancestor had? This fascinating website lists hundreds of occupations with details of the type of employment.

Click this [link](#).

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### Intriguing History

<https://intriguing-history.com/family-history/>

Have you ever wondered what was happening in the world when your ancestors were alive? This website gives a range of timelines grouped by era and themes. This unique approach allows you to search for what is relevant to your family and your interests. Well worth a browse and check out the blogs as well. Click this [link](#).

## Brickwalls

We have two brickwalls that need solving. If anyone can help, with either information or possible sources to research, then please contact the editor. I do have additional information about the house on Wharf Road. So if you can assist with that I can share it with you, just send me an e.mail.

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Ian Walker writes:

‘My great-grandfather, Robert Caston, died on 23rd November 1874. He was then living with my great-grandmother at 46 Whalley Street, Peterborough. He was a bricklayer, and although his death certificate says he was 59, he was in fact 67.

Anyway, his place of death is recorded as Reform Street, Peterborough. His death was reported by a Jane Cox of Wellington Lane, Peterborough, who was said to have been “in attendance” at his death.

I cannot find either address on a modern map. Were the streets re-named?

Is there any significance that he died of liver disease at an address not his home?

It did occur to me that the Reform Street address might have significance to students of Peterborough history.

I would be most grateful for any help that you might be able to give.’

‘We purchased a Grade 2 listed property in Woodston, 71 Wharf Road, around 5 years ago and wanted to continue our research into the property as well as its occupants over the approximately 350 years it has been standing (the listing states it is expected to be late 17th century). The research was started when we completed some refurbishment works to the property and helped the architect in drafting the heritage statement for listed building consent.

In completing this piece of research, we have previously been to the archives in Huntingdon a couple of times and obtained some useful information on nearby landowners and property occupants and were hoping there may be some other records or knowledge we could access within a more local source such as the Peterborough and District Family History Society.

Initially we thought the cottage was constructed by the abbots of Thorney Abbey as Woodstone was the point on the River Nene where goods were offloaded and transported overland to Yaxley’s Thursday market without having to pay any tolls to offload further downstream in Peterborough (Woodstone being a separate village in Huntingdonshire until approximately 1900), presumably to the abbots of Peterborough Cathedral.

One other source I tried to use is the Hearth Tax records as hopefully the period it was in force (1662-1689) covers the period of construction of the cottage and its attached neighbour.

Ideally, we would like to get to a year when the property was built as it is our intention to add a date stone in the front noting our renovation date. However, any further information on property history or the occupants who lived in it would be warmly welcomed!’