



**Peterborough and District Family  
History Society Newsletter  
February 2024**



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

As Family Historians we are all used to dates. Perhaps the three most common ones refer to Birth, Marriages and Deaths, marking important stages of our existence. I share with you three more important dates which I ask you to note in your diary.

**20.4.2024:** This is the East Anglian Group of Family History Societies Really Useful Show **LIVE** in the Burgess Hall at St. Ives. We shall have a stall there and some of our Committee have already committed to be present to represent our Society. This is open from 10 – 4. Please consider supporting us by your presence at some time during the day.

**11.5.24:** This is the Annual General Meeting of the Family History Federation (of which our Society is a member) and celebrates their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It will be held at Wesley's Chapel in London and includes a tour of Bunhill Fields Burial Ground. Please remember this.

**24.8.24:** In response to some members we are holding a **LIVE** meeting between the hours of 10 and 4. To be held at the Museum, it will include a talk, displays and refreshments. This is an experiment but it will be good to see one another in the flesh once more.

Please note these dates: more details will follow in the newsletters and journal.

**Michael**

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

As I put together this newsletter we are experiencing Storm Isha. The wind is howling down the chimney and I am wondering what damage is occurring in the garden. That got me thinking about weather events and if we do experience more extremes than our ancestors. What do you think? Since records began in 1766 the wettest January was in 2014, however for the wettest May you have to go back to 1773 when 5.98 inches fell. We can't forget that the hottest day in many areas was on 22 July 2022 when 40.3 degrees Celsius was recorded. However, in 1911 36.7 was recorded. We mustn't forget wind. A gust of 197mph was recorded on 1st January 1992 at RAF Saxa Vord in Shetland. What weather events can you remember?

No-one can say that family historians get bored!

There is always another branch to research, or some context to add to your ancestor's story. There is always a graveyard to search or an archive to get lost in. And as is evident from this newsletter there is always a talk to listen to, a show to be part of or an AGM to attend. I hope that you take the opportunity to get involved with one of the events listed. Furthermore, if you wonder what to do next, write about the event for the newsletter or journal!

**Sadie**

## Zoom Talks

Please find below the programme of meetings for the first five months in 2024.

All meetings are currently being held by zoom. Joining instructions will be sent in the week prior to the meeting.

Wednesday 7th February	Freedom of Information in Genealogy	Richard Holt
Wednesday 6th March	Remember Them 1946-1969	Janet Few
Wednesday 3rd April	Reminiscences of Peterborough	Members' Evening
Wednesday 1st May	AGM followed by Hereward and the Wakes	Alan Johnson
Wednesday 5th June	A History of Place Names	Andrew Mowbray



### Changing Times

One of my favourite television shows is 'Call the Midwife'. The current series sees the show in 1969-the year of my birth. When I watch it I am immediately transformed back to when I accompanied my mum on her maternity visits for my younger sister.

When I saw the picture on the left I was reminded of those times-although I am not sure if this method of carrying baby buggies was ever used in England. Perhaps other members might be able to clarify?

My oldest children are of an age where they did not require car seats. I just laid them in a carrier cot on the back seat.

What memories do you have of maternity care, health visitor visits and being a young mum?

### Website

Do you have Scottish ancestors who died in the Great War, World War II or in conflicts since?

If you do this website might be useful:

[Scottish National War Memorial \(snwm.org\)](http://snwm.org)

Scottish National War Memorial



We're going LIVE on Saturday 20th April 2024

**2024**  
SAVE the DATE  
MORE DETAILS  
COMING SOON

FREE entry  
FREE onsite parking

Friendly **FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES**, Knowledgeable **SPEAKERS** and **MORE!**  
**BURGESS HALL, Westwood Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 6WE**



**LIVE**  
in 2024

### Help Required

The society are having a stall at this event and are looking for volunteers to help man the stall. You do not have to commit for a long period time. For more details contact Sadie or Michael.

## *Mr Ackland*

*carpenter, wheelwright and undertaker*  
(1886 - 1969)

## *His Archives*

with his grandchildren Jane and John Baxter and a display of old craftsmen's tools



**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2 for 2.30 pm** at  
**The Village Hall, King Street, West Deeping**  
**£3 (refreshments included)**

[wdheritage@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wdheritage@hotmail.co.uk) or Phone 07808 585189

for more details, visit <https://wdheritage.wordpress.com/programme-of-events/>

*West Deeping Heritage Group*



# FFHS AGM/GM

Saturday 11th May 2024

**\*NEW VENUE\***

**\*NEW FORMAT\***

Now to be held at:

**Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission**  
49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU

2024 being the FFHS 50th Anniversary year we desire to make this a truly memorable AGM/GM

Member society delegates can look forward to a full day of live events ending with a formal guided tour of Bunhill Fields Burial Ground (opp venue)

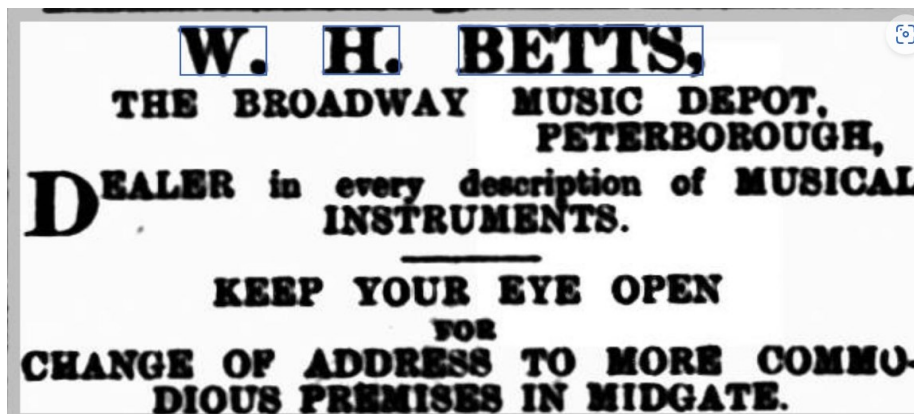
**Buffet lunch provided**

We invite your society representative to register before 31st March 2024 **at the latest.**

**We appreciate that this is very early but if you do not reply by 31st March 2024 we can neither guarantee your place on the tour nor that your Society/Group will appear as an attendee in the special 50th Anniversary Booklet**

**Please confirm asap to Debbie Bradley at [admin@familyhistoryfederation.com](mailto:admin@familyhistoryfederation.com) that you plan to attend**

## Brickwall



Members are so good at solving brickwalls here is another.

William Henry Betts had the above shop, in Broadway and then in Midgate. It is believed that the shop was located in Broadway in 1896/1897, and had moved to Midgate by the end of January 1897. Is there a way finding out where on these roads the shop was located?

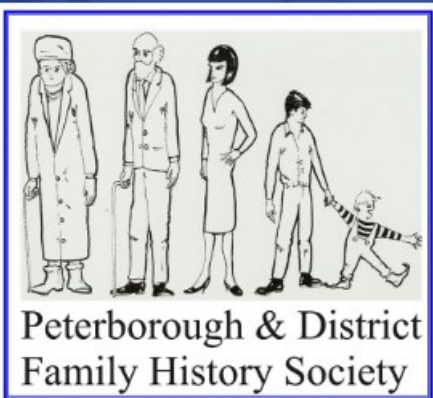
It is understood that William Henry Betts went to Australia at some point, but as yet, the member has not been able to discover any confirmation of whether that is true, or just a family rumour.

William's wife Maud was living in Whalley Street in 1901 with her daughter Louise, but William is not at the address with her, nor are their sons John Henry and George William. John Henry and George William have been located in Downham Market for that census as visitors. At some point after the 1901 census, Louise was informally adopted. But what happened to Maud after that?

If you can break these brickwalls please let Sadie know.

### Summer face to face meeting

**Please look out for an e.mail with more information coming to your inbox soon.**



Registered Charity No: 298897

**Peterborough & District Family History Society hold a drop in session at the Peterborough Library and Archives, Broadway on the last Monday of each month between 2pm and 4pm.**

**Experienced members are on hand to assist with your family history enquiries.**

**Take advantage of the local history books and archives available.**

**Please drop in to share your family history experience, and further your research.**

**Any queries contact Sadie: [secretarypdfhs@gmail.com](mailto:secretarypdfhs@gmail.com)**

## **Dark Winter Evenings**

Are you sitting at home these cold winter evenings, twiddling your thumbs, wondering what possibly you could do to assist your society?

How about transcribing a few pages of a Baptism Register?

Nothing at all strenuous, or too taxing!

We will send you scans of the pages for you to transfer directly on your lap-top.

Please consider helping to expand a small team transcribing Registers from Nonconformist Chapels in our area.

We would love to have you join us.

If you can assist please let Ewan cappitt know, contact details in journal, or the Editor.

Thank you

## **I Didn't Know...**

**...that as a result of the paper shortage during the Second World War books were made smaller.**

**There was, of course, the same number of words, just less paper.**

**What amazing discoveries have you come across in the course of your research? Share your experiences with members.**

