



Peterborough and District Family History Society Newsletter August 2024

From the Chair...

One of the things that I enjoy about being a member of one of our smaller Family History Societies is that you can get to know most of the members. Numbers are not everything, but I have to admit that I would like to see our Society grow. To this end I have asked our Committee to think about how we can publicise what we do to more people, and to let them know the things we like to do in PDFHS. Let me include you in this task. Do your friends know of your interest in Family History? Do you enthuse about those weird ancestors when you chat in the pub? Do you produce that photo of great-great-grandad from your wallet at the slightest opportunity? Are there any places in the area where you live where it would be possible to put up an advert for PDFHS? What sort of topics would you like Linda to consider as she builds next year's programme? Is there anything you can send to Sadie to put in the Newsletter or Journal? A lot of questions and perhaps you can think of a few more. I do hope these thoughts have sown some seeds in your minds. Best wishes to you all, and good hunting.

Michael

Global Warming isn't New!

NORMAN CROSS.
RAINFALL.—During July rain fell on two days to the amount of 0.03in. only, being nearly 2½in below the average fall in July. The total fall since January 1st is 12.61in.

On 7th August 1887 it was reported in the local newspaper that the amount of rain that fell in July was only 0.03 inches. I wonder how our ancestors coped?

From the Editor...

You may think that summer is a time when you have to put family history research to one side. After all when the weather is nice you don't want to be indoors. But now the sun is out there is no better time than to walk in the footsteps of your ancestor. Go the village or town where your ancestors lived, see if you can find the house they lived in, where they attended school, or work, where they married, and where they are buried. And after all of that find a coffee shop and treat yourself to cake!

Don't forget to tell other members about your discoveries, and perhaps share a few photos.

Sadie

Zoom Talks

Please find below the programme of meetings for the next four months.

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

Wednesday 7 th August	Members' Evening 'Childhood Holidays' share memories
Wednesday 4th September	How to Share Family History with the Younger Generations Helen Tovey
Saturday 5th October	'Live' get together at Peterborough Museum
Wednesday 6th November	The Real Downton Abbey Ian Porter

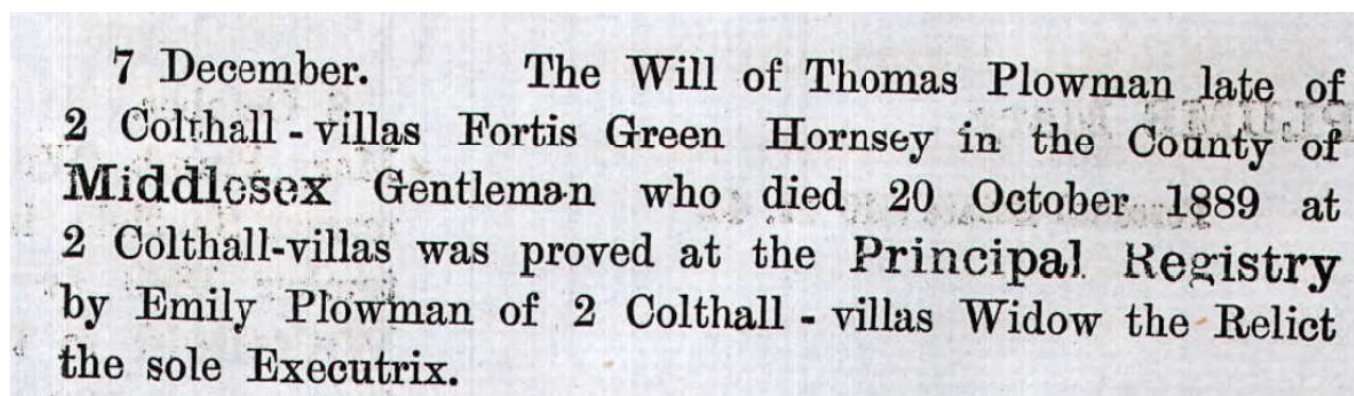
Membership

Thank you to all members who have paid their subscriptions.

If paying yours has slipped your mind, its not too late!!! Just head over to the Parish Chest where its quick and easy to make your payment online.

Always Click...

Name	Thomaas Plowman [Thomas Plowman] [Thomas Plowman]	When looking at transcriptions online always click through to view the original document if possible.
Death Date	20 Oct 1880	The entry on the left is from Ancestry and says that ' Thomaas Plowman died on 20 Oct 1880 '.
Death Place	Middlesex, England	
Probate Date	7 Dec 1889	However, when you click through to the original, see below, ' Thomas Plowman died on 20 October 1889 '.
Probate Registry	Principal Registry	So, always check, always click !



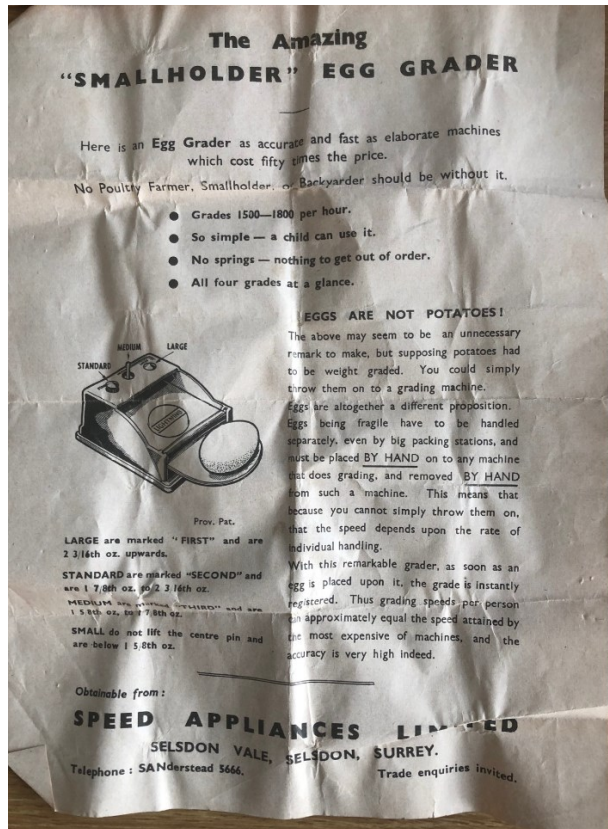
7 December. The Will of Thomas Plowman late of 2 Colthall - villas Fortis Green Hornsey in the County of Middlesex Gentleman who died 20 October 1889 at 2 Colthall-villas was proved at the Principal Registry by Emily Plowman of 2 Colthall - villas Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

Mystery Object

Thank you to Graham Childs who sent in this image.

But what is it?

Graham writes, 'My father used this for quite a few years. I was expected to use it too when I was in my teens. Do you have any idea what it is?'



Thank you for all your suggestions. As the leaflet, on the left reveals it is a smallholder's egg grader.

If you have a mystery object you would like to challenge members with, just send me a photo.

Fascinating Fact

Why can't you locate an original document?

In the Second World War paper was rationed. This led to documents, such as inquest reports, being pulped.

Books were also reduced in size, blank pages were reduced in number, and layouts adjusted. The short story, and poem, increased in popularity.



Do you have a fascinating fact you would like to share? Please send it in.



Do you Know?

Do you know what the grill/ cage is over the grave?

What was its purpose?

If you know please get in touch.

Meeting at Peterborough Museum Saturday 5th October

10.30am to 3.30pm

We are now finalising the arrangements for the in-person meeting on Saturday 5th October. The day will run from 10.30am to 3.30pm, and it promises to be an exciting event.

There will be two talks.

In the morning the talk is by Jason Cumberworth, Curator of Archaeology at the Museum. The talk is entitled 'Dusting off the Archives', a deep dive into the archaeological collections held by the Museum and the project to rescue them and make them accessible to the public and researchers.

In the afternoon our archivist Alan Johnson will talk about our own archives, which as members of the society you have access to.

In addition, there will be a chance to meet and chat to other members, look at various displays, take advantage of our help desk, and wander around the museum.

There will also be ample time to either eat lunch in the museum coffee shop or venture into Peterborough.

The committee would really like this day to go ahead, but we will need sufficient members to be interested in attending. Remember non-members are also very welcome for a small donation to the society.

Could we please ask if you would like to attend that you send the Secretary an e.mail. Please also say if any non-members will accompany you.

Many of you have already expressed an interest, but for a number of purposes please let me know again.

Thank you

Sadie