

NEWSFLASH



No 73 February 2006

The Chairman of the Federation Alec Tritton Retires

After six years on the Executive, five of those nominally in charge, I shall be standing down in April. This therefore will be my last contribution to Newsflash. After much soul searching and numerous reviews, the Executive have decided, from the end of this volume, to stop the production of News & Digest. There are a number of reasons for this and not just that the magazine loses money. I mentioned in my notes to the GM last September that it was a possibility and that if anyone had any views on the subject to contact either myself or any member of the staff or Executive. No member of the Executive or staff member has indicated that any approach has been made and after due consideration it is to be discontinued. Anyone who has paid an advance subscription to the Publications Company will of course be reimbursed.

Some of you I know will be very disappointed so for your information I feel I should at least try and explain some of the reasons. Tom Wood has indicated that he wishes to stand down as editor from the end of this volume. I know that Tom has increasingly become frustrated at the lack of input from Member Societies and has found it very time consuming "chasing" all and sundry for articles, reports and news. Even then the time between copy deadline and actual publication has meant that often news articles are no longer topical and in fact a better medium to deliver some of these is in Newsflash which will in future be published six times a year, sent to all Member Societies and be freely available to anyone as a download from the website. Finally when originally published, there was very little in the way of competition.

Today of course there are five major competitors commercially available published either monthly or bi-monthly as opposed to six monthly. Although commercial in nature, these magazines mostly overlap News & Digest, and consequently are better placed to deliver the information. I would like to thank Tom on your behalf for all the hard work that has gone into his time as Editor.

Digest is of course a slightly different matter, coordinated by Derek Palgrave, I know though that for many years Derek has in fact spent many hours extracting digest information himself and gets very little input from any Society personnel. The digest is a fantastic resource and could be made more so in the form of a searchable database on the Internet – perhaps freely available through FamilyHistoryOnline? Derek though has indicated that he doesn't wish to continue collating the Digest if not in a printed form. I would therefore like to publicly thank Derek on your behalf for his effort in producing the Digest over many years. What happens to the Digest is in fact up to my successor and the Executive. I hope that they take this matter on board as a matter of urgency.

I have enjoyed my six years on your Executive and believe that we have achieved some remarkable successes, particularly in FamilyHistoryOnline and the production of both versions of the National Burial Index. No organization can exist without adequate funding and although family history is my hobby (as no doubt it is yours!), I believe passionately that we need a National Organisation that can act as a mouthpiece collectively for all of us. Our Federation must therefore be adequately funded in order to do this and I am proud to have been Chairman when we have achieved this. The Federation is now a cash rich organisation with some £200,000 in the bank and it gives back more in royalties to its member societies than it collects in subscriptions, a legacy that I hope my successor can build upon and use for the benefit of all family history societies.

Thank you all for the support you have given your Federation over these last few years, I think we can all be justly proud of what we have achieved in the voluntary and co-operative efforts as family historians and any new family historian will understand why we have adopted the motto – "your past is our passion"

Alec Tritton

Carol McLee, FFHS Director of Projects

PROJECTS

Does your society have project work available only to members, or those researchers who come across your website or journal? With discussion on the supposed short life span of CDs and the constant worry of updating archival storage, it has focused attention on what may be called near redundant indexes.

We have been given the wakeup call and need to take action to ensure project data is made more readily available AND retain those valuable funds from the work done by so many volunteers before others capture and produce the data which is what has happened with the censuses: What will be next?

If your society (or an individual member) has shoe boxes full of slips holding a genealogical index, do you receive hundreds of requests for 'look-ups' - or is it languishing on a study shelf or is shut away in the garage? Recently, the FFHS projects team have seen two such large indexes become 'obsolete' due mainly to CDs or the Internet providing easy access to the same data. Data such as this has probably taken many years of dedicated work to collect and index and it is heartbreaking if it has to be thrown away in a skip. So why not make better use of it by presenting it to a wider genealogical audience through **FamilyHistoryOnline** which is the ideal update for your project.

If interested, please contact **Alec Coutts** or **Carol McLee**.

'We as a Federation have a unique project in progress,- the National Burial Index'

It is recommended that **society editors** place a similar appeal in their journals so that any member of their society holding an individual 'specialist' index may be persuaded to present their work to the society before they too find it goes in the bin.

On this same theme, we, as a Federation, have a unique project in progress - the National Burial Index - yet many of our members are not taking the opportunity of producing accumulated material which is virtually unavailable elsewhere. There has been a distinct drop in the amount of work produced for the third edition and

we would appeal to all members to put more effort into this work or to take this on board as a new project if not already involved. Those who have presented work for the time span 1813 - 1837 should seriously consider expanding to include later dates which appear to be more popular with researchers, especially those overseas. Why

not consider a partnership with your local record office which could provide better access to data so that work can be posted to volunteers; making regular appeals for volunteers or co-ordinators through your journals or website and commercial magazines. Or why not benefit jointly by working as a regional group?

Our NBI is renowned in the genealogical world so let's combine efforts to ensure this continues in the near future.

EDUCATION

North Yorkshire County Record Office has launched its 'Opening Up the Archive' CD-ROM which will be distributed to 600+ schools across North Yorkshire as part of their 'Reaching the Teacher' project. Containing around 150 scanned archival documents and images, links to work schemes, case studies and archival information, the CD provides a unique resource for teaching across the curriculum. This CD could prove useful too for teachers of family/social history. For more details please contact NYCRO on 01609 777585 or e-mail archives@northyorks.gov.uk

LOTTERY FUNDING

Is your group or society interested in gaining funding for a project in the near future or looking for further improvements within the archives service? If so, you should be interested in the National Lottery Consultation which opened 25th Nov 2005. Through this the Government invites views on the future shares and direction of heritage, arts & film, and sports lottery funding from 2009 onwards. The outcome will determine what proportion of monies is allocated to heritage from this date and how lottery money is spent. It also gives the public the chance to suggest new priorities within these good causes.

Each of the three lottery distributors has to make a pitch for their share which they do in the Consultation Paper which is accessed via the dedicated website at <http://www.lottery2009.culture.gov.uk/>

Section 1 explains the background to the consultation, Section 2, the current allocation while Section 3 gives an overview of how arts & film, heritage and sport have all benefited from funding with some proposals for future projects that could be undertaken. Opinions may vary but the Paper makes out a stronger & possibly more popular case for sport, (Olympics 2012) art & film, than it does for heritage. It is hoped that all readers will respond vigorously in support of the heritage strand.

The consultation is open until 28 Feb 2006 with access to the questionnaire at the above website. If ever there was a time to demonstrate shared concern for funding of our museums, libraries and archives etc, this is it!

Carol McLee

David Smetham, FFHS Director of Society Liaison

THINK TANK ACTION : THE SURVEY OF MEMBERS

As mentioned in Newsflash No 72 October 2005, a group of volunteers from across England and Wales have been preparing and trialling a survey designed to elicit your opinions about 'Where do we grow from here'. This survey will help our Federation to reshape to provide the services that you the Members say you need.

Two survey papers have been designed: One for Member Societies to complete and a shortened version for any individual Member of a Society to complete. Member Societies will be posted their Survey paper in early March with the documentation for the AGM in Cwmbran in April 2006.

For individuals there will be two ways in which the survey paper can be accessed, we are issuing copies of

the individual Member survey with the posting of this Newsflash (No 73) Please ask your Society Representative to our Federation to send you a copy of the survey. The Survey paper will also be accessible from our FFHS website.

We expect to receive responses to the survey during the spring and summer of 2006. Member Societies may wish to discuss the responses in committee and we understand that the programme for a reply should allow time for this activity. Please complete your survey and send it to the address given in the survey paper by 1 August 2006

Please help to spread the news about this survey to your Family History Colleagues

David Smetham

FAMILY HISTORY MONTHLY MAGAZINE SPONSERS ELIZABETH SIMPSON AWARD

We are pleased to announce that this year's Elizabeth Simpson Award is being sponsored by Family History Monthly magazine. The winning society will receive a cheque for £100 presented by Family History Monthly, with the winning editor receiving a year's subscription to the magazine. The Elizabeth Simpson Award was introduced in 1979 and is presented annually to the member society whose journal has, in the opinion of the panel of three judges, made the best contribution to family history during the preceding twelve months.

Alec Tritton (Chairman FFHS) said "The Federation of Family History Societies welcomes the sponsorship of Family History Monthly. Family history society journals help keep members of a society in contact with each other and provide a forum for help and information, whether relating to an area of a country or to specialist subjects such as Quaker or Catholic ancestry. These magazines are often a member's only contact with the Society, particularly for those living overseas.

The recognition of the importance of these magazines by Family History Monthly, one of the main UK commercial magazines is most welcome. We look forward to a long association with the publisher." Orla Thomas (Editor FHM) added "I am delighted that Family History Monthly will be sponsoring this year's award. The societies put a lot of hard work into creating journals for their members that are both informative and well-presented - I was very impressed by the high standard of 2005's entries."

The results of the award will be announced at the Federation's General Meeting on 2 September 2006, being hosted by Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire Family History Societies at their 'PUTTING FLESH ON THE BONES

Conference (www.conference2006.org.uk) For more information about how to enter for this year's award, contact Maggie Loughran, Administrator FFHS, PO Box 2425, Coventry CV5 6YX; or visit www.ffhs.org.uk/Societies/Awards/ESAward.htm.

MEDIA TRAINING DAY REPORT

Following the extremely successful media training day, run jointly by **Archive Awareness Campaign and The National Archives' Press office**, for those unable to attend the media training pack circulated at the event is available online to download from <http://www.archiveawareness.com/contributors/gettingstarted/toolkits>. Although aimed at Archives Awareness events the tips and ideas can be adapted to suit whatever type of event you are organising.

These **Getting Started Toolkits** designed to help you in planning events and publicity and include:

Events Planner Checklist

Publicity toolkit - tips on marketing an event and communicating your message to the media

Sample Press Release - use this as a template for your own releases

Funding Toolkit - advice on funding your projects

Evaluation forms for participants in AAC events, evaluation forms for organisations putting on an AAC event and **guidance on how best to use both forms**

Maggie Loughran, Administrator

IMPORTANT NEWS RE FFHS A.G.M. AND SEMINAR ON APRIL 1st

Gwent FHS have asked us for your co-operation in helping them to plan the arrangements for the FFHS AGM and GM on April 1st, which are being held as part of their 25th Anniversary Seminar in Cwmbran.

If you plan to attend the AGM and GM, and/or attend any of the Seminar lectures, you will need to complete the Seminar Registration Form - this can be downloaded from the Gwent FHS web site at www.gwentfhs.info by following the link from the home page. It must be returned to the address on the Form **by the end of February**.

This will enable the Society to know in advance how many people will be attending the AGM and GM. Other lectures will be taking place at the same time, and they have to allocate the appropriate space for our Meetings as well as for the anticipated audiences at those lectures.

The Society also has to provide the outside caterers with the numbers requiring lunch, so if you wish to take advantage of this facility please mark the Form accordingly (ticking the special box if you require a vegetarian meal). There will be a charge of £10 to cover the cost of lunch (and teas and coffee), but the Seminar lectures themselves are being funded by the Society.

Please note that this requirement to complete and return the Seminar Registration Form is **in addition to** the need for you to advise the FFHS if you will be attending the AGM and GM. The standard instructions regarding such advice will accompany the papers to be sent out to all member societies at the beginning of March.

IS YOUR SOCIETY LOSING MONEY ? ARE YOUR PUBLICATION SALES FALLING ?

A number of Societies have already noticed an appreciable drop in the sales of some of their publications, in particular indexes and transcripts of census returns. Is yours one of them?

This is because the indexes and images of the censuses are now available on the internet from one or more of the commercial companies:-

Ancestry.co.uk will shortly make the 1841 census available to add to the existing 1851-1901 censuses, thus covering the complete range of published censuses.

1837Online.com provides indexes and images for the 1861 census.

GenesReunited have now bought out the rights to publish the indexes and images of the 1901 census

British Origins are currently adding further counties to those already loaded for the 1841 and 1871 censuses.

S&N's The Genealogist web site is adding counties to those already published for the 1841-1871, 1891 and 1901 censuses.

Census CDs are also becoming more widely available from other sources, being published by a range of companies such as S&N and its subsidiary British Data Archives, Stepping Stones, Archive CD Books and others.

The writing was on the wall over 4 years ago, which is why we launched FamilyHistoryOnline (FHOL) at the end of 2002. This service was developed specifically as a vehicle to enable our member societies to publish their own census data and other records on the internet. We provide the economies of scale that most individual societies would find difficult to achieve on their own, and are able to use the most robust, dependable and secure servers and telecommunication links.

And we've succeeded beyond our expectations, thanks from the start to the dedicated efforts of Chad Hanna and the administrative skills of Alec Coutts. They are enthusiastic volunteers who have since been joined by Gillian Stevens and Peter Brooks as the service has grown.

We now hold over 60 million records, and we've recently added over 550,000 records for Australia, to reflect the international nature of the FFHS and its membership.

By minimizing our operational costs below the original budget, we've been able to increase the level of royalties payable to our member societies from the 25% originally allowed for to the current 30% of all income we receive. **IN OUR FIRST 3 YEARS WE'VE PAID OUT OVER £130,000 IN ROYALTIES**

Does your Society provide data for FHOL? If not, why not, because YOUR SOCIETY IS LOSING MONEY.

NBI DATA

I know some societies decided to put only NBI data onto FHOL to see what sort of income would be generated in royalties.

But that isn't a true test of the income FHOL can provide. Hits on NBI data are charged at 6p a time (or 5p if the data hasn't been checked) compared with the 10p charged at the top end of the scale. And our success in selling the Second Edition of the National Burial Index on CD means that a number of researchers already have access to NBI data.

Whilst we're grateful for you allowing us to use your NBI data, you aren't taking maximum advantage of the service we're providing. So, once again,

YOUR SOCIETY IS LOSING MONEY.

CENSUS DATA

Your Society may have decided to publish your census data on CDs first, and that making the data also available on FHOL might damage the sales of those CDs.

That was quite justifiable at the time, but things have changed rapidly in the past 6 months or so. With the extra competition from the commercial companies, referred to previously, a number of societies are already experiencing a drop in their sales figures. If your Society hasn't as yet, it may soon will.

So now's the time to recoup some of those losses by making the data available on FHOL. The initial peaks in demand for your Society's CDs were probably realised in the first months after they were published anyway.

Making ALL your census data available on FHOL will provide you with royalty income to supplement any dwindling sales of your CDs. And it's the only way you will be able to deal with the commercial competition.

In one way, you've already lost out by delaying making the data available on FHOL, because we are starting to see a slight reduction in the number of hits being made on census records, as people turn to the commercial sites. Those sites provide the census images as well as the indexes, so on the face of it they are more useful to a researcher.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

This is where your Society's educational role needs to come into play. A number of researchers have expressed criticisms about the standard of some of the commercial indexes, and the level of transcription errors they've found. Others have discovered that one or more pages may not have been imaged, or that the link from the search result to the matching image is faulty.

We haven't the financial or human resources to hope to compete by providing images of a whole census ourselves. But our indexes should in principle be more reliable, using local knowledge and experience, and are the best way to help you find the right image.

That's the message we must all get across to users.

IMAGES

Though we don't have the resources to provide images of a whole census, we CAN now accept from your Society images of gravestones, MIs and churches.

This facility has been developed in response to requests from you, our member societies, so please take advantage of it by providing these to FHOL on the internet and earn royalties from them.

PARISH REGISTERS

Not even your publications of parish register indexes and transcriptions are immune from commercial competition. In the next few months, once all the available censuses have been published, you will undoubtedly find that the commercial companies will next focus on these as their next money-spinner.

So now is the time to steal a march on them, and make that data available on FHOL in order to reap the benefit of the royalties when researchers access your data on the internet.

As with censuses and other data provided to FHOL, experience has shown that member societies gain overall. That's because the amount of royalties they receive from making it available on the internet exceeds any drop in sales of the existing publications.

If you don't do it soon,

YOUR SOCIETY WILL LOSE MONEY.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NEXT?

Visit www.familyhistoryonline.net to see the variety of data we are happy to accept.

If you're one of our many Australian society members, then contact [<affhofhol@affho.org>](mailto:affhofhol@affho.org)

Otherwise, contact Alec Coutts, the Director of FHOL and also its Administrator, with details of what data you can provide - email [<fhol.admin@ffhs.org.uk>](mailto:fhol.admin@ffhs.org.uk)

Geoff Riggs

Chairman, FFHS

FFHS PUBLICATIONS

On offer at the Publications Company

Surnames and Genealogy by George Redmonds.

The fundamental lesson of Redmonds work is that each surname is unique, beginning with one person or family at a particular time and place. Dictionaries of Surnames may therefore mislead when they provide a single origin as the explanation of a surname.

***Special price £ 5.00 (was £11.95)**

The Family Historians Pocket Dictionary by Stuart A Raymond. The purpose of this book is to act as a ready reference source in which all genealogists researching in England and Wales will be able to find definitions of terms, and pointers to the information they seek.

***Special Price £4.00 (was £ 6.95)**

Current Publications on Microfiche by Member Societies - this CD catalogues all the Microfiche available from Member Family History Societies

***Special Price £ 2.00 (was £ 7.95)**

Also available as a book - £ 5.00

***All prices in bold are as quoted with no further discount.
Please add £2.50 P/P for each order.**

New to GenFair

Calderdale FHS have added to their range of Monumental Inscriptions (MIs) booklets with a 60+ page book for the MIs in Southowram Methodist Churchyard. This is priced at £4.00 plus P&P & can be ordered in the normal way, through these pages."

The famous Eve McLaughlin Guides are now available in Genfair. Please visit the Bucks Genealogical Society site for further details

Trace Your Past provides family history research services offering many research options from single name look-ups to full family histories on all 4 lines. Alongside this, they also sell genealogical storage items such as binders and poly-pockets to fit them.

Peter Wright Graphics produce high-quality, fully indexed historical booklets & CDs concerning Manchester & Salford

NEW THIS MONTH

Who Do You Think You Are Family Tree Maker

Software at £9.99 for the standard version and (special Price) **£24.99** for the Deluxe version with a guide to researching your Family History, Family Tree printouts and video clips of the 10 celebrities featured in the first series of WDYTYA and 3 UK data CDs. Both versions include a 30 day free subscription to Ancestry.co.uk

New Titles at the Publications Company

We announce the launch of the new "Military History for Family Historians" series with five titles, which will help genealogists trace ancestors who fought in these conflicts.

Due out shortly

The Crimean War 1854-1856

Phil Tomaselli

The Crimean War is remembered for the heroism of Florence Nightingale and the Light Brigade and the incompetence of the British high command. If your ancestor shivered outside Sebastopol or fought in the battles of Alma and Inkerman or with the Navy in the Baltic and Black Sea, then this booklet will help you find out more.

The Zulu War 1879

Phil Tomaselli

The Zulu War is the best known of all Britain's colonial campaigns, largely because of the heroism of a small unit of British troops at Rorke's Drift. If your ancestor was there, or serving in South Africa at the time, this booklet will help you find out more.

Due by May

The Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902

Phil Tomaselli

The Boer War was the biggest war engaged in by British forces between Waterloo and the First World War. Troops from Britain and the Empire were sent to South Africa and tens of thousands of young men joined volunteer units to serve Queen and Country. This booklet suggests ways of researching the soldiers and sailors who saw action during the war.

The Second World War 1939-1945

Phil Tomaselli

The Second World War was long, complex and brutal. Everyone with ancestors alive between 1939 and 1945 played a part in these great events. Until lately it has long been thought impossible to research ancestors who took part in the War because it was too simply too recent. The book looks at the major sources which are now available for tracing men and women who served in the armed forces and merchant marine.

About the author:

PHIL TOMASELLI is an experienced family historian and writer, regularly contributing to magazines such as Ancestors and Family History Monthly.

Due by the summer

Nelson's Navy, 1793-1815

Keith Gregson

Britain's 'Wooden Wall' kept the country free from invasion from the French for 20 years from 1793. Each ship was manned by hundreds of seamen: the Royal Navy was the biggest employer of the period. We think of the big set piece battles, such as the Nile, St Vincent and above all Trafalgar, but for the most part ships were engaged in blockading the French coast or in actions against individual enemy vessels.

Did you have an ancestor in Nelson's Navy? If you did, or think you did, then this booklet will point you in the right direction.

About the author

KEITH GREGSON, a former history department head of a secondary school is now a freelance writer and historian with a special interest in the Napoleonic wars.

If you are a supplier interested in joining GENfair, then please e-mail us at info@genfair.com



www.genfair.com

Maureen Bullows, FFHS Director of Archives Liaison

News from the Family Records Centre

A number of new fact sheets have been produced. The latest include 'The British in India' and 'Catholic Records'.

Family Records Centre Consultation Meeting

It was announced that on Christmas Day 2005 fifty people had ordered certificates online. In the third week of January 2006 the highest number of certificates ever ordered in one week was recorded. The television programme *Who do you think you are* began its second series that week.

Book Launch at Arundel Castle

The Duke of Norfolk's Deeds at Arundel Castle, The Dacre Estates in Northern Counties was launched during February.

The Duke holds one of the largest private collections of title deeds in the country, which relates to thirty English Counties. This Volume covers a wide sweep of properties in Cumbria, Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire, which will be of interest to both family and local historians.

It is hoped that further volumes will follow.

Maggie Loughran, FFHS Administrator on THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

People often ask 'What do we get for our membership?' Below is a list of 'Benefits of Membership' but is this really all there is to it? Well no, it isn't. Your Federation Executive do many things that are not quite so easy to measure including attending various meetings - both formal and informal - representing and promoting the interests of the Members. Additionally, during 2006, members of your Federation Executive will be spending 30 days attending events on your behalf and raising your profile, especially at non-family history even At these they will try to meet all those people who are tracing their family history but who are not members of a family history society and possibly don't even know that societies exist.

1. FFHS is represented on governmental and national bodies: It is respected as an authentic and audible voice for the many needs and concerns of our member societies and other family historians.
2. FFHS provides the latest information: it publishes Newsflash quarterly to committees of member societies. This, together with FFHS-NEWS (its own Internet Mailing List) and the Members' Section of this web-site, provide the latest news and developments of interest to societies
3. FFHS offers general advice and assistance: through its Officers and Committees, it can help on a wide range of subjects such as VAT, choosing suitable computer software, organising conferences and events, sponsorship and publishing.
4. FFHS gives specialist advice: it produces booklets on specialist topics such as Copyright and Data Protection.
5. FFHS produces free guidelines for societies: examples include those for Society Secretaries, Treasurers, Editors, Project Leaders, Conference Organisers and Lists of Recommended Speakers.
6. FFHS encourages good practice with the Elizabeth Simpson Award and Web Award.
7. FFHS runs one day seminars for officers and task-holders: these include Secretaries, Treasurers, Editors, Projects Co-ordinators, and Web Masters.
8. FFHS provides Insurance cover: Membership includes a cheap comprehensive Public Liability Insurance within the annual subscription; cheap Personal Accident Insurance and Assets Insurance are also available to member societies if required.
9. FFHS provides a model constitution for UK Societies. This complies with the known requirements of both the Charity Commissioners and the Inland Revenue, allowing Societies to obtain the benefits of charitable status should they wish to do so.
10. FFHS Publications own titles are discounted in price: these are available to societies for resale on their Bookstalls, and each gets a copy of every title on publication.
11. Members receive twice yearly copies of Family History News & Digest, in which they are also invited to submit an update on their society's activities (Currently being reviewed see Chairman's Report on Page 1).
12. Membership gives the use of the NBI in member society libraries without the need to purchase a library licence.
13. Members are charged at a privileged rate when selling merchandise on www.Genfair.com
14. Members receive privileged royalty rates (30%) for data submitted to www.familyhistoryonline.net
15. FFHS online Membership Directory advertises each member society to a worldwide audience of genealogists / family historians. Members also listed, with complete contact details in Family History News & Digest
16. All members are allowed to nominate / second candidates for the FFHS Executive.
17. Full members are allowed vote on issues raised / discussed at General Meetings.

FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

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(Calls to this are charged at normal rates).

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**Next edition of
Newsflash -
April 2006**

VACANCY FOR AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

The Federation of Family History Societies requires a part time assistant to work with their Administrator. Tasks would include general administration, assisting in the organizing of meetings, taking the minutes at Board and other committee meetings and giving general administrative support to the FFHS Executive. Some weekend work would be required. For more details contact Maggie Loughran, Administrator FFHS PO Box 2425 Coventry CV5 6YX. Email admin@ffhs.org.uk Deadline for applications is 7 May 2006 with interviews taking place mid May.

SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

Do you struggle to get different speakers for your society monthly meetings? Do you really know what your Federation can do for you and your members?

Would you like someone to come along and talk to your members about how the FFHS can actually help them with your research?

For more information contact: Maggie Loughran, Administrator, Federation of Family History Societies, PO Box 2425, Coventry, CV5 6YX
e-mail admin@ffhs.org.uk 024 7667 7798.

URGENT : ACTION NEEDED

If you plan to attend the AGM and GM, and/or attend any of the Seminar lectures, you will need to complete the Seminar Registration Form - this can be downloaded from the Gwent FHS web site at www.gwentffhs.info by following the link from the home page.

It must be returned to the address on the Form by the end of February.

See Page 4 of Newsflash for further details.

STOP PRESS

**TREASURERS
PLEASE NOTE
FFHS FINANCE SEMINAR
IN LONDON
SATURDAY 4 MARCH 2006**



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Editors of Member Societies are welcome to use copy from this Newsflash