

NEWSFLASH



No 78 December 2006

Goodbye Newsflash, Hello Ezine

All of you will have read FFHS Chairman Geoff Riggs' report in the final (September 2006) issue of News & Digest advising you that Newsflash and News & Digest were being combined into a single bimonthly Ezine (electronic newsletter). These two publications will be re-launched as the Federation Ezine which goes live February 2007. You will receive your first copy on or about 14 of February 2007, and bimonthly thereafter, i.e. April, June, August, October and December. This is therefore the last edition of Newsflash that you will receive in this present paper format.

We are really pleased to have secured the services of the extremely experienced and versatile Diane Maskell (email Ezine@ffhs.org.uk) as Ezine Editor. Diane is presently Secretary of Sheffield FHS and will be ably assisted in the production of the Ezine by the FFHS Webmaster Pete Hunnisett. Pete and Diane have already put a considerable amount of time and effort into developing this new, fantastic and exciting publication.

Not only will this be a more cost and time effective method of reaching a hugely increased number of people, it will also allow us to produce a vehicle for the twenty first century containing the latest up-to-date news and information. And, of course, at the press of a button your society FFHS contact will be able to circulate it to their extended committees. No more having to wait until to your next meeting to see a copy and no longer does your hard-worked society secretary have to photocopy it! Unlike its predecessors, Newsflash and News & Digest, the Federation Ezine is free to anyone who wishes to subscribe, be they society committee members, archivists, librarians or an interested individual family or local historian.

The Ezine will be sent as a matter of course to all society FFHS contacts that we presently have email addresses for. For those societies that we don't have a

FFHS contact email address, we will be automatically sending a copy to the society secretary. I will be contacting any society that we cannot locate an email address for within the next few weeks.

The Federation Ezine will also be available via the FFHS website www.ffhs.org.uk (link from the home page) so that it is accessible to those who do not have convenient access to the Internet or an email address, and want to access it via the internet in their local library or cyber café.

If any society has any problems receiving the Federation Ezine then please, please do contact me. Communicating with you our members is very important to us.

Good communication is a two way process. If you have any interesting news that you would like included in the Ezine, please let me know: email admin@ffhs.org.uk. Deadline for submissions initially will be the 24th of the month prior to publication i.e. 24 January for February issue.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in the production of Newsflash particularly since it became a proper publication in its own right in 2000, especially the editors, Alec Tritton, Vivien Teasdale and Marian French plus their proofreaders and everyone else who has sent contributions to us.

As part of the development of the Federation's new image the website is being completely revamped. For more details on this see the February edition of the Ezine.

To subscribe to the Federation Ezine visit www.ffhs.org.uk/Ezine/subscribe.php and fill in the form! ♦

Maggie Loughran, Administrator

SPRING EVENTS 2007

Your Federation's Publicity and Communications Committee are already working hard on planning the FFHS attendance at events during 2007. We are continually looking at ways to raise our members' profile, especially at non family history events, which give opportunities to include meet all those people who are tracing their family history but who are not members of a family history society and don't even know that they exist. There are those who may be interested in discovering their roots as a secondary activity: their prime interest, for example, being Heritage Scrapbooking, their objective being to learn more about their family prompted by photographs and other artifacts that they have inherited. Below is the list of events we are attending during the first few months of 2007.

Nationwide Exhibitions

www.nationwideexhibitions.co.uk/events.asp are organising

The London Stitch & Creative Hobby Crafts Show - Excel, London: 22 - 24 February 2007

This show covers all the popular stitch and creative crafts including Scrapbooking, card making and painting. The event will also host a variety of workshops and lectures including how to 'Discover Your Roots' with Paul Blake and Maggie Loughran.

The following two events are organised by International Craft & Hobby Fair Ltd. www.ichf.co.uk

Creative Stitches & Hobbycrafts, The Brighton Centre, Brighton: 9-11 February 2007

Hobbycrafts, NEC, Birmingham: 29 March-1 April 2007

These shows will have hundreds of new and established crafts with demonstrations, mini-workshops and a variety of talks including one on family history by Paul Blake and Maggie Loughran, and the latest range of craft supplies for the Hobby enthusiast. Hobbycrafts will have something for everyone whatever their particular talent or interest.

At previous events we have been helped by the AFHS of Wales, Devon FHS, Sussex FHG, BMSGH, East of London FHS, FHS Essex and Rugby FHG - many thanks to all concerned!

If you have a high level of general family history knowledge, enjoy giving help and advice, and would

like to come to help us at any of these events please contact Maggie Loughran for more information. Attending one of these non family-history events is an experience not to be missed (especially if you enjoy crafts!) as this is a largely untapped 'market.'

A really different type of history event new to 2007 is *Who Do You Think You Are? LIVE*. The event will incorporate the Society of Genealogists' Family History Show and is being organised by Brand Events partnered by, amongst others, *the Daily Telegraph*, The National Archives and the Society of Genealogists. It will take place at the National Hall, Olympia, London from 5-7 May 2007 and, with an expected audience of around 15,000 visitors, it will be the biggest event of its kind by far.

Who Do You Think You Are? LIVE will attract established historians as well as people new to the subject and will offer visitors the opportunity to meet more historians than ever before, in workshops as well as one-to-one. The line up includes Dr Nick Barratt, house historian Jonathan Foyle, family history specialists Guy Grannum, Paul Crooks, Else Churchill and Michael Gandy; and many more along with military, lifestyle and other historians. There will be in-depth information on how to begin exploring personal heritage and advice on the best use of the technology available, as well as a wealth of products and information for those already some way into their journey.

Exhibitor bookings already made for the Society of Genealogists' Family History Show will be honoured, with huge opportunities available for greater involvement. All exhibitors will be contacted individually over the next few weeks to make individual arrangements.

More details will be available in the Federation's new Ezine first issue in February 2007; or you can register your interests (either as a visitor or as an exhibitor) by visiting www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.co.uk .◆

Publicity and Communications Committee

Visit GENEVA

For all those event organisers or those like me who enjoy attending family history events, a visit to GENEVA is a must.

GENEVA - the online calendar of (GENealogical EVents and Activities). contains a full listing of known Family History Fairs, events and activities and can be found at <http://geneva.weald.org.uk/> This is part of the GENUKI pages but is maintained on behalf of the FFHS as well, and member societies are encouraged to post details of their main events to this list. This is a free service and an ideal medium for raising the profile of any family history society event.

'THEY COULDN'T BELIEVE IT!'

Recent articles in NewsFlash have referred to falling membership numbers and have suggested ways in which societies might try to combat this. The following account gives an insight into how a society can discourage potential new members.

Having moved to a different part of the country, my wife and I decided to visit one of the three family history societies within reasonable driving distance of where we now live. Their website described them as a friendly branch and the subject of the talk was of interest. In anticipation of a good evening, I downloaded a membership application form which I then completed and took along to the meeting.

After a good journey of 40 minutes we arrived at what we were sure was the correct venue but it was dark and no signs had been spotted. So we drew up alongside another car which had just entered the car park and enquired if this was the correct place for the family history meeting. The driver confirmed that it was and then strode off to the hall leaving us to make our own way.

On entering the hall we saw a handful of people – two checking the slide projector, one setting up the bookstall, and the others standing around. There was nobody to welcome members or guests. There were still ten minutes before the scheduled start of the meeting so we glanced at the bookstall, looked around expectantly, and then at each other. Obviously we could have taken the initiative and spoken to someone but we decided to test the friendliness of the society by sitting down and waiting to see how long it would be before we were spoken to.

After a few minutes we were approached by a man who thrust a book and pen at us without saying a word. My wife said 'Good evening' but this was not responded to. It appeared that we were to sign in so we did that and handed back the book and pen which were then offered to others to sign.

We heard others invited to say whether they would like tea or coffee but this was not explained to us.

After a further pause a lady entered and sat in the same row as us. I said 'Good evening' and she simply smiled in acknowledgement.

Time passed and about 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time the chairperson said that she had been waiting to see if more would arrive – there were then about 20 people present. She then gave a couple of announcements about future meetings before introducing the speaker. The talk was very good and although it lasted for nearly two hours (including the slide presentation) the speaker held our attention throughout. After the talk there was still no interest shown in our presence so we quietly walked out with a feeling of incredulity.

I know that we could have made more of an effort to get into conversation but surely the onus should be on society members, and especially committee members, to be on the look out for visitors in order to make them feel welcome. Not even the members were welcomed. We could have been a shy couple new to family history who would be unlikely to return. In fact we may well venture there again and be much more pro-active in trying to make contact with them, hopefully to our mutual benefit.

The purpose of this article is not to embarrass anyone and so the editor has been asked to omit our names so that the society concerned is less likely to be identified. I urge all societies to consider whether they can make a visit to their meetings a more enjoyable occasion with a view to maintaining or even increasing attendance. ♦

FFHS PUBLICATIONS: MILITARY SERIES

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 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 Rourke's Drift. If your ancestor was there, or serving in South Africa at the time, this booklet will help you find out more.

The Second World War was long, complex and brutal. Researching ancestors who took part in the Second World War can be challenging because individual service records are not yet available. However, there is much else that is. The book looks at the major sources for tracing the men and women who served in the armed forces and merchant marine.

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.

All by Phil Tomaselli, 48 pages £4.95 each

Nelson's Navy: 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, then this booklet will point you in the right direction.

Keith Gregson 32 Pages £3.95

Special Offer

The Military Sources Set - Boer, Crimea, Second World War, Zulu and Nelson's Navy – only £18.00 plus £2.00 p&p

Will make an ideal Xmas present

PUBLICITY SEMINAR

I came to this seminar as a publicity virgin. There are probably quite a few people like me, who joined established societies at the peak of their success, when researchers were queuing up to take advantage of expert knowledge and census indexes. I've never had to draft a press release, nor have I seriously considered the pros and cons of the various media. The day was a real eye-opener.

The morning session on Promoting and Marketing your Society was run by Elise Oliver of The National Archives. With a background in journalism as well as PR, Elise brought a good blend of skills to the seminar. She told us what worked, and what didn't. Our publicity must be topical, relevant, unusual and with human interest. This sounds obvious, but then we had to put theory into practice, dividing into small groups to produce a story that would catch the attention of the public.

The brainstorming sessions which followed each aspect of theory, on press releases and on giving interviews, were salutary. Within the confines of a seminar, amongst friends, an idea that didn't quite work might be forgiven. In the real world, we have to be professional in order to command its attention. I would have liked to have spent more time on the brainstorming. When you had to think up an idea for an interview as well as rehearse it, some of us didn't get much done. Overall, though, I learnt a tremendous amount.

After a splendid buffet lunch, Peter Christian gave an excellent presentation on making the most of your website.

A great deal of useful information was packed into his session, often in the form of questions: Why is a website important? Who is it for? What do the

members need? How do you attract new members? This questioning approach characterised the whole day and was really useful in helping to focus our minds on the important issues.

The series of smaller presentations which ended the session turned up all sorts of fresh ideas: where amongst the various family history magazines to send an article, what about a dedicated phone line to field queries from the public, or sponsorship for events? Finally, to ram home the message that there is such a thing as bad publicity, Paul Blake showed a few shots of the less than appealing stalls you might encounter at a fair. Out of charity to us, none featured an individual family history society, but the point was made: that we have to sell ourselves to sell our societies.

Some delegates were clearly very experienced in handling the media: from producing Wikipedia entries to taking part in interviews. It would have been useful to have heard how well publicity worked for societies that had used it. This has to be a grey area: the best campaign in the world cannot disguise a duff product. The most clued up societies were not only good at manipulating the media; they were also providing services that their members wanted.

This was a terrifying, exhilarating day. I am looking forward to seeing summaries of the various presentations, but I gained far more by actually attending the seminar and participating in Elise's practical sessions than I will from reading the material.. ♦

Brenda Hawkins
East Surrey FHS

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. ♦

British Library Preserves Website for Posterity



The Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society was founded in 1973 as the Rossendale Society for Genealogy and Heraldry (Lancashire).

The Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society is pleased to announce that the UK Web Archiving Consortium has selected its website (www.lfhhs.org.uk) to be preserved for posterity.

The Consortium, headed by the British Library and the National Archives in London, selects websites they consider to be of research value and reflecting national culture or events of historical importance.

President of the Society, Tony Foster said "We are delighted our website has been selected to be part of the UK's national website archive"

The site was built in 2002 by the Society's Webmaster, Fred Moor, who has been making websites in Lancashire since about 1995.

Mr. Moor said, *"The accumulated knowledge of the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society includes the story of hardworking Lancashire cotton people. During the industrial revolution, they changed the face of the UK and the way we organised society. It seems curiously appropriate that knowledge of those times will be preserved using the Internet revolution that is changing the face of the UK and the way we organise society today."*

The Society's website includes a section about Lancashire, details of the Society and its activities, and a shop where people can buy books, microfiche and CDs written or produced by members of the Society. It also includes hundreds of indexes to family history records in Lancashire that have been transcribed and compiled by Society members.

Today, the Society is starting to develop branch websites within its overall umbrella. These will give access to specialised local knowledge of areas within Lancashire, and Steve Williams of Chorley Branch is leading the way with the development of the Chorley Branch pages.

Society Chairman Stephen Ward said *"Having our website archived by the British Library is a great accolade that recognises the work our members put in. It also means that as we continue to develop the website over time, the periodically archived copies of our site will show its development. This will itself become a social record of the times in which the website was made."*

The website can be seen at www.lfhhs.org.uk ♦

FamilyHistoryOnline

1851 Census

Are you aware that there is now one section of the 1851 census that is now available from FamilyHistoryOnline (FHOL) but not available from Ancestry or any other online website? The areas covered are Ashton-Under-Lyne, Manchester (Ardwick), Manchester (Blackley), Manchester (Deansgate), Manchester (Harpurhey), Manchester (Hulme), Manchester (Prestwich), Manchester (St. George), Oldham-Below-Town, Pendlebury, Pendleton and Salford (Regent Road), Chorlton on Medlock, Salford (Greengate), London Road, Rusholme, Gorton and Openshaw.

The census enumerators' books were damaged by water and needed laborious transcription under ultra-violet light by a volunteer team from the Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society working at the Public Record Office (now the TNA). All this work has resulted in 11,471 images of reconstructed census pages, enumerating over 193,000 individuals. The information has been added to FamilyHistoryOnline over the past few months as the Manchester and Lancashire FHS have been able to prepare the data and images and is now complete.

Unfortunately, there are still areas which include several thousand people where the original information could not be retrieved. These include parts of Ashton-under-Lyne and Chorlton upon Medlock.

Do you want a list of surnames for a county?

There is now a surname link on the FamilyHistoryOnline home page which will list all the surnames available on FamilyHistoryOnline. You will find the surname link on the home page in the paragraph below the sign in boxes. The link will take you to a list of counties, choose a county, click on it and you will then be taken to a list of pages containing surnames from that county. Each page then lists the surnames with the number of index entries for each name. This can be a big help when you're looking for alternative spellings of a surname - out of nearly 900,000 different surnames, two thirds occur fewer than six times. Have a look, you may be surprised at some of the surnames available - the FHOL team have tried it on some of their research names and were very surprised at some of the spellings that occurred. ♦

Gillian Stevens
FHOL Team

ELIZABETH SIMPSON AWARD 2005

I was delighted that the *Cheshire Ancestor* won the Elizabeth Simpson Award for 2005. As editor, I try to ensure the journal evolves: each edition is different, though certain aspects are "set in stone".

Having worked around publication production since the late 1960s, when printing was a very different ball game to that available in the 21st century, I owe much to print company staff for taking the time to explain processes to me. Having spent most of my working life in the voluntary sector, "shoe string" is well understood, as are treasurers' difficulties in making the books balance, so I came to FHS editing "well trained" but perhaps also with a touch of radicalism! Knowing that one has sharp-eyed proof readers at hand is worth its weight in gold!

It is important that family history society editors grasp opportunities and explore how best to utilise new technologies coupled with money-saving methods of production. To this end, my gratitude goes to our printers, G W Belton Ltd of Gainsborough, and in particular Tony Cuckson: he has been my mentor in matters of print for some years; he suggests new ways of achieving "the right effect" and ways to reduce costs. I urge editors to investigate a variety of printing companies: see their work, talk to them – and get comparison costs from them. You might be surprised!

Editors can only succeed if there is a flow of material. I thank those members who produce material which we can edit into a cohesive whole for each edition. Editors should encourage readers to write about the unusual sources they may use in their research as well as about the individuals whose lives they reconstruct. Without material from individuals, journals would be very boring reading indeed! Keep on writing – please!

I would like to thank *Family History Monthly* for sponsoring the 2005 competition: I am a happy recipient of a year's subscription to the magazine; the Family History Society of Cheshire is looking forward to receiving their prize money; and we are delighted to hold the trophy for the coming year - it took pride of place at our recent Members' Day & AGM.

Good luck to all journal editors for the 2006 competition. ♦

Jacqui Simkins,
Honorary Editor Cheshire Ancestor

ELIZABETH SIMPSON AWARD 2006

The Elizabeth Simpson Award is made annually to the society whose journal has made the best contribution to family history during the preceding twelve months. The entry forms for the Elizabeth Simpson Award are included with this edition of NewsFlash. Alternatively they can be downloaded from www.ffhs.org.uk/Societies/Awards.

The deadline for entering is 30 April 2007. The winners will be announced at the FFHS Autumn General Meeting in Durham on Saturday 1 September 2007. The Award is again being sponsored by *Family History Monthly* magazine, with the winning society receiving £100 prize and the winning editor a year's subscription to *Family History Monthly*. ♦

FFHS-NEWS

The new Ezine will be in addition to our FFHS-NEWS mailing list, not instead of it. This facility gets the latest news out to everyone as soon as it is received, or we are permitted to release it. This is an ideal way for society members and anyone else to keep up to the minute with significant developments and news. If you would like to subscribe to FFHS-NEWS, then please go to www.ffhs.org.uk/Societies/Latest/List.htm. ♦

STOP PRESS - EARLY RELEASE OF THE 1911 CENSUS

On the 13th December, The National Archives advised us that it is fast-tracking their project to digitise the 1911 Census. It now plans to start offering a searchable service in early 2009, though key sensitive information still has to be withheld until 2012. For fuller details follow the link at the top of the home page on our FFHS website at www.ffhs.org.uk. ♦

CHARITY COMMISSION NEWS

In a previous Newsflash I referred to the impending changes to the Charities Act and the Companies Act .

On 7th November 2006 the two new Acts were duly enacted.

The latter is the largest single Act ever passed by Parliament. It will be introduced piecemeal. Probably of more interest to Societies will be the changes contained in the Charities Legislation .

The Charities Act 2006 replaces the 1993 Act of a similar name .For details, simply explained, visit the Charity Commission (CC) site at www.charitycommission.gov.uk. The CC is sending out its regular newsletter to all charities and this contains information too (see below).

Very briefly these are some of the new provisions:-

The Act gives new descriptions of "charitable purposes". All charities must exist for the public benefit. The classes of charities includes "the advancement of education". Everything that is now charitable in law remains charitable. Many Family History Societies have been registered as charities and will remain such when the new law is introduced.

For those intending to register in the future, they must have annual income in excess of £5,000 which is an increase over the previous level of £1,000. Eventually it will be possible to register voluntarily if the income is below the threshold.

Charities with annual income below £10,000 will be allowed to make amendments to their constitutions without obtaining prior consent from the CC. Alterations to the objects of a charity will be included as long as changes are consistent with the original intention. Amendments to the way in which charities

administer their charities will be permitted.

A new type of charitable company will be created called a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This body will enable charities to have limited liability and avoid the necessity of dual compliance with the Charities Act and the Companies Act .It will offer the benefit of reduced personal liability for trustees.

Unfortunately the creation of a CIO will depend upon the outcome of a review from a new government department called the Office of the Third Sector and further legislation. At present it is impossible to say when such bodies can be formed or if they will prove to be as useful as seems possible. Watch this space!

Whilst charities will continue to operate with unpaid trustees, under the new Act it will be possible to make special payments to individual trustees if all trustees agree it is appropriate and it is in the best interests of the charity. The amount paid must be reasonable and committed to writing. The constitution must not prohibit any such payment to a trustee. Trustees can have indemnity insurance payments made for them without seeking consent from the CC unless the constitution precludes it.

There are proposed changes to audits of charity's accounts. A formal audit will only be required where either the income each year exceeds £500,000 or the charities assets exceed £2,800,000 and its income exceeds £100,000.

If a charity has a trading company then rules relating to the preparation of group accounts are to be drawn up after consultation. ♦

David Lambert

Legal Adviser & Company Secretary FFHS

CONTACTING THE CHARITY COMMISSION

The latest edition of Charity Commission News, our twice-yearly newsletter to keep trustees up-to-date with the important issues affecting charities, has now been published on our website. You can find it on our website in both an easy-to read text (HTML) format and a .pdf format for printing off.

The newsletter is at www.charitycommission.gov.uk/tcc/newslist.asp.

Cutting and pasting this address into your browser will take you there if your email system does not already treat it as a link.

This link will take you to a page where you can select which format you wish to view. These include a text only format. You will also be able to view versions in Welsh by clicking on the 'Cymraeg' link that appears on every page.

This is a significant edition as it covers the main provisions of the new Charities Act, including a provisional timetable which has just been released by the Office of the Third Sector. It also covers:

- New descriptions of charitable purposes
- Which charities will have to register with us in the future
- New requirements for charities not previously on the register

Provisions to give trustees more flexibility to make decisions without our authorisation and many more. ♦

Sush Amar

Editor, Charity Commission News

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Last edition of *NewsFlash*

Fenland Family History Day and FFHS AGM Wisbech

The next FFHS Annual General Meeting is on Saturday 31 March 2007, hosted by Fenland Family History Society as part of their annual but very different Family History Day. Come and see how a smaller society works and contributes to the research work of the family historian.

The main centre for the event will be St Peter's Church Hall where many of the East Anglian family history societies will be exhibiting and on hand to give you help and advice. This year another venue to suit the occasion has been added; the Angles Theatre built in 1793. The Theatre will be the venue not only for the FFHS AGM (which commences at 1.30pm) but also for many stands offering hands on help to family researchers. The Theatre and St Peter's Church Hall can be found in the centre of Wisbech at opposite ends of the main town car park.

The Family History Day commences at 10am and includes a lecture in the Angles Theatre at 10.30am by Andrew Ingram. Andrew, a well-known author and local historian, will talk about the history of the Fens. Following this you will have the opportunity to browse the exhibitors' stands in the Church Hall and Theatre, visit the nearby Wisbech Library and its well equipped Family and Local History research room or the Fenland & Wisbech Museum, where many historical records from the Fenlands are deposited. On hand in the Theatre will be the team of expert researchers available to give advice and on the spot searches for both beginners and those who have hit the brick wall. The day will end with a Question and Answer Time in St Peter's Church Hall.

Other places of interest to visit within walking distance are the beautiful parish church of St Peter, Wisbech Castle, the National Trust property Peckover House, and the Octavia Hill Museum which was a founder member of the National Trust. The Clarkson Memorial and Freedom Bridge which were built to commemorate the abolition of slavery are also worth a

visit. Wisbech is full of interesting buildings and history and a must for lovers of all types of history.

To join in the Family History Day there is no need to book but just turn up on the day - admission is free.

Refreshments will be available at the Theatre and the Church Hall as well as in the nearby town centre. The venues are well served by ample car parks (presently free) and the bus station is also nearby. The nearest railway stations are Kings Lynn, March or Peterborough all with good coach or bus routes to Wisbech.

For overnight accommodation try the Tourist Information Office 01945 427199, alternatively visit www.fenland.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/leisure/tourism/ which includes a Visitors' Guide to Fenland plus links to local attractions, accommodation and tourist information centres in the area. There are many hotels in Wisbech including White Lion Hotel 5 South Brink Wisbech Tel 01945 463060 (see active hotels website), and the Rose & Crown Hotel in Market Place Wisbech Tel 01945 589800. There are also many smaller hotels and guesthouses all within walking distance of the venues. Larger hotels like The Elme Hall Hotel 01945 475566 www.paktel.co.uk are available on the outskirts of the town, plus motels a few miles away on the outskirts of Kings Lynn.

For more information about Fenland FHS's Family History Day contact: Bridget Hunter, Chairman, The Fenland Family History Society email chairman@fenlandfhs.org.uk www.fenlandfhs.org.uk ♦

Maggie Loughran Administrator

Nominations for the vacancies on the FFHS Executive, together with any Resolutions or matters for discussion during the General Meeting, need to be received by me no later than 15 February 2007. The agenda, reports and all other information regarding the FFHS AGM will be sent out to Society FFHS representatives early March.

Maggie Loughran Administrator