

# Oxfordshire FAMILY HISTORIAN



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The Society's website can be found at: [www.ofhs.org.uk](http://www.ofhs.org.uk)

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**Front cover:**

An Oxfordshire war memorial poppy wreath



# Oxfordshire FAMILY HISTORIAN

*The Journal of the Oxfordshire Family History Society*

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Vol. 28 No. 2

ISSN 0309-2275

August 2014

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## SOCIETY OBJECTIVES

1. to advance public education in family history and genealogy primarily within the county of Oxford
2. to collect, index, co-ordinate, publish and make accessible in the interests of genealogy any documents or records relating to the county
3. to promote the preservation of such documents or records
4. to encourage the study of genealogy
5. to assist educationally by lectures or otherwise in record research
6. to co-operate with Family History and other Societies with similar interests.



The Constitution of the Society is lodged with the Charity Commissioners and a copy is available from the Society's web site or, upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope, from the Secretary.

Subscriptions are renewable annually on 1 January except that those joining during Oct, Nov, Dec have their membership carried forward through the following year.

**Membership renewal forms are distributed with the December journal.**

**UK members:** Individual £9.00, Family £10.00

**Overseas members** (incl. postage) £12.00

Cheques drawn in sterling and made out to Oxfordshire Family History Society should be sent to the Membership Secretary (see the Who's Who at the back of this Journal).

**Australian members** may pay via the Society's agent (member 2202) Mrs Barbara Geeves, 8 Sailing Lane, Mornington, Victoria 3931, Australia  
Email: agent-au@ofhs.org.uk

Membership details are kept on computer and are used for Society activities only.

## Contributions to Future Issues

The *Oxfordshire Family Historian* is published three times each year with cover dates of April, August and December. Items for consideration should be submitted to the editor. The earlier an item is received, the greater the chance of inclusion in the next issue. The deadline for the December 2014 issue is 15 September 2014. Urgent and short items may be submitted up to 1 October 2014.

The Editor reserves the right to edit, abridge, reject, or defer to a future date, all material submitted for publication. It is the contributor's responsibility to ensure that material submitted does not breach copyright laws. Contributions remain the copyright of OFHS and the authors jointly. The observations and opinions expressed in the articles and notices in the journal are those of their authors and not necessarily those of the Society.

# From the Editor

Congratulations to all of you who have ever sent in an article for the *Oxfordshire Family Historian*. We are the very proud winners of the 2013 FFHS Elizabeth Simpson award for the best family history journal. The one we submitted was my first issue as Editor, so I am very grateful to all those authors who were persuaded to contribute. Special thanks go to past Editors, to Rosemary Bailey who works on the layout of the journal and to all those behind the scenes who review it before publication, as well as those at Parchment Ltd who make it look so eye catching. It is a team effort, so pat yourselves on the back.

This issue of the journal has a strong war theme, to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War. There are some fascinating stories of the lives of Oxfordshire families caught up in various wars through the centuries. Selecting those that went into this issue was a real challenge. We have also included the second part of Martin Harris' A-Z of his family and a number of non-war items to provide variety.

You may also note that we have altered the style of the journal for this

issue. Rosemary Bailey has been working behind the scenes to update the layout and make it easy to read as well as easier to produce. We hope you like it; do send in any comments.

I was surprised and delighted that we have received a number of self-published books for review this time. Local village groups and individuals are working hard to document particular aspects of local history. I know it is not easy, having created one myself and at the moment working hard with neighbours to get a booklet completed on Minster Lovell military men and women. If any of the books in the review section interests you, do support the author by buying it.

By the time this journal goes to print our *Pip, Squeak and Wilfred* conference should be over and we will be working hard for our own Oxfordshire Family History Fair in October. Do support us and come to meet the team. There will be a wide variety of stalls, activities and help with research. By coming to the event, you will give all the volunteers in the Society their well-deserved pat on the back.

Sue Honoré  
OFHS JOURNAL EDITOR



# From the Executive Committee Table

Some of the matters discussed by the Executive Committee in February to May 2014 are reported below.

## Elizabeth Simpson Award

The committee was highly delighted to hear that, at the recent AGM of the Federation of Family History Societies, Oxfordshire FHS won the large societies category of the Elizabeth Simpson Award, which is an annual award for 'the Journal making the Best Contribution to Family History'. The 'Large Societies' category relates to those with a membership of over 1,000.

I received the certificate from Nick Barrett, President of the Federation, on behalf of the Society, and it was subsequently presented at our monthly meeting to Sue Honoré, our Editor.

However, more and even better was to come!

Our Society's name was then announced as being overall winners of the Elizabeth Simpson Award, from a field of 39 journals entered. Another certificate, and a splendid, engraved, paperweight, were presented.

The committee's congratulations go to Sue for her Editorship. The journal submitted was Sue's very first – April 2013.

## Membership

The year-end membership figures showed a membership of about 1,800

members, a little down compared with last year. Since then the renewals figure has been somewhat disappointing, though we have been proactive in contacting unrenewed members.

## Holford Research Centre

With our lease of the Holford Centre coming to an end at the end of May, we have been emptying the premises over this period. The library books that were not bid for by members have been allocated to the Oxfordshire library service, the Society of Genealogists and the Editorial staff of the Victoria County History of Oxfordshire.

## Our Family History Fair

We are looking forward to our well-established Family History Fair at Woodstock on 4 October. For more details, see page 85.

## Other fairs and talks

We attended the Bracknell Family History fair and took part in the *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* show at Olympia. We also attended a U3A Family History Study Day in Amersham. Within Oxfordshire, presentations were given to local history groups. Society members also talked to Berks FHS about our DNA project, and about researching in Oxfordshire, and to Bucks Family History Society about photography techniques applicable to family history.



*The OFHS stand at the Who Do You Think You Are? Live show at Olympia in February 2014. Photos by OFHS member Martin Harris (top right and bottom left) and Malcolm Austen of OFHS Executive Committee (bottom left and top right)*

### Project to scan the parish registers of Oxfordshire

We have been discussing with the Oxfordshire History Centre and with internet providers ways in which the parish register images will be made available to the public. No final conclusions have yet been reached.

### Other projects

Transfer of the full transcripts of the grave registers of the four Oxford City Cemeteries to the Cemeteries Service took place in December. Presentation within our Search Services and on CD is planned.

Dave Beames, our Wills Library Co-ordinator, informed us in March that we now had passed 5,000 testator surnames in the Wills Library.

A significant milestone! We sent our congratulations to Dave for his work.

The new season of transcribing of Monumental Inscriptions has started. More details are below. Over the winter CDs for Stanton Harcourt and Cowley St James were released.

Rekeying of old parish register transcripts is progressing, as is building up the burial index.

The Oxfordshire DNA project now has 49 members with recorded profiles.

We are looking into the feasibility of a Family Histories library project, whereby members can deposit their research with the Society. We already have some such deposits which have been given to us in the past; we have to formalise conditions of deposit.

*Wendy Archer*  
CHAIRMAN

## Update from the Churchyards

Having just returned from a cold and soggy Milcombe churchyard, I am wondering when summer is really going to start! However, we do now have two OFHS teams up and running when weather permits.

Judith Wildsmith is leading a group of OFHS regulars and enthusiastic local parishioners at Hailey, where good progress was being made in the present churchyard, with its mostly 20th century monuments. Then it was discovered that although the old church had been pulled down around 1869, the churchyard surrounding it was still

intact, albeit waste deep in vegetation, above which a few headstones appeared temptingly. I am glad to report that the vegetation has now been cut back and the team have had several sessions getting to grips with around 80 old monuments which have been revealed. It is slow work and a real challenge, but also great fun.

Milcombe in contrast, where I am leading the 'Northern Team', is a rather small churchyard with relatively few old stones. However it will be good to record this since it will complete the trio of churches – Bloxham, South

Newington and Milcombe, which now form a single benefice.

Speaking of which, the South Newington CD is now complete in its proof form and is currently being checked. Barring disasters it should be released and on sale as OXF-MI-SNT by the time you read this. It has slightly leap-frogged the Standlake and Tubney transcripts, but they are hard on its heels and should be ready for checking soon. Keep your eye on the OFHS website for news of when they are available.

The local groups, tackling Chalgrove and Littlemore both tell me that good progress is being made, but I do not as yet have any definite dates for completion of these transcripts.

Finally my thanks to those members who responded to my appeal in the last issue for suggestions of churchyards we might tackle next. Bampton and Christmas Common have both been suggested and these together with Osney Cemetery are now 'on the list'.

Bampton is of course a thriving church with an extensive graveyard and is likely to require a full season's transcribing. The church at Christmas Common has been deconsecrated and is now a private dwelling. However its original, rather small graveyard is still in existence and this could well make a useful end-of-season fill-in project (always assuming that the weather improves!).

As usual, we can always use more volunteers; no previous experience necessary! So if you fancy a little outdoor relaxation, just contact me at one of the meetings or at the address or email below.

*Alan Simpson (3960)*

MI CO-ORDINATOR  
*Forest Farmhouse  
Old Road  
Shotover Hill  
Headington  
OXFORD OX3 8TA  
mis@ofhs.org.uk*



*Old gravestones at St Mary's, Banbury*

# The Elizabeth Simpson Award

## Encouraging excellence in family history journals

As you will have seen elsewhere in the journal, OFHS is the proud recipient of the Federation of Family History Society's Elizabeth Simpson award 'Overall Winner 2013' as well as winning the 'Large Societies' category. It is a great accolade and has encouraged much publicity for OFHS, on the radio and in print. A summary of the judging

criteria states: 'The journals were marked against Presentation, Articles and Content... Family History journals should be easy on the eye, enabling the reader to spot the Society's identity, find their way around the pages, extricate the information they need, have a little fun, and learn something in the process.'



*Sue Honoré, OFHS Editor, receiving the Elizabeth Simpson award certificate from Malcolm Austen, FFHS Communications Officer and OFHS Executive Committee member. Photo by Derek Powles*

*The Elizabeth Simpson award winner's paperweight. Photo by Malcolm Austen*



# OFHS Family History Fair

4 October 2014 10:00am to 4:00pm

The Marlborough School

Shipton Road, Woodstock OX20 1LP

*Come and Join Us!*

We are expecting around 40 exhibitors again this year, including staff from Oxfordshire History Centre, and our own experts, with considerable experience between them, and with online access to [findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk) as well as our extensive Oxfordshire database to help you solve those difficult questions. Bring along your relatives and friends to start researching your family history with the help of our experts. In addition, advisors will also be available for help with wills and DNA. If you have a will to bring along, or need help in interpreting one, please come to the wills table. If you have long-standing Oxfordshire ancestry but don't understand DNA, we are here to help with your questions and keen for you to join our growing project of Oxfordshire people with ancestry in the county. Browse through our range of publications for sale including CDs of parish records and MIs as well as a wide range of books. We have published a number of new CDs this year for you to purchase. If you have old Oxfordshire photographs, then go to the Oxfordshire History Centre table where Helen Drury will help you to identify Oxfordshire places and people. They are on the look-out for new historical

Oxfordshire photographs so with your permission will take them back to the OHC for scanning. All the above allow you to help contribute to the historical record for Oxfordshire.

The exhibitors include many family history societies from as far afield as Shropshire and Bristol and Avon Family History Societies as well as more local organisations such as Buckinghamshire, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Family History Societies. There are also people selling books and a range of services associated with family history.

A full list of exhibitors and a map of how to get to the venue are on our website [www.ofhs.org.uk](http://www.ofhs.org.uk).

The Marlborough Enterprise Centre is on one level and fully accessible. There is ample free parking on site and Woodstock can be accessed by the S3 Stagecoach bus, which runs regularly from Oxford and Chipping Norton. Follow this link for the timetable: [www.stagecoachbus.com/pdfs/XOAS003.pdf](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/pdfs/XOAS003.pdf). The bus stop is ten minutes walk from the MEC. We hope to have refreshments for you to enjoy in a seated area.

*Jenny Lee (5842)*

OFHS FAMILY HISTORY FAIR ORGANISER

# Annual General Meeting

The 37th OFHS AGM was held at Exeter Hall, Kidlington, on 23 June 2014, on a warm summer evening. The meeting was chaired by OFHS Chairman, Wendy Archer, who also opened the meeting and conducted the elections. Unfortunately the Society's President Hugh Kearsley was unable to attend, having recently suffered a fall at home, from which he is now recovering. Wendy Archer read out an opening address sent by Hugh, which included special thanks to all those who have given their time to OFHS.

The minutes of the 2013 AGM, the annual report for 2013 and the accounts had already been presented in the 2013 Members' Handbook. All these items were agreed and accepted by the members present.

The Chairman gave an update on events since the end of 2013, including progress on all projects, events and awards. Special thanks were given to Margaret and Maurice Meardon for their catering support as they retire

from Fair duty and to Hugh Kearsley for his work. In the absence of Linda Dore, Treasurer, Secretary Julie Kennedy read out an update on the financial status.

The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor were re-elected unopposed. Paul Gaskell, a long-serving member of the committee, is stepping down and Wendy thanked him for his valuable services. Eight additional nominations were received, which brings the committee membership up to maximum capacity. Three existing members are willing to continue — Malcolm Austen, Derek Powles and Sheila Tree. Five new members join the committee — John Cramer, Christopher Fance, Jessica Feinstein, Simon Purtell and Angie Trueman. These members were approved en-bloc.

The formal minutes of the AGM will be issued to members in the next Members' Handbook. Please contact the Secretary for an earlier copy.

REPORTER: *Sue Honoré*

## New Committee Members

**John Cramer** is a regular advisor at the Central Library, helping people with their family history queries.

**Christopher Fance** is an experienced family history researcher and is currently researching Chipping Campden School properties 1675–1916 for a website.

**Jessica Feinstein** teaches genealogy classes in Oxfordshire and is also going to be helping family history researchers at Abingdon Library. She looks after the small library of Oxfordshire family histories that has been donated to the OFHS. She is taking on the role of Membership Secretary.

**Simon Purtell** is a regular advisor in the 'cave' at OHC and had a baptism of fire by helping at the *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* show this year.

**Angie Trueman** is well known to those who attend the Computer Group

meetings and is an expert in internet research. She has traced her own Oxfordshire family back to the 1770s.

Our warmest welcome is extended to these five new Executive Committee volunteers.



*Members in discussion before the AGM. Photo by Sue Honoré*



*Enjoying the Meardons' refreshments before the AGM. Photo by Alan Simpson*

## Family History Fair Organisers needed...

### ...do you have good organisational skills and attention to detail?

If so, we could have something right up your street. OFHS is looking for a volunteer, preferably based in Oxfordshire, to organise the OFHS Family History Fair, starting from 2015. The event is usually held on the first Saturday in October. After many years of excellent service, Jenny Lee is stepping down and will be happy to train someone. The job is very rewarding and an excellent item to add to your CV!

Also, the *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* show needs someone to co-ordinate OFHS's stand and activities at this show from 2015. The show is held in the spring over 4 days and in 2015 will be at the NEC in Birmingham.

If you are interested in either position, or just want an informal discussion, please contact Wendy Archer (contact details inside front cover).

## OHC Closure Advanced Warning

The OHC annual stocktaking has been brought forward and will be combined with much-needed refurbishment of the reception area. The exact dates are to be confirmed, but it is likely to be sometime towards the end of November and beginning of December. At this time the OHC will maintain a telephone service, but not allow public access to the building. Some of the OHC staff will move temporarily to the Westgate Library to help the public during this shutdown. Obviously the OFHS Help Desk at the History Centre

will not be available during the shutdown period, although service will be maintained at Westgate. The good news is that the stocktaking will not take place in early 2015 and the OHC will be open then. The reception area will also look much improved and be safer.

Please check the OHC website to find the exact dates of the shutdown and for up-to-date information on access for queries. See [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/oxfordshire-history-centre](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/oxfordshire-history-centre)

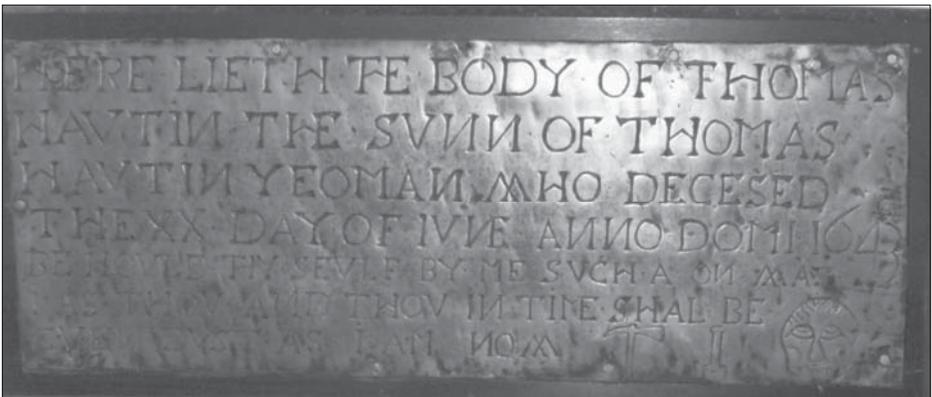
# Victoria County History Update

The VCH's work on the Wychwood area is now under way, and the first parish to be tackled (Idbury on the Gloucestershire border) is available on the VCH Oxfordshire website (address below). The neighbouring parishes of Fifield and Bruern are being researched, and work on Ascott-under-Wychwood will begin in the late summer.

These places are peripheral to the core areas of Shipton-under-Wychwood and Wychwood itself, which will be tackled at a later stage. Nonetheless they have a rich and varied history. Bruern was the site of an important Cistercian abbey and two associated granges, whose foundation in the 12th century may have involved displacement of the earlier settlement of Drayton or Treton (mentioned in Domesday Book). Ascott contains earthwork remains of the D'OILLY

family's 12th-century castle, but is probably better known for its association with the 'Ascott Martyrs' – sixteen local women briefly imprisoned in 1873 for supporting the Agricultural Labourers' Union against a local farmer. Idbury, as noted in the last issue, takes its name from an Iron-Age hill fort, and in the 17th and 18th centuries became a focus of Roman Catholic recusancy, focused on the LOGGIN family's chapel in the manor house. Other places to be covered include Cornbury Park and Shipton's multiple townships of Milton, Lyneham, Langley, Leafield, and Ramsden.

Meanwhile work on Ewelme Hundred in the Chilterns is approaching completion, with research under way on the parishes of Newington (including Brookhampton, Holcombe, and Berrick Prior), Benson (including Preston



*Thomas Hawtin's memorial in Idbury parish church (dated 1643) shows mason's tools in the bottom right-hand corner.*

## Scene Around

Crowmarsh, Fifield, and Roke), and Berrick Salome. Newington and Benson will both be web-mounted later this year, and Berrick early in 2015, with the published volume appearing early in 2016. Prominent Benson families included the medieval RESTWOLDS, in the 16th and 17th centuries the MERRYWEATHERs, ARNOLDs, BARRETTs, and GIBBSes, and in the 19th century the NEWTONs, of whom more in a future issue.

The Wychwood volume (due for completion around 2018) will leave four more volumes to complete the Oxfordshire series: one on the Chilterns and three on parts of West Oxfordshire, including Burford and Chipping Norton. The VCH Oxfordshire Trust, which for

some years now has provided our main funding, remains deeply grateful for the support of OFHS as a body and of individual family historians: full details of its activities and the VCH's future plans are available on our website.

*Simon Townley*  
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***www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/***

***Oxfordshire***  
***www.british-history.ac.uk***  
*(published volumes online)*

***Trust fundraising:***  
*Liam Tiller (Treasurer)*  
*East House, Roke*  
*WALLINGFORD*  
*OX10 6JB*  
*01491 839618*  
*LiamTiller@waitrose.com*



*Idbury parish church from the south-east, showing the 12th century chancel and nave, 14th century porch, bellcote and tower, and 15th century clerestory.*

# News from Berkshire Record Office

## World War One

With the centenary nearly upon us, we are busily researching records to create a 'Berkshire at War' blog that will run throughout 2014–2019. The idea is that we will be able to relive the impact of the war through extracts from local archives – which will either report action at the front or tell us more about what was happening on the home front. Please keep an eye on the Record Office website, which will have more details from the start of August.

## Wantage Town Lands

The governors of this charity – which is responsible for a number of bequests to the town – have recently deposited a large quantity of additional material with us. The result is a significant collection which dates from the late sixteenth century to today, and includes the management of Wantage Grammar School as well as almshouses in Mill Street and Eagles Close (the latter originally intended for

'decayed housekeepers').

Various records of the charity include names of beneficiaries in receipt of help either at the beginning of their in the case of the school, or at the end in the case of the almshouses. They are a valuable resource for anyone interested in Wantage's history.

## Small objects of power

Our exhibition of medieval seals is now on at the Record Office until August. There's plenty of North Berkshire interest in this, including penances relating to Abingdon and Wallingford, and deeds of land in Buscot, Ardington and Pusey. Many of the seal impressions are very rare, in addition to being beautiful examples of medieval art.

*Mark Stevens*  
SENIOR ARCHIVIST  
*Berkshire Record Office*  
9 Coley Avenue  
READING  
RG1 6AF  
0118 937 5162

# Public launch of 'Lives of the First World War' project

The Imperial War Museum and DC Thomson Family History have developed a new website, **[www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org](http://www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org)**, which aims to document the lives of all those with British or Empire connections who fought in the war, about 8 million people. Anyone

can help by transcribing official documents or adding your own personal stories and images. There is a guide for new contributors at **[www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org/getting-started](http://www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org/getting-started)**.

# Extreme Weather in the UK

Julie Kennedy, OFHS Secretary, brought this item to our attention and has sent the research team some extracts from a Northumberland Parish Register from the late eighteenth century, which they were pleased to receive. It may be that other members have some relevant data which could help in this research. An extract from the project summary is below:

‘Spaces of Experience and Horizons of Expectation: Extreme weather in the UK, past present and future’ is a three year study funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). The research uses historical records and oral history approaches to explore how people have understood, been affected by and have responded to climate variability and extreme events

through time.

There is growing concern over the impacts of inter-annual climate variability and anomalous and extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods, storms and unusually high or low temperatures.

The project will use case study based archival research and oral history interviews to develop local and regional climate histories, investigate the impact and human responses to events, examine how weather recording has changed and explore how social memory may have influenced perceptions of events.

The website is:

**[www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/weather-extremes/index.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/weather-extremes/index.aspx)**

# Berkshire FHS Conference

## *The early twentieth century: Conflict and change*

On Saturday, 18 October, Berkshire Family History Society hosts a one-day conference at Theale Green School, near Reading, Berkshire on the theme *The early twentieth century: Conflict and change*. Renowned family historian, broadcaster and academic, Dr Nick Barratt heads a distinguished team of professional speakers and researchers who bring wide-ranging expertise from family and local history research, the media and academia to this event. The conference is supported by findmypast.co.uk and the Berkshire

Record Office.

Registration is now open for the one day conference. The £37.50 registration fee gives access to keynote and individually selected track sessions, all one-to-one advice desks, displays and bookshop. Refreshments and lunch are also included.

Go to the conference web page for more details and to download a booking form:

**[www.berksfhs.org.uk/Conference](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/Conference)**

Specific enquiries can be made by email to: [conference@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:conference@berksfhs.org.uk)

## New Children's Home website

Linked to his website on workhouses ([www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk)), Peter Higginbotham has launched a new website covering children's homes – so far with entries for locations around the British Isles, Canada, Australia and Jamaica. The site claims to cover 'a wide variety of establishments ranging from orphanages, homes for those in poverty, and children with special needs, through to reformatories, industrial and approved schools, training ships, and hostels'. It is still a work in progress, but should be an excellent reference source to match his workhouse data.

For Oxfordshire it lists:

- Aston Training Home (Mrs Clarke's), and Bampton Home for Girls  
Bampton Road, Aston, Bampton
- Chadlington Home, Chapel Road, Chadlington
- Penhurst, New Street, Chipping Norton
- Henley Union Children's Homes at Belmont House and Radnor House, New Street, Henley on Thames
- Sherwood Nursery, Sherwood House, Greys Road, Henley on Thames
- Banbury Union Home, 'The Lawn' and 'Greystones', Horley
- Oxford Union School, Cowley Fields, Oxford
- St Michael's, Fyfield Road, Oxford
- St Michael's Home for Girls, Milton Lane, Shipton under Wychwood

The site can be found at [www.childrenshomes.org.uk](http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk).

### Cheltenham Gordon Boys' Brigade

Were any of your ancestors members of the Cheltenham Gordon Boys' Brigade between 1890 and 1925? Or do you know anyone who was? I am writing a history of the Brigade and have only found 50% of the boys – no records remain. Please help if you can.

*Audrey Dingle*  
*dickdingle@mail.com*  
*01242 573381*

# Herbert George Woodward's Medal

by Hazel Anderson

Growing up in East Oxford, I was always fascinated by a medal that was in the kitchen drawer of our family home. To me as a child playing with this large silver coin, as I thought of it at the time, there was no connection to any war.

As the years passed and I became older, I questioned my mother about it and she explained that it was a First World War medal. No more was said about it. Many years later, when my parents had died and I was clearing out their house with my two sisters, I came across the medal again and casually put it in a box with some effects of my father's and brought it home.

Many more years passed and once again I came across the medal and decided to take a closer look. The name inscribed was Herbert George WOODWARD and '1914-1918 Royal Berkshire Regiment 34130'. Curiosity then overcame me and I thought I must research this man. We had no

WOODWARD connection, so why was it sitting in our kitchen drawer?

I tapped his name and service number into Google and to my surprise and sadness a picture of his grave came up. The inscription said he had died on 26 March 1918 aged 19, the son of Caleb and Mary Jane WOODWARD. His grave was at the Ribemont Cemetery, Aisne, France.

I have researched the family using census and parish records. I found that Caleb and Mary were living at 58 High Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, but the house is no longer there. It is now a Waitrose supermarket.

In the 1901 census Herbert is aged 2, living in Mill Street, Kidlington, with his grandparents Joseph Giles aged 52, a market gardener, born in Hampton Poyle and his wife Mary Ann aged 52, a laundress, born in West Hanney. Young Herbert was born in Kidlington. Also in the household were Joseph and Mary



*The edge of the medal to Private Herbert George Woodward, showing the inscription of his name*

Ann's children: Ernest aged 17, Florence aged 19, and Mary J Woodward their married daughter, aged 31, born in Hampton Poyle, all of them workers in the laundry. In the 1911 census in Wallingford was Charles Woodward aged 41, married 13 years, a butcher born in Combe, Oxfordshire, his wife Mary and their sons Herbert aged 12, Cyril aged 9 and Charles aged 5, as well as three lodgers and two visitors.

Herbert was born on 28 September 1898 and baptised at St Mary's church, Kidlington. His father Caleb was baptised at Combe on 14 December 1869, son of John (a licensed victualler) and Elizabeth who had at least 13 children (1881 census). Caleb married Mary Jane GILES at Woodstock in 1898

and died on 23 March 1928 in Wallingford; he is buried at St Mary le More, Wallingford.

I still feel puzzled as to why the medal was in our house, because originally it would have been sent to Herbert's parents who were living in Wallingford.

I would love to be able to give this medal to someone who is related in some way to Herbert, so hopefully there are distant relatives to be found. I felt that I have got to know Herbert and his family, as well as the grief that they must have felt losing their son, as so many did in that terrible war.

*Hazel Anderson (3980)*  
*hazel.thomson8@live.com*



*Herbert Woodward's British War Medal issued for those who served from 5 August 1914 to 11 November 1918 and showing King George V. The reverse side is on the back cover of the journal*

# Diary Dates

For more dates, especially the many events hosted by the Society of Genealogists in London, see the joint GENUKI/FFHS event calendar at [www.geneva.weald.org.uk](http://www.geneva.weald.org.uk).

Events in bold will have an OFHS presence.

## August 2014

- Aug 1–3 Woodstock, OXF  
Jousting Tournament  
Blenheim Palace
- Aug 9 Worcester, WOR  
Midlands Family History Fair  
West Midlands  
Group of FH Societies
- Aug 29–31 Glasgow, SCD  
Who Do You Think You Are? Live Scotland
- Aug 1–31 Wallingford, OXF  
Siege & Strife  
Wallingford and War  
Wallingford Museum
- Aug–Sep Oxford, OXF  
English Embroideries Exhibition  
Ashmolean Museum

## September 2014

- Sep 20 **Imperial War Museum, LND**  
**FFHS General Meeting**
- Sep 20 SOG, LND  
Society of Genealogists  
Library Tour
- Sep 21 Faringdon, OXF  
Open Day  
Faringdon Folly
- Sep 27 Bristol, GLS  
Bristol & Avon Family History Society Open Day

## October 2014

- Oct 4 **Woodstock, OXF**  
**OFHS Family History Fair**
- Oct 12 **Basingstoke, HAM**  
**Family History Fair & Open Day**  
**Hampshire**  
**Genealogical Society**
- Oct 18 Theale, BRK  
The Early Twentieth Century: Conflict & Change  
Berkshire Family History Society
- Oct 18 Doncaster, SYK  
Family History Fair
- Oct 25 Girton, CAM  
Cambridgeshire Family History Fair
- Oct 25 Oxford, OXF  
WWI Medals Exhibition  
Oxford Town Hall

## November 2014

- Nov 1 **Woking, SRY**  
**West Surrey Family History Society Open Day**
- Nov 8 Huddersfield, WRY  
Family & Local History Fair
- Nov 12 **Moreton in Marsh, GLS**  
**Guide to DNA talk by Sue Honoré**  
**Moreton in Marsh & District FHS**

# Meetings at Exeter Hall

Oxford Road, Kidlington

OX5 1AB

General meetings take place in the large hall.  
Bookstall and computer advice from 7:15pm. Talks start at 8:00pm.  
Computer meetings (\*) usually take place in the small hall. Doors  
open at 7:15pm. Talks start at 7:30pm.

**4 August 2014\***

*Searching Beyond these Shores – Christopher Fance*

**22 September 2014**

*Brick walls and lost ancestors: problem solving  
for family historians – Dave Annal*

**6 October 2014\***

*Running a Community Collection Event – Ylva Berglund Prytz*

**27 October 2014**

*All the news that's fit to read – Richard Heaton*

**24 November 2014**

*From Time out of Mind: Custom and Ritual in  
19th Century Oxfordshire (NB change of topic from originally  
listed) – Shaun Morley*

**1 December 2014\***

*Computer Group Christmas Forum  
(Bring along your questions to be answered)*

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## Back cover:

The reverse of Herbert Woodward's British War Medal  
issued for those who served from 5 August 1914 to 11 November 1918  
and showing St George on horseback

