

# 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:**

The OFHS stand at the *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* show in  
Birmingham in April 2015. Photo by Dave Wedd



# Oxfordshire FAMILY HISTORIAN

*The Journal of the Oxfordshire Family History Society*

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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](mailto: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 2015 issue is 15 September 2015. Urgent and short items may be submitted up to 1 October 2015.

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

Life seems to move along very quickly these days, to me at least, and many developments are reflected in this issue of the *Oxfordshire Family Historian*. I hope you enjoy the variety of articles this month. There is also plenty of good news, with new CDs and online records, as well as access to our long-awaited parish register scans for personal researchers at OHC.

The Executive Committee is undergoing change with both Wendy Archer and Sheila Tree leaving, Malcolm Austen taking over as Chairman and a 'young team' getting used to their new roles and responsibilities. We want to thank both Sheila and Wendy for their enormous contributions and dedication to their roles. The meetings at Exeter Hall continue to reflect a wide variety of 'current' family history topics. Our experience from the OFHS Family History Advisors and from interaction with people at fairs and events, shows that family history researchers are becoming more and more sophisticated, asking more challenging questions and digging deeper into their history. Social media and DNA testing are allowing OFHS to reach out to a wider audience. Now all I need is access to high-speed broadband (current estimate late 2016) and I can join the rest of you whizzing around the electronic world!

I want to continue to reflect variety in this journal. If you can write something about any of your family

research, do send it in to me. Do you have an interesting tale to tell about your family? There must be so many fascinating stories out there about Oxfordshire families. We have had good luck with people getting help once their article is published, so why not explain your brick wall? Like Dave Beames in this issue, do you have a wonderful Oxfordshire photo that you can describe? We haven't heard from many of our overseas members for a time – what is your family emigration story? Big or small, I'm happy to receive whatever you can put together.

*Sue Honoré*

OFHS JOURNAL EDITOR



*OFHS Secretary Julie Kennedy, and Chairman Wendy Archer, signed the agreement with Ancestry. See Page 72 for details. Photo by Sue Honoré*

# From the Executive Committee Table

Some of the matters discussed by the Executive Committee in February to May 2015 are reported below.

## Finance

The sad decease of our Treasurer, Linda Dore, in mid-February, left us in need of a Treasurer. The Committee is very appreciative of the fact that Simon Purtell, a committee member in his first year, offered to take on the role.

## Scanned parish registers of Oxfordshire

We are delighted to be able to report that an agreement has now been signed with online family history resource Ancestry to host our scans of all the Oxfordshire parish registers (1538–1965), subject to date restrictions. They will be available to Ancestry subscribers, fully indexed, in due course.

Meanwhile, within the Oxfordshire History Centre viewing of the parish register scans has been working well.

## Oxford City Cemetery CD

We were pleased to publish the CD of transcripts of the Oxford City Cemetery grave registers – see page 74 for further details of the CD.

## Other projects

A significant collection of documents from the early 1700s relating to Stanton St John was won for the Society at

an auction on the internet. Transcription and scanning are being considered, with the documents themselves to be deposited in the Oxfordshire History Centre.

## Hailey MI CD

We were grateful to the Monumental Inscription (MI) team for their transcription work in Hailey, resulting in another in the series of photographic MI CDs.

## Fairs and talks

The Society had a stand at the *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* show at its new venue at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, and we were pleased to meet members and visitors there. We have already booked for next year's event in early April. Members gave talks across Oxfordshire as part of our outreach.

## Helpdesks

Society Advisors regularly inform the committee of the help they give to their clients. We have Advisors at the Oxfordshire History Centre, Central Library at Westgate, and Abingdon Library, as well as before every main meeting at Exeter Hall. By offering help by email and phone, we serve researchers worldwide, and we feel this is an important function of the Society.

*Wendy Archer*  
(Chairman during the reported period)

## Executive Committee Departures



*Grateful thanks to Wendy Archer  
for her enormous contribution as Chairman of  
OFHS from 2007 to 2015. Also to Sheila Tree  
for her dedicated work on the Committee  
as Minutes Secretary.  
Happy 'retirement' to you both!*

## Update from the Churchyards

A very brief report this time, as this season's transcribing is now in full swing and your scribe is busy typing up the results for Duns Tew. So far the weather has been very kind to us and both the teams at Duns Tew and at Witney Holy Trinity (under the leadership of Mary Whitehead), are making good progress. So much so that we will probably complete work in both churchyards before the end of the summer. In which

case we will move on to make a start at least, in other churchyards in the same area. Various churches are being considered but nothing is yet finalised.

*Alan Simpson (3960)  
MI CO-ORDINATOR  
Forest Farmhouse, Old Road  
Shotover Hill, Headington  
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# Oxford City Cemetery Grave Register CD Publication

Grave registers, as well as burial registers, have been kept for the Oxford City cemeteries of Botley, Headington, Rose Hill, and Wolvercote since their inception in the late 1800s.

Oxfordshire Family History Society was given access to the scans of the grave registers by Trevor Jackson, Cemeteries Manager at Oxford City Council. A team of about ten OFHS volunteers has now transcribed and indexed these, generating a CD containing about 50,000 names.

The CD has a name index, from which you can locate your ancestor in a particular plot in one of the cemeteries. Importantly, the occupants of each grave are listed by depth and by date of burial, showing all those buried in each plot. A mother-in-law, or a married daughter, may be buried with a married couple, giving useful family history clues.

There are accompanying plans for each cemetery, showing the locations of the various sections.

C <sup>1</sup>	Unburied	12ft	131	John William Pulkar	60 yrs June 18. 1904	609	41
121	"	9ft	"	Frederick John Woodward	59 yrs Sept 27 <sup>th</sup> 1923	2990	63
	"	7ft 6	"	Harriet Ann Pulkar	86 yrs 6 Aug 1930	4229	6
	"	5ft	"	Miss Sarah Woodward	73 30 May 1941	6986	41

*John William PULKER died in 1904, and was buried at 12ft deep. His son-in-law, Frederick John WOODWARD, was the next in the plot, 20 years later, at 9ft. Harriet Ann PULKER survived her husband John William by 26 years, and was the third in the grave, at 7ft 6ins, but separated from her husband in the grave. In 1941, at 5ft, Alice Sarah WOODWARD was buried, wife of Frederick John WOODWARD but separated from him in the grave, and daughter of John William PULKER.*

L <sup>2</sup>	Unburied	7 feet	457A	EDITH MARY TOLKIEN	82	2 <sup>nd</sup> DEC 1977	10,674	143
211	"	5 ft	"	JOHN RONALD REVEL TOLKIEN	81	6 <sup>th</sup> SEPT. 1973	10,933	9

*Wolvercote cemetery – Grave of J R R Tolkien and his wife Edith Mary (née Bratt)*

You can listen to and see a 'walk-through' of the CD at [www.computer-group.oxfordshirefhs.org.uk/cemcd/oxf-cem-occ.html](http://www.computer-group.oxfordshirefhs.org.uk/cemcd/oxf-cem-occ.html).

The CD, code OXF-CEM-OCC, costs £17.50 and can be bought through our shopping cart at [www.ofhs.org.uk/CDsales.html](http://www.ofhs.org.uk/CDsales.html), or by post from Miss J

Wildsmith, 85 Downside Road, Headington, OXFORD, OX3 8JJ.

Please make cheques payable to OFHS. If purchasing by post from overseas, please send cheques in sterling and drawn on a UK clearing bank.

*Wendy Archer*

## Oxford City Grave Registers Project Background

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this important piece of work to all users, whether it is from a casual interest in family history, or to the committed researcher. I believe that this is a very valuable and historical record of burials in the four Oxford City cemeteries over the last century.

This project arose out of concerns I had for the security of the records contained in handwritten registers and located within a 'fireproof' cabinet in the Cemeteries Service Office. Upon assuming the position of Registrar of Cemeteries for Oxford City Council in 2005, I quickly became aware of the importance of these historical documents and I realised that without them we would more or less be unable to operate. I managed to obtain some funding to have the main registers scanned under a contract which took many weeks of registers being transported to the contractor's premises in another county. It was something of a relief when I was finally able to upload the scanned images onto

the Council's server, which is backed up every evening.

Having secured a much stronger position in terms of business continuity, I then looked at what we could do with these scanned images. I explored different avenues before finally entering into a mutually agreeable contract with Oxfordshire Family History Society, which has worked extremely well. What was an enormous task was begun in the late autumn of 2011. A team of transcribers got down to the painstaking task of not just inputting the data into a spreadsheet, but crucially interpreting some of the myriad styles of handwriting that are present in the registers. Each cemetery had its own Superintendent many years ago and some took great care with the neatness of their handwriting. Sadly others did not show as much sympathy for the people who would come after them and we often today still have difficulty trying to decipher the spidery scrawl. Consequently I try and write as legibly as possible when I complete entries in

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## OFHS News

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the registers today, conscious that others will wish to read them in the future. I believe that it is important to keep up these entries, even though nowadays we have a computer application which we input the data into on a daily basis.

We intend to marry up the data produced by the Society's transcribers with the limited data we already have electronically stored. This will allow us to interrogate the database in seconds and save us a great deal of time when we are undertaking searches for those interred in our cemeteries. It is our

intention to make this data available to the general public. However, the means by which we do this has yet to be determined. In the meantime I commend this important work undertaken by the transcribers of the Oxfordshire Family History Society and their colleagues who have done sterling work in what has been a considerable achievement.

*Trevor I Jackson*  
REGISTRAR OF CEMETERIES  
*Oxford City Council*



*The Executive Committee before the AGM in June. Back row, left to right: Sue Honoré, Simon Purtell, John Cramer, Christopher Fance, Derek Powles, Malcolm Austen. Front row: Wendy Archer, Angie Trueman, Jessica Feinstein, Julie Kennedy, Sheila Tree*

# Annual General Meeting

The 38th OFHS AGM was held at Exeter Hall, Kidlington, on 22 June 2015. The meeting was chaired by outgoing OFHS Chairman, Wendy Archer, who welcomed President Hugh Kearsey. Hugh opened the meeting by discussing the highs and lows of the year and thanking all those who had put in efforts as volunteers for the Society over the last year.

The minutes of the 2014 AGM, the annual report for 2014 and the accounts for 2014 have already been presented in the Members' Handbook. All these items were agreed and accepted by the members present.

The Chairman gave an update on events since the end of 2014, including status on membership, projects and communication. The Acting Treasurer Simon Purtell presented an update on the financial status.

The elections of committee members then took place. Wendy Archer and Sheila Tree stood down from their Committee roles. The Secretary and Editor were re-elected unopposed. Malcolm Austen was elected unopposed as the new Chairman and Simon Purtell was formally elected as Treasurer from his current acting role. Five existing members were willing to continue on the Executive Committee — John Cramer, Christopher Fance, Jessica Feinstein, Derek Powles and Angie Trueman. No additional nominations were received.

The formal minutes of the AGM will be issued to members in the next Members' Handbook in April 2016. Please contact the Secretary for an earlier copy.

REPORTER: *Sue Honoré*



*Cutting the cake: celebrating the work of the outgoing Committee members Sheila Tree and Wendy Archer, before the Executive Committee meeting*

# Who Do You Think You Are? Live 2015

This year's *Who Do You Think You Are?* Live event had two firsts. It was the first time that it had been held at the NEC Birmingham (previous years had been at Olympia, London) and it was my first time co-ordinating the attendance of OFHS.

Having set up our stand on the Wednesday afternoon, Dave Wedd and I left the NEC with the hall looking very chaotic. It was a surprise the following morning to see how neat and tidy everything appeared.

Over the three days of the exhibition fourteen volunteers manned our stand, providing us with six people each day. This gave us all the opportunity to take some time out to look around the exhibition and for some to help on other stands, Malcolm Austen on the Federation of Family History Societies, or to give a talk, Sue Honoré on 'Discoveries and challenges from a DNA Project Co-ordinator'.



*Julie Kennedy talks to an early customer on Friday*



*Even those from the past need modern trolleys to move family history stock!*

Although we had a well-manned stand, there were times that all were engaged in selling CDs and books as well as carrying out searches for customers. A number of customers who were just browsing went away very happy, having found a book with a picture of a relative in it. Many also were very grateful to be able to buy our Parish Record CDs.

Overall the event did not seem as busy as previous years, but this may have been due to the change of venue. It must though have been sufficiently attended, as the organisers have already announced the dates for next year. The event will again be held at the NEC on 7 to 9 April 2016 and OFHS will be there – a date for your diary.

*John Cramer (6338)*  
WDYTYA CO-ORDINATOR



*Malcolm Austen helping someone research Oxfordshire ancestors using the OFHS Search Suite*



*Susie Pearce advising potential customers on the OFHS product offerings*

## The OFHS Wills Library

The Wills Library still grows slowly, though in some months nothing much happens.

At the time of writing we have 5433 wills and associated documents on-line for your use, plus many hundreds of inventories, affidavits etc. which may be included with a will. Almost 65,000 persons are indexed as appearing in those documents – though the true number must be fewer, as people may appear several times in different wills. Recent additions include mentions of surnames from ABRAM to WYATT through John GOODENOUGH and Goodwife MILMAN.

If you haven't found the Library yet, have a look – you might find just that one missing person. It's at **[www.wills.oxfordshirefhs.org.uk](http://www.wills.oxfordshirefhs.org.uk)**.

We have about 230 contributors, many sending in just one or two wills, a

few offering hundreds. We are grateful to all of them. If you haven't joined in yet, why not? Wills can be a tremendous help, especially where PRs are patchy or non-existent. At first sight the older ones may appear completely unreadable, but on the whole they aren't, it just takes practice. If you need help with transcription, we can offer that. Free of charge, of course – all we ask is permission to add the will to the website. Just e-mail [wills@ofhs.org.uk](mailto:wills@ofhs.org.uk)

Copies of wills are obtainable from OHC (online), from TNA, and (online) from FindMyPast, who have now kindly agreed that we can publish transcripts of 'their' wills.

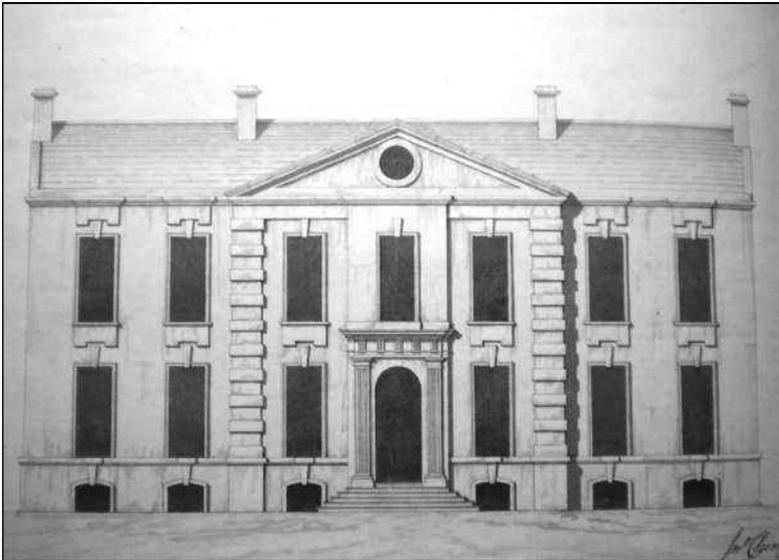
*Dave Beames (2903)*  
WILLS LIBRARY CO-ORDINATOR  
[wills@ofhs.org.uk](mailto:wills@ofhs.org.uk)

## News from the Victoria County History

The latest additions to the VCH website are draft histories of **Bruern** and **Fifield** in west Oxfordshire – both earmarked for our Wychwood volume, which should be completed in around three years' time. Meanwhile, our completed Ewelme Hundred volume (covering fourteen ancient parishes in south-east Oxfordshire) is being finalised ready to go off to press in the autumn, with publication scheduled for next spring. Another exciting development is that we are currently recruiting an additional researcher to begin work on the remaining south Oxfordshire parishes – those within the large southern loop of the Thames towards Reading, stretching

from Crowmarsh Gifford and Newnham Murren on the west across to Shiplake on the east. This has been made possible by a generous legacy from a long-term supporter, and will eventually be published as Volume 20. That will leave just three volumes needed to complete the Oxfordshire series.

Fifield is a typical 'Cotswold' parish adjoining the Gloucestershire border, and was predominantly agricultural until recent times. The village lies roughly midway between the market towns of Stow-on-the-Wold and Burford, and developed on the edge of a green, close to an ancient drove road which led from the high downs to



*Bruern Abbey — a drawing of the COPE family's mansion in 1795, thirty years after fire gutted most of the interior*



*Bruern Grange, a late 17th-century farmhouse built on the site of one of Bruern Abbey's medieval granges*

meadows by the River Evenlode. Medieval lords included the MERRYMOUTHs or MURIMUTHs (from whom the Merry-mouth Inn is named), and for much of the 17th and 18th centuries the manor was owned by the BRAYs, who lived at Fifield House and Manor Farm. Leading yeoman farmers – pursuing the mixed farming typical of the area – included members of the SECOLL, HAMLIN and CAMBRAY families, of whom the last featured prominently in the manor court in the early 17th century, not generally in very positive light. Richard Cambray (died 1641) was accused of theft, illegal grazing, and failure to maintain his house, while his wife was accused of assault, and his daughter of being a ‘bagpiper’s whore’!

Neighbouring Bruern, where the

12th century Cistercian abbey was replaced first by a Tudor mansion house and later by the present-day Bruern Abbey, was a much more unusual place, as described in a VCH update a couple of issues ago. Meanwhile work is progressing well on nearby **Lyneham**, **Milton**, and **Shipton-under-Wychwood**, with work to begin shortly on Leafield, Ramsden and Ascott -under-Wychwood.

As always we’re keen to share our ongoing work as widely as possible, and alongside the research and writing (and posting draft texts on the web) we have a number of talks and events coming up, all of them listed on the VCH website. In particular we’re delighted to be participating as usual both in *Oxfordshire Past* on 13 June, and in the annual OFHS Family History Fair at

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## Scene Around

Woodstock on 3 October – so if you'd like to hear more or if you have any questions or comments, do come and say hello.

**Simon Townley**

VCH OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY EDITOR

VCH websites:

[www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/](http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/)

**Oxfordshire**

[www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)

*(the second site contains the published volumes online)*

**VCH research:**

[simon.townley@history.ox.ac.uk](mailto:simon.townley@history.ox.ac.uk)

**Trust fundraising:**

Liam Tiller (TREASURER)

East House, Roke,

Wallingford OX10 6JB

01491 839618

[liamtiller@waitrose.com](mailto:liamtiller@waitrose.com)

# News from the Berkshire Record Office

## Heritage Open Day

We will be running our annual tours of the Berkshire Record Office on Saturday 12th September as part of the Heritage Open Day events. Come along on a behind-the-scenes tour to see the strongrooms and conservation facility. This year the Berkshire Family History Society will also be providing a talk on 'Parish Registers for Family History' to be held in the Wroughton Room at the BRO.

The BRO will be open for two tours between 11.00 and 13.00, and the BFHS talk will be at 11.30. If you would like to book a place on a tour or the talk, please call on 0118 937 5132.

## What's new?

The archive of the Companions of Jesus the Good Shepherd, founded in Wantage in the 1920s, sheds lights on a small religious community of unmarried

women teachers (reference D/EX2398).

Also available are 20th century records for Cholsey Primary School (SCH32) as well as title deeds for various properties in Grove and Wantage (D/EX2335); Letcombe Regis (D/EX2304); Wallingford (D/EX2231 and D/EX2294) and Wantage (D/EX2257). We also have records from Henley Methodist Church, Oxfordshire, 1886–1983 (D/MS104) and the log book of Wantage Fire Brigade, 1921–1930, which records fires in the town and neighbouring villages (D/EX2415).

## The Dodeka Book Club

We have an exhibition on the Dodeka Book Club on display between May and July. The Dodeka Book Club was formed in 1892 and closed in 2009. Initially its meetings were held in Reading, but spread all over Berkshire and it was limited to twelve members at a time – hence the name. Members discussed

various topics from politics and sport to geography and travel. Hosts were even expected to lay on dinner! The exhibition provides an insight into the club, its members and its activities – well worth a look.

*Ivone Turnbull*  
SENIOR ARCHIVIST  
*Berkshire Record Office*  
9 Coley Avenue  
READING, RG1 6AF  
0118 937 5132  
[www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk](http://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk)

## News from Oxfordshire History Centre

We have recently been analysing the statistics we have to collate each month to see how we have fared over the county council year.

In 2014/15 service usage of the county's archives, local studies and photographic resources remained fairly stable. Total visitor contact (on-site and remote) was slightly down on 2013/14, but our online presence is growing, with much more information now accessible on our web pages. Website hits have increased by 4% in the past 12 months. It was also encouraging to see that, as last year, about 20% of our visitors were first time users of the History Centre.

### Archive Service Accreditation

The History Centre is busy preparing its application bid for accreditation. This is a UK-wide scheme which examines in detail whether we are providing a high level of service to our users and other stakeholders. It also assesses if we are preserving our collections in line with national standards and have robust

plans and policies to manage and develop the service. It has led us to review and expand on our existing documentation and processes. We are aiming to apply in July, for panel assessment in November.

### Preservica cloud storage

Oxfordshire History Centre signed a



*The recently refurbished church tower  
at St Luke's*

## Scene Around

contract with Preservica on 1st April to provide us with 'cloud storage'. Preservica is a company which specialises in not just the storage of digital material, but also its active preservation, to ensure that today's digital formats don't fall into obsolescence and become unreadable. We currently hold somewhere between 15 and 20 terabytes of digital material stored in a variety of places, including network drives and portable media such as USB drives, disk and tape! Properly managed cloud storage should help us amend the considerable vulnerability of our current situation and make it easier to provide direct public access in the near future to certain resources from our searchroom computers – e.g. digitised oral history sound recordings and video.

### **Parish Register scans**

The images of the Oxfordshire parish registers, which were digitised through

the generous funding of Oxfordshire Family History Society, are now accessible via the OFHS Search Suite on the public computers in our searchroom. Visitors can take printouts of individual baptism, marriage and burial entries or can save them as digital files for transmission to e-mail or transfer to memory stick. As well as the volumes in our custody, we also have images of registers deposited temporarily by several parishes during the digitisation project and subsequently returned. We encourage you to use these good-quality images in preference to the original documents to save further wear and tear on these irreplaceable records.

### **Update on other digitisation projects**

Two other sets of our archival records which have been scanned in the past couple of years are now available in digital form in our searchroom:



*Cuddesdon tithe map 1840*

- **Title maps** of over 150 Oxfordshire parishes, covering the period 1838–1865, though not the accompanying written apportionments that give names of landholders. These represent the first detailed mapping of some of these towns and villages.
- **District Valuation maps and survey books** dating from 1910–1915 and covering land and property holdings in pre-1974 Oxfordshire. The books give the names of owners and occupiers of every building and parcel of land surveyed in the county.

One of the reasons for digitising these collections is to preserve the original documents, many of which are in fragile condition, and inevitably deteriorate further through handling. The other main purpose is widening access to and knowledge of the resources; with this in mind, plans are in hand to make the District Valuation records available online. Hosting the title maps on the web is not likely to be feasible in the foreseeable future.

## Social media

Following a successful few weeks' trial, Oxfordshire History Centre now has its own Twitter account and Facebook page. Our aim is to provide a mix of news feeds and topical items from our collections. If you use these media, please have a look at our posts and get in touch with us. You can find us at [www.twitter.com/OxHist](http://www.twitter.com/OxHist) and also at

[www.facebook.com/OxfordshireHistoryCentre](http://www.facebook.com/OxfordshireHistoryCentre)

## Wi-Fi access

We now finally have free Wi-Fi for visitors to our searchroom and reception area, as part of the Super Connected Oxford project. There are posters on display explaining how to make use of this broadband connection on your laptop, tablet or smartphone. Please let us know how effective you find this new facility.

## Photographic volunteers

We are delighted with the response to our appeal in the previous newsletter for new photographic volunteers to help out at the History Centre, and have managed to fill all five of our current vacancies. Finishing even the smallest cataloguing and scanning project takes time of course, but we now have the capacity to make some forward progress and further improve the content of *Picture Oxon* – [www.pictureoxon.org.uk](http://www.pictureoxon.org.uk). We shall, for example be digitising 2,000 of our early prints and engravings, allowing more of them to be viewable online.

*Mark Priddey & Mark Lawrence*

HISTORY CENTRE MANAGERS

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[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshirehistory](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshirehistory)

# Useful Addresses

## **OFHS Correspondence and Help:**

By post: Oxfordshire Family History Society,  
Oxfordshire History Centre, St Lukes Church,  
Temple Road, Cowley, OXFORD,  
OX4 2HT, UK  
Tel: 01865 358151  
Email: [help@ofhs.org.uk](mailto:help@ofhs.org.uk)

## **Oxfordshire Central Library:**

Westgate, OXFORD, OX1 1DJ  
Open 09:00–19:00 Mon, Tue, Wed  
Thu; 09:00–17:30 Fri, Sat  
Closed Sun and Public Holidays  
Web: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/  
oxfordcentrallibrary](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordcentrallibrary)  
Tel: 01865 815509

Provides a self-service selection of local and family history books, and access to a range of computer-based resources.

## **Local Studies Centres at other Libraries:**

Abingdon 01235 520374  
Banbury 01295 262282  
Didcot 01235 813103  
Henley 01491 575278  
Wantage 01235 762291  
Witney 01993 703659  
Web: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)

## **Oxfordshire History Centre:**

St Luke's Church, Temple Road, Cowley,  
OXFORD, OX4 2HT  
Tel: 01865 398200  
Email: [oxhist@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:oxhist@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/  
oxfordshirehistory](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshirehistory)  
Open 10:00–17:00 Tue,  
09:00–17:00 Wed–Sat  
Closed Mon, Sun, Public Holidays and  
Bank Holiday weekends

**Telephone numbers** are shown for UK callers. From elsewhere replace the leading 0 by +44

## **Berkshire Record Office:**

9 Coley Avenue, READING, RG1 6AF  
Open 09:00–17:00 Tue, Wed  
09:00–21:00 Thu  
09:00–16:30 Fri  
Tel: 0118 937 5132  
Email: [arch@reading.gov.uk](mailto:arch@reading.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk](http://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk)

## **Society of Genealogists (SoG):**

14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road,  
LONDON, EC1M 7BA  
Open 10:00–18:00 Tue, Wed, Sat  
10:00–20:00 Thu  
Tel: 020 7251 8799  
Web: [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk)

## **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Family History Centre:**

280 The Meadow, Tilehurst, READING,  
RG30 4PE  
Tel: 0118 941 0211  
Web: [www.rfhc.org.uk](http://www.rfhc.org.uk)

## **The National Archives (TNA):**

Ruskin Avenue, Kew, RICHMOND,  
TW9 4DU  
Open 09:00–19:00 Tue, Thu  
09.00–17:00 Wed, Fri & Sat  
Tel: 020 8876 3444  
Web: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

## **Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS):**

PO Box 8857, LUTTERWORTH,  
LE17 9BJ  
Tel: 01455 203133  
Email: [info@ffhs.org.uk](mailto:info@ffhs.org.uk)  
Web: [www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk)

## **Guild of One-Name Studies:**

c/o Hon Sec, Box G, 14 Charterhouse  
Buildings, Goswell Road, LONDON, EC1M  
7BA, Tel: 0800 011 2182  
Email: [guild@one-name.org](mailto:guild@one-name.org)  
Web: [www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org)

# Who's Who in Oxfordshire FHS

## **Baptism Index Co-ordinator:**

Wendy Archer – see inside front cover  
– baptisms@ofhs.org.uk

## **Birth Brief Index:**

Ian Costar  
The Old Post Office, The Green, LUDGERSHALL  
HP18 9NZ  
– birth-briefs@ofhs.org.uk

## **Book Reviews:**

Contact the Editor – see inside front cover  
– book-reviews@ofhs.org.uk

## **Bookstall Co-ordinator:**

Paul Gaskell  
28 Bulan Road, Headington, OXFORD, OX3 7HT  
– book-sales@ofhs.org.uk

## **CD /DVD Sales:**

Miss Judith Wildsmith,  
85 Downside Road,  
Headington, OXFORD, OX3 8JJ  
– cd-sales@ofhs.org.uk

## **Computer Group organising panel:**

Contact the panel via Alan Simpson:  
– see Search Services  
– computers@ofhs.org.uk

## **Exchange Journals:**

Mrs Sheila Tree  
148 Campbell Road, OXFORD, OX4 3NR  
– 01865 433266  
– librarian@ofhs.org.uk

## **Family History Fair Organiser:**

Angie Trueman  
20 Gwyns Piece  
LAMBOURN  
RG17 8YZ  
– fair@ofhs.org.uk

## **Helpline:**

Wendy Archer  
– 01865 358151  
– help@ofhs.org.uk

## **Journal Editor and DNA Co-ordinator:**

Sue Honoré – see inside front cover  
– editor@ofhs.org.uk

## **Journal Layout:**

Rosemary Bailey

## **Journal Distribution:**

Jessica Feinstein – see Membership Secretary

## **Members' Interests & Membership Secretary:**

Jessica Feinstein  
114 Whitehorns Way, Drayton, ABINGDON,  
OX14 4LQ  
– membership@ofhs.org.uk

## **Monumental Inscriptions:**

Alan Simpson  
– see Search Services  
– mis@ofhs.org.uk

## **Programme Co-ordinator:**

Christopher Fance  
Rectory Farm, Barton-on-the-Heath,  
MORETON-IN-MARSH, GL56 0PH  
– meetings@ofhs.org.uk

## **Project Co-ordinator and Parish Register**

### **Transcription Project:**

Dr Hugh Kearsley, Windmill Place,  
Windmill Road, Minchinhampton,  
STROUD, GL6 9EE  
– 01453 887446  
– projects@ofhs.org.uk

## **Publicity Officer:**

– see Bookstall Co-ordinator  
– publicity@ofhs.org.uk

## **Search Services:**

Dr Alan Simpson, Forest Farmhouse,  
Old Road, Shotover Hill, Headington,  
OXFORD, OX3 8TA  
– searches@ofhs.org.uk

## **Strays Co-ordinator:**

Mrs Jennifer Tombs,  
60 Selwood Road, OLD WOKING, GU22 9HT  
– strays@ofhs.org.uk

## **War Memorials Co-ordinator:**

John Blakeman,  
24 Newland Close, Eynsham, WITNEY, OX29 4LE  
– 01865 880792  
– war-memorials@ofhs.org.uk (via Malcolm Austen)

## **Website Manager:**

Malcolm Austen,  
11 Corn Avill Close, ABINGDON, OX14 2ND  
– 01235 533626  
– webmaster@ofhs.org.uk

## **Wills Library Co-ordinator:**

Dave Beames,  
162 Black Road, MACCLESFIELD, SK11 7LF  
– wills@ofhs.org.uk

# 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 2015

- Aug 15 Chesterfield, DBY  
Chesterfield & District  
Family History Fair
- Aug 15 Littleton, HAM  
One-name Studies:  
Cornucopia Seminar
- Aug 22 Motherwell, SCT  
Local & Family History  
Show 2015  
Lanarkshire Family History  
Society
- Aug 29 SOG, LND  
Latin for Beginners course

## September 2015

- Sep 2 Oxford, OXF  
Myth, Memory and the  
Distortions of Hindsight in  
Britain's Two World Wars  
Professor Brian Bond,  
Western Front  
Association
- Sep 10-13 Various sites, OXF  
Heritage Open Days  
See press for details
- Sep 12 York, NYK  
York FHS 40th  
Anniversary Family  
History Fair
- Sep 19 Blackburn, LAN  
Lancashire FH & Heraldry  
Society Fair

## October 2015

<b>Oct 3</b>	<b>Marlborough School, Shipton Road Woodstock, OXF OFHS Family History Fair</b>
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- Oct 10 Merthyr Tydfil, GLA  
Glamorgan FH Fair
- Oct 11 Basingstoke, HAM  
HGS Hampshire FH Open  
Day
- Oct 20 Enstone, OXF  
Exploring Your Roots,  
talk by Alan Simpson**
- Oct 24 Carlisle, CUL  
Cumbrian Family & Local  
History Fair
- Oct 31 **Woking, SRY  
West Surrey FHS Fair &  
Open Day**

## November 2015

- Nov 1 SOG, LND  
DNA for Beginners
- Nov 4 Woodstock, OXF  
Oxfordshire Museum  
Benson to Nettlebed via  
Ewelme: new VCH work  
Dr Simon Townley, VCH
- Nov 14 Huddersfield, WRY  
Huddersfield Family &  
Local History Fair

# Meetings at Exeter Hall

Oxford Road, Kidlington  
OX5 1AB

General meetings take place in the large hall.

Bookstall and computer advice from 19:15pm. Talks start at 8:00pm. Computer meetings (\*) usually take place in the small hall.

Doors open at 19:15pm. Talks start at 19:30pm.

**3 August 2015\***

*Getting organised – a new timeline tool – Jessica Feinstein*

**28 September 2015**

*What Great Grandma did in the First World War: the Imperial War Museum's Women's Work Collection – Sarah Paterson*

**5 October 2015\***

*Test Tubes and Paper: Stories on what DNA shows in Oxon & Beyond – Sue Honoré*

**26 October 2015**

*The Cheney Archives – a record of a well-known Banbury printing firm over two centuries – Clive Hurst*

**23 November 2015**

*Papists at the Manor – The Yates and Throckmortons of the Vale of White Horse – Tony Hadland*

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**Back cover:**

St Britius church, Brize Norton, where the Beckinsale family would have worshipped.  
See article by Ashley Bye in this journal. Photo by Sue Honoré

