

News

Volume 7 Issue 1



Letter

Winter 2013

*Wishing all our Members a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

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FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS

**at: Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Theatre Street, Trinity Close,
Dereham NR19 2EP Starting 7.30 pm**

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| December 2013 | The Mid-Norfolk Family History Society does not meet in December |
| 15 January 2014 | History of Aviation in East Anglia by Steve Pope |
| 19 February 2014 | Norfolk in WWI by Neil Storey |

A few words from your Editor ...

We've nearly reached the end of another year and winter is on its way again. Where does the time go? One benefit of the winter is that you can sit in the warm and research and write up your family history, when the snow is on the ground there is no temptation to go out into the garden, well not for me anyway.

2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War. If you know anything about the wartime service of someone in your family, grandfather or great uncle maybe, perhaps you would like to write a short piece about him (or her - ladies were involved too, particularly with nursing duties), and I'll publish some stories in each issue.

I look forward to hearing from you with your comments, suggestions or stories of your research, your story might be the

answer to someone else's question and there wouldn't be a Newsletter without your contributions.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kate (Editor)

Format for Newsletter Contributions Preferably typed using Microsoft Word or Works, or handwritten, then please either:

- email the file to me at kate.easdown@btinternet.com or
- post handwritten copy/CD/floppy disk, to me at the address on the back of the Newsletter

Please contact Sheila Moulton, the Membership Secretary if you change your address or email address (contact details on back cover).

Deadline for inclusion in the next Newsletter -

... 15th January 2014

GRESSENHALL MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS ON CD

The Mid-Norfolk Family History Society has been given a small number of CDs containing the Memorial Inscriptions of St Mary's Church, Gressenhall (Norfolk).

We have two of these left for sale at £7 (£8 Overseas) each, (includes postage and packing), on a *first come first served* basis. I suggest that you phone or email me (Kate – Editor) to reserve your copy before you send any money.

LET'S LOOK AT A CHURCH

No.72 – St.Botolph's, Barford



Barford is a mid Norfolk village of about two hundred households which is old enough to be mentioned in Domesday and which at one time had a fine old Elizabethan bridge of brick and stone - sadly replaced in 1968 by one of steel and concrete. Barford also boasted not only its parish church but, according to White's 1854 Directory, chapels for both the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists.

The settlement is located a few miles south- east of Dereham and the church, St. Botolph's, is a medium sized listed building standing proudly on the edge of open fields. A neat structure of partially rendered flint with ashlar dressings and slate roof, St. Botolph's was built in several stages beginning in the 12th century. The nave was rebuilt in 1470 and in common with a great number of churches extensive restoration work was carried out in Victorian times. Before we enter, we look up at the simple square tower and from the top of it, fifty feet above ground level, there is said to be a fine view of the neighbouring churches each about two miles away. The tower once

held three bells, but there seem to have been problems over the years – one bell was badly cracked because too large a clapper was used and in 1884 there was grave anxiety over the stability of the tower and the safety of the bell-frame so today, no bells are rung. Rood screens were found in all churches in the Middle Ages and the image was a feature of the age in which Pope Gregory laid down that ‘a picture is introduced into a church so that those who are ignorant of letters may at least read by looking at the walls what they cannot read in books.’ The rood screen, which remains here, although thought to be the original is now painted over a plain brown and we cannot now see any of its medieval glories let alone the later addition of the royal arms of Elizabeth I or the admonition: “Serve God in this place,/Be loth (*sic*) to offend/Take nothing in hand,/But think on the end” which once appeared along the top. A comparatively more recent royal coat of arms however, those of George III, finely painted and very well preserved hangs near the pulpit. The large east window panels which depict the Ascension, Last Supper and Christ blessing the children are a treat for those who like rich Victorian glass and were actually produced in the 1890s for the chapel of Great Snoring Workhouse and purchased for the church in 1961 when that building fell into disuse.

Many churches seem to have a preponderance of the same surnames of local worthies represented in their memorials and St Botolph’s is no exception. Looking at the inscriptions, we notice many members of the land-owning Sedley/Sidley family buried in the chancel. An exceedingly ornate list of rectors shows all the incumbents dating back to 1308 and the comparatively plain 14th century font, though lacking the usual carved panels, has pleasing tracery patterns.

As we leave we ask ourselves who exactly Botolph was, the name doesn’t exactly ring a bell and as E.G. Withycombe in his ***Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names*** helpfully points out it is not one commonly bestowed upon modern infants. Luckily, a notice prominently on display in the porch provides us with all the

important facts regarding the holy man. It seems that Botolph was a 7th century missionary monk of noble blood and the first ever native-born East Anglian saint, being based at Iken in Suffolk where there is another church bearing his name. There are in fact over 50 St. Botolph's churches in England alone and a number of places including Boston (Botolph's town) named for him. Despite at first being molested by evil spirits, Botolph built a successful monastery and such was his fame that he even made it into the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* and was, according to legend, gifted with the ability to forecast the weather. This medieval Micheal Fish whose emblem was, for some reason, a wolf or a dog was also, like Christopher, a patron of travellers and many of his churches were built where those finishing long journeys could give thanks for a safe arrival. With this thought in mind we silently asked for Botolph's divine guidance and wended our way home.

The original parish records are held at the Norfolk Record Office (Cat. Ref. PD 448) and comprise Baptisms 1700-1967, Marriages 1700-2000, Burials 1700-1956 and Banns 1754-1814 and 1824-1992. Microform copies of Baptisms and Burials cover the same dates but Marriages end in 1926 and Banns in 1913.

The Archdeacon's and Bishop's transcripts cover Baptisms and Burials 1698-1921 and Marriages 1698-1837. The parish chest is primarily composed of twentieth century items although there are a number of documents from an earlier period such as the Tithe apportionment and map 1838 and schedules of tithe rent charges 1876-1889; Letters relating to Nashe's charity 1899 and a will of a Martin Sedley dated 1704; a vestry minute book 1843-85 and papers regarding a Consistory Court of Norwich case involving one Nicholas Appleby, rector of Barford 1577 plus notes on the history of Barford 1939-49.

Roderic & Denise Woodhouse

FOOD FOR THOUGHT – Forward Thinking Family History

In September my sister and her husband, who we shall call Bob, spent a few days holidaying at a caravan park near Sheringham and invited us to visit them. We chose a glorious day and they were very eager to show us the view from the headland, behind the park.

It was well worth the climb, for what a panoramic view was laid before us, out to sea, beyond the railway line and coastal road below, were the sculpture like rows of white turbines of the Sheringham Shoal. To the right in the distance, a church tower identified Cromer and much nearer, on the left, was West Runton, with more caravan parks and a golf course. While sitting on the seat at the viewpoint, Bob, who is a keen golfer and recent Captain of his local Golf Club, told me in some detail, how he had overcome a cliff-like hazard, on one of the holes, at West Runton the previous day. I, on the other hand, was looking for a plaque on the seat to discover who I had to thank for this much appreciated resting place. Then Bob told me, that he had placed a seat strategically on his home golf course for people to enjoy today, not wait until he had passed on. Thinking this a little unusual, I jokingly asked, if he had put a donor plaque on his. Of course, he said, and I tell visitors, that if I am not around next time they come, to check my seat and see if R.I.P. has been added below my name!

Now that is what I would call ‘Forward Thinking Family History’

TFG

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Submissions and changes must be made before April 1st for inclusion in the directory.

Member 772 – Mrs R Lxxxxx, -----, -----, -----
-----@-----

Bradfield	North Elmham/Dereham/Beetley NFK	All
Chapling/Chaplin	North Elmham/Dereham/Beetley NFK	All
Hobson	North Elmham/Dereham/Beetley NFK	All

Changes

Member 220 – email -----@-----

Member 769 – address Mr C Exxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

YOUR LETTERS

Blois Bridge at Church Lane, East Tuddenham – Ann and Cyril Smith would be interested if anyone has any information about this Bridge as ‘Blois’ is a family name belonging to Ann. If you can help please email Ann at ann@gamer.myzen.co.uk

BOOKS FOR SALE –

GRESSENHALL PARISH REGISTERS –printed in 2002 -
Copies still available £30 includes postage & package

WATLINGTON [Norfolk] MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS–
printed 1997

Copies still available £6 includes postage & package

Many Gravestones have been photographed but are not within the

book but will search and print copy of gravestone/s required on request if desired.

Please contact: Jennifer J Purple – 37 Old Hospital Mews, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 5RU

Tel: 01553 770918 jjp46@btinternet.com

A Question and Answer about Dereham Burial Registers?

Q. Linda Nichols left a message to say that she is trying to track down the Burial Registers for Dereham. Linda had visited the Norfolk Record Office (NRO) and been told, they did not hold them. She received the same answer when she contacted the church. Did we have any suggestions as to where they might be? She is looking for her Gt grandfather Robert Bush who died at East Dereham in 1936.

A. The NRO DOES hold the original and microform copies of the burial registers for St Nicholas, Dereham's parish church, from 1679 - 1908. All 11,000 entries have been transcribed and indexed¹ by the MNFHS, as have the 1,100 surviving memorial inscriptions (MIs) in the churchyard (*The full list of our publications and prices are on our website*).

In 1869 Dereham opened a cemetery, providing a choice of burial ground. Churchyard burials gradually became fewer, until in 1908 when the churchyard was closed for burials completely. From then on, all Dereham's burials took place in the cemetery and responsibility for maintaining records passed from the church to the Town Council.

The cemetery has two series of Burial Plots.- one, 'consecrated' for the burial of deceased members of the established church (Church of England) and others, 'unconsecrated' for people of other religious callings. Burial entries have been numbered consecutively for each type since its opening. In 2000 the MNFHS was given access to the council records and produced Surname Indexes¹ listing around 7200 burials in the 'consecrated' plots and 3300 entries in 'unconsecrated' arrears, since 1869. Although MIs were not recorded, we also identified where a readable memorial was present.

From the Index we are able to say that Robert Bush was given the Cemetery Book Serial number 3911C (the 'C' identifying a consecrated grave hence he probably had a Church of England burial service). Aged 72,

he was buried on the 16th January 1936, in Plot 15, Row 62, Grave space L. There was not a readable memorial at that location

The Annual General Meeting of the Society took place at the September meeting and the Chairman's Report and Accounts follow ...

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013

Fortunately, I could simply sum up the last years activities by saying we have done Ok. Maybe not brilliantly, but Ok and financially, unlike last year, our income exceeded our expenditure.

Despite the slow decline in membership which currently stands at 211, over the year our average meetings attendance has been 37.5 (probably the highest figure ever). Interestingly, we had 49, at the April meeting for Neil Storey's 'How To Trace WW1 Casualties' which was offset by Molly Housego's 'Women In WW1, in August, when we had the lowest attendance ever of 26, a figure that was equalled by Derek Palgraves talk on 'Researching a Single Surname' in June. Statistics also show the average visitor attendance is increasing. In 2009/10 it was 6% of the total, while this year it has been 20%. Both demonstrating how difficult it is for Graham, the Programme Organiser to arrange a programme with the widest appeal.

We have completed and published booklets of the memorial inscriptions (MI) in another 7 churchyards, which included Coston, one of the smallest with only 36 memorials and Mattishall Burgh, one of the biggest. This brings our total churchyards done in our area to about 80 – only another 40, or so, to do! And despite only attending one outside event where we display our books, this year we sold 107 MI booklets (the full list is on our website)

Behind the scenes, Barry Hughes continues to co-ordinate our input to the National Burial Index (NBI). It is still being slowly added to but the FFHS has intimated that NBI 3 is unlikely to be superseded by another CD. NBI 4

will probably only be obtainable on line, but exactly how, is yet to be worked out. **Meantime, with immediate effect, Kate Easdown (our Editor) will be offering MNFHS members free surname lookups from our area, (a search of over 146,000 entries), on request, providing they are dealt with by e mail.**

No annual report would be complete without mention of our Newsletter. Kate continues to provide us with an interesting magazine and I would like to add my thanks to all those budding authors who send her pieces for the newsletter, before making my annual plea on her behalf. She can only publish what she is sent so if you have a family history experience, or find something of interest, send it in and let her be the judge as to its suitability.

Once again Pat, our treasurer has provided us with an easy to understand statement of account, (See Page 13). Readers will observe, it shows a balance in the Income over Expenditure of £142.19, much better than last year's minus £264.98. You will see that our major expenditure remains the Newsletter, which includes the Members Interest booklet and associated postage. The figure is £350 lower than last year, partly due to better management by our New Membership secretary, but mostly due to the use of the remainder of the stamps which were purchased to beat the price rise.

At the AGM, as there were no nominations for Committee posts the outgoing Committee was re-elected. After some discussion regarding Annual Membership subscription, my proposal that the subscription should remain unchanged was narrowly defeated and the subscription for 2014 **will be increased by £1, i.e. £8 for single and £11 for joint membership.**

We still have to resolve how we can meet the needs of our overseas members within our budget. With the current high postal charges it costs £12.50 annually just to send them four Newsletters and the Members Interest booklet. I do not believe it is 'value for money', to charge them the full rate and we are still looking for alternatives, maybe E mail or CDs.

Closer to home, with the lack of volunteers, it is planned to divide the responsibility for the library between Susan and Iona, with the latter looking after the local collection, in an attempt make it more efficient and less of a chore.

I would like to finish with a big thank you to all the committee members (not just those mentioned above) who have all made a contribution towards making this another successful year for the MNFHS. And to you, the members for your continuing support. Thank you

Tom Garland

THE SUBSCRIPTION YEAR AND MEMBERS INTERESTS BOOKLET

Those of us who have been involved with the MNFHS for many years tend to forget that we do have new members who may not be familiar with our rules.

The Members Annual Membership subscription falls due on December 31st each year, irrespective of when a member initially joins the society.

Please note the Annual Membership will increase next year (from 1st Jan 2014) to £8 Single and £11 Joint (two people sharing the same address)

The Members Interest Booklet (MIB) is published every May. However, changes of address or interests may be submitted at any time. Changes will be printed in the next Newsletter and included in the next (May) MIB. The absolute cut-off date for members to submit their surnames of interest, any amendments or corrections for the next MIB is 1st April.

Members should note that the names and interests of any member who has not renewed their Annual Membership by 1st April will be automatically removed from the database and will not appear in the “new” MIB.

Please help us to help you: To ensure that all MNFHS Officers who need to know are aware of any changes all correspondence relating to **Annual Membership and Members Interests** should be addressed to Sheila Moulton, the Membership Secretary (details on rear cover) who will forward them to the appropriate person..

TFG

MID NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY - INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JULY 2013

EXPENDITURE

	2012/13	2011/12
Newletters (printing, postage)	£ 707.50	
Less advertising revenue	£ 30.00	
Meetings and Events	£ 1,014.95	
Less door takings	£ 308.50	
General Admin. (post, stationery etc)		£ 1,026.14
FFHS Subscription and Insurance		£ 916.43
Publicity		£ 128.14
Projects		£ 128.94
Library Purchases		£ 54.32
Equipment		£ 25.31
Sundries		£ 107.17
		£ 37.93
		£ 31.25
Excess income over expenditure		
TOTAL	£ 1,871.95	£ 2,358.54

INCOME

	2012/13	2011/12
Subscriptions	£ 374.70	£ 1,546.00
Publication Sales	£ 237.48	£ 1,621.00
Less printing/postage		£ 163.96
Miscellaneous Sales		£ 6.00
FFHS On-Line Commission		£ 224.20
Donations		£ 160.58
Bank Interest		£ 73.00
		£ 137.06
		£ 2.96
Excess expenditure over income		
TOTAL	£ 2,014.14	£ 2,358.54

BALANCE AS AT 31st JULY 2013

LIABILITIES

Accumulated Fund	
Balance as at 31.7.12	£ 4,790.48
Less excess exp. over inc.	£ 5,055.44
Plus excess inc. over exp.	£ 264.98
Balance as at 31.7.13	£ 142.19
Uncleared cheques	£ 4,932.85
	£ 64.83
	£ 103.72
	£ 4,997.48
	£ 4,894.18

ASSETS

Cash at HSBC Bank	
Community Account	£ 784.21
Business Money Manager Account	£ 4,243.27
	£ 653.93
	£ 4,240.25
	£ 4,997.48
	£ 4,894.18

I report that the above Income and Expenditure Account is in accordance with the books and records supplied to me.

Signed

B. Smith

Date 11th September 2013.

MID-NORFOLK FHS NBI SEARCHES – NOW FREE TO MEMBERS IF RESULTS ACCEPTED BY EMAIL

Mid-Norfolk FHS National Burial Index Project

- i) The society's Mid Norfolk Burial Index is a database of entries taken from burial registers within an approximate 10 mile radius of Dereham. The society provides a reduced version to the National Burial Index at the Federation of Family History Societies. All Parishes are included for the period of 1813-1837, but the project is ongoing and most are covered more extensively. It currently holds in excess of 136,000 entries.
- ii) This search lists the forename/s of all deceased persons with that surname within the database, together with their date and place of burial along with further information (if included in the original entry) such as age, marital status, relationship and occupation. A list of all parishes and dates included is provided with the search results.

Mid-Norfolk Family History Society National Burial Index (NBI) searches, as detailed above, will be free to Society Members under the following conditions:

- Applications will be accepted by post or email but the results **will be sent to you by email.**
- You may request searches of any number of names.
- If you want the results by letter then the normal charges will apply (£1 per name for members).

Search requests to me please ... kate.easdown@btinternet.com or if by letter, to my address, which you will find on the back cover of this Newsletter.

Kate Easdown

YARMOUTH AIR STATION

Florence May Greenacre was born 17 November 1891 in Great Yarmouth. When searching the 1911 census I found her to be one of 14 students training to be a teacher in a college in Chelsea. Four years later, at the end of 1915, she married James Claude Scott Hendry in Great Yarmouth.

James Hendry was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland in 1887. On 25 September 1905 he joined the Royal Navy as Boy 2nd Class. On 26 August 1913 he obtained his Royal Aero Club Aviators Certificate, flying a Bristol Biplane. These records include some of the first military and naval personnel to become pilots. Within these records I found a photograph of James. At this time he was based at the Royal Naval Aviation School at Eastchurch, Kent.

On 14 April 1913 The Times newspaper announced the formation of a Great Yarmouth air station. "Yarmouth air station will form the centre of a group of stations on the East Coast". Great Yarmouth air station was commissioned on 15 April 1913. The site was located between the Marine Parade and the beach and was about 1,000 yards south of the Nelson Monument. Previous to this the South Denes had been used for the drying of fishing nets and a part of the Denes was used as a race course. The Denes were not at all suitable as an aerodrome, as they had the disadvantage of being very narrow. On the east was the sea, on the south the harbour entrance, on the west the River Yare and on the north Nelsons column with large numbers of 'herring pickling' plots making the air station a very difficult one to negotiate. It was one of eight Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) stations created before WWI.

Naval ratings were drafted to the station and found their own lodgings. The official headquarters was in the town at 25 Regent Street. The work of erecting the first hangar, a canvas and steel structure, was started at once. The first plane arrived in June 1913 and a few days later certain town celebrities were taken for short flights in the biplane. During the coming months progress was made in constructing the air station buildings. It was here in Great Yarmouth that James Hendry was stationed and no doubt how he met up with his future wife, Florence Greenacre, who was living in her home town of Yarmouth.

Planes flew from Yarmouth and Hickling and were supported by supplementary landing grounds at Burgh Castle, Bacton and Covehithe. The first war patrol from Great Yarmouth air station was flown on 9 August 1914. On 14 August a system of patrols was started known as 'Dawn', 'Midday' and 'Sunset' and these were flown until the end of hostilities. Until October 1914 none of the aircraft bore a mark to distinguish them from the enemy but this was quickly rectified.

During World War I, while a Petty Officer Mechanic, James Hendry was awarded the Albert Medal for displaying gallantry on three separate occasions in the rescue of life at sea during 1914.

Occasion 1: -11 March 1914. Hendry helped a pilot when both were in the water clinging to wreckage of a seaplane.

Occasion 2:- 28 July 1914. There was an 'Assembly Flight' at Spithead (in the Solent off Hampshire) which resulted in a seaplane coming down into the sea. Only with great difficulty could Hendry be persuaded to share with the pilot the only float of the seaplane left undamaged.

Occasion 3:- In the early morning of 19 November 1914, north of Yarmouth, James Hendry set out in a plane piloted by Flt. Lt. Ian Davis. At 8.00am they were coming in to land opposite the Yarmouth air station. They still had bombs on board. As the detonating gear was unreliable the pilot dropped his bombs into the sea while flying so low that the explosion of one of the bombs, on hitting the water, wrecked the tail controls of their plane. The plane then dived into the sea and James Hendry was thrown out falling 150 feet into the cold waters below. The pilot was unconscious as the plane crashed into the sea. Despite the cold water temperature Petty Officer Hendry swam to the wreckage releasing the pilot, pulling him from his seat, a very difficult and dangerous undertaking because the plane was rapidly sinking and the unconscious officer was trapped under water. There was a risk that Hendry could have become entangled in the wreckage and dragged to the bottom of the sea with the plane.

While supporting the pilots body Hendry then swam until they were both rescued some time later by the drifter "Noreen". They then got taken alongside a naval hospital. Petty Officer Hendry was awarded the Albert

Medal on this occasion.

The Albert Medal, 2nd Class for Gallantry in Saving Life at Sea, is bronze and enamel. It was engraved 'Presented by His Majesty to Petty Officer Mechanic J Claude Scott Hendry RNAS In Recognition of the Gallantry Displayed by Him on the Occasion of an Accident to Aeroplane No 58 on the 19th Nov 1914'. [The Albert Medal was later replaced with the George Cross]

The main naval roles of the RNAS Naval Air Service were fleet reconnaissance, patrolling coasts for enemy [ships](#) and [submarines](#), and attacking enemy coastal territory. The RNAS systematically searched 4,000 square miles (10,000 km²) of the Channel and the North Sea for U-boats. In 1917 alone, they sighted 175 U-boats and attacked 107. Because of the technology of the time the attacks were not very successful in terms of submarines sunk, but the sightings greatly assisted the Navy's surface fleets in combatting the enemy submarines.

Later James Hendry did Instructional and Experimental work at Eastchurch C.F.S. and Cranwell. He advanced to Temporary Warrant Officer 2nd Class, 7 May 1917 and was posted to the R.A.F. Station Isle of Scilly, 24 September 1917.

James was commissioned Second Lieutenant (Observer) Royal Air Force, 1 April 1918. He made many flights over the English Channel in a Short 184 single-engine two seater. This type of plane was used for reconnaissance or as a torpedo bomber.

The RNAS was the air arm of the Royal Navy until near the end of the First World War, when it merged with the British Army's Royal Flying Corps to form a new service (the first of its kind in the world), the Royal Air Force.

On 13 July 1918 James Hendry was reported as missing since 6 July. This was updated to "killed" on 21 July. He had been killed in action whilst acting as an observer on an anti-submarine patrol in the English Channel. He and his wife had been married less than 3 years.

In the book 'Airmen Who Died in the Great War' it states that "He was

killed in the crash of Short 184 N2963 serial on an anti-submarine patrol over the English Channel. His pilot, Lt C W Capes was also killed, his body was not recovered”

James Hendry’s body was discovered on a beach in France ‘inflated’ in water 21 July 1918. A death certificate is held in Bretagne, France. This gives a very detailed description of him and the clothes he was wearing, presumably to assist in identification at a later date.

When his body was found he was wearing a life jacket, a second jacket of marine blue with two rows of four golden buttons with a gold eagle and crown on them. These are the buttons of the R.N.A.S. uniform. His white shirt had a fake turned down collar marked ‘number 816’ and he had a black silk tie. He was carrying a small pistol rocket launcher. James Henry was buried in the Guilvinec (Brittany) Communal Cemetery in NW France, the only Commonwealth War Grave in the cemetery.

Florence Hendry remarried 11 years after the death of her first husband. She lived until 1982.

In 2007, nearly 100 years after James Hendry had been awarded the Albert Medal, it was put up for auction with an estimated price of £2,000 - £2,500. As a result I have a photo of the actual medal. Unfortunately I was unable to discover the price it eventually obtained.

I found some correspondence on the internet dated 2007 and 2010 where somebody in France was attempting to find the story behind the lone WWI memorial in his local churchyard. No doubt he wondered why a solitary war memorial was in their village when the majority are in massive memorial cemeteries.

In 2009 a Blue Plaque was unveiled on the old headquarters in Yarmouth in honour of the men who served at the air station. During the war the headquarters had coordinated 36 planes and 300 airmen and crews.

Sue Harris

COLINDALE NEWSPAPER LIBRARY FINALLY CLOSES

By the time you read this, the British Library Newspaper Library at Colindale will have closed completely and it will take a daily journey, by three articulated lorries, six months to transport the estimated 290,000 bound volumes of Newspapers to the new, state of art, storage facility at Boston Spa, in North Yorkshire.

However, we are not expected to travel to Yorkshire, for future access will be via a dedicated Newspaper Reading Room, at the British Library site at St Pancras. Here, duplicate microfilm and digital copies will be available, but if not copied, the originals (if fit to travel), will be transported from Yorkshire to St Pancras, within 48 hours.

To use the library, you will need a FULL British Library Readers pass. It is strongly recommended, that you check out the requirements and pre-register on-line, prior to your visit.

Meantime, as most people are aware, the British Library, in conjunction with Brightsolid (Findmypast), has a ten year project to digitise 40 million pages of local newspapers. This sounds a lot, but it is estimated the library collection, covering 300 years, contains 750 million pages. Consequently, if everything goes according to plan, digitisation will only cover less than 6% of the collection. The good news is, they are on target, just one year in and already seven million pages are on-line. The OCR search system could be better, but we can search for our ancestors quicker and for most of us, far cheaper than travelling to St Pancras. The on-line newspapers date from 1710 – 1965 and they are local, so with luck, we will find mention of our ancestors and reports of those ‘minor’ events, which will help bring our family history to life.

Cost:

1. British Library Reading Room, St Pancras: Free to search and read

2. On-line at Britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk Free to search with

packages ranging from 12 months unlimited downloads for £79.95, to just two days, with downloads limited to 100 pages, for £6.95 [Try it out by Registering on the site receiving 15 free credits]
3. A subscription to **Findmypast.co.uk** includes access to the newspapers

Article information mainly extracted from The British Library website

NEW PUBLICATIONS

the latest publication to join our Memorial Inscriptions booklet collection is

ALL SAINTS BRANDON PARVA
ALL SAINTS RUNHALL
SAINT MICHAEL COSTON
(three locations in one book)

34 A4 pages £3.90 (£2.80 plus £1.10 p&p)

Cymru'n Cofio Wales Remembers 1914-1918 (www.walesremembers.org) is the official site for information on how Wales will mark the centenary of the First World War in Wales.

It provides a focal point for information on the latest news, projects, events and signposting services for the programme of commemoration which will take place in Wales from 2014 to 2018.



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NORFOLK RESEARCH

Parish Records, Census Searches
Certificates
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