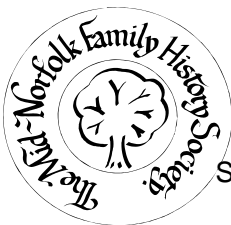


News

Issue 17 - 1/4



Letter

Spring 2017

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PROGRAMME

Meetings are held at: Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Theatre Street,
Trinity Close, Dereham NR19 2EP ... Starting 7.30 pm

15 March Family History Can Be Fun = Steve Manning

**19 April Kindertransport Boy, Joe Stirling - 90
Years in Norwich - Phyllida Scrivens**

**17 May A Job For Life - Apprenticeships and Guilds
- Sarah Doig**

A few words from your Editor ...

Hello and HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone.

Over the winter I've made a start on writing up my family history, I started with my husband's family, my main concern was whether I would find enough to write, in the end I found it difficult to know when to stop. I found a coastguard, an RSPCA Inspector, a Thames Waterman, some sailors and a market gardener, it was quite exciting, as at the beginning I knew very little about the family.

My book will not win any prizes for literature but it will answer a few questions, and hopefully give the younger members of the family some knowledge of their roots and as a bonus, I had a lot of fun writing it.

Kate (Editor)

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

- email the file to me at kate.easdown@btinternet.com or
- post handwritten copy/CD, 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 - 19 April 2017

LET'S LOOK AT A CHURCH
No. 85 –Wicklewood St Andrew and All Saints



On our way to visit Wicklewood, St Andrew and All Saints, the subject of this article, we called at another church in the area Crownthorpe St James and were surprised to find that it had been converted into a private house. The owner told us that this occurred in the early 1970s at which time the church, which had been a chapel of ease for Wicklewood church, had fallen into a state of disrepair but that he still maintained the original graves and there had been at least one burial in the grounds since he had moved there. We were also told that at the time of the Black Death the entire village of Wicklewood had relocated from its original nearby site to escape the effects of the pestilence a not uncommon event.

Thanking him, we moved on to St Andrew and All Saints and found a smallish Medieval church with a somewhat squat crenelated tower built on to the south side and a structure which is mainly Perpendicular and has recently undergone repair and restoration work in addition to the renovations of Victorian times when the Vestry was added. There is evidence that the building's 14th and 15th century shell is built on earlier foundations perhaps reusing some of the material from the original building in the present one. Beside the porch is an impressive war memorial, recently cleaned, in the form of a large Celtic cross. At present, there is but a single bell dating from 1872 where there were once two, although it awaits repairs to its cradle before it can be used.

The church, which is still in regular use, was open, sadly too often not the case these days, and a cleaner was busily at work. The interior, with its high pitched nave roof of fine old timbers, although quite plain has in places highly decorative black knapped flints in layers alternating with medieval bricks and contains a number of interesting features including a simple octagonal font dating from the 1500s with a more recent decorated cover and featuring shields in the panels. Behind the altar, a fine painting of the Last Supper which features all the disciples with a smug Judas looking on, a bag of money grasped behind his back and a black rather than a golden halo to indicate his villainy. Most strange, in the south east corner of the nave, is what Mortlock and Roberts in their ***Popular Guide to Norfolk Churches*** describe as 'a puzzling curiosity: a weird carved head in stone, more animal than human, more pagan than Christian'.

A final fascinating item also noted by Mortlock & Roberts but nor readily accessible to the visitor is what are thought to be wafer ovens in the tower which were originally used for production of the host in situ as it were and later, no doubt, for much needed heating

in the cold Norfolk winters found in these parts.

The original registers are held at the Norfolk Record Office (Cat. Ref. PD130) and comprise Baptisms and Burials 1561 – 1904, Marriages 1561 – 1719 and 1736 – 1982, and Banns 1754 – 1958. There are microform copies covering the same dates except that Marriages end in 1900 and Banns in 1901. Archdeacon's and Bishop's transcripts all start in 1691 but Baptisms and Burials end in 1869 and Marriages in 1837. There is a small parish chest mainly containing twentieth century material which in addition contains the parish records for Crownthorpe St. James from 1700 to 1966 and institution papers to a united benefice of Wicklewood with Crownthorpe 1930. Also in the chest are Terriers 1791 - 1955 and Tithe apportionment plus map 1843 and 1844 with a land tax redemption certificate 1806 and a Wicklewood enclosure award and map 1810. As well, there are Churchwardens' accounts 1725 – 1742 and 1895 – 1916 with a Church rate book and Vestry minutes 1841 – 1896, Overseers' of the Poor, Charities 1724 – 1946 along with their accounts 1724 – 1772 and 1793 – 1819. The oldest document in the chest is a bond to make payment dated 1655.

Roderic & Denise Woodhouse

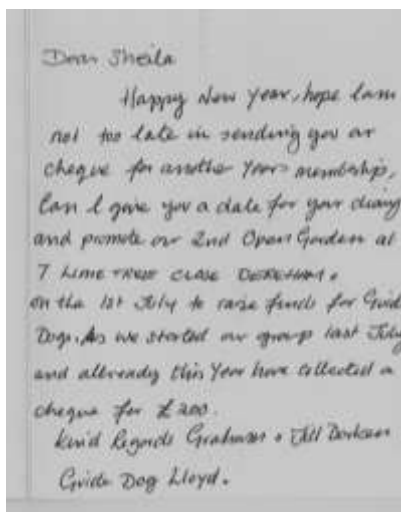
QUICK QUIZ

How well do you remember pre-decimal money?

1. How many pennies were there to one pound?
2. What is £10. 10s. 0d in decimal currency?
3. How many shillings were there to one pound?

Answers on page 19

YOUR LETTERS



We would like to thank all our members for their cards and good wishes for Christmas and the New Year including this one from Lloyd, the only dog who regularly comes to our meetings *Sheila*

Peter Brougham writes:

I am contacting your Society on behalf of a life long friend who has had a stroke and has difficulty with communication.

We are trying to trace a family called Long who lived in East Dereham around 1902.

The reason for this is that my friend owns a live steam model traction engine and it has a maker's plate which says George Long, Maker. East Dereham. 1902. My friend has owned the engine since the 1950's and it has just been restored to working order hence the interest in trying to trace the maker's family. It was also quite unusual to make a working model to this scale (3 inch) at that time.

Historically the engine is rare and the engineering undertaken for that time in such a scale is unbelievable.

Can your society help in any way please?

If you can help please contact Kate (Ed) who will pass any information on to Peter.

Museum 4 Watton

I thought it might interest you and your members to know that Museum 4 Watton has acquired, on permanent loan, the Court Baron Minute Books for the Manor of Watton Hall. These books dating from 1670 to 1924 contain the hand written proceedings of every Manorial Court, including Court Leet, held during that period. The Manorial Court was a sort of combination of Land Registry, Probate Office, Licence office and Magistrate Court and appears to have had power over everything relating to the manor. Their ownership has to be, and has been, registered with the National Historic Documents Register. The most important thing from your point of view is that they are indexed by surname. This opens up a massive area of research as to who was who, where, what and when.

There is of course reference to property and people from far away as well as Watton, for instance the Lord of the Manor in one document was The Earl of Buckinghamshire and thus we have the names of his retinue. We have about 100 supporting velum and other supporting documents to back-up the eight volumes of minutes that total in excess of 2000 pages. We have applied for funding to digitalise the books and by this means hope to be able to make them available to the public, until such time the originals are available for inspection and research, in Watton, by appointment.

Museum 4 Watton is a registered charity that is in the process of

leasing a part of Wayland Hall, Watton in which to open its first public display

*Chris Hutchings , Trustee
(Chair)*

DEATH OF A FAMILY HISTORY ICON

It is with the deepest regret, we have to report that Joy Lodey died peacefully in her sleep, on Sunday 15th January. I can personally claim to have known her and used her expertise for the last 25 years, if not more.

Back in the early 1990s she was a regular speaker at RAF Swanton Morley's Family History Club with some of our members attending her Family History courses in the surrounding villages. Joy obviously liked what she saw for, when the Station closed, Club members formed the basis of the Mid Norfolk Family History Society. Joy continued to give advice, helping with Latin and Early English translations, and giving talks our meetings, etc. We built up a great deal of mutual respect and she accepted Honorary Membership of the Society. In later years, having given up her car, she ran Family History courses from her home and has been a leading 'history' organiser for the local U3A, continuing to promote our society at every opportunity and she has done much to help make our society a success.

Tom Garland

The following article was sent to me by Joy just before Christmas

THE STORY BEHIND A BAPTISM ENTRY

When Sophia Reeve gave birth to a son, on 14th February 1838, she and her husband John chose the names George Valentine. On 25th March 1838 he was baptised at All Saints Church, Shotesham. They were married there on 29th December 1829 and from 1830-1835 had a daughter and two sons baptised. But since the last occasion, the Act for the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages had been introduced on 1 July 1837. So Henstead Poor Law Union's Sub-District Registrar had to discover, within 42 days, who had given birth and register their child. As usual he called at the house: prior to 1875 there was no charge for doing so, but Sophia refused to give him the details either then or later. Like others, she did not realise the consequences!

At the Summer Assizes in Norwich in August 1838, the Learned Counsel, on behalf of the Registrar General, requested the Judge, Mr. Justice Littledale, to issue a Bench Warrant for Sophia Reeve of Shotesham to appear in court for not registering her child's birth. He said that many among "the lower orders" had objected to the new law by refusing to comply and it was necessary to demonstrate that the law must be obeyed. Those "in higher stations" who were encouraging the poor to resist, must realise that it would incur punishment, and instead of trying to impede the Act, advise people to obey it.

As this was the first case of its kind in Norfolk, the Judge was very reluctant to issue this type of order to compel the woman to come to court, and having consulted with his colleagues, decided not to do so. But later that day Sophia Reeve appeared voluntarily and pleaded guilty. She said she was not acquainted with the law and because the child was named and baptised at the church, she did not think it necessary to give the information to the Registrar.

The Judge said as she had transgressed an Act of Parliament, he could sentence her to a year in prison. But it was not intended that her punishment should be severe, so he would reduce her sentence to four days' imprisonment. This would be reckoned from the previous Saturday, so she would be discharged immediately. He seriously advised her to let her neighbours know how leniently she had been treated, whilst assuring them that those who disobeyed the law in future, *would* be severely punished.

Certainly Sophia heeded his warning: her next children were duly registered. But the GRO Index for Henstead District January to December 1838 does not include either a George Valentine Reeve or a George V. Reeve – just Reeve Male in September Quarter 1838, which *might* have been the late entry following the trial. Reeve family historians will be glad Sophia made sure he was christened!

Joy Lodey

MEMORABLE MOMENTS IN OUR LIVES

I am sure that high on everyone's list of memorable moments will be 'passing the driving test.' It will definitely be on my 18 year old great-granddaughters, if only for the cost, twenty lessons at £25 a time plus the test. Also on my son's for the extra insurance premium he is having to pay on his car while giving her driving practice. We just hope she passes. I remember my driving test. Taught by my father, with just a few driving school lessons, to learn the finer points, I failed first time. I remember the experts' advice, "don't



exceed the speed limit” and subsequently being marked down for “not keeping up with the traffic”. In the late fifties I was almost unique in holding a licence at the age of eighteen. Today, as we see a driving licence a necessity of life, perhaps we should include the driving test experience when writing up our family histories.

Since The Motor Car Act of 1903 it has been compulsory for drivers of motor cars to have a driving licence. However, initially no driving test was required and the licence was issued by the Local Authority on payment of five shillings. Incidentally, the same Act raised the speed limit from 14 mph, set in 1896 to 20 mph. However, it was not until The Road traffic Act of 1934 that drivers had to actually prove their competency to drive. To avoid a rush of candidates the test was voluntary until 1st June 1935 when all people who had started to drive on or after 1 April 1934 needed to pass a test. 250,000 candidates applied and the 250 examiners carried out between 9 and 16 half-hour tests each day with a pass rate of 63%

My father drove before 1934 and was therefore exempt the test. He worked in a garage soon after leaving school and learnt to drive while acting as ‘drivers mate’ delivering petrol in 2 gallon cans to outlying places around Canterbury in Kent. Apart from the hazard of delivering petrol in an ordinary van, he told the story of the terrifying moment when his driver, having sat him behind the wheel and started the van moving, then simply got out and left him to it.

Many websites show a picture of a Mr Beere’s driving licence number 00001 issued in 16 March 1935 He was the first person to pass the driving test, for which he had to pay 7s 6d. Apparently, there were no test centres in 1935; candidates would arrange to

meet the examiner at a particular location such as a station, or shop by arrangement with the examiner.

Testing was suspended during the Second World War for seven years and didn't resume until 1st November 1946. and again in 1956/57 for 5 months during the Suez Crisis. During the suspension periods the examiners were employed administering petrol rationing.

In 1959 I was posted to Germany where I experienced the marvellous autobahns, drove on the wrong side of the road and NEVER had to wave my hands out of the windows. Driver hand signals in the UK were not dropped from the test until 1975. Another milestone was the theory test - until 1996, when the theory test was introduced, questions regarding the Highway Code were asked by the examiner as part of the driving test. At that time who would have imagined that in 2000 the theory test would be conducted on a 'touch screen'?

The pass rate in 1935 was 63% when there were 2.3 million cars and 7,343 killed on the road. Today there are 27 million cars, the death rate has more than halved but surprisingly, In 2013/2014 the driving test pass rate statistics showed that the driving test pass rate had also fallen - to 47%.

As no fewer than 46 million driving tests have been taken since they were introduced a little over 80 years ago, there MUST be many family history stories waiting to be included in our family histories.

Tom Garland

EXTRACT FROM AFFIDAVIT AND MARRIAGE BONDS

Shirley Howell is one of our members who are helping the Norfolk Record Office with a project to index Norfolk Affidavits and Marriage Bonds. During her work she discovered the following which she thought might be of interest to our readers.

Note attached to Marriage Licence Bond and Affidavit ANF/12/21 99 for Robert Starkin, Innholder of Denver, and Sarah Dixon of Denver dated 15 Dec 1763. "Darter Sary Dixon You Sent a Leatter by the Boye that you Was a Goin to be Marridge to Morrow and to Now Wether I wase Willing or no as you Diseare I am Willing that you should Have my Consent to please you selfe from your Loveing Mother Mary Dixon.

Stoake December the 13th 1763."Note at bottom of affidavit: "And Thos Dixon Brother of the said Sarah made oath that he heard Mary Dixon the Mother who is old & infirm & unable to travel declare her consent."

Tom Garland

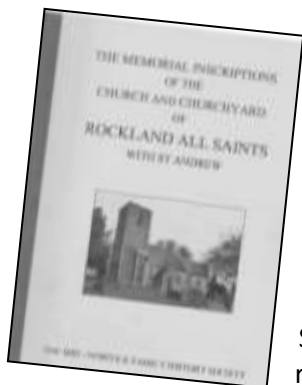
NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

Member 83 – Major R G Wilson

The Society has been informed of the death of Major R G Wilson and wish to send their condolences to his family.

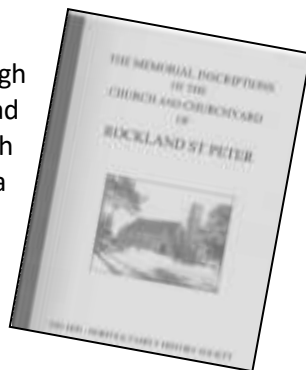
THE MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS of ROCKLANDS



In 2016 we concentrated on the churchyards in the southern end of our Area (south of Hingham) While searching for our 'next' churchyard we, came across Rockland All Saints which is remote from the village, and just outside our Area (defined by our 12 mile radius of Dereham) where we met the churchwardens. One thing led to another and we agreed to record their churchyard memorials. Although it is officially All Saints with St Andrews we discovered all that remains of the latter is a tower ruin situates 200

yards further along the road.

Rockland St Peter's church is on the main Attleborough to Watton Road. Literature in this church told us it had association with early Methodism in the area, which in turn, took us to Rockland Methodist Chapel (now a private house) and the discovery of a Methodist Cemetery, which opened in 1904, is still in use, but only has 84 memorials.



We originally produced booklets for Rockland All Saints with a little over 300 memorials (£3.10), St Peter with a little less than 250 (£2.30) and The Methodist Cemetery with just 83 (£1.70) However, especially as the Area is now known as "Rocklands", we decided to offer an alternative - all three burial ground MI booklets in a single cover for just £5.60 (plus the usual Postage charge) The choice is yours



See our website for the full list of publications and details of postal charges.

UPDATE ON GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE (GRO) CERTIFICATE INDEXES

The registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths (BMD) was introduced in England & Wales on 1st July 1837 and for the first 150 years, or so, indexes to the registrations were held at Somerset House. This was before my time, but I do remember searching the massive indexes, in their wooden covers, at their subsequent London home at St Catherine's House and later, the Family Records Centre at Mydleton Street. I clearly remember Mary Childs, one of our more senior and experienced society members, proudly announcing, after a society outing to St Catherine's, that she had completed her transcription of ALL the index references to her surname.

But the days of having to visit London, to search the indexes, have long passed. The GRO indexes were filmed and made available on microfilm. Later, those films were copied and made available to us all on our PC's. Remember 1837online.com, this revolutionary website enabled us to key in a surname and the appropriate section of the index appeared. That was in 2003, a tremendous leap forward, no wonder the company involved received a Queen's Award for Innovation.

2003 was also the year that <https://www.freebmd.org.uk> was conceived. Volunteers embarked upon the massive task of transcribing the filmed indexes from 1837 to 1983 and making them available on line, free of charge. In the early days, it was 'hit and miss' as to whether your particular interest had been transcribed. Today, work is still in progress and volunteers are still required, but the 'coverage charts' on the website, show the years transcribed are virtually complete, up to the 1970s. Mary's years of searching

the London indexes could now almost be done in a few minutes, as the database will display a massive 3000 hits. What's more, it is almost unique, in that ALL fields are searchable.

In 2005, the GRO instigated a project to digitise the indexes. This was fraught with problems and abandoned 3 years later, having only digitised Births up to 1934 and Deaths up to 1957. At this time of financial restraint, there are no immediate plans to digitise the remainder. However, following continual complaints from the *Family History world* about the high cost of certificates, last year the GRO conducted a trial, by offering 'historical' Birth and Death certificate details in a PDF format, on-line for £6. This only applied to births more than 100 years ago and deaths more than 50 (presumably salvaged from the digitisation project). They were sold for family history purposes only and could not be used as 'official' proof of birth or death. The trial finished on Nov 30th last year and while we await news of future plans, BMD certificate information, historical or otherwise, can once more, only be obtained by buying certificates at the full price of £9.25 each. Meantime, as an additional finding aid, the GRO have released some of the digitised indexes (1837 to 1915 for Births and 1837 to 1957 for Deaths), updated to show 'surname of the mother' for births, and the 'age of the deceased' for deaths, all the way back to 1837.

There is a very informative website at <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro> This directs you to the new historical index and the on-line order form. However, to access these, you do have to register, even to use the index. But on the plus side, you only have to register once and you are not committed to purchase anything by registering.

To use the historical index for births and deaths you need to key in a minimum of surname, gender and year. Unfortunately, the only option in the 'year' field is +/- 2, which can be annoying, but it effectively means you can easily search in 5 year periods. Clicking 'search' displays all results, together with their registration districts, volume and page numbers.

The GRO website, also tells us, that for index details for marriages or Births & Deaths, later than those deemed historical, there are sets of up to-date GRO indexes, on microfiche, in seven libraries, spread throughout England and Wales. More helpfully, they suggest that you can obtain the certificate references, by consulting the index at Freebmd, or Commercial websites, such as Ancestry or Findmypast. However, it is unlikely that these will show the extra finding details to be found on the GROs own 'historical' Birth & Death on-line indexes.

Finally, if you don't know the index reference, the GRO will still send you a certificate at no extra cost, although it may take longer. All certificates, historical, or otherwise may be ordered on the GRO website, although for more modern ones YOU will be required to provide most of the details, on your application, that you would probably be buying the certificate to discover.

If you have you ordered a certificate on line recently please let us know how you got on.

Tom Garland

A LOVE STORY AND A CHANGE IN ENGLISH MARRIAGE LAW

The son of William Holman Hunt, the famous Pre Raphaelite Brotherhood (PRB) painter, is buried in Rocklands All Saints churchyard. It was while researching his memorial inscription, I discovered facts about his father. In 1870, four years after the death of his wife, William had married his deceased wife's sister. Although this was permitted in some countries, at the time such marriages were forbidden under Ecclesiastical and English law in England.

It would appear, this ruling was a frequent topic for debate throughout the Victorian Era. Browsing through *Wikipedia*, I discovered as early as 1842, a *Marriage to a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill* was put before parliament, but defeated. The subject even crept into the theatre, for in the Gilbert and Sullivan opera *Iolanthe* (1882), the Queen of the Fairies sings "He shall prick that annual blister, marriage with deceased wife's sister". However, it was the mention of a book entitled *Hannah*, written by a Dinah Maria Craik and published in 1871, that really caught my eye. Apparently, it tells the story of a man who, after the death of his wife, falls in love with her sister, when he called on her to care for his baby daughter. This was effectively the story I had unearthed during my research. By making a few minor changes, this was William Holman Hunt's story

– In 1865 William had married Fanny Waugh and the following year she had died soon after childbirth. The surviving boy was placed in the care of his sister in law, Edith. A few years later, Edith and William were married in Switzerland, one of the countries where it was legal for a man to marry his deceased wife's sister. William and Edith had a daughter whom they christened Gladys Millais Mulock Holman Hunt. Apart from Gladys why such strange forenames? Thanks to Google, the answer was found - Millais was the surname of William's lifelong fellow artist friend and a founding member of

the PRB, Holman was the maiden name of William's mother, and Mulock was eventually traced to being the maiden name of William's writer friend, Mrs Dinah Craik, who had acted as Edith's chaperone on her journey to Switzerland to marry William.

William became famous, his marriage was gradually accepted by all but it was not until 1907 before *The Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage Act* was passed, allowing marriage ceremonies between a widower and his sister-in law, to be performed in England. However, undoubtedly to satisfy 'church' objectors, there was provision in the Act, giving individual clergy the right to refuse to carry out such a ceremony if they so wished.

Surprisingly, the 1907 Act only applied to marriages to a deceased wife's sister, it was 1921 before a similar Act came into force enabling a widow, to marry her deceased husband's brother.

Tom Garland

QUICK QUIZ ANSWERS

How well do you remember pre-decimal money?

1. How many pennies were there to one pound? 240
2. What is £10. 10s. 0d in decimal currency? £10.50
3. How many shillings were there to one pound? 20

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 150,000 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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Yorkshire Family History Fair

Saturday 24th June 2017

10am to 4.30pm

The Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, The Racecourse, York, YO23 1EX

Admission: Adults £4.80, Children under 14 FREE

The Family History Show, London

Sunday 24th September 2017

10am to 4.30pm

Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher, KT10 9AJ

Admission: Adults £4.80, Children under 14 FREE

Buckinghamshire Family History Society

Open Day

Saturday 29th July 2017, 10am to 4pm

The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH.

Admission is free, with free parking at the venue.

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NORFOLK RESEARCH

Parish Records, Census Searches

Certificates

£5 per hour

Send SAE or IRC for details to:

W Hepburn, 11 Preston Avenue, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 9JE

Or contact by email: Willie.h.1945@virgin.net

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Librarian (Local)	Iona Folliard, ----, ----, Norfolk NR-- ---	01603 000000
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NBI Co-ordinator	Barry Hughes, ----, ----, Norfolk NR-- --- Email: <u>-----@-----</u>	01362 000000
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Membership Secretary	Sheila Moulton, ----, ----, Norfolk NR-- --- Email: <u>-----@-----</u>	01328 000000
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***Please contact the Membership Secretary if you change
your address or email address***

Members' Interests Secretary	Denise and Roderic Woodhouse, ----, ----, Norfolk NR-- ---	01263 000000
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