



SussexLink



August 2004

A Newsletter for the Sussex Family History Group

Vol 2 No 3

A New Treasurer for Sussex Family History Group

SFHG has a new treasurer, Judy Pepper. Readers in Sussex will already be aware that David Steel resigned at the end of May. David has done a lot for the Group during his time on the Executive, not just in making our financial systems more responsive to our present requirements, but also in helping to facilitate our involvement with Family History Online, in moving forward our CD publication programme and in maintaining our links with the Federation and the wider Family History World.

Two years ago when Terry Lawson stepped down after many years as Treasurer we were unsuccessful in finding a replacement. David agreed to take the job on, but always on the understanding that this was for a limited period, until the Group was able to find someone to take over. We have been trying ever since to find someone suitable, but until recently without success. When David resigned we believed that we did have a successor, but unfortunately the person concerned was unable to take up the duties.

The Executive decided that I should write to all members living in Sussex to see if there was anybody who might be able to help. Fortunately this time we have been more fortunate in our search and I am pleased to be able to announce that the Executive has invited Judy Pepper to take over as Group Treasurer.

Like many of the jobs that people do voluntarily for the Group, the role of Treasurer has grown considerably, as we have grown both in size and complexity. And to add to the Treasurer's duties we have now had to register for VAT (see below).

VAT registration

With our increased income, particularly from the sales of the Sussex Marriage Index, the Sussex Family History Group has had to register as a VAT trader, with effect from 1 June.

Our Registration Number is 837 1655 13. Fortunately we have been able to register for what is known as the Flat Rate Scheme, which should keep the paperwork to a minimum.

The Executive Committee has decided that, at least initially, there will be no change in our charges and prices, and that the VAT (Value Added Tax) will be absorbed. Book, fiche and CD prices will remain unchanged.

Recent Publications on CD

The Sussex Family Historian, Volumes 1-15 (1973-2003), fully indexed, £16.00*. 30 years worth of local family history research and the proceedings of the Group. Although this CD utilises a web browser, such as Internet Explorer, to view the pages, it is not necessary to have an active Internet connection.

Victorian and Edwardian Photographic Studios in East Sussex, Compiled by Roy Grant, £6.00*. A must for dating local old photographs, or if you happen to have a photographer in your family, as I do. [Requires Adobe Acrobat reader.]

[* Exclusive of postage & packing: add 50p for surface P&P.]

Volunteers

Although it is excellent news that we have a new Treasurer for the Group, and we succeeded in recruiting two new members to the Executive in April, I am still looking for people to help both run the central administration and to organise two of our meeting centres. I would urgently like to find people to take on the following jobs.

Programme Secretary, Brighton and Hove Meeting Centre

Secretary, Crawley Computer Group

Volunteers Co-ordinator

Publicity Officer

Conference Organiser

The first two are particularly important. Unless we find people to fill these slots, there will be no local programme and no meeting centre! This of course is not the complete list. We are always looking for people to help with our various projects and to help run the library. If you can help in any way, please, don't be reticent, get in touch (chairman@sfhg.org.uk).

Civil Registration

The Government proposals for the modernisation of Civil Registration (excluding marriage) have now been presented to parliament. The full text of the Regulatory Reform Order can be obtained from www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/aboutus/lookingahead/index.asp#0, or from the Stationery Office.

National Archives New Website

The National Archives have a new web site, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/, although www.pro.gov.uk/ will still reach the same site. The 1901 Census is now to be found at www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk/.

SussexLink - recent issues

There were some problems in the local distribution of the April edition of SussexLink due to printing difficulties, and unfortunately it was not possible for me to prepare an edition for June. My apologies to disappointed readers.

Brian Cutler

Look-ups now free

The Executive has recently decided that SFHG Look-up services should be free. There were a number of reasons behind this decision. To avoid any potential conflict with Gift Aid declarations we needed to make the information available on the same basis for both members and non-members and in view of the costs and logistical problems in handling the small sums often involved the simplest way to achieve this was to make all look-ups free. No charge is currently being made for small amounts of data related to personal family history, although enquirers looking for larger amounts are advised to consult Family History Online (www.FamilyHistoryOnline.net). Providing a free service always carries the risk that it will be abused, and if this happens the need for charges will have to be reviewed.

Legacy received

The late Arthur Cyril Barrett, a keen member of the former West Meads Family History Society, has left a bequest. As West Meads FHS has become part of SFHG, the executor of the estate has agreed to release the legacy to SFHG. The Executive Committee has decided that the legacy should be designated for use by the West Meads meeting centre. All members will, of course, be welcome to any events organised and in any facilities developed.

Don't forget the one day conference "Where Have All The B*st**ds Gone?" on Saturday 30th October at West Meads Hall.

Access to Archives (www.a2a.org.uk/)

The amount of catalogue information available on A2A about Sussex material has recently increased with the completion of three South East Region Projects - Aladdin's Cave, Local Governance and the Community, and Unlocking the Past. A fourth project, The Parish Chest, which should be of particular interest to family historians and which SFHG has helped to fund, is expected to be completed early next year.

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