



SussexLink



December 2006

A Newsletter for the Sussex Family History Group

Vol 4 No 6

So who do we think we are?

Some preliminary results from our recent questionnaire

In the September issue of the society journal there was an invitation to contribute to the debate about the future of the group library by completing a questionnaire. The library working party is most grateful to everyone who took the time and trouble to contribute in this way, which has been most helpful.

It is I am afraid too early to report on the outcome of the deliberations of the working party, but some of the information provided by the questionnaire was of a more general nature and readers may be interested to learn a little of what we have discovered about ourselves!

There were a total of 435 replies received before the deadline, of which 192 came by post and 243 via the website. There were more women than men amongst the respondees (58% to 42%), only 5% were under the age of 46, the majority being distributed equally between the 46 - 65 year age group and the group aged over 65. Younger members were more likely to respond via the web, and more likely to be female, although there is no obvious relationship between gender and use of the Internet. Amongst younger female members the normal distribution of experience in family history was distorted by a significant influx of members who had only taken up family history recently, a trend less pronounced amongst younger male members where the recent influx appears to have been at its greatest in the over 65 age group. [No prizes for working out why!]

Over three quarters of the respondees had used a local library in their research and nearly the same number The National Archive or the Family Record Centre or both. About half had made use of one or both of the county record offices in Sussex and 43% our own library. The use of related websites roughly corresponded with this, the main differences being fewer using local library and the East Sussex web sites and more using our own.

The question about favourite website revealed some interesting preferences in our genealogical web browsing. The three most popular sites by far were Ancestry, Family Search (LDS) and FreeBMD, followed by 1837 Online (now www.findmypast.com), TNA, SFHG and Genes Reunited, all of which had a double figure rating.

We will publish further information about the library and the outcome of the working party as soon as possible.

Brian Cutler

A very Happy Christmas to everyone

SFHG Mailing List

When RootsWeb changed the system they use for handling mailing lists in September the information for members only lists presented to list administrators became totally unfriendly. It is now impossible to see what SFHG members write in their subscribe requests and I had to ask people to repeat their request direct to me.

To overcome this major problem Alan Stoner has now set up a form on the SFHG website which members should use whenever they wish to (re-)subscribe to the mailing list. We've been testing and refining it over the last few weeks and it is now working to our satisfaction.

The form also allows people to state their old address if they are switching to a new address or ISP. I can then unsubscribe the old address at the same time as subscribing the new one. The address of the webpage containing the form is: www.sfhg.org.uk/listsab.html

Alan has also updated the mailing list description, general instructions and problem solving advice at:

www.sfhg.org.uk/sfhg_mailing_list.html

and

www.sfhg.org.uk/sfhg_mailing_list2.html

Julie, SFHG mailing list administrator

A Reminder!!

Don't forget to book for the SFHG 2007 Annual Conference, *Embellishing the Picture* on Saturday 24th March 2007, at Clair Hall, Haywards Heath.

Medicine and local history will be our twin themes for the day, with I hope something for everyone! It is always the highlight of the year for the Group and something not to be missed. So if you have not been before make a point of coming this time.

The Booking form is in the December issue of the *Sussex Family Historian*.

SFHG Executive Committee

I have made the point on many occasions over the last four and a half years that an organisation like the Sussex Family History Group constantly has to renew the many volunteers that help to make it work. We have been doing that this last year, particularly in appointing John Commins to take over from Wyn Burgess as our Membership Secretary. This is often the time of year when we start to encourage members to think about coming on the Executive, as in the AGM announcement in the December issue of *The Sussex Family Historian*. This year however we have already had one volunteer come and join the Executive - Mick Richardson from Haywards Heath, who has been formally co-opted to the Executive Committee.

25 Graveyards - Arun Valley & Worthing Outskirts

The latest CD of Monumental Inscriptions (Vol 4) is now available!

This fully indexed volume covers over 10,000 inscriptions in 25 churchyards in the Arun Valley and Worthing outskirts (including Amberley, Binsted, Buncton, Burpham, Clapham, Eartham, Ferring, Findon, Goring, Greatham, Houghton, Lyminster, Madehurst, Parham, Patching, Poling, Rustington, Slindon, Sompting, Thakeham, Tortington, Walberton, Washington).

Available from SFHG Publications for £7.50 including surface postage & packing.

Congratulations to Val and Tony Orr on becoming grandparents (James Phillip Orr, 20 November 2006)

© Sussex Family History Group 2006

Edited by Brian Cutler (chairman at sfhg.org.uk)

(The @ in email addresses has been replaced with " at ".)