



# SussexLink



June 2005

*A Newsletter for the Sussex Family History Group*

Vol 3 No 3

## **SFHG Secretary**

Like many other organisations Sussex Family History Group is dependent on the help provided by many volunteers in many different capacities and everyone's help is much appreciated. It is very rare for an edition of SussexLink to go by without my having to draw attention to specific vacancies that we need to fill. Recently we have had some success in filling some of the longer term vacancies, although unfortunately not all, and my appeal in February for people to come forward for the Executive was unsuccessful. (See later.)

However the most pressing current need at the Group level is for a new secretary to take over from Margaret Bysh next year. We will not be able to function after the next AGM unless we have someone to take on this role, and I really would like to identify a suitable candidate **NOW**, co-opt him or her to the Executive Committee and begin the hand over process.

Margaret has summarised her current responsibilities as follows:-

- Meetings (AGM and a minimum of 4 Executive committees per year) - booking facilities, setting the agenda with the Chairman, taking minutes, distributing them to members of the Executive, collating minutes and reports from sub committees prior to meetings of the Executive;
- Documentation - keeping hard copies of minutes of all meetings and other relevant documents;
- Diary - maintaining the Group Diary;
- Lists - maintaining the details of the administrative arrangements of the group and the membership of all sub committees etc.;
- Heading up the Membership Sub Committee;
- Serving on the Finance and General Purposes Sub Committee;
- Providing the official point of contact for the Group for outside agencies and members;
- Dealing with correspondence as necessary.

Most of the work is now by e-mail and is not that time consuming. Margaret has commented in the Sussex Family Historian that although she has very much enjoyed the work, she only stepped in as a temporary measure until such time as someone could be elected with much more interest in family history.

Please contact Margaret ([secretary@sfhg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sfhg.org.uk)) or myself ([chairman@sfhg.org.uk](mailto:chairman@sfhg.org.uk)) if you think that you might be able to help or would like any further information. Please give this your serious consideration. It is vital to the future of the Group.

**Brian Cutler, Chairman SFHG**

## Two New Television series!

Through the Federation of Family History Societies the editor has learnt of two new television series related to family history that are in the making.

1. A new TV series has been commissioned that focuses on the impact of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War on communities in Britain. The production company, Wall to Wall (producers of Who Do You Think You Are) want to examine the lives of those affected by the conflict by looking at war memorials, not just those of the armed forces, but including nurses and civilians killed during the war. However, case studies are urgently required, and Wall to Wall would be keen to hear from family historians and volunteers who have come across inspiring stories in their research, to complement Wall to Wall's own research (led by Nick Barratt). Any contributions should be sent to alex.finch@walltowall.co.uk. As part of the programme strand, the broadcaster is looking to create an online directory of war memorials and those commemorated on them, consolidating and complementing existing information, providing an invaluable resource for all family historians in the future.
2. Are You Related To Royalty? Do you have reason to believe you have blue blood? Could you be related to a Duke, Earl or even a King or Queen? Shine, a leading independent television production company, is looking for volunteers to take part in a new primetime series that hopes to verify the true royal connections of everyday people. If you think that you may be descended from royalty please contact Shine at: traceyourorigins@yahoo.co.uk / or 087 1210 8868.

## The New Constitution

Following many hours of work by the Executive, and with some modifications to the draft originally published, the new constitution was formally adopted by the AGM on Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> 2005. The new constitution, which is modelled on the advice of the Charity Commission, should provide SFHG with the necessary legal framework in which to operate as charity law is amended during the current session of parliament. One consequence of the new constitution is that it sets out the number of Trustees (i.e. members of the Executive Committee) that we should have as four officers and between five and eight other committee members. As can be seen from the panel, we were only able to elect four at the AGM. The Executive would like to rectify this as far as it is able by co-opting one or two additional members, preferably one of whom would be willing to take over as Honorary Secretary next year. (See lead story.) If you can help please get in touch with me. (chairman@sfhg.org.uk)

## Contributions for SussexLink

Do you enjoy writing? Would you like to write for SussexLink? SussexLink is primarily a "house" newsletter, i.e. more about what SFHG is up to and how it works for members rather than about family history. Email your contributions to me, (by Monday July 25<sup>th</sup> for the next edition).

## Your Executive for the coming year

Chairman	Brian Cutler
Vice Chairman	Mick Henry
Secretary	Margaret Bysh
Treasurer	Judy Pepper
Members	Wyn Burgess Clem Frank Trevor Hanson Terry Kettell

## Education

One of the objectives of SFHG is education, encouraging members and others to study family history and its implications. The Executive would like to be able to provide a clearer focus for this by appointing an Education Officer. There is much more that we could be doing not just by putting on more courses and lectures ourselves but also by working with others to promote all educational opportunities relevant to family historians, from courses for beginners to advanced diplomas. If you would be interested in helping in this way do please contact me (chairman@sfhg.org.uk). I would welcome an opportunity to discuss how this might be developed and the role that you might play.

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