



SussexLink



October 2004

A Newsletter for the Sussex Family History Group

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FFHS Prizes for Sussex!

Best Website, Highly Commended Journal and Young Person's Award

Sussex Family History Group has won the Federation of Family History Societies Web Award for 2004. Many congratulations to our webmaster Alan Stoner, who has put a lot of time and effort into developing the site over the last four years. Alan's own observations on winning are below.

The prize was awarded at the FFHS 30th Anniversary Conference, *A Flight of Yesterdays*, in August this year. It was the second award that I collected within the space of a few minutes, having previously received a Highly Commended certificate on behalf of Trevor Hanson for our journal, *Sussex Family Historian*. Well done Trevor. We are fortunate to have two excellent communicators looking after our journal and our website.

And although it was an individual award, we had already noted that one of the winners of the Genealogical Award for Young People was 8 year old Lucy Goldsmith from Worthing. Lucy wrote about her great grandfather's experiences in World War 1.

On Winning the Web Award

Alan Stoner writes:

Very pleased, of course. Why do I think we won?

Well, 'style' is not my forte and I'm aware that there are many excellent and better looking sites out there. Tony Hodgkinson built up our site single handedly for the first few years and since taking over at the beginning of 2001, I've concentrated on trying to give a consistent look, fast loading pages, and convenient navigation. So I'd say that it may have been a triumph of content. A recent magazine review described the site as 'busy' and I like to think that's because there's a lot there! I'm fortunate in having many contributors. Judy Excell sends me a 3MB file of members interests every month. Christine Payne provides details of the names and churchyards in her tombstones database, and is also responsible for supplying details of churches and memorials, and the several

hundred photographs.

The judges will have only seen a mention of the local history database on the members pages, but Sheila Maynard makes sure the 100 or so society entries are kept up-to-date. Joe Bysh provides all of the publication details including Mary Monnery's list of parishes that have surname list publications. Each meeting centre puts together a detailed programme, and the library spent a lot of time putting together the catalogue file. Our Editor, Trevor Hanson sends ready-to-use details of each edition of the *Sussex Family Historian*. Brian Cutler supplies *SussexLink*. In addition to contributing to the interests pages, members also provide me with details of their websites. A couple of years ago, the project to update our parish map resulted in Susan Rowland's excellent maps and index.

And, of course, I read the FFHS guidance on websites!

Who do you think you are?

The BBC will run a series of programmes called "Who do you think you are?" beginning on October 12th on BBC2 at 9 p.m. They are designed to encourage people to research their own family history and feature several celebrities tracing their own ancestors.

There will also be a complementary series of programmes on BBC 4 called "Family ties" scheduled to follow at 10 p.m. This will include a number of digital stories about ordinary people retracing their family history, with interactive links via the red button on the remote to more extensive information on BBCi.

I was lucky enough to be picked to tell one of these Digital Stories and went off to Milton Keynes for a week with 9 others to produce my story.

There had been 10 volunteers the week before, and they had the "English" team to guide them...we had the "Welsh" team who started the whole project with a series of stories for the "Capture Wales" website.

We all first had to produce our script of not more than 250 words...a large challenge for some of the group who seemed to have their whole life story!! Then we had to record our story and scan our pictures.

Using Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Premiere we linked the pictures to the sound and put in some special effects when needed.

Sounds simple, but this all took us five days to complete and at the end we all had a digital story about our ancestors.

I told the story of my Grandmother Rose Mary NORRELL and how she survived being abandoned by her husband in the mid 20's. But that was not the end of the story; the emphasis was on how our ancestors had affected our own lives personally, so there was an emotional side to all our stories.

The whole week was led by Daniel Meadows, (www.photobus.co.uk) whose skills, light touch and sensitivity made us confident about showing the more vulnerable side of ourselves and made our own personal histories come alive in these digital stories.

The stories will also be on the BBC History website...let me know what you think!

Mick Henry

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SFHG Annual Conference

Beyond BMD

Clair Hall, Haywards Heath

Saturday 9th April 2005

Planning is well advanced for next year's conference, which will be looking at aspects of family history that go beyond births, marriages, deaths and censuses! Ron Kerridge is going to talk to us about Sussex Tokens, our own local 17th century coinage. John Farrant will explain how much of the Record Offices' catalogues are now available to search online through Access2Archives, opening up a huge array of documents about Sussex for local and family historians. And John Owen Smith will tell us about Captain Swing and the agricultural riots in the 1830s. As last year we will have some workshops over the lunch period, this time provided by East Sussex Record Office, and focussing on using poor law records, and there will be stalls to browse, both commercial and family history society. Do book the date now and join us for what promises to be another excellent conference.

Volunteers Co-ordinator

We have a new Volunteers Co-ordinator, Rosie Ansell from St. Albans. Rosie hopes to be in touch with all the project volunteers shortly, and can be contacted on volunteers@sfhg.co.uk.

Central Southern Regional Seminar

The FFHS is organising a seminar on the future of family history societies in Sutton, Surrey, on Saturday 20th November for anyone involved in the running of their local society. Brian Cutler has further information.