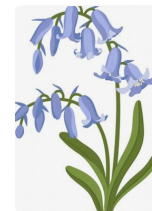


**Peterborough and District Family
History Society Newsletter
May 2025**



From the Chair...

This is really a farewell letter because at the AGM I stand down as Chairman since I will have come to the end of my current 5-year term and at the AGM the society will elect my successor. Altogether, since I first became Chairman in 1984, I will have served in this role for a period totalling 12 years. There have been some interesting occasions but I have enjoyed serving our society in this way. I have also served as Editor for some years and way back in the early 1980s produced the first Journal, in A4 format, which I printed on my school Gestetner duplicator: a messy process. I thank my colleagues, past and present on the committee and wish them well as they continue to support PDFHS. Now a last appeal to you, my fellow-members. Please be at the AGM by ZOOM and please continue to support those speaker-meetings. I shall be celebrating my 90th birthday in August but I look forward to continuing my membership for a long time yet! Best wishes.

Michael Kennelly (Retiring Chairman and Vice-President)

From the Secretary...

I would first of all like to thank Michael for the support that he has given me as a new secretary, and journal editor; his advice and words of encouragement have been invaluable. I shall continue to look forward to our monthly library drop-in sessions, and I hope you will come along and support us.

But Michael's message, together with some research I have been doing recently on Charles Dack, made me think about our ancestors and their interests.

Charles Dack was one of the founding members, and curator, of Peterborough museum. I have been researching his interests, and involvement, for some time now. But very little is recorded about his donations, except through sporadic newspaper reports. His personal papers were saved from obscurity by Cambridge University Library, but even these aren't expansive consisting mainly of newspaper clippings.

So this leads me to my point, how do we know what interests our ancestors had? What engaged them? What they did in those precious moments when they weren't working? What their politics were?

I know that both my grandfathers loved to garden, and my grandmothers knitted, that my paternal grandparents were Methodists and my maternal were Church of England, but beyond that I know very little.

What do you know about your ancestor's interests? Were they a surprise to you? Were they important figures in their field? Please consider sending me an article and sharing your discoveries with other members.

Sadie McMullon

Zoom Talks

Please find below the programme of meetings for the next few months.

All meetings are currently being held by Zoom. Joining instructions will be sent in the week prior to the meeting.

Wednesday May 7th

AGM and Alan Johnson

'From Wisbech to the World'

Wednesday June 4th

Dr Judith Hill

'Life of the Poor and Emigrated from Britain at the Beginning of the 19th Century'

Wednesday July 2nd

Michael H Halley

'Heroes and Ghosts'

Subscriptions are now due

Yes, its that time of year again, subscriptions are due. Please head over to the Parish Chest website, www.parihchest.com, where its easy to pay your annual fee. A tip if you can't find PDFHS is to keep scrolling down.

If you pay by direct debit or standing order, or have paid already then thank you. We appreciate your continued membership.



Photo rekindles school memories

THE old school photograph we printed in last week's paper prompted memories for our readers.

Brian Pearce, of Churchfield Road, Peterborough, told us he remembered being at St Mark's Boys' School like our reader, Graham Perry, who loaned us a picture taken at the school in 1954.

Mr Pearce left the school that year, but he thinks he remembered Graham Perry as a school-boy who lived in Clarence Road.

This week's old school picture was sent to us by Mr M C Smart of Crown Street, Peterborough.

It shows Beech Avenue School - now The Beeches, Beech Avenue - in 1927.

Mr Smart (72) said he was born

in Peterborough and - went to the school when he was four years old.

"In the photograph I am in the second row, 10 along from the right, just in front of the teachers," he said.

"I think one of the teachers was Miss Featherstone, the other was Miss Pickering.

"I hope this will bring back memories to some of your readers."

● Do you remember anyone on this picture? Have you got an old school photograph we could publish? Send your photograph to: Old Photographs, The Citizen, 57 Priestgate, Peterborough, PE1 1JW. Oct '95

'School Days—the best Years of our Lives'

Continuing our look at school photos, this month the photo comes from The Beeches, in Beech Avenue, it was taken in 1927.

The person who sent the photo to *The Citizen* was Mr. Smart. He attended the school and remembered that the two teachers may have been Miss Featherstone and Miss. Pickering.

Perhaps you have an ancestor who attended this school? Or perhaps you would like to share one of your school photos with members.

I look forward to receiving your articles!

'Archives'

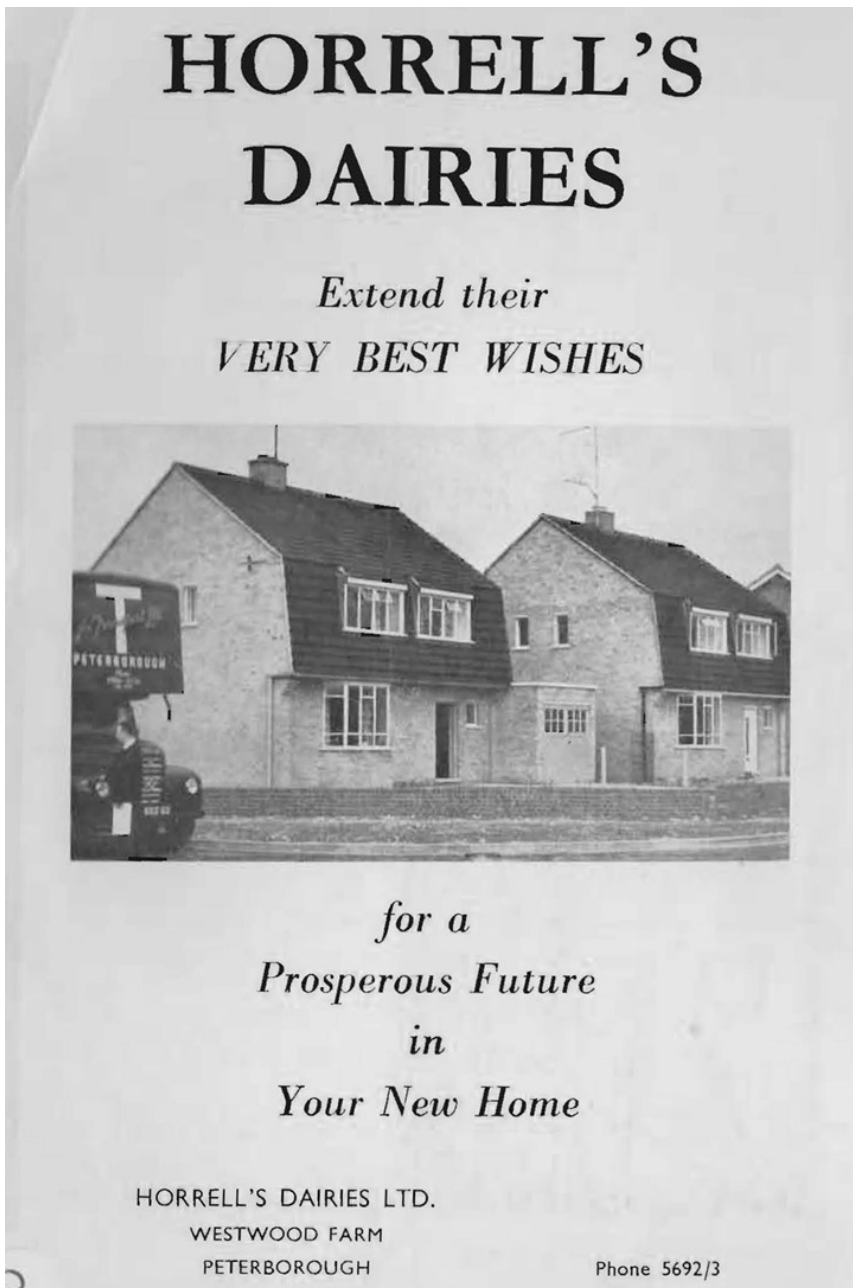
Below is the front cover of an advertisement booklet produced by Horrell's Dairies. It was evidently intended to encourage new homeowners to have their milk delivered. But from a family history, and local history viewpoint it is much, much, more. I won't give all the information away but if you

look in the archives under 1.BPB.013 you will be able to read about the establishment of the Horrell's dairy herd, see photos of the milkmen delivering the milk, and even see the horse drawn milk floats.

As a member of the society you have access to all of these fascinating archives, without any additional charge. That's an amazing 200,000 names you can search, and a wealth of historical documents at your fingertips.

Our archivist Alan Johnson, is always on the look out for new records that can be included in the archives. You will be surprised what is of interest to future generations of researchers.

If you have any records that may be of interest to members then please contact Alan to discuss further.



Author Spotlight

Do you know an author? Have you written a book?

I'm looking for authors to take part in our 'Author Spotlight' section in the journal.

Please get in touch.

'The 1939 Register'

Toni Smith

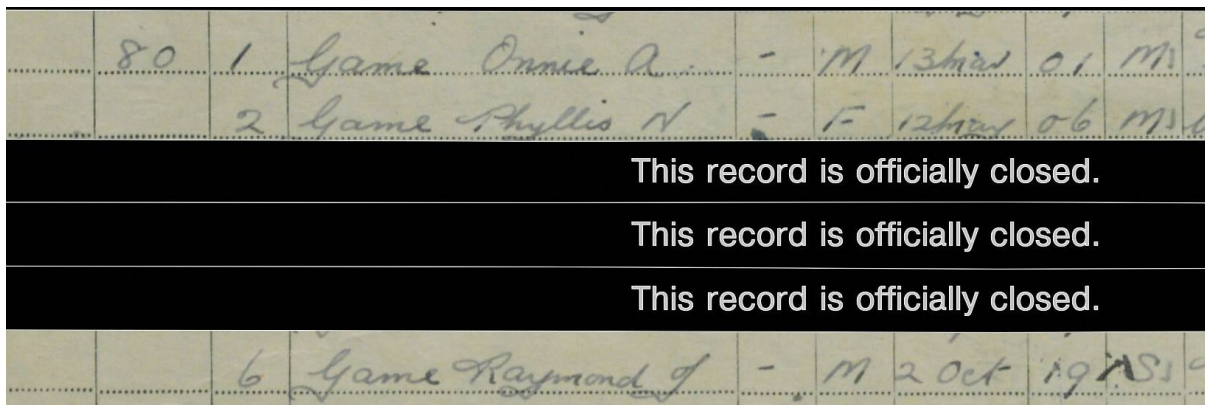
I have been using the 1939 register since the day it became available in Find My Past in October 2015. A wonderful resource when looking for relatives after the now available 1921 census.

I understand too, from researchers, that the data was used in 1939 to allow the government to find men available for war duties, and that after the war, in 1948, the data recorded was used as a basis for registration into the new free National Health Service.

All through the war my mother insisted that I, and my two older sisters, wore metal bracelets on our wrists. These were printed on one side with our name and address. On the reverse was imprinted a number. I imagine this was in case we were bombed and our bodies could then be identified.

I have only just realised the significance of this.

I was born and lived in Cambridge when the register was compiled, and so looking at the register for my family I am able to see my mother and father then three lines blanked out. Although both my older sisters have died it is correct, as one sister died in Canada and the other died in the Philippines. I have no way of getting their death certificates to get the names visible. The fifth one on the household list is of course myself, and I'm still alive and kicking! I also noted that my father's brother was staying with us on that day. So he was number 6 of the household.



So what is the significance of all this? My name at that time was Barbara Game.

Well, the number imprinted on the reverse of my bracelet is **TAAU 80/5**.

At the very top of the page is stamped **TAAU** and referred to as the E.D. Letter Code.

The schedule number for my family is 80 and I was the fifth record of that family. Hence **TAAU 80/5**.



NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
MEDICAL CARD
ISSUED BY THE
SOKE OF PETERBOROUGH
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
65a WESTGATE, PETERBOROUGH.

National Registration Identity Number TAAU 80 5

To
Mrs
Miss
(Address) Barbara Game
29, Dorchester St.,
PETERBOROUGH.

Dr. A. C. Ross.

Council Stamp
SK
5.11.1948
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

In any correspondence with the Council, please quote your National Registration Identity Number. Form E.C.A.

The Life and Times of John Clare

**A talk by Dr Sam Ward
of the John Clare Society**

Born in 1793, Clare is now regarded as one of the most important poets of the natural world. He wrote many poems, essays, journals and letters. The son of a farm labourer, he became known for his celebrations of the English countryside and his sorrows at its disruption. Also a talented fiddler, he became, in effect, one of the first collectors of folk tunes. His house in Helpston is now a visitor attraction.



(Images John Clare portrait by William Hilton (1820). Carry Ackroyd "Natural Cambridgeshire" for John Clare Countryside)

The talk will focus on John Clare's life and particularly his local links, although no doubt Sam will not be able to ignore Clare's poetry!

Sam Ward is an academic from Nottingham Trent University who is both a trustee and the archivist for the John Clare Society. He lectures extensively on John Clare and his contemporaries, focusing on Clare's response to environmental change and issues of ownership and appropriation. In this talk he will give a concise overview of Clare's life highlighting his response to agricultural enclosure, the advent of the railway, birdwatching, and plant collecting, his compilation of local folk tales and ballads and his participation in Roman excavations.

**Cedar Centre - Thursday the 22nd of May at 7p.m.
Doors open from 6:30pm. Tickets from the Trust website at
www.castorchurchtrust.co.uk.**

£7.50 in person or £5 for a Zoom link.



St. Kyneburgha Building
Preservation Trust