



Peterborough and District Family History Society October 2025



From the Chair

Family Historians are a friendly bunch and we all like to share our research. However, in these days of scams we do need to consider what precautions we should take to stop criminals from using our information for illicit purposes.

The most important thing is not to put information about you or any living relative on any site where anybody can see the details. Quite rightly, you would not give your personal details to a cold call on the telephone so why put that in a tree for all to see? Many banks and other sites ask for your mother's maiden name as part of their security checks. That information is on your family tree so consider who can see it. If in doubt of who has access contact the organisation who hold your tree and ask them about "stranger access" and making your tree "private".

Another option to ensure you control who has access to your information is to stop your family tree at either grandparents or great grandparents. But if you are still worried you can (like me) not put your tree on a website at all. I use Family Historian* which is a stand-alone program that you keep on your own computer. If you want to share parts of your tree to relatives or trusted fellow family historians, the programme tells you how to export the appropriate information.

Almost everybody in the family history community is a genuine researcher but if you receive a request from someone claiming to be a distant relative, just take a minute to consider what questions to ask to confirm the relationship before giving them access to all your or your living relatives' details.

Alan Johnson

From the Editor

I love this time of year. The last remnants of summer gives way to crisp mornings, and sunny days with a hint of warmth.

My garden and allotment has produced an abundance of fruit this year, and I have been busy pickling, making jam, and exploring new chutney recipes. My wardrobe is almost bursting with sweet delights, that will provide toast toppings, and cheese accompaniments through the winter.

But I am lucky, if my stock runs low I can always pop to the shop and stock up.

For our ancestors what food they could store, using whatever method they were able to, really did have to see them through to the first harvests.

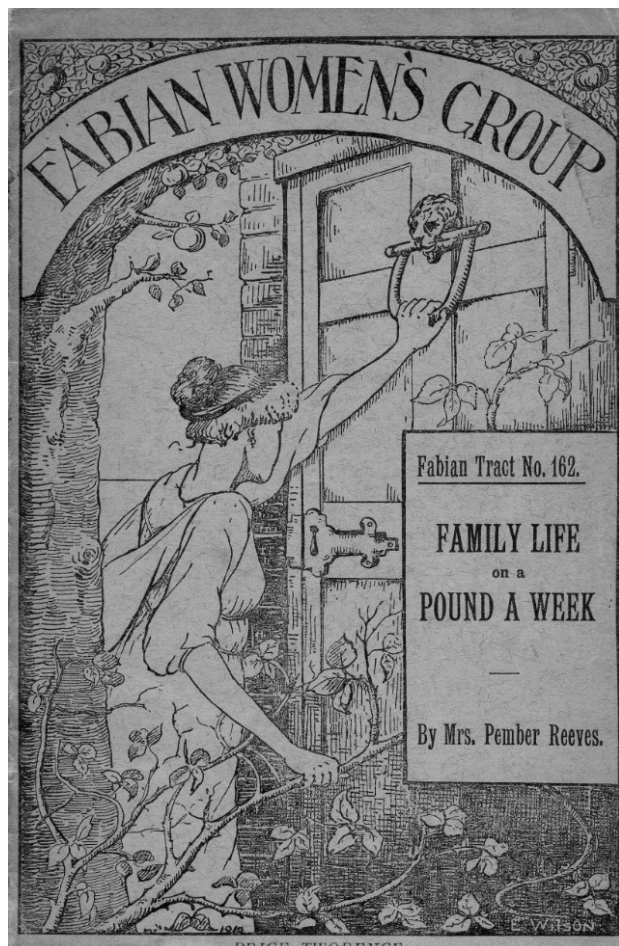
Do you have any family recipes that have been handed down through the generations? Can you remember your mum, or grandmother, preserving in readiness for the winter?

Please consider sending me an article for the journal.

Sadie McMullon

Book Review

Usually I only cover newly published books in the 'Book Review' section of the newsletter. However, recently I have been re-visiting some older books which are equally of value to our family history research. For example *Round About a Pound a Week*, reveals what living conditions were like for a vast majority of our ancestors.



Round About a Pound a Week is a study of working-class life in Lambeth in the early years of the twentieth century that is witty, readable, poignant and fascinating – and relevant to today's Britain.

In 1909 a group of women, all of them members of the feminist, left-wing Fabian Women's Group, would regularly leave their comfortable homes in Kensington and Hampstead and call on forty-two families in Lambeth in order to interview them about their everyday life. They wrote down their findings and in 1912 these were written up as a twenty-page Fabian Tract which Maud Pember Reeves (1865-1953) and her co-author Charlotte Wilson decided to turn into the more snappily titled *Round About a Pound a Week*. The sixteen chapters, covering such topics as Housing, Thrift, Food and Mothers' Days, resulted in a book of stunning interest and originality which has never really been rivalled in the 100 years since first publication in 1913.

The reason the book remains unique is its mixture of factual rigour, wit and polemic. As Polly Toynbee points out in her new Persephone Preface, one of the most shocking facts to emerge is that 'the Fabian women deliberately avoided the poorest families... because they wanted to show how the general standard of living among ordinary manual workers was below a level which could support good health or nutrition.' Yet the book is consistently on the side of the mothers; without being in any sense do-gooding it explains 'to a middle-class world of power and condescension' that they could not do better than they were doing on the tiny house-keeping allowance that their husbands were able to give them. And it is about far more than how the women of Lambeth 'managed'. It is full of the kind of human detail that is usually only found in a novel. Polly Toynbee ends her preface by asking what Maud Pember Reeves would think nowadays. She concludes that she would be proud of the NHS and the welfare state but that she would be perplexed that the inequalities between rich and poor are still so enormous.

ISBN-10 : 190315569X

Do you have a book that has aided you in appreciating what life may have been like for your ancestors. Please send me the details so it can be included in future book reviews.

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 October 1st

'Birch, Beer, Bibles'

Angela Dunsby

Wednesday November 5th

'A Family Mystery Tour'

Gail Boyle

Wednesday December 3rd

'Christmas Food and Drink'

Simon Fowler and Sylvia Levi

All meetings start at 7pm to allow social time prior to the talk at 7.30pm

Christmas

This is the first time this year that I have thought about Christmas. I try not to get on the band wagon of thinking about festivities too early in the year.

I thought it would be really fun, and informative, if we could have as many Christmas related articles in the December journal as possible.

So please put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboards, and send me your Christmas stories. The deadline for inclusion is 5th November.

Thank you



I need you to write articles.

My supply of articles is very depleted.

Without your contribution the December journal will be very slim.

Please consider sending in an article, it doesn't have to be long.

What about a hint, or tip, or an update on your research.

I look forward to a full inbox.

Family History Events

The days may be getting shorter, but there are still Family History events to look forward to.

In-Person Events

The Family History Show, London

Saturday, 4th October

Kempton Park Race Course, TW16 5AQ

10am to 4pm

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**Family History Conference, hosted by the Leigh Valley Branch of the
Liverpool and South West Lancashire Family History Society**

Saturday, 11th October

St. Mary's Community Hall, WA3 1DQ

10am to 4pm

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The Midland's Family History Show, Severn Hall

Saturday, 14th March

Three Counties Showground, WR13 6NW

10am to 4pm

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Online

The Experience of One AIF Prisoner of War in Europe WW2

Saturday, 8th November 9am to 11am

Genealogical Society of Queensland, Australia - via ZOOM

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Save the Date

Your society will be attending the Family History Really Useful Show

at the Burgess Hall, St Ives

Saturday, 18th April 2026