

The Filby Association

Chronicle

2005

Issue No. 3

Mary Filby welcomed members from New Zealand
Don & Phillipa Laurenson
at our 'Filby Reunion' on July 4th 2004



An organisation of people the world over with the surname of FILBY or its variants, FILBEY, FILBEE, PHILBY or PHILBEY devoted to furthering the study of the name derived from the village of FILBY, Norfolk in England—the genealogy of the various families with this name and the support of the Parish Church at Filby. There are no annual dues or assessments but anyone desiring to help the Association through donations should Contact the Treasurer. Family data will be welcome, as research is encouraged on a hobby basis.

The Association is not incorporated and is a not-for-profit organisation

Manager

Mary Filby

126 Bexwell Road,
Downham Market,
Norfolk. PE38 9LJ

Secretary

Ruth Smith

2 Barrington Close,
Little Clacton,
Clacton on Sea,
Essex. CO16 9PN

Treasurer

Walter Filby

25 Warrington Road,
Croydon, Surrey.
CR0 4BH

Researchers

Christine Williams,
157, Besthorpe Road,
Attleborough,
Norfolk, NR17 2NJ

Marion Filby

22, Aldwark,
York, YO1 7BU

GOONS Representative
and

Chronicle Editor

Marion Filby

22 Aldwark,
York. YO1 7BU
ENGLAND

Web Master

James Filby

72 Appleton Road,
Blidworth, Notts.
NG21 OSQ

U.S.A./Canada

Correspondent

Donald R. Filby

P.O. Box 1073,
Los Alamitos,
California 90720,
U.S.A.

Australasian

Correspondent

Dr. Donald Barry,

11 Toolara Circuit,
Ellen Grove,
Queensland 40778,
Australia.

Data Manager

Raymond Filbey

132 Autumn Drive,
Stafford,
Virginia 22556.
U.S.A.

Dear friends of the Filby Association,

I hope that you enjoy reading our third edition of the Chronicle. I have been delighted by the way in which many of our readers are sending photographs and letters, news of their family's births and marriages and informing us of bereavements. All this brings us closer together as a 'Filby Family' and I welcome any items that you consider would be of interest to our readers. Please continue to send them direct to me at the address shown on this page or email **marion.filby@virgin.net**

Presently we are sending out the Chronicle free of charge to everyone who has made contact with the Association. However, we are advised that going forward we must consider the expense, as although donations are most welcome they will not always cover our spiralling costs. We do not at this stage wish to implement a subscription charge for membership, and yet we must form a membership list for mailing purposes, and eliminate those whose interests have moved on.

Within this Chronicle there is a form on page 17/18 that we would ask you to take a few moments of your time to complete, then cut out and return to me. This will enable us to collate a World-wide Mailing list of registered members for future Chronicles or other letters, and also seek to fulfil the requirements which may shortly be imposed upon us by the 'Guild of One Name Studies' and the 'Federation of Family History Societies.'

The Filby Association is not incorporated and is a not-for-profit organisation—please help us to remain this way.

Marion Filby (Editor)

Another Year On *By Mary Filby, Our Manager.*

The year of 2003 and early part of 2004 have not been good for me as I haven't been feeling well, hence unable to put as much effort into the Association as I would have liked. However, as things improve (hopefully) I have started working again.

Ruth, our secretary, has already pointed out that I keep the paper records for the Association, which eventually go onto computer disk. Since Fred Filby died and I inherited all his paperwork, I have been sorting these and putting them into folders and trying to keep the files in order.

At the present I have many original and photocopy Birth, Death and Marriage certificates that Fred collected, adding many more recently sent by members. Wally has been putting them onto computer disk and therefore we are able, if we have the certificate you need, to send a copy by email or post without you going to big financial cost. All I would ask is that you send a SAE to either Wally, or any of the Officers, who can arrange for its return.

We would also like to add to our existing collection of Birth, Marriage and Death certificates - so if you can't send us photocopies, but have any that you are willing for us to make a copy of, please send the originals to Wally at his address on the previous page, and he will copy and return the original to you as quickly as possible.

We were deeply saddened to hear that Ellsworth (Peter) Filby, the son of our Founder, Ellsworth Filby, and his wife, Marion, had died on 18th July 2004. Although he didn't follow his father's interest in genealogy to the same degree, he was often in our thoughts.

We send our condolences to his family in the USA

Page ~ Contents

<i>ifc.</i>	List of Officers. / Letter from the Editor.
1	Another Year On <i>by Mary Filby (Manager)</i>
2	Annual Report <i>by Ruth Smith (Secretary)</i>
3	New Members / Next Filby 'Gathering' / All Saints' Church News
4	A Message from the Rev. Carl Le Prevost / Dead Poets Corner
5	The Filby Reunion <i>by Marion Filby</i>
6continued.
7	A Norfolk Childhood <i>by Molly Kuttner</i>
8	Pride for a Family at War <i>by Herbert Victor Filby</i>
9continued.
10	Association Accounts 2004 & Treasurers Report
11	<i>by Wally Filby</i>continued / Mary and Len Filby's Visitors
12	John Filbee was Buried Twice <i>by Malcolm Black</i>
13	Last Will and Testament of John Filbee
14continued / News from Bruce & Michele Morrison
15	Custodian Database <i>by Wally Filby</i>
16	Your Website. <i>by Jim Filby Webmaster</i>
17	The Claret Jug <i>by Jim Filby</i> / Membership Request Form
18	The Claret Jug— continued / Reverse of Form
19	Message from our USA Correspondent / Ode to Genealogists
20	Photographs with Four Generations of Members.
21	Jim Exler's Travels to Australia <i>by Ruth Smith</i>
22	Eulogy — James Robert Exler
23	In Memoriam — H. Wayne Christiansen
24	Deaths — Births & Marriages
<i>ibc</i>	Celebrations followed by photographs on back cover.

Annual Report - from Secretary, Ruth Smith (nee Filby)

Please let me know if you change your postal or email address. Sometimes I have Chronicles, letters and emails returned, which means that we can no longer contact you. **It is essential that you complete the enclosed Membership Registration Request Form**

If you go on the Internet sites to find out information on your ancestors, you have to be careful to check the data you find back to its original source. Not all information you find there is reliable.

Jim and I attended the Guild of One Name Studies AGM on Saturday 3 April 2004. It was the 25th Anniversary of the GOONS, and Derek Palgrave, the President, talked about the History and Development of the Guild. Fred Filby, who was a founder of the Filby Association in the UK, was also a founder member of the GOONS. Tribute was paid to him and the other founder members. In 1977 people who had set up their own One Name Associations, including Fred, met, with the result that the first One Name Conference took place in 1978. In 1979 the Guild was established with Fred as Chairman and acting Registrar, and their first Newsletter was issued in 1980. The 10th Anniversary saw better exploitation of IT and the Internet, with a web site manager being appointed in 1996. Sheila Filby became The Filby Association's Registered Member after Fred's death. Jim, Wally and I are also members.

Unfortunately, we no longer have two of our dedicated researchers, as Molly Kuttner and Sheila Filby have health problems and cannot continue to work for us in that way. They have both carried out research for many of our members over the years, and we are sorry to hear that they can no longer offer their help. We would like to thank them for everything they have done to make The Filby Association such a growing Association. Since 2000 Molly has re-checked and re-drawn many old Trees as Raymond put them onto the Database, and will continue to assist with proof-reading and offering her opinion on items under discussion, which we value greatly.

I hope that those who have been waiting a while for help will understand. If anyone still needs help and I have not been in touch, do contact me as you may have slipped through the net because of the long wait.

As you will see from the list of Officers, we now have another volunteer researcher, which is good news. Christine Williams has recently joined Marion Filby as a second researcher. We would like to welcome her and say thank you for joining us. Don't forget that we are still short of others, so if there are any members who would like to help, do contact me, or Marion, or Jim. We will give you all the help and advice we can to get you started, even if you have not done research before. More researchers will ease the load on others as we all do the work in our spare time. Of course, if anyone feels they can help in any way at all, do let me know.

Welcome to New Members

Malcolm and Diana Black, Corby.	Angela Irons, Barnet, Herts.
Miss Judith Ward, Devon.	Eugene Filby, USA
Mrs. S Smith, Filby, Norfolk.	Shelley Jansen, USA
Sue Ward, Filby, Norfolk.	Mark S Filby, Queensland, Australia
Stuart & Justina Filby, Notts.	Audrey Meyer, New Zealand
Ian & Lisa Filby, Nottinghamshire.	Andrea & Janet Filby, Cambs.
Paul & Jane Filby, Torquay.	Daphne Nichols, Norwich.
Carl Filby, Texas, USA	Kim Blecke, USA.
Carole Bernard, Oxford.	David G Filby, Welwyn Garden City.
Paul Wilkins, South Australia.	Graham Clarke, Loughborough.
Christine Williams, Attleborough, Norfolk.	
Dawn, Carl & Stephanie Filby, Milton Keynes	
Apologies if I have left anyone out.	

The website has had a lot more "Filbys" access it, but not all those that have emailed Jim have wanted to join the association. Not all our new members have come via the website. We advertised our 'Reunion 2004' in various Family History Association magazines, also the Family Records Centre in London, and had people write in through this media.

The next Filby 'Gathering' at All Saints' Church, Filby, Norfolk, England. Will be on Sunday, 3rd July, 2005

We hope that many of you will be able to make the journey to Norfolk and we look forward to welcoming you. Our Family Sunday service commences at 2.30pm.

There was an 'All Souls Service' at All Saints' Church, Filby, on Sunday, 7th November 2004 and we asked that candles should be lit for our USA Founder, the late Ellsworth Filby, our UK Co-ordinator, the late Fred Filby and our previous President, Bill Filby, who died in December 2002.

The Reverend Carl Le Prevost asked that we let you all know that the repaired church window is now in and the heating in the church is on. They are very grateful for all the financial help that we gave.

Following last year's appeal to the villagers by Reverend Carl Le Prevost there are now 38 families giving, either by direct debit or by envelopes in a regular way, so that the day-to-day expenses of Filby Church will be more secure. Other monies towards the heating etc. have been raised through coffee mornings and jumble sales. The work goes on in the hope that more parishioners will consider setting up a direct debit.

A Message from the Reverend Carl Le Prevost.....

2004 has been an exciting and busy year for all of us involved with Filby Church.

During the last few weeks (up to mid-November) the two major projects we hoped to get done this year have been finished. Our first project was the East Window. The window which was falling apart and had numerous holes in it, has now been restored at a cost of just over £33,000. As well as looking beautiful it also looks like new again.

The second project was to install heating in the Church and I am delighted to report that this has also now been completed. Not only are the congregation warmer but also the Church doesn't feel damp anymore. We in Filby are grateful to all of you who sent donations to enable The Filby Association to purchase two of the heaters for us.

The other good news is that we have also managed to pay our way to the Diocese this year—the first time for many years. So all in all, with more people coming to Church on Sundays and our finances on a more secure footing, we are feeling very positive about the future.

Now we are working on a grant application to English Heritage for help in getting the roof re-thatched—a major job that will cost over £100,000.

I enjoyed meeting all of you who came to the Reunion in July and I hope that if any of you are coming to Norfolk, you will let us know so that we can welcome you to Filby. **Cathy joins me in wishing you all the best for Christmas and the coming year.**

Dead Poets Corner

Here lies the body of
WILLIAM STRATTON, of Paddington,
Buried 18th day of May, 1743 aged 97
He had by his first wife 28 children:
By his second wife 17 children:
Was father to 45, Grandfather to 86,
Great grandfather to 23.
In all 154 children.

Hyden Churchyard, Yorkshire.

Here lies John Hill,
A man of skill,
His age was five times ten,
He ne'er did good
Nor ever would,
Had he lived as long again.

Churchyard in Manchester

Dead Poets Corner

Here lies JOHN HIGLEY whose
father and mother were drowned on
their passage from America. Had they
lived, they would have been buried
here.

Bellurbet Churchyard Co. Cavan.

JOHN PALFREYMAN, which lieth here,
Was aged twenty-four years,
And near this place his brother lies,
Also his father when he dies.

Grantham Parish Church, Lincolnshire

Hurrah! my boys at the Parson's fall,
For if he'd lived, he'd a-buried us all!

Tailbach Church, South Wales

The Filby 'Reunion' July 4th 2004 *by Marion Filby (researcher & editor)*

My family and I had previously seen the big house in the grounds next to Filby Church on our visit last year. We decided to rent the house for our FILBY week and 14 of us holidayed together. Filby Hall is a Georgian property of generous size - 7 double bedrooms, en suites, bathroom and cloakroom. An enormous dining room with table that seats 14 comfortably. The lounge too is very big in proportion and the kitchen is huge with a central island and large raised breakfast area. We all walked miles just from room to room. Enjoyed some beautiful peaceful evenings sitting in the sheltered walled gardens to the rear with excellent views of the church tower and even had our own owl family sitting in the tree whilst being entertained by rabbits scampering across the lawns.

Our week in the village of Filby started on Saturday when Ann and Peter Chapman kindly invited us all to a Strawberry Fair. It had rained earlier in the day and so their garden party was relocated to the church hall. The band managed to squeeze on to the stage, and the ladies of Filby village pitched their stalls around the perimeter of the hall where they sold items generously given by the villagers. There were tombola stalls, cake and fresh vegetable stalls and Daphne Nichols kindly sold raffle tickets for us. The wine was flowing and strawberries and fresh cream sold to a continuous queue. It was a joyous evening with all funds going toward the renovation and upkeep of Filby Church.

Sunday was a very busy day for our family at Filby Hall as we had invited many guests to join us for lunch. From 12.00 noon until 2.00pm we chatted and mingled with more than 30 new and old friends. Then it was a brisk walk up the lane to Filby Church where we were greeted, along with a further 50 association members, by the Reverend Carl Le Prevost. The service was most enjoyable and everyone sang the Filby Hymn with great enthusiasm. Afterwards we were able to meet members we hadn't seen before and members we hadn't seen for years, it was a time for getting to know 'the family'.

We wandered down the lane to the church hall once again where the ladies of Filby Church had put on a grand buffet tea for us, and our manager, Mary Filby, was able to greet everyone. We were delighted to find that Don and Phillippa Laurenson, from New Zealand, had managed to make their trip to Filby village for this particular Reunion. Don was very proud when he presented his Family Tree to add to our data bank, and we will hopefully be able to add to it for him in the near future. *(photo on front cover)*

Our treasurer, Wally Filby, gave a speech and proudly presented two cheques from the Filby Association to the Rev. Carl Le Prevost for heaters, along with suitable plaques to accompany them. The vicar was most appreciative and excited to tell us how well the renovations to the church and the window were coming along.....even though more donations are desperately needed.

Our webmaster, Jim Filby, had worked very hard and put together a 'Master Tree' to hang on the wall. The chart contains 822 people and covers 17 generations. The boxes contain full names, Birth, and Death years. The size is 6 ft. by 3.5 ft. This contained many families of those attending including myself, and created a buzz of excitement and amazement as people jostled to see if their family was shown. It is a wonderfully satisfying feeling when we, as researchers, can link a family tree into our main Master Tree and take the whole family back to our roots in Filby village, starting with Nicholas de ffylbye in 1520. Sharing is what the Filby Association is all about and on this particular day we were all proud to make it happen. The original chart was auctioned and purchased by Ron and Kath Filby. Orders were taken for further copies.

Sadly, our day came to an end, but everyone was eager to make a date for next year's 'Gathering' and in doing so help raise more funds for Filby Church.

The following Friday the church was decked out for its Flower Festival and we trundled up the lane yet again. The fragrance of the beautiful flower arrangements greeted us as we opened the church door. I took many photos of the decorative window displays and the font that had been beautifully arranged by Cathy, the vicar's wife. There were many items for sale and I am sure that funds were swelled yet again by the generosity of the visitors that day.

On Saturday the Bishop of Thetford attended Filby Church to consecrate ground adjoining the grave yard for future burials.

It was a memorable week in many ways, and I was pleased to be able to visit Mary and Len Filby at their home in Downham Market whilst in the area. Of course I came away with a load of paperwork to do for the association - but then I wouldn't have it any other way.



The plaques are worded to show lasting appreciation of all our past members
World wide.

A NORFOLK CHILDHOOD

by Molly Kuttner

I was born in the very cold winter of 1927 in Honingham, a sister for four brothers. Three centuries before my ancestor, John FILBY, had lived in the same village. I don't remember my grandfather FILBY who died in 1931.

I started school aged 4½ just when my eldest brother was leaving. We walked one mile to school and took packed dinners; for a village it was quite a big school. In the warm weather, after church and Sunday school, we took Sunday evening walks as a family, in our best clothes – no rough games, Dad with the men's fashionable walking stick of those days. We children would watch amazed as a rare bi-plane flew over. The vicar's chauffeur owned an Austin 7 and sometimes he and his wife took Mum and me for a spin.

My father grew loads of fruit and vegetables and our favourite pastime was picking strawberries for tea. I remember home-made raspberry jam on real Hovis bread - scrumptious! Everything was home-made.

Special events were the huge bonfire at the manor on the occasion of George V's Jubilee, and George VI's Coronation following the abdication of Edward VIII. The King and Queen opened the new City Hall, the Queen in a cloud of powder blue.

Day trips by charabanc to the sea in the summer were an annual treat. On the journey home we sang all the way. Acquiring bikes of our own brought freedom for us children.

I remember my wonder at seeing Gilbert and Sullivan's "Gondoliers" at the theatre and the Christmas pantomimes. Dancing round the maypole was still popular on May Day, and Carnival days were held in town in the summer with Fancy Dress parades and a Carnival Queen.

Our head teacher arranged day-trips to London. The train left at seven in the morning and arrived back at 11 at night. We went to the Tower, down the river to Westminster, ate our packed lunches in St. James's Park and then to Madame Tussauds and the Zoo for tea. I was amazed to see so many buses everywhere.

We had lovely times in the harvest field chasing the rabbits out of their temporary home as the corn was cut down. Riding home on a horse-drawn wagon ended a perfect day. Later on the sheaves were built into stacks then put through the threshing machine. We enjoyed watching this and sliding down the straw stacks. There was a piece of scrubland nearby and we spent hours there playing cowboys and Indians as seen at the local cinema. We eventually acquired a radio set which broadened our horizons.

The worst fears for me in the late 1930s, and probably for many children, were grown-ups talking about a possible war. I dreaded having to try on a gas mask for the first time, and being woken in the night

by the very first air raid siren filled me with fear. Our parents shielded us from their fears of invasion. Silence reigned at 6 o'clock when father had to hear the News read by Alvar Lidell. The threat of bombing on London brought evacuees into the country. We took in a mother and her 3-year old daughter, but they stayed only ten weeks. Later on we were obliged to take in lodgers who were building the aerodrome nearby.

High spots of our quiet life were older brothers coming home on leave, which meant a few outings, and there was the excitement of army manoeuvres in the neighbourhood.

When I started at high school I had to bike 2 miles to the station which meant in the winter time leaving home in the dark; however we had to be home before dark, and we received a lot of homework to make up for the lost time in school. The school train was sometimes delayed by a hospital train taking wounded airmen to a military hospital.

Everyone had to register at 16 and help the war effort. With my friend I ran a local National Savings group, and with school friends we raised money by organising a concert and a Whist Drive. I took my final school exams in the summer of 1944; these were followed by two weeks at a fruit-picking camp.

Later in the war the Germans dropped anti-personnel bombs on the school grounds and we were sent home. A day off school and no homework was fine with us. As the war in Europe and the Far East progressed we heard of friends losing loved ones. Then there were the deadly rockets to temper our knowledge that victory was in sight. So ended my schooldays and my childhood.

oooOoooo

Pride for a Family at War

A Kentford Hero Decorated



*Taken from Newspaper cuttings loaned by
Mr and Mrs Herbert Victor Filby,
of Kennet, Cambridgeshire, England*

Mrs Filby of the Cock Inn, Kentford, and her daughter, Mrs Clarke, of Cambridge, had the honour of attending the investiture at Buckingham Palace last week, when Mr and Mrs Filby's son, Alfred Stanley Filby, was decorated with the Military Medal by his Majesty the King.

"The Christmas party at the Old Cock Inn, - the home of Mr and Mrs Filby—was held a little earlier this year than the calendar suggests. But the reason was a good one— the family were at home— or at least nearly all the family.

It's a big family and it's something unusual these days to have them all home together, for Mr and Mrs Filby are making a little contribution of their own

to the war effort. They have loaned no fewer than seven sons and a daughter to the services for the duration, and, as if that was not enough, have another three sons-in-law with the forces. So when leave for all but two synchronised recently, it is not surprising that the Old Cock Inn tore a few days off the calendar and imagined they were all there for Christmas.

Naturally, the chief topic of conversation was the "absent ones." Frank, the eldest boy, is on active service and, of course, could not be there. Harry is a Corporal in the Medical Section of the 1st Suffolk Regiment, and brother Stanley is a Sergeant in the same section.

Stanley was at Dunkirk and was subsequently decorated by the King with a Military Medal for bravery and devotion to duty. Mrs Filby went to the Palace.

Sergeant Archie of the Royal Artillery, was also at the Dunkirk evacuation, and Ronald, (shown wearing the uniform of the Home Guard in the photo) is in the Royal Navy. The Royal Marines was the choice of Victor, and Eric is a Lance-Corporal in the Signals attached to the Home Guard.

Joan, the one daughter with the Forces, helps to man an Ack-Ack gun as a member of the Filby Regiment! The three sons-in-law are Flight-Lieutenant F.Hartnell, RAF., Warrant Officer A McCulloch, Fleet

Air Arm, and Private. W Clarke, Airborne Regiment.

There's a big day coming soon for the Old Cock Inn, and for Mr and Mrs Filby in particular—that is the day for what these children of theirs are fighting for, when the Nazis throw in the sponge, and the whole troop of young Filbys march back to have one on ma and pa.

*"Group (left to right)
Harry, Archie, Stanley
Frank, Eric and Ron Filby
Left
Joan and Victor Filby*



Unfortunately, many of Herbert's brothers and sisters are no longer with us, but they will be remembered.

Filby Association Accounts 2004

Reserve Account

Balance as at December 1 st 2003		£753.84
Income	Bank Interest	£0.76
Expenditure		£0.00
Balance as at November 30th 2004		<u>£754.60</u>

Current Account

Balance as at December 1 st 2003		£846.92
Income		
Donations General	£342.50	
Donation Church & Heaters	£370.50	
Goods Ties Etc	£ 35.00	
Total Income		£748.00
Expenditure		
2004 Chronicle (Includes Postage)	£378.72	
To Church (Includes 2003 Donations)	£725.00	
Guild Subscription (Goons)	£ 12.00	
Total Expenditure		£1,115.72
Excess of Expenditure over Income	£367.72	
Balance as at November 30th 2004		<u>£479.20</u>

Balance sheet as at 30th November 2004

Reserve Account	£754.60
Current Account	£479.20

Accumulated fund at November 30th 2004 **£1,233.80**

Treasurers Report 2004

I have pleasure in presenting my third report as Treasurer, to cover the year from December 1st 2003 to November 30th 2004.

I would like to thank all of those who have sent donations during the year, Through your generosity we were able to donate at our gathering this year two heaters cost £500, and also a further £275 which included sale of goods. We also had a raffle which raised money for the church and £35 was raised on a Family Tree that was auctioned. This money was paid direct to the church so did not go through our accounts.



Below I name all those that have contributed:-

Mr J D Filbey	South Croydon, Surrey
Roy & Sylvia Filby	Bedford
Mrs E Mitchell	Haverhill. Suffolk
Mrs S Ward	Epworth, Doncaster
Mr & Mrs H Irving	London
Mrs A Whithear	Little Chalfont, Bucks

The Ven. W Filbey	Pulborough, West Sussex
Mr G T Philby	Whitstable, Kent
Mr & Mrs H V Filby	Newmarket, Suffolk
Mr & Mrs R Filby	Intake, Doncaster
Mrs J Chipchase	South Shields
Katrina Filby	Abingdon, Oxford
Mrs L Filby	Aldborough, Norfolk
Mr & Mrs R Boast	Diss, Norfolk
Mr & Mrs T Filby	Beccles, Suffolk
Mr & Mrs C Sefton	Worlingham, Suffolk
David Filby & Helen Ritchie	Ilford, Essex
Dr & Mrs R S Filby	Coventry
Mary & Len Filby	Downham Market, Norfolk
Christine Williams	Attleborough, Norfolk
Barbara Ralph	Warminster, Wilts
Mr & Mrs H Kuttner	Edgware, Middlesex
Mrs V R Filby	U.S.A
Mrs Johnson	Cheltenham
Mrs Sheila Filby	Cheam, Surrey
Marie Hamilton	Watton, Norfolk
Don & Philippa Laurenson	New Zealand
Mrs Joy Battell	Rickmansworth, Herts.
Mr & Mrs S L Filby	London
Mr & Mrs M E Filby	
Mr & Mrs CH & B Filby	Yeovil, Somerset
Mr J Filby	Blidworth, Notts.

I give my apologies if any names have been left off the above list in error.

**Wally Filby
(Treasurer)**

Mary & Len Filby Always Welcome Visits From Association Members;-

We had the pleasure of the company for a few hours of Maurice French from Tasmania; he was visiting his daughter who lives and works in London, and hoping to find more information for their family tree.

Maurice and Christine and Ian Filby her brother and his wife Jenny came to a Reunion a few years ago; unfortunately since then Jenny, Ian's wife, has died. Maurice brought with him the family tree of his wife, who was Christine Filby, and gave them to us to go into our system and to help any other persons who are researching in this area. They are still looking for a Joseph Filby who was born on 23 August 1842; he is Christine's great grandfather. Up to the present we have not been able to trace this Joseph at all, unless of course you know any information about this chap; if so, we should be very pleased to hear from you. Unfortunately we do not know where he was born which makes things even more difficult. Maurice said that he will write a piece about them for the next Chronicle in 2006 so we look forward to reading that.

John Filbee was Buried Twice

by Malcolm Black

(Malcolm's wife, Diane, has Filbee ancestors.)

John came to West Dereham in Norfolk as a young man to work as a carpenter, but later took up farming, perhaps because his brother William was a farmer at Bridgham. In 1789, aged 47, he wrote his Will leaving all he had to his three children and his "beloved and loving" wife Martha; a phrase that would come to haunt him. They had married in 1776 when John was 32 and Martha (Tingey) was only 17. Of their five children, Thomas and Ann died as babies, Robert was "Kicked by a foal" at the age of three, and only Elizabeth and John would survive.

On the night of 8th Nov 1794 John Filbee was buried. Or as the Norfolk Chronicle reported it:

"Saturday last after a week's search, was discovered buried in his stack-yard, the body of Mr. John Filbee, a reputable farmer at West Dereham. He had been missing from the Saturday preceding --- some fresh mould was observed in the stack-yard, within an hundred yards of his house; which being removed the body was discovered, and upon inspection it was found that he had received violent blows upon the head and other parts of the body. ---- Suspicion fell upon his own manservant who was immediately taken into custody, and after a short time confessed. ---- not only of the murder, but of his motives for committing it, which being of such a delicate nature charity induces us to draw a veil over them until the whole affair be publicly investigated. ---- The deceased went into the stable, about six o'clock on Saturday evening the 8th instant with this servant, and as soon as he got out of the door, the hardened wretch struck him on the left side of the head with a fork, which instantly deprived him of life. ---- Such a degree of unparalleled wickedness as is scarce to be conceived".

John received a Christian burial on 19th Nov 1794, and the vicar pre-empted the court ruling by stating in the register "Killed by his manservant". The case was tried on 28th Mar 1795, and was reported in the Chronicle:

"At these assizes, which were held at Thetford, and ended on Tuesday night last, the six following prisoners were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death".

One of these was:

"Wm. Bennington, aged 28, for the wilful murder of his master, Mr. John Filbee, of West Dereham, farmer. Bennington appeared to be truly penitent, and sensible of his awful situation; he made a very ample confession to the fact, he acknowledged to have had criminal connection with his mistress on the very night that the horrid deed was committed, but declared she was no ways accessory to it".

"The murderers, Bennington and Watson were executed at Thetford, on Wednesday last - the former having been convicted of petit treason in the murder of his master was drawn on a sledge to the place of execution. ---- Bennington acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and exhorted the surrounding multitude (by whom the most awful silence and attention was preserved) to take timely warning by his ignominious end, and particularly to withstand the temp-

-tations held out by abandoned women, which sooner or later would plunge them, like himself, into disgrace and misery. Their bodies will be hung in chains near the spots where the murders were perpetrated. --- The interval allowed in the cases of murder between sentence and execution is only 48 hours, which time had the unhappy men been conveyed to this city, would have been consumed in festivity on the road, instead of being dedicated to repentance and supplication. The whole was conducted with the greatest solemnity”.

Will of J ohn Filbee 1789, died 1794.

I n the name of G od A men. I J ohn Filbee of West Dereham in the county of Norfdk, farmer, revoking all Wills by me at any time heretofore made, do make, publish, and declare this to be my last Will and Testament in manner and form following (that is to say). First and principally I commend my soul into the hands of A lmighty G od my creator, hoping through the merits and intercession of my beloved lord and saviour J esus Christ, to obtain full and free pardon of my sins and as to such temporal estate, as it have pleased G od to bestow me with in this life, I give and bequeath the same as follows (that is to say). I give and bequeath all and singular my goods, cattle, chattels, personal estate, and effects, of all kind whatsoever and wheresoever (for I have no real estate) unto my dear wife Martha Filbee and my daughter and sons, Elizabeth Filbee of the age of eight years, J ohn Filbee of the age of four years, and R obert Filbee of the age of three years or thereabouts, for the support and maintenance of my said loving wife, and my said three children, until my said daughter and two sons shall respectively attain their several ages of twenty four years and it is my mind and Will, and I do hereby declare, that my said personal estate, with the addition and increase they and every of them shall have then made, from the produce of every species and kind thereof, I do hereby direct and desire, shall be sold, either by private sale or public auction, for the best price or prices can be got for the same. A nd the moneys arising from the sale or sales thereof, (after deducting the inst debts I shall owe at the time of my decease, and other necessary charges and expenses which shall have been paid by my Executors hereafter named), I do by this my last Will, give and bequeath, order and direct, the same shall be equally divided between the said Martha my loving wife and the said Elizabeth, J ohn, and R obert, my said daughter and sons, share and share alike, and if any or either of them, my said wife, daughter, and sons, shall depart this life before they, any, or either of them, my said daughter and sons, shall attain their respective ages of twenty four years as aforesaid, that then

and in such case, I do hereby desire the survivors or survivor shall have the part or parts of her or him so dying and if but one of them shall survive and be living at that time, I do hereby give the whole to such survivor. Also I do constitute and appoint my dear wife Martha Filbee Executrix of this my said Will. And also I do constitute and appoint William Filbee of Bridgham in the said county, farmer, my brother, and Thomas Tingey of Wereham Fenn house in the said county, farmer, guardians of my said three children until they shall attain their respective ages of twenty four years, also Executors with my said wife if they or either of them shall choose to act. And I desire they will superintend the proper business relative to the due execution of this my Will, in conjunction with my said wife, for the benefit of my said wife and children. And for their trouble therein I give and bequeath to the said William Filbee and Thomas Tingey the respective sums of five pounds apiece, to be paid out of my personal estate when the same shall be sold as aforesaid.

In witness whereof I, the said John Filbee, have hereunto set and put my hand and seal, the fourteenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

John Fenn.

Signed, sealed, published, and declared by the said John Filbee the testator as and for his last Will and Testament, in the presence of us who in his presence and at his request, have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto in the presence of each other.

John Gilbert.

Thomas Ellener, his mark.

Proved by the Executors 24th Nov 1794.

George H. Dengrey.



News from Bruce & Michele Morrison

In 2004 the Archbishop of Sydney appointed Bruce as Rector and Senior Canon of St John's, Parramatta, NSW, Australia. He is the 12th rector of the Cathedral since it was built in 1802.

Since their move to Parramatta in May, Michele says they are missing their last parish of Seven Hills after spending twelve and a half years there, but are enjoying all the challenges that leading St John's brings.

Custodian II & 3 Project Report 2004

by Wally Filby

Besides all the Filby Family trees that Jim in the UK & Ray in America are compiling into the Family Tree Maker Program, we are also compiling a Database of Records using the Custodian II database. This is a special database designed to keep records from a number of different sources, which include Birth, Marriage & Death Records, Census Returns, Family Tree Files, Parish Records, to name but a few.

We started this project about four years ago to put all the written records held by Mary, our Manager, into this database program. An updated Custodian program came out this year, Custodian 3; this is an improved version designed for the Windows XP environment. The two programs are not compatible but there is a Migrate program to bring Custodian II into Custodian 3; this we have done and are keeping both version databases up to date.

We have two separate databases in each version, the first holding all the Family Tree information. This is being compiled by Jim & Ray and contains all the names being held on family trees. A search for a name on this database will tell us which tree or trees the name is in. This database contains over 6,000 names.

The other database we are compiling is one holding all our other records. These are :-

Birth, Marriage and Death indexes held at FRO (Family Records Office) which are complete from 1837 to 2001. These are Births 5,314, Marriages 3,905 and Deaths 3,516. The years 2002 to date will be added as they become available.

The following British Census Records are on the database - 1851 for Devon, Norfolk and Warwick only 213 records, 1881 the complete census 1,048 records, 1891 partial 12 records, and 1901 partial 177 records. The following records from Parish Registers - Baptisms 64 records, Marriages 46 records and Burials 630 records, most of these are pre 1837.

Lastly, from the IGI we have added 15 Birth, 25 Marriage and 14 death records. The main Index of this database now holds 18,295 entries. We will be adding further records as they become available. The new Custodian 3 database not only has sections for British records, but has been designed to hold records from Ireland, USA, Australia & New Zealand. It would be nice to make this database truly International as is our Association.

Beside the above, Mary, our Manager, has over 600 Birth, Marriage, and Death Certificates. These have been scanned and digitised onto computer - Births 234, Marriages 308, and Deaths 72. I have just received about another 100 certificates, which will be added to our records. Mary has requested that if you are willing to send your certificates to me for copying, I can scan and return the original. Or if possible, you can send me the scanned image, which would be most appreciated.

YOUR WEBSITE ~ www.filby.org.uk by Jim Filby Web Master

We are now into our fourth year on the internet with our own Domain. We are still receiving a number of queries through our website, which we always answer, even if the query is not from someone researching the Filby name. I try to help and answer all queries whoever they are from.

We have made a few more family friends this year, but unfortunately I have been rather busy this year, which means I have not spent so much time as previously updating and adding pages to the site. In this article I will not try and tell you what is happening on the site, which is not a great deal, but instead I will try and answer a question I have often been asked. "Why have a website and what does it do for the Association"?

Firstly: It advertises us, we have a presence on the internet. It lets people know who we are and what we are trying to achieve. Most search engines when asked to find the name Filby, will point to our website among many others; the site is also registered on www.genhomepage.com which is the internet's index to genealogical website.

Secondly: Through our contacts page it enables people, especially but not solely Filbys, and the variant names who are researching their family line to get in touch and ask for our help, which in turn also helps us to further our research. It makes us new friends even though it sometimes creates more work for our busy researchers, of whom we need more volunteers. So if there is anyone reading this who would like to join our happy, friendly team, please let us know; we do need more people to share the load.

Thirdly: It acts as a news sheet, which allows us to keep members who are on the internet informed of forthcoming events, and what has happened at past events. I try not to usurp the Chronicle, by putting on the website any long term events and news; the internet is fast so it is ideal for urgent or short term news; it also has a far wider audience being world wide.

Lastly: It informs by having pages containing historical events and information, such as: Association History, Early History, Time Line, Name Origin and Records just to name a few. This I hope will not only assist people researching our own family name, but also others who are researching their own one name studies.

It takes us into the modern era. I hope that my small effort is helping more and more people in their successful research, and also keeping the Association in the forefront of Genealogy and Technology. And remember, as members of the Association this is your website, so if there is anything you would like to see on it, photos, suggestions or articles, please get in touch.

THE FILBY ASSOCIATION CLARET JUG *by Jim Filby*

Many years ago I joined a golf society called the Calverton Welfare Golf Society, which enabled us to play in a number of competitions at different golf courses throughout the year. At one of the events which I happened to win (which is not very often I might add), I found to my dismay someone had lost the trophy; it has since been found, so I did not get my name on it. To correct this problem I decided to present the society with a new trophy through my business.

Just after offering to purchase this trophy, my business went through a bad patch. Business has now picked up again, so last year I went out and bought a Claret Jug, which is synonymous with golf. The question then came up what to call it? I decided I would rather have my name on it instead of my business name "Calverton Control":. The "Filby Claret Jug". Not bad but wouldn't it sound nicer if it was called "The Filby Association Claret Jug"?

I approached Mary with the suggestion, which she thought was a brilliant idea. So here it is. It is now called "The Filby Association Winter Claret Jug". I persuaded Ruth to visit me on our presentation evening, on the pretext of keeping me company; she knew nothing about the trophy. Surprise - she was coerced into presenting our Captain with

The Filby Association

Request for Chronicles and Membership Registration *
Completion is important for allocation of Membership number

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Please state amount if donation enclosed _____

** To support the Filby Association, it's Aims and Ambitions,
and to make a financial donation where possible.*



the trophy on behalf of the Association, who accepted it on behalf of the Calverton Welfare Golf Society; needless to say the evening went well.

The reason it is called the winter jug is that it is played for during the winter, in January, weather permitting. In January 2004 the competition was played at Rufford Park Golf Club.

The competition was keenly fought, with three players coming in with the same top scores, the best back nine score was then used leaving two players, and finally the winner was decided on the best back six holes. I shared fourth place with one other member; this meant that only one shot separated five players.

How close can a competition get? I would have liked to have been the first winner, but my name is on it anyway, and there is always next year. Although this is me talking, I think that "The Filby Association Winter Claret Jug" looks to be the star attraction in the Calverton Welfare Club's trophy cabinet.

Once you have completed the reverse side of your
Request for Chronicles and Membership Registration

Please cut out and place in an envelope addressed to;

Mrs. M. Filby,
Chronicle Editor
The Filby Association,
22, Aldwark,
YORK, YO1 7BU
North Yorkshire,
ENGLAND

Hello to all from our U.S.A / Canada Correspondent

I hope you had a merry Christmas and I hope you have a Happy New Year and that it is full of joy for you. This year has been a sad one for me, for my father Frank E. Filby, passed away on the 19th of March 2004 after a long illness in Richmond, IN. Frank was born 10 September 1910 in Dublin, IN. Frank was a career Navy Man, enlisted at the age of 16, moved through the ranks, served 30 years of active service and retired as a Chief Warrant Officer. He then spent 16 more years with the Department Of Defense Police at the Naval Station, Norfolk, VA. After retirement from that job he and his wife moved to Richmond, IN. He had corresponded with Ellsworth Filby on a number of occasions regarding the family tree. He had encouraged me in looking into the family tree as well. My family and I went to one of the Filby Reunions at Filby and that is where we met with the Filby Association Officers, I must say it was a treat to have met them.



Aside from this loss, we have been keeping in touch with a number of Filby/ Philby / Filbey Families and have continued to make those respective trees stronger, and larger. I want to thank all of you who have and are continuing to support our search and development of the family trees. I feel again that it is so important that we let those who come after us, know who was here.

I would like to share with you an item, which I have seen in various publications, it deals with keeping a running history on the family health. Some of the biggest health advances are in genetics. The Surgeon General here in the United States indicated that he wants every one to compile a family health history, and is even offering a free computer program to help guide you along. You can find it, www.hhs.gov/familyhistory, for the new "My Family Health Portrait". This is what the Surgeon General is saying to all, "Know your Family Tree, Save your life". With all the Top Killers like strokes, diabetes and cancer being produced by genetic and non-genetic factors we need to know about the health history of each. Do you may remember that the Filby Association had placed an item in the 2003 issue, it is on page 7 lower half of the page. It was sent in by Mrs. Susan Walker, she covered the problem of a Hereditary Fructose Intolerance (HFI), this is one of those genetic items. She is a part of one of the Filby Trees here in the USA.

Folks, I want to thank you for letting me share this with you.

Take care. God Bless, you all. Don

Don't Give Up (Ode to a Genealogist)

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you are trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,
When cares are pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must—but do not quit.
Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won had he stuck it out.

continued

Don't give up, though the pace seems slow
You may succeed with another blow.
Success is failure turned inside out,
The silver tint of the cloud of doubt,
And you can never tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far,
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,
It's when things seem worst you must not quit.

Anon

Four Generation Photographs



This photograph was taken in July 1974 at Church Hanborough, outside the cottage where Jim Exler lived with his mother Lilian Exler.

Left to right

Lilian Mary Exler (nee Philbey) holding her great-granddaughter Joanna Bernard, Richard Bernard. husband to Carole (nee Long) Nancy Long (nee Exler) and her daughter Carole Bernard

This photograph was taken in February 2004 especially to show our four generations of family.



Alan and Marion Filby centre back, with their two sons, Mark on the left holding his daughter, Emma's hand, Andrew on the right holding hands with his son, Thomas, and standing in front are his twin daughters, Eloise and Abigail. Seated centre front is Marion's mother, Mary Blakeley, who died suddenly three months after this photograph was taken, aged 92.

**Do you have a photograph of four generations?
Please send us a copy for our next edition of the Chronicle.**

Travels to Australia

told by the late Jim Exler to Ruth Smith

I used to correspond with Jim Exler, who had been a Member of the Filby Association for many years, until his death in July 2004. His mother was a founder Member, and he took over when she died in 1976. He came to a few of the Reunions.

He told me about his visit to some of his Australian cousins and their families in 2001.

George Frederick Philbey was the first Philbey who emigrated there in 1852, and was Jim's Grandfather's uncle. He was born in Western Turville in 1822 . Since then the family has spread to various parts of Australia. Jim had travelled there several times and visited his sister, Phyllis, her husband, Ron, and their son, Paul, and his wife, Margaret. On this occasion they were invited by another of George Frederick's descendants, Ian and Marilyn Philbey, and their family, to visit them. He met there a granddaughter of the family that he had visited in 1923 as a child, and also a Harry Philbey, another descendant.

The reason for this visit was due to Paul Wilkins seeing the Philbey name on a truck. Paul spoke to the driver and told him about his grandmother, Lilian (Philbey) Exler, who had lived in Kadina in Australia in the 1920's. The truck driver's father was Harry.

Harry gave Jim a copy of the life story of one of George Frederick's daughters. It was a very interesting insight into the life of the early settlers. They had to be very self sufficient and determined. Jim did not like to send me his copy without the permission of Harry's family. Perhaps one of the family will write about it for the 2006 Chronicle?

Paul said "My uncle Jim spent many an hour and train trip obtaining information by going to London for members of the Philby clan , especially those here in South Australia. Whenever one died, had an addition , or got married I would let Jim know".

Jim had also visited other Philbeys in Australia over the years, and met them when they had been in the UK.

We are always pleased to have members write about their family, especially about the early days.

Permission has been given by individuals to publish all articles used. Whilst every precaution has been taken to ensure accuracy of content in this Chronicle during compilation, we apologise for any unintentional offence caused. Genealogy is not a precise art depending on old records etc. some of which are almost illegible. Members have given information to the association over the years, some of which still has to be verified by our team of researchers. Mistakes will be rectified should you bring them to our attention. We thank you for your understanding. *Editor*

James Robert Exler 22.09.1922 – 02.07.2004

by Phyllis Wilkins, his sister living in Australia – for his funeral held in Oxford on 15 July 2004.

James Robert Exler was born at the "Red City", Long Hanborough and was the son of Lilian Mary (Philbey) and Thomas Richard Exler. When he was four months old the family moved to Kadina, South Australia where they lived for seven years. He attended the Kadina public school for a short while.

In 1929 the family returned to England for our grandmother's sake. We again lived at the Red City for a year or so, but in March 1930 dad died of throat cancer, and Jim missed dad a lot. We moved into Oxford for a year where he went to South Oxford Boys School. We moved to Church Hanborough in 1932, where Jim went to school.

In spite of being poor, we had a very happy life and were content with what we had. When Jim was 11, he was accepted at the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, a naval school in Suffolk. However, at the age of 14 he failed entrance to the Navy as he wasn't quite tall enough. A job was found for him at the United Services Club. Jim loved London but always came home for his holidays as he enjoyed country life.

During the war, Jim applied to join the RAF and was accepted, but didn't go until he was 18. He was stationed at various places in England and Scotland, and was attached to Fighter Command as a radio technician. He maintained life-long friendships with two airmen. Jim went to France in March 1944.

Later, he was posted to India for a few months, returning to England in 1946. An X-ray on his return showed that Jim had T.B. He came home for a few days and then went back to an RAF hospital in Lancashire. The doctor told him, had he stayed in India, he would have been dead within 3 months. This was quite a shock for a young man who had been A1 when he joined the RAF. After some treatment he was sent by train to the Osler Hospital in Oxford for T.B. patients and told me how terrible he felt being put in a compartment marked "Infectious". We were able to visit whilst he gradually got better and was cured. Later he got a job at John Bell and Croydon and then at British Leyland Radiators.

He was a wonderful son to my mother and lived with her until she died in 1976. Later Jim moved to Freeland, where he lived until his death. He was a wonderful brother to Nancy and me, a wonderful Uncle to Carole, Paul, John and Ruth, their partners and their children. He was very generous to us all. Once when we came to England, he gave Ron a treat, a flight on Concorde.

Jim was a member of the Woodstock Branch of the British Legion, and the Royal Air Force Association. He spent many hours researching his family history, both Exler and Philbey. He was a member of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Family History Societies and the Filby Association.

Jim made his home our home and welcomed many people from Australia and New Zealand. He holidayed in Canada and came to Australia a number of times and always enjoyed going to Kadina. He loved nature and was very passionate about making home made wine.

Jim visited our sister, Nancy, every day until she died. He came out to Australia for a few weeks after Nancy passed away. His eyesight was deteriorating as he was suffering from Macular Degeneration but he still wrote fortnightly. With all of Jim's problems I never heard him complain. While he was in hospital he still had his little jokes. **Jim was honest as the day, a true gentleman, and will be greatly missed by us all.**

In Memoriam *by Edith Christiansen (nee Filby)*

H. Wayne Christiansen

6 June 1949 - 14 October 2003

How do you put a life of 54 years into a few words? My son, (Harry) Wayne Christiansen, lived a short, but good life. Most people who knew him commented on his willingness to help others, his sense of humour, and the fact that he never had anything bad to say about anyone - he always looked for the good in others.



His father, Harry, died when Wayne was nine years old and he suddenly became the man of the family and protector of his mother and six year old sister. Even as a child Wayne was a hard worker and earned money mowing lawns until he was a teenager and old enough to get a job in a grocery store. After graduation from High School he went to Junior College for two years while working as an apprentice machinist on a student/work scholarship.

The family moved to Oregon soon after his graduation from college and he branched out into other fields. He started out in a small farm machinery company where he was the only employee and became the jack of all trades. His boss was the salesman and Wayne assembled, painted and delivered farm equipment throughout the north western states and Canada. As the company grew he became the office manager and computer expert spending less time as shipper/receiver.

Wayne hit some rough spots along the line, his marriage ended in divorce. He had some health problems and wasn't able to work full time so he moved 'home' with his sister and mother and became our handy man, gardener and painter again! He enjoyed bowling, fishing, Trivia games and was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church.

His survivors include his daughter, Shawna, son-in-law Dave Freeman, and grandchildren, Kerry and Tyler. His sister, Ruthann, and nieces, Sharon, Jill and Melissa.

We were a close family and enjoyed being together. We miss him!

Deaths

I have to impart the sad news that **Rua Peterson (nee Filby/Blanche)** passed away in her sleep on the night of the 14th December 2004 in a Rockhampton nursing home.

She had turned 101 on the 2nd October, 2004.

After a long illness, **Frank E Filby** died on 19th March 2004 in Richmond. IN. USA. The father of our **USA Correspondent Don Filby**

Sadly **Norah Kathleen James (nee Filby)** passed away on 16th April 2004 aged 81. Born in Great Yarmouth, Norah devoted over 40 years to the Civil Service. Survived by a brother, **Peter Filby** of Henleaze Bristol. Auntie' Norah is equally missed by her nephews and nieces.

After a short illness, **Ida Filby** died on 5th October 2004 at the age of 96. The previous day **her son, Ray, and his wife, Sue**, were with her and she said what a wonderful life she had had and how happy and comfortable she had been in the Phil Mead Abbeyfield Home, where she spent her last six years.

Ida was pleased to have become a great grandmother for the fourth time with the birth of **Ray's daughter, Sarah's baby, Benjamin**, on 10th March 2004 and for the fifth time with the birth of **Edward, who is Laura's son and Ray's great nephew**. He was born on 18th June 2004 which coincidentally was Ida's birthday.

More Birth Announcements

Henry Lewis Philby born 27th September 2003, a brother to **Thomas** and second son to **Sean Philby**. A fourth grandchild for **Ian and Jill Philby** and ninth great grandchild for **Betty and Geoff. Philby**.

Ray and Sue Filby of Coventry were pleased to announce the birth of their first grandson **Benjamin James Colliver** born 10th March 2004 which was his mother, **Sarah's (nee Filby)** birthday. A double celebration for his father, **Martyn Colliver** to remember!

Another grandson for our **Webmaster Jim Filby**
To **Ian Filby and Lisa, a son, Leo Jake** born 18th January 2004.

David and Jill (nee Filby) Yates have become grandparents for the first time. Their eldest son, **Daniel, and his wife, Eustacia**, have a son, **William David Yates** born 29th April 2004 in Washington DC. They praise God for the miracle of birth and the joy a new life can bring.

The proud great grandparents are **Nevin & Mary Filby** of Victoria, Australia *(a four generation photo for the next Chronicle?- Editor)*

Marriage

Ian and Jill Philby have had a busy year! - Their daughter, **Nicola Philby, married David Ratcliffe** in July 2003
The couple have since moved to New York, USA.

Celebrations

Our Data Manager **Raymond D. Filbey and his wife Colleen** were proud to celebrate their **son, Adam Wesley Filbey's** graduation on May 15th 2004

at a small private college in Lynchburg south-central Virginia
(*photograph on back cover*)

Raymond D. Filbey is the third of five children of **Robert Wesley Filbey**, formerly of Tampa, Florida, USA.

Raymond writes;

We had an opportunity to live in England for a number of years, and when ever we visited Mary and Len Filby, Mary always called Adam - her "pet". We have fondly remembered this salutation and have continued to use it.

Geoff & Betty Philby of Whitstable, Kent received a letter and card from **The Queen** on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding and share a photograph taken at the time with **daughter, Anne, and her husband, also their son, Ian, and his wife.**

Geoff, who is 88, thought the photograph of immediate family would suffice as they have five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Of these, **Ian's son, Sean, has two sons, Thomas and Henry to carry on the Philby name.**

Violet (nee Filby) and Harry Irving of Brixton, London will be celebrating their Platinum Wedding Anniversary on 22nd April 2005 (*photograph on back cover*)

Violet writes;

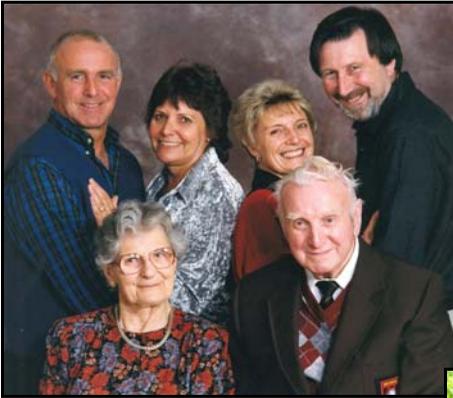
We have been to several Filby Reunions and enjoyed meeting our friends, Harry and I had some wonderful Sundays. My father would have loved all this for he was born in Finningham, Suffolk. They have a little church where five of my uncles, name of Head, are listed. We used to go there every time we visited Filby.

Alan and Marion Filby (your editor) at York, celebrated our Ruby Wedding on 21st March 2004 with friends and family. We have two sons, **Andrew and Mark** and four grandchildren.

Andrew's son, Thomas, aged 4, will carry on our Filby name.
(*photograph on back cover*)

Maurice & Chris French of Tasmania celebrated their Ruby Wedding in October 2003

Congratulations to Harold Owen of London who celebrated his **90th birthday** on 7th January 2004 and also at a party with friends and family on 10th January 2004.



A Diamond Wedding Anniversary
Geoff & Betty Philby
celebrated 60 years of marriage
in 2000

On May 15th 2004
Adam Wesley Filbey Graduated from
Lynchburg College
South-central Virginia
with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in
Communication Studies



Harry & Violet Irving
will be celebrating their
70th Wedding
Anniversary on 22nd
April 2005



A Ruby Wedding Anniversary
Alan and Marion Filby
celebrated 40 years of marriage
on 21st March 2004.