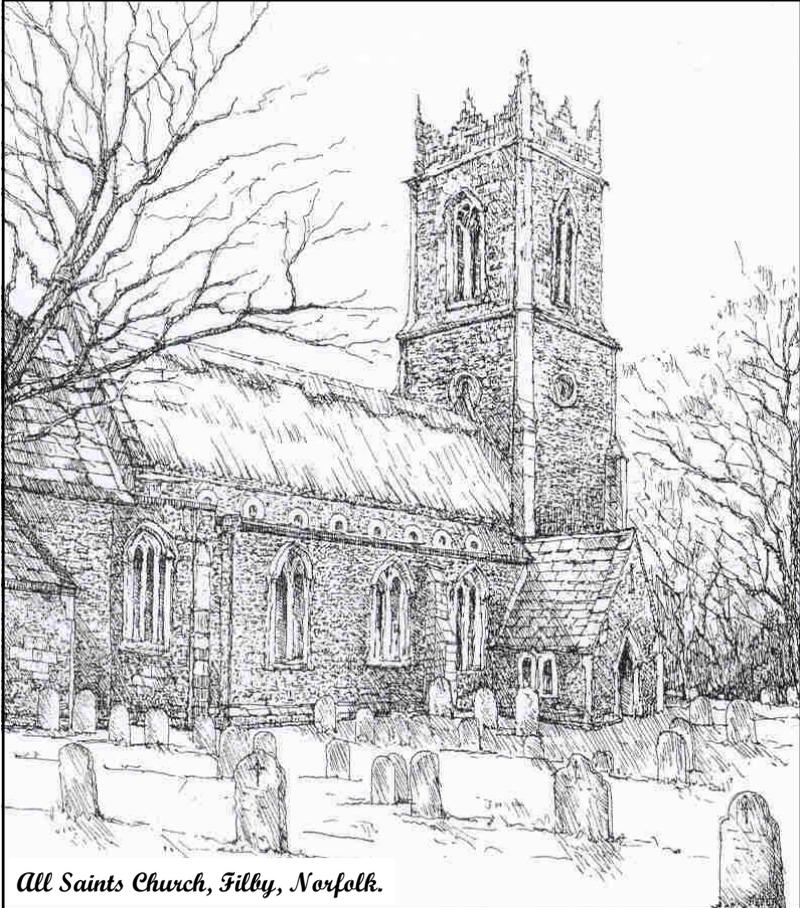


# The Filby Association

Hon. President: Leonard W.R. Filby  
Downham Market, Norfolk, England.



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

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Dear Members,

The pen and ink drawing on our front cover of All Saints Church at Filby was a gift from our friend, and neighbour, Peter Geraghty, a very accomplished artist to whom we offer our thanks. Peter created the image by using several photographs taken on our visits to Filby over the years.

I must say that I have enjoyed reading your articles as they arrived for inclusion in this year's edition of the Filby Chronicle. I feel that we are all part of one great big family and what better insight than to read about your most treasured memories, or hear about the success of your family history research. Through our association we are able to share with others many of our precious moments. Please keep sending your articles and news either to the address given or by email to

**marion.filby@virgin.net**

In my other capacity as researcher, I have been delighted to receive your emails asking for help in finding family members, here or abroad, living or dead! It has given me quite a thrill to be able to solve many of your puzzles, and at the same time gain more information for the Filby Association files.

I hope you will continue to enjoy reading our Chronicle and perhaps this will encourage you to send your own article for inclusion in the 2007 edition. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Marion Filby (Editor)**

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**Greetings from Mary Filby, Manager, and wife of our President, Len Filby.**



Dear Friends,

Firstly, and most importantly, may I thank you for your positive response for membership registration, and also the number of very generous donations we have received. I am overwhelmed by your show of loyalty and support, which is very much appreciated by us all.

Personally, this has been a bad year for us, Len has not been too well, not as good as the previous year. He celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and I arranged a party at a local hotel, which he enjoyed tremendously, as did the other school friends that were with him, and all the family. Our son, Alan, his wife, Jackie, and her son, Neil, came too and it was lovely having the family together again. Alan has had a promotion at work, which is giving him more responsibility and keeping him very busy, also having some alterations done to their home is making extra work. Our son, Ivan, and family are now living in the United States, and really enjoying their work and school lives.

Unfortunately, I have been ill for most of the year too, and have not been able to take part in much of the every day working of the Association. However, I have always appreciated my colleagues, they have tried not to worry me more than necessary whilst I have been feeling so wretched. I hope you appreciate them also, they are a wonderful team, and I shall, when the time comes, go to my grave knowing that The Filby Association is in very safe hands.

I was able to get to The Filby Sunday in July 2005, as Jim Filby, our Webmaster, from Nottingham, came to fetch me and brought me back home again. I did not realise how much energy this took until I was poorly for the next few days, but that soon passed. Once the medical folk find out what is causing my problems and get me the right medication, I am sure I will be perking up again.

***With love and best wishes.....Mary.***

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**An Account of a “Pilgrimage” by Jill Barry (whose mother was a Filby) to Grenfell, NSW, the “origin” of her branch of the Filby Clan in Oz.**

*by Dr. Donald N. Barry (Australasian Correspondent)*

Thomas Boswell Filby was the “patriarch” of a clan of Filbys and Filby descendants still living in Australia. Thomas came as a sailor to Australia in about 1842. He married Mary Ann Tree in February 1842 in Sydney and their only child, William Boswell Filby, was born in June, the same year.

Although the link has not been proved, Thomas Boswell Filby was almost certainly a descendant of John Filby and Ann Boswell of Easton, Norfolk, who were married in that village in 1774. The ubiquity of the Boswell cognomen in the Oz-Filby clan is a major piece of evidence for this.

It appears that some time in the 1840s, Thomas Boswell Filby left his wife and son and, probably, returned to England where he may have, in 1857, bigamously married Martha Motley. This marriage certificate lists Thomas Boswell Filby’s father’s name and occupation as John Filby, a farmer. The date of Thomas Boswell’s demise and the location of his resting place are unknown.

As a working hypothesis, therefore, it is suggested that Thomas Boswell Filby was a son of John Filby (junior), a farmer in Norfolk, and his second wife, Lydia Lake. John, in turn, was the oldest son of John Filby and Ann Boswell – thus it is suggested that Thomas Boswell was the grandson of John Filby and Ann Boswell. Other known children of John Filby and Lydia Lake were: Edward (b.1811), Edward Havers (b.1812), Susan (b.1821) and Robert Harpley, (b.1824). With a putative birth-year of 1822, this puts Thomas Boswell in the middle of the known children. It is also consistent with the fact that his second marriage certificate gives his father’s name as John, a farmer in Norfolk.

My wife, Jill Barry (a great, great Granddaughter of Thomas Boswell Filby) and I went on a touring holiday to Grenfell where William Boswell Filby, only child of Thomas and Mary Ann (Tree) Filby, had arrived in 1866 during a gold rush and there became a prominent citizen in the late nineteenth century.

Jill and I had come down to Grenfell via the Western route from Brisbane through Western New South Wales.

Now read on:

Jill remembered that her grandparents, Frank Filby and Jessie Emma Alexander, were married in Forbes. On the assumption that they were married in the local Anglican church (the Filbys being staunch Anglicans) we looked for and found the local Anglican church. Our next destination was Grenfell where Jill’s great-grandfather, William Boswell Filby, had been mayor in 1899.

Our route to Grenfell was down the Henry Lawson Way from Forbes. As most Australians would know, Henry Lawson (one of the most famous Australian poets of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century) was born at Grenfell – more about that later.

We arrived at Grenfell about 11pm but Jill was now feeling a bit unwell. One of the first things we did when we arrived was to go to the local public library, which was in Main St. just a few doors up from the Grenfell Motel where we were staying. The librarian upon learning of our interest in Filby Family history immediately phoned the president of the local Grenfell Historical Society, Bruce Robinson, who arranged to meet us at the Grenfell Museum at 2pm that day.

Next, we went to the Weddin Shire Council chambers and were shown the Shire Council minutes for 1890 through to about 1905. There were numerous mentions of motions put and items raised by William Boswell, but the most interesting entry was his election as mayor in 1899.

We then went across the road to the War Memorial where the names of two of William Boswell Filby's sons are listed as serving in World War I, namely Frank (b.1876), Jill's grandfather, who was in the 9<sup>th</sup> Remount Unit of the Australian Lighthouse, and Victor (Mortimer Boswell Filby, b.1885 who, in 1912 married Ethel Goodsell in Grenfell). By now, Jill was suffering nausea and stomach cramps and she spent the rest of the day in bed in the Grenfell Motel, hereafter known as the "Merry Maggot".

Jill was now too unwell so I went alone to meet Bruce Robinson at the museum. Bruce was most helpful. I viewed a diary, which recorded all enquiries made to the museum, including those interested in the Filbys. Among recent enquirers was Jill Yates of The Gap, a suburb of Brisbane, a daughter of Nevin Filby of East Malvern, Victoria and granddaughter of Charles Boswell Filby, a brother of Francis Boswell Filby, Jill Barry's maternal grandfather.

At the museum Ian Pitt, another volunteer who helps maintain the museum, joined us, and together they showed me the Filby photographs recently catalogued at the museum. Mainly they depicted William E. Boswell Filby (b.1872), Charles. A. Boswell (b.1889) and Tom Filby (b.1878). The latter two were depicted as members of the local Brass Band while William and Tom are pictured as members of the Fire Brigade. Unfortunately, the two kind gentlemen Bruce and Ian were plying me with information at the same time as I was endeavouring to photograph all the photos they brought out with my digital camera (whilst working out how to use the camera without the flash), this being the only method I had of recording the photos they showed me. Consequently, I neglected to make precise notes of who was who.

Another Filby who left an impression on Grenfell was William E.B. Filby – another son of William Boswell Filby and grandson of Thomas Boswell Filby. He had a farrower's and blacksmithing business, which went through several transitions. The business later expanded at premises on the corner of Main and Short St, Grenfell: As far as I could ascertain, W.E.B. Filby's and wife Janet's graves were the only Filby graves listed in the Cemetery Index. William and Janet M. Gahan had married in Grenfell in 1894, according to the NSW BDM Index; they were buried in the Anglican section, row K.

Star Gully - When we arrived at the Merry Maggot, I had asked the proprietor, a gentleman with the surname Laing, if he had any idea where Star Gully would be. He said that it would be what is now known as Star St. We were interested in Star Gully because according to his birth certificate, Francis Boswell Filby, Jill's grandfather, was born at Star Gully in 1876, some 10 years after the original gold strike in 1866. This then was the year of the founding of Grenfell (then known as Emu Creek after the local creek) and of the arrival of William Boswell and Marie Blanche Filby. (During the year 1866 the population had swelled, according to some, to 10 or 12 thousand, although Bruce Robinson thinks 7-9 thousand is more likely.)

The following information was found on [www.walkabout.com.au/fairfax/locations/nswgrenfell.shtm1/](http://www.walkabout.com.au/fairfax/locations/nswgrenfell.shtm1/)

*"Miners flocked to the area in 1866 and although it was known as Emu Creek it was subsequently renamed Grenfell to honour the late John Grenfell, Gold Commissioner at Forbes. Grenfell had been on a stagecoach, which was held up and fired at by bushrangers. He was shot and died the following day in Narromine. The year was 1866. The gold had attracted bushrangers to the district. They were particularly attracted to the rugged Weddin Mountains where famous bushrangers, including Ben Hall, Johnny Gilbert and Frank Gardiner, spent much of their time. For the next decade gold dominated the town's economy. By 1870-71 it was producing more gold than any other town in NSW. However by the mid-1870s gold was in decline and agriculture was in the ascendancy. Wheat was first grown in the district in 1871 and by 1875 the Grenfell Pastoral Agricultural/Horticultural Association had been formed".*Back to Star Gully where I got a town map and went to Star St. – This turned out to be a longish street, rather straight and rather flat, at least until one got to the far end where it ended in a private property that had a tree lined gully in front. One assumes this is the original Star Gully. In the Grenfell museum I had seen a map of local mining leases from the gold mining period and one of the mining provinces shown was Star Gully. Apparently, according to Bruce Robinson and Ian Pitt, the actual locality known as Star Gully was a fairly extensive area surrounding the gully itself.

Any discussion of the history of Grenfell would be incomplete without a mention of the birthplace of Henry Lawson (probably the most famous Australian poet of the nineteenth century). On the other side of the town from Star Gully, across the gently sloping ridge, which Grenfell “straddles”, is the spot where Henry Lawson was born – there is no “house” with a memorial plaque as he had been born in a tent. There is a fine memorial sports oval adjacent to the memorial cairn. This oval is named in Henry Lawson’s honour. Curiously, the name Henry Lawson crops up again in our narrative as in his hey-day he frequently joined a group of artists and writers, the doyen of whom was E.J. Brady, who held “retreats” at Mallacouta.

Mallacoota as it is now spelt, is a small town hundreds of kilometers away on the coast of North East Victoria. In fact, in a publication “Mallacoota Memories”, by the Mallacoota Historical Society, there are extracts from Henry Lawson’s letters recalling the times he stayed at the guesthouse of William Allan of Mallacoota. William Allan was the younger brother of Jill’s great grandmother, Jessie Allan. He was, of course, also a son of Jill’s great, great grandfather James Allan of Mallacoota, Wangrabelle and Meremingo.

It was almost ironic that after leaving Grenfell, our next major destination was Mallacoota via Bombala and the Cann River (not to mention Young, Gundagai, Tumut and Cooma).

oooOooo

## Dead Poets Corner

*Peter Connor wrote this of his wife,  
Nancy.*

Who far below in this grave doesn't rest  
She's join'd the army of the blest;  
The Lord has ta'en her to the sky,  
The Saint's rejoice, and so do I.

*Unlucky Bill Smee*

Here lies Wild Bill Smee  
Who ran for sheriff in '83  
He also ran in '84  
But ain't running any more.

## Dead Poets Corner

Under the sod and under the trees,  
Here lies the body of Soloman Pease.

The Pease aren't here,  
there's only the pod  
The Pease shelled out and went to God.  
*Searsport, Maine.*

At length my friends the feast of life  
is o'er;  
I've eaten sufficient—and I'll drink  
no more;  
My night is come; I've spent a jovial day:  
T'is time to part; but oh! - what is to pay?  
*Connecticut Graveyard.*



## Post Box

**A letter from Robert W. Filby, (Bob) of Leda, Western Australia,** arrived with photographs of his father, George Filby, his grandfather, John Fawcett Filby, and his father with Mavis Ward, who were all mentioned in our Chronicle 2003 (*page 9 Furthering my Research*)



Bob writes;

"I was born in the village of Stillington, Co. Durham, England, but have lived in Australia since 1973. When I was a child, my father's cousin, Mavis Ward, visited our home in Stillington, also Dad's Aunty Edith Filby, (who was the Grandma I never had) in Brighouse, Yorkshire." (*Photo—John wearing hat, with son George Filby at Scarborough*)

### **Mr RG Filby (Bob) of Thames Ditton, Surrey writes;**

"My late brother, Frederick N Filby, formed a great friendship with Ellsworth Filby in the early years and became the British Co-ordinator of the Filby Association. I have followed the association's development with great interest.

Some good things have happened to me this year, I had the honour to have my life profiled in my old Regimental Magazine and was lucky enough to be invited to Buckingham Palace to have lunch with The Queen, Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the Royal Family, in connection with the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II. It was a memorable occasion and although my Regiment received only two invitations to that particular function, there must have been well over 1000 Veterans present from all branches of the Armed Services.

Following that, I visited my son in Canada and had the misfortune to break my ankle. After surgery in Toronto I returned home with the knowledge that I would spend about a year using a zimmer frame—this is a long time at the age of 82! However, miracles do happen!"

### **News from Geoff & Betty Philby of Whitstable, Kent** (*last seen on back cover of 2005 Chronicle celebrating their Diamond Wedding*)

Geoff writes;

"My Aunt, Doris Philby, is aged 96 and lives in the same cottage that she and Uncle Syd (now deceased) shared with my Grandfather, his wife, and their 12 children, the eldest being my Dad. The address was Hill Cottage, Houghton Bridge, Amberley, Sussex. (I speak to my Aunt every month on the 'phone)

My wife and I are moving to live in the Limusin Provence, France, in January 2006. My son, Ian, is also moving there, so we will be extending the Filby family areas. At 88 and 85 years of age this will be a big step for us. I will continue to keep in touch."

## **A Collection of Stories about People & Places from my Past**

*by Herbert Victor Filby*

We lived in a large Public House named the Fox and Ball, which is in the village of Kentford close to Newmarket, a town famous for its flat racing. It is on the borders of Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

Our parents had twelve children and made sure each one of us had a very happy childhood. When our father, Alfred Filby, was asked by some of his customers "Are all these children yours Alfred?" He would reply, "Well, they all call me Dad!" Our mother, Lilian, made sure that we were all fed, clothed, disciplined and loved. On wash-days Mother would have as many as eighteen shirts and other garments hanging outside to dry – without a washing machine! She was a wonderful mother and we all loved her very much.

Mother was a fantastic cook and in those days' wild rabbit, pheasant and wood pigeon made up the diet. For dinner we would enjoy baked rabbit with stuffing balls and thyme, fresh vegetables from the very large garden (approx. 2 acres) with wonderful gravy. Sometimes, pork and onion suet pudding, pigeon pie with all the trimmings. This was followed by loganberry pie and custard for dessert. I suppose this was the reason why we all grew up to be over six feet tall. Not only did Mother do all these tasks but she also found time to be a wonderful pianist, by ear or music and had a marvellous voice. She would entertain the customers in the evenings singing all the old songs and playing the music of the day. Our mother was a very talented person.

Travelling out of Newmarket towards Bury St Edmunds on the B1506, you approach the Chippenham/Moulton cross road. On the left you will see the 'Boy's Grave' always covered with flowers. The history of the Boy's Grave goes back some hundred years – A young boy was a shepherd and was looking after a flock of sheep. One day he fell asleep and on waking, thought he had lost one. He realised he would be severely punished for this so decided to take his life and hung himself from a branch of a nearby oak tree. The farmer who owned the sheep found the boy hanging, but when he counted the sheep found none missing. The young boy had taken his life in vain as he had miscounted the flock. He was buried at the cross road previously mentioned.

I must include in this story, that whilst serving in the Old Cock Inn, in the village we had an old poacher who kept many families in food during the hard war years. He came into the bar and ordered his usual pint of mild and bitter. On serving him, he said, "Cheers Boy". I replied "Cheers" but he informed me that he was talking to the young shepherd buried across the road. Money had been put on his grave for flowers, and Sid, the poacher, after taking the necessary for his pint, had left the remaining money on the grave! Sid passed away many years ago.

Travelling along the B1506, on the right you come to the Animal Health Trust, a large hospital for sick animals – horses, dogs, cats, ferrets, and sometimes even tigers, lions, leopards and others. Still approaching Bury St Edmunds you come to the village of Kentford. This is where Lady Lily Langtry resided at the large house named Regal Lodge, situated on the Gazely Road, on the right just past the Cock Inn (This being the Filby residence for many years, tenanted by Alfred and Lilian and twelve children. The brewers, Green and King, decided to close the old Fox and Ball and modernise the Cock Inn, which they did in 1935).

Lady Lily Langtry was born in Jersey on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1853 and married Edward Langtry at the age of twenty in 1874. She became bored with married life, as Edward Langtry spent most of his life sailing his 120ft. Yacht, and so Lily, aged 23 in 1877, had an affair with the Prince of Wales. Lady Lily Langtry was an acknowledged beauty in society and a wonderful actress and entrepreneur. Throughout her life she left a trail of broken hearts, a unique individual who was years ahead of her time. In 1901 Lily went to the coronation of King Edward VII. He only had eyes for her and she became his mistress. He visited her house in Kentford on many occasions and purchased racehorses for her. One of these horses was Merman and won the Cesarewitch in 1897 when Lily was 44 years old. My father, Alfred Filby, trained many of her horses.

Although she was ‘a bit of a lass’, Lily was always kind to people in the village of Kentford. At Christmas time, every child would go to her party - with Father Christmas in attendance, and each got a present. Every child would be given high leather boots and clothes, which was very much appreciated by their parents (as in those days the benefit system was not available.) O.A.P’s would receive a hundredweight of coal and sacks of potatoes.

In 1925, Lily wrote her autobiography, “The Days I Knew”. In 1929 she died in Monaco and was buried in Jersey.



## **A Wasted Life – I don't think so!**

*by Jim Filby*

He was baptised James Arthur Filby, but known as Arthur to family and friends, was born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1897 in Roxham, Downham Market, Norfolk. His parents were Harry Filby, a yardman and shepherd for a local farmer, and Emma Ann Filby (nee Groom). Arthur was the eldest of three children. His brother, Harry Osborne, was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1902, and his sister, Edith Alice, was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 1904.

Arthur was born just before the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Victorian era, with its industrial revolution coming to a close. Life was still hard for the general population but it was getting better. New ways were coming; no longer were people tied to the ruling classes. So Arthur's parents, I would assume, decided to become independent, and shortly after Edith was born the family moved to a smallholding on common land in Runcton Holme, Norfolk.

Evidence suggests that although his childhood and early teens were hard, the family, through hard work, managed to make a living from their small piece of land. Arthur was also tall like his mother being 6ft tall when he was 17 years of age. They were happy, and Arthur helped his father work the land along with his brother and sister, although he was far happier repairing farm machinery. He and a friend bought an old Rudge motorcycle, which Arthur kept in running condition.

However, history was to take a turn for the worse. Two countries in Europe had fallen out with each other, Austria and Croatia. Austria was allied to Germany and Croatia was allied to Russia, and in turn by treaty and Royalty we were allied to the Russians. Of course the German Kaiser was just waiting for an excuse to expand Germany into the rest of Europe. Before anyone could stop it we found ourselves fighting the Germans on the western front, while Russia was fighting Germany on the Eastern front. It was 1914 and the First World War had begun.

Like many other young men at that time Arthur wanted to join up, and join the great adventure, as some saw it. With the publicity of the day it became one's honour and duty to volunteer. It was for the good of the British Empire, 'Your Country Needs You', so the young men flocked in thousands to join. Shortly after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday Arthur joined the Norfolk Regiment, now called the Royal Norfolk Regiment where he did his initial training.

We do not know much about when he transferred to the Tank Regiment; we do know that because of his love and knowledge of mechanical machinery he volunteered and was accepted into the "Heavy Section, Machine Gun Corp" as it was then known, to hide the fact that they were to train on tanks. In fact the first volunteers did not know what they were to be trained on, apart from the fact that it was a new type of artillery. The training camp was also well hidden, being at Elveden in the forest, near Thetford in Norfolk. The Tank Corp, as it was eventually named, was later transferred to Bovington.

Because a lot of the army war records of that time were destroyed during the Second World War, and what remains are now held in the P.R.O. at Kew and are known as the 'burnt records', we do not have a lot of information about his wartime exploits up to the middle of August 1918. However we do know that the last time he left for the front in early 1918 he asked his mother not to cry, as he wanted to remember her smiling.

The first battle we know he was involved in was the battle of Hamel, on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1918. This battle was not a big battle but was unique on three counts. Firstly it was the first battle in which the new Mark V tank was used, a much faster and more manoeuvrable tank requiring only one person to drive and steer. Secondly it was the first time the tanks of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Battalions of the Tank Corp were used in conjunction with and to support, in this instance, the Australian Infantry. And thirdly it was the first successful battle by the British forces since their massive defeats by the Germans in the previous months.

The reason for the battle was to gain the high ground just to the east of Le Hamel, which afforded a good view across the Somme Valley. The position was well defended by the trenches on the high ground and the two woods on either side. Needless to say there were many heroes that day, including Arthur, who was awarded the MM for his actions during that battle, his citation reads:

**77465 Gnr. FILBY, JAMES ARTHUR. 8th Battn. Awarded M.M.**

*In the attack on Hamel on July 4, 1918 this driver showed exceptional skill and resource. Early in the action his tank was heavily bombed on the roof by enemy infantry; splinters penetrated behind the cab and gave the driver slight concussion. Gnr. Filby refused to be relieved from driving and later, when the enemy got up behind his tank, he reversed the engine and crushed the enemy by driving backwards over them. Throughout the action this man drove with the utmost skill and pluck.*

Arthur took part in further battles, but tragically, he was killed on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1918. We are not sure exactly where he was killed, but he was posted as 'missing in action presumed killed'. We did have an eye witness report from a cousin of Arthur's who was also in the Tank Corp, that he had seen Arthur slumped on his tank wounded, and later that day his tank was found destroyed by a direct hit. His MM was awarded posthumously. His name, along with many other wasted lives is remembered at the Vis En Artois British War Cemetery in France.

His death also had a profound effect on his family, especially his mother; she never forgot him and always spoke of him fondly and with a great deal of pride. Harry, Arthur's younger brother, wanted to join the army and also be a hero, but his mother forbade him to even think about it. There was no way she was going to lose a second son. Even when the Second World War started in 1939 and Harry was 37 years old, she forbade him to join the army, although he tried but was rejected on ill

health grounds. Eventually, he joined the Home Guard.

As a young boy I used to listen intently to the stories told by my grandfather and father about Arthur, and like my father I wanted to emulate my late uncle whom I never met. Just after I left school at 15 years of age I joined the Royal Air Force. I did see some action in Cyprus, but never got the chance to win any bravery awards like my uncle.

I have my Uncle Arthur's medals, photos etc. and continue to gather further information about the Great War and Uncle Arthur, which I hope will enable me to write a fuller history about my family. The medals will be passed on to my eldest son, and his son after him. This, along with other information, will be passed down in the hope that they too can understand and enjoy our family history.

## **My Crazy Mixed Up Family**

*(from Country Yossi Magazine)*

Many many years ago  
When I was twenty three.  
I got married to a widow  
Who was as pretty as could be.

For if he was my uncle  
Then it also made him brother  
To the widow's grown up daughter  
Who, of course, was my step-mother.

The widow had a grown up daughter  
Who had hair of red.  
My father fell in love with her,  
And soon the two were wed.

Father's wife then had a son,  
Who kept them on the run  
And he became my grandson  
For he was my daughter's son.

This made my dad my son-in-law  
And changed my very life.  
My daughter was my mother,  
For she was my father's wife.

My wife is now my mother's mother  
And it makes me blue,  
Because although she is my wife  
She's my grandmother too!

To complicate the matters worse,  
Although it brought me joy,  
I soon became the father  
Of a bouncing baby boy.

If my wife is my grandmother,  
Then I am her grandchild  
And every time I think of it-  
It simply drives me wild.

My little baby then became  
A brother-in-law to Dad,  
And so became my uncle  
though it made me very sad.

For now I have become  
The strangest case you ever saw,  
As the husband of my grandmother  
I am my own grandpa!

## My Life Story

*by Sarah Burton (nee Philbey), written in 1950.*

*This story was sent by Australian Member, Marilyn Philbey whose husband is a descendant of one of Sarah's brothers. Unfortunately, the whole 14 pages cannot be fully printed and have been edited.*

My parents migrated to Australia about 100 years ago on separate ships, my father arriving first, and met near Adelaide. My father worked in the Gold Diggings and various other places before meeting mother. He was born in 1830, she in 1831. She died in 1902 and he died in 1913. I had 3 brothers and 4 sisters.

They were married within a week. They bought a few cooking utensils and a tent, he had to walk 10 miles each day to and from work. Sarah's eldest sister was born in 1855. One night they were awakened and found a wild dog about to drag her from the box that was her cot. They were very careful after that.

They got their water in a bucket from the River Gawler, 2 miles away, and from catching water in some canvas when it rained. All the Settlers helped each other build homes of two rooms with pine trees, clearing the scrub, mostly mallee and ti-tree, first. By then there was a baby girl who died in infancy, and then three boys. The oldest died about 1946, aged 84 years.

The boys helped out the family by being paid by neighbours who did not have any boys to help them. They received a few shillings a week and their food. (A shilling is 5p to our younger readers)

There was not a lot of food then – no rabbits but plenty of wild turkeys and kangaroo, which meant kangaroo tail soup and steak from the meaty parts or the fore quarter of a wallaby. The cooking was done on a camp oven outside, and washing had to be dried in the sun. Two more baby girls arrived.

Father bought a smallholding and two horses and a dray. He would take wood into Gawler and bring home any necessities that they needed. I was born next, on a wet and cold day in June with no one at home to help. My eldest sister was 14 years old and was working away from home. One of their neighbours had moved to another farm and asked if she could go with them to help with their 4 or 5 children. She got six shillings a week and her keep and clothes. Her pay went up to ten shillings a week (50p) and she stayed with them until she was married in about 1879.

When I was about four years old, we were sent to Sunday school about a mile away. I did not go to school then because that cost one shilling a week. The three boys, then aged ten, eight and six, went to school when they were not helping father, with the girls going when the boys did not. This went on until father had saved a little money.

Our house was built of upright pines put into a trench dug about a foot (300 cms) deep into the ground. The pines were put close together and any spaces filled with clay. Spaces were left for windows, with bags or calico nailed across to keep out the rain and wind. Partition walls were made with bags opened out and sewn together hung from wall to wall. The door was a shabby green with one of the panels out.

One of the other neighbours had bought some land about 100 miles away and suggested that if father sold his farm, they could share the new farm. There was a three-roomed house to live in and plenty of water, so father sold his farm and moved to the other side of Port Wakefield. Our possessions consisted of beds, a table, two chairs and a sofa, and a large box that father had brought out from England. One dray had the furniture in and the other, the family. The journey took about a day and a half.

After a few years father had saved some money, and borrowed some, and bought a block of land. He had to clear the scrub to grow wheat to make bread, so we lived in a tent again until he had enough pines to build a house. Later on he added two more rooms, had a mason build a chimney and bought boards to make a floor in one room instead of bare earth, and two inside walls instead of the sacking. Water had to be collected from about a mile away in a 400 gallon tank. He helped with road building around Kulpara to earn money as well.

We had about seven or eight cattle as well as the horses, so we had milk and made our own butter, some of which we sold. We had chickens, so we had eggs to sell, and several pigs. We had to kill them and salt them down for when there was no fresh meat so we children were quite busy helping out, as well as going to school. We did have time to play as well.

Mother made all the clothes. Men wore white moleskin trousers and blue striped shirts; we only had two everyday dresses and one for Sundays. Girls as well as men and boys wore boots during the week and cloth and leather boots on Sundays. We had unbleached cotton stockings but white ones on Sundays. We wore calico shimmies and had one red flannel petticoat, and two pairs of drawers that were kept up with a buckle on a waistband. When we were young ladies we wore corsets. Clothes were washed on a Monday using a washing board, or boiled in a large boiler. I went to school between the ages of eight and fourteen and a half.

In about 1881 father bought some new land in Wiltunga, now called Bute, and he and the boys worked there for some time to get it ready, from early Mondays until Saturday evenings. Later on, father got contracts to build roads as well as farming.

Sarah ends her story: "Well as things went on I grew up and became a woman, someone came along one day, and that was the end of things for me. We both fell for each other, much to my parents' disgust.

My leaving home to make a home of my own left them without any help for themselves and they never quite forgave me, although I visited them several times. Things were never the same. They were farmers and thought that all the family should marry farmers. I did not think that way. Well that is all over now; I have no regrets, and as far as I know I have made no enemies. I am at peace with the world and I hope to meet them in Heaven when God sees fit." -

**Sarah Jane Burton**

## **YOUR WEBSITE ~ [www.filby.org.uk](http://www.filby.org.uk)**

*by Jim Filby ~ Web Master*

We are now into our fifth year on the Internet with our own Domain. We are still receiving a number of queries through our website, though less than previous years. We answer every query, even if it is not from someone researching the Filby name. We try to help and answer all queries whomever they are from.

As this is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II, I would like to mention that on the website we have a "Roll of Honour" for all those of our family who died fighting for their country. From the home page, click on "Roll of Honour", this takes you to the main page from which you can access the three rolls of honour "[World War 1 \(1914-1918\)](#)" "[World War 2 \(1939-1945\)](#)" and "[American Allies WW2](#)". You will notice that there is only one name on the "American Allies WW2" Roll of Honour; If you know of anyone who has been left off please let me know, this also applies to the other Rolls of Honour.

We have at last obtained a recording of our Filby Hymn, compliments of Tony Mallion, B.B.C. Radio Norfolk; thank you Tony. This is now on our web site. To play go to "News and Views" "Filby Sunday Service 2005" then click on FILBY HYMN. Unfortunately, you will require Broad Band access to listen to this.

As the Association is affiliated to the GOONS "[Guild Of One Name Studies](#)", they have asked us if we will put all our records of Birth, Marriage and Death onto their database. We thought that these records should first of all go on our website; to do this would mean that we would have to duplicate all our work, so we have compromised. Wally has put all the records that we have onto the GOONS database, and I have placed a link on our website, which will take you directly to that database. From our Home Page go to "Records" then click on "[www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org)"; this will take you directly to the Filby data base on the GOONS website. This database is being added to all the time. I hope some of you will find it helpful in your research.

Finally, and I know I keep mentioning it, but this is your website, so please use it, and if you have anything that you would like us to put on the site, or if you notice any facts that are missing or incorrect please let me know.

**[jim@filby.org.uk](mailto:jim@filby.org.uk)**

## The Guild's Annual Conference & AGM

by Guild of One Name Study Representative

Marion Filby



My first official outing on behalf of the Filby Association was last April to the Guild's Annual Conference, which was held at Wyboston Lakes, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire. Our website manager, Jim Filby, and secretary, Ruth Smith, also attended.

As Ken Toll retired, Peter Walker was appointed as the Guild's new Chairman.

I was delighted to hear that our annual publication of the Chronicle 2004 had gained joint third place in category 'A'. (I will try harder with this edition—fingers crossed for 2005 edition!)

I learned much from my day and came to appreciate how advanced the Guild has become in using computer technology. In fact it was more like an IT training course for me!

Sharon Hintze, the Director of the LDS Family History Centre in Kensington, London, explained how parish records are analysed to identify families and answer questions, such as the average life expectancy and age at marriage etc.

The Guild's Vice-Chairman, Paul Millington, explained in detail how any One Name Study Group within the Guild could develop their own web page Archive on the Guild's site allowing accessibility of information to all researchers via the web. Since then our treasurer, Wally Filby, who is constantly updating information available to us, has succeeded in uploading the Filby Association Archive onto the Guild's site. Anyone wishing to access the archive should go to [www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org) click on "On-line records" click on "F" then click on "Filby" (or any other spelling given). There are many more listed from A – Z if you are researching another surname in your family.

Howard Benbrook talked about software called "Surname Atlas", which uses the 1881 census data to map a distribution of a selected surname at that date.

Roger Kershaw, of TNA, described Migration records, which are kept at the National Archives. Using slides he showed many very old records, which I found extremely interesting.

Gordon Adshead followed with his example of using postcodes to map his data and using Autoroute software to convert that into an OS map reference, which can be used by GenMap – I think this is for more advanced IT users!

The other speakers were Michael Gandy, David Hawgood, Laura Peurt and David Hey, all very interesting in their own field.

At least I learned a bit more about the Guild of One Name Studies and came away very impressed with their work.

## **News from All Saints Church, Filby, Norfolk.**

2006 promises to be another busy year for the Church. During 2005 English Heritage carried out investigations on the Church and in particular on the roof and drainage systems. They have now agreed that the roof must be re-thatched and that we should get the rainwater properly taken away from the building. We are fortunate that they have offered us a grant of £140,000 towards the estimated cost of £150,000. Hopefully all of this work will be carried out in the summer months, which will give us time to fund-raise to find the balance of money we need.

In other ways we also continue to be a happy and thriving Church. Our congregations are continuing to grow, our choir is going from strength to strength and we can see a light at the end of the tunnel with all the building work.

I am happy to say that after my heart attack in January of 2005 I am now much better – although trying not to work quite so many hours! Cathy joins me in saying hello and wishing you all the best for 2006

*Reverend Carl Le Prevost*

## **Custodian 3 & GOONS Archive Report 2005**

*by Wally Filby*

### Custodian 3

We started the Custodian Project about five years ago to put all the written records held by Mary, our manager, into this database program. We have two separate databases, the first holding all Family Tree information, which is being compiled by Jim, and contains all the names included in family trees. A search for a name on this database, containing over 6000 names, will locate the tree or trees the name is in.

The other database that I am compiling is one holding all records of Birth, Marriage and Death indexes held at FRC (Family Records Centre). Since my last report I have added the years 2002 and 2003. This database is now complete from 1837 to 2003, which includes: Births 5,374, Marriages 3,939, and Deaths 3,562.

The following British Census Records are on the database, 1851 for Devon, Norfolk, and Warwick only, 213 records, as we only have the returns for those three counties. The complete 1881 census has 1,048 records, 1891 partial 12 records, and 1901 partial 177 records.

We have also put on to this database records from Parish Registers: Baptisms, Marriages and Burials (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 18,448 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 and New Zealand, it would be nice to make this database truly International, as is our Association.

Besides these, Mary, our manager, has over 600 certificates that have been scanned and digitised onto computer: Births 243, Marriages 317, and Deaths 73. I have also received some certificates from Australia that have been added. If anyone is willing to send me certificates that we have not got I would be most grateful. I can scan larger than A4 and in colour and will return originals, or you can send me a scanned image.

All the above records have been put on to CD and are marked 'Copyright Filby Association'. These disks are only available to our officers and researchers for research purposes and are not available to anyone else. They are updated every year.

#### GOONS Archive

Earlier this year a new initiative was launched by the GOONS (Guild Of One Name Studies). An Archive facility has been made available to all members to place on their server the Association's Birth, Marriage and Death records from England and Scotland, plus other records. We could also put a personal web page advertising the Filby Association.

Ruth, Marion and Jim attended the AGM and were asked to take part. This caused us some concern as the Association policy was not to put any records on the web, and that our research material should stay with the Association and have very limited access. The only personal records put on our own website is a small sample of a tree and everyone on that tree gave their permission.

After discussion it was decided that we could only place in this archive the indexes that are openly made available to the general public at the Family Records Centre and any material gained by research could not be included. This information must only be available on or through our own website, and I have taken on the task of producing and updating our Archive and Web page.

We have started building the Archive at the time of my writing this, and we have placed the following indexes into the archive page: Births 1837 to 2003 inc 5,357 records, Marriages 1837 to 2003 inc 3,920 records, and Deaths 1837 to 1950 inc 2,260 records. I will be uploading further index data as soon as I can produce it. The above can be accessed by going to our website '[www.filby.org.uk](http://www.filby.org.uk)' clicking on records, then clicking on the link to the GOONS archive, which will take you straight to our Filby Association Archive.

The web page has been placed on the GOONS server and can be accessed by going online to '[www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org)' then click on Registered Names, type in Filby and click on search, on Marion's Membership details click on the name Filby opposite Profiles. You can also access our Archive by clicking on the name Filby opposite On Line Records.

*I can assure all readers that only information that is in the Public Domain will be placed on the Archive. All other information that is gained by research will not knowingly be divulged outside the Association and passed on to others unless express permission has been given.*

## Hello to All from Don Filby

*(USA /Canada Correspondent)*

I would like to share with you a finding within a name. While researching for information regarding one of my trees, which had the surname name of 'Death' included in it, I came across a gent who indicated that he had some surnames of Filby in his trees. The name of the gent was Roscoe J. Dearth, who is, and has been compiling data for his Surname and variant spelling. He has shared with me one of the variant spelling of his surname 'Death' as in Sarah Death, born in 1710 Bradfield Combust, Suffolk. Her parents were Thomas Death born 1670, and Elizabeth Mason born 1671, both from Sudbury, Suffolk, England. (There were three children, Thomas, Sarah, and Richard Death). Sarah Death married James Filby/Philby (s/o Samuel Filby and Ann Malden) born 1709 Bury St Edmund's, died 1742/1748 Mendlesham. There were five children, one a son, Absalom, who immigrated to South Carolina.

This ties into the two groups, which I have expanded upon here in the USA, the South East Kansas group (SEK) and the Kansas City group (KS). This is where the Filby family departed Lauren's Co. South Carolina, being Quakers they did not want to be a part of the slavery, which was developed in this state. Some of the families went north through Pennsylvania to Ohio, to Indiana, and then to Columbus Kansas, while the other part of the family went in a westerly direction toward Kansas via Georgia, eventually arriving in Junction City, Kansas. These two groups do not know each other, it may have taken too long for each group to arrive in Kansas and the principals may have all died out. Strange, but the two groups lay claim as to the same South Carolina origin.

Roscoe indicates that Death, Dearth, Derth, Dethe, Deeth, De'Ath, DAeth are all the same name. "Our ancestors Geoffrey D'ath came from Ath, Belgium (thus de'Ath= from Ath) in 1066 with William the Conqueror, and is in the Domesday Book".

I have been in contact with a family which lays claim to be part of a tree which has been developed early in time by Frederick Filby, a co-founder of the Filby Association, and has been deposited into the data bank of the Association. I understand it may be a part of the early development of the surname, Filby. The surname is ffylbye, this name was used around 1544. I am still looking into the information however, and will send it to the Association for 'updating' that tree. You see, this work is never 'done'.

As I am still researching for information to be compiled, and the data to be inputted into the various trees here in the USA and Canada. I find that in a lot of cases some people are reluctant to be acknowledged that 'they' were 'alive'. Then in others there are a great number eagerly seeking their roots. To those who see that their future depends upon the past, and are now presently helping with the restoration, and with the

goal of leaving a record of 'who was here', I tip my hat and thank you. I think that the use of the Internet and the wide acceptance of the development of family genealogy have made the greatest difference here. I want to thank Edith Christiansen and Kenneth E. Filby for their assistance this year. Please, do not forget to send me any pictures and changes, which you have of your kin, so that I may put it into the database.

## Family History Research

*by Trevor John Woolner*

My family is a branch from Hannah Woolner, who married John Groom, and one of their children married into the Filby family.

I can only trace the Woolners back to the end of the 17th century, but on my father's maternal side I have had the good fortune to trace that line back to King Athelstan's sister, Edith, who married Otto 1, the son of Henry of Germany in 926.

Her grandchild, Otto, was returned to England for his education, where he is recorded in the Abingdon Chronicles. He was later granted lands, named Bodrugan, in Cornwall, and was known as Otto de Bodrugan, his descendants carrying that name until 1496 when the male died out with Sir Henry de Bodrugan. He was known as a hero in some Cornish men's eyes despite his many wrong-doings.

The female line continued and married into the Reskymer family in 1436 and Johanna Reskymer (nee Bodrugan) had a grandchild, Joan Reskymer, who then married the first recorded Gatey in 1481. The Thomas Gatey line continued as Gatty or Gattey and was known as wealthy landowners in Cornwall. Eventually they were Mill owners on the River Exe, Bakers of 'white bread' and then Lord Mayor of Exeter, and Clerk of the City of Exeter. The family were builders in the 1770's and late 1800's. I have four relatives, though distant, living from that line.

My mother's paternal line has been traced back to 1035 as recorded in the Aberystwyth Library. I have also traced descendants of that line in Pembrokeshire alive today. Mother's maternal line I can only trace back to 1843 in South Wales

It proves how fortunate one can be by having a rather unusual name; as I have said, Bodrugan, Reskymer, Gattey, and on my mother's side Batin and the ancient family of Gwgan. But as with many people, the Smith's etc, my mother's maternal side was Jones— Amen!!

**Our next 'Reunion' at All Saints Church, Filby, Norfolk,  
will be on 1st July 2007 at 2.30 pm.**

Reunions are every third year and are better attended than Sunday Services as we renew friendships with many of our overseas visitors. On these occasions we are served refreshments in the Church Hall by the ladies of Filby Church. All our records will be available for you to see.

**I discovered the Filby website while researching my family history in England.**  
*by Susan Julius*

My great-grandparents, Alice (nee Brown) and Arthur Julius arrived in Tasmania in 1881 with their four small children, six months late due to being buffeted by the "roaring forties" winds, so named as they occur at these latitudes in the southern hemisphere. Alice's mother was Emily Filby, born 1820, of St Gregory's parish in Norwich.

Alice's youngest and sixth child (born in Queensland, where Arthur Julius had been sent as an Anglican minister) was my grandfather, John, born in 1886.

In 1889 Alice's husband abandoned her, leaving her alone to raise her children. Alice had to seek assistance from her estranged husband's brothers who were also immigrants to Queensland.

Aged about 60, she and her elder daughters started a secretarial school, importing the first typewriters into Queensland. At that time, she and the girls bought some houses at the seaside to the north of Brisbane, one of which was named "Filby" in honour of her mother. I remember visiting the "maiden aunts" here in the 1960's and playing on the beach, which reminded them of holidays at the Isle of Thanet (although a subtropical version).

My grandfather, John (Jack) and his brother, Archibald, served in the trenches of the Somme during WW1, both returning home never to speak of their experiences.

Alice turned 100 in 1947 and lived until she was 104 in 1952, surrounded by her loving and appreciative family. She remembered with love her Filby mother, Emily, whom she left in sorrow to start a new life. (My younger daughter is also called Emily).

**Emily Filby had two distinguished grandsons who achieved knight-hoods and the rank of Vice Admiral.**



Vice Admiral Sir Reginald Skelton was Robert Falcon Scott's chief engineer, photographer and inventor during his trips to the Arctic and the ill-fated journey to the South Pole. Fortunately, he returned to tell the tale.

Judy Skelton, his granddaughter, has recently published his works.

Vice Admiral Sir Harold Brown was an envoy to Washington from Great Britain between World Wars, and later became Churchill's meticulous Chief of Supply during WW2. After the war he served on energy and other boards well into his nineties.



## Secretary's Report from Ruth Smith

We have a Book of Remembrance if anyone would like to have loved ones remembered. The cost is £5.00 for half a page, or £10.00 for a whole page. Let me know if you wish to do this, with details of how you would like it worded and I will pass it on to Enid, who writes the Book for the association.



If you have any news that you would like to go in the Chronicle, such as Births, Marriages, Anniversaries or Deaths, or have something of interest that you would like to share, do contact me or Marion, our Editor.

We had quite a few of the 2005 Chronicles and "In Touch" returned. Please do not forget to let me have any change of address,

### New Members

Harry Philbey, Australia.

Steven Filby, Waltham Cross.

Mr. & Mrs. G Coles, Norfolk

Mark Steven Filby, Felixstowe, Suff.

Trevor Alfred Filby, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Madeleine Filson-Filby, Australia.

Mr. & Mrs. A Naalchigar, Herts,

Mr. S R Filby, Hertfordshire.

Adrian Filby, Lincolnshire.

Scott Filby, California. USA.

Pam Bullent, Gt. Yarmouth.

Michael A Filby, Leonardtown, USA.

Maxine Philbey

Susan Cotterrill, Essex.

Susan Julius, Australia.

Mrs Helen Filby-Lowe, Yorkshire.

Daniel Filby, London.

Janet Amos, Essex.

Mr & Mrs Battell, Herts.

Mrs Joy Battell, Herts.

Mrs Pat Coles, Norfolk.

Ann Filby, California. USA.

Mr. & Mrs. D Filby, Mass. USA.

Daniel Filby, London.

William A Filby, Stanwood, USA.

Sharyn Baldwinson

I do apologise if I have left anyone out.

I would like to welcome Geoff Clark, who, after last years appeal, kindly volunteered to become a researcher for us. Geoff has much experience in family history research and will be an asset to the Filby Association.

### Filby Sunday 2005

It was as usual a lovely day weatherwise. Reverend Carl Le Prevost officiated at a very simple and moving service, with just hymns and readings. Then we had refreshments and chatted to all who were there. Radio Norfolk Reporter Tony Mallion interviewed all of us, and broadcast it on his Radio Show on the Monday morning. Henry Filby and his wife, Joan, had stayed in the Village for the weekend, so that they could celebrate his 85th birthday and also attend the Filby Sunday. Mary, Jim, Alan and Lynda Filby and most of their children and grandchildren, and I went as well and enjoyed the Service. Alan is the brother of Jim, Wally and me. It would be lovely if we could see more members at the next Filby Sunday, **2<sup>nd</sup> July 2006**. After the Service Janet and Stephanie, daughters of Alan and Lynda, asked if Carl would Christen their children (they have two each) at the Filby Sunday in 2006. Carl has agreed, so our Sunday Service will be quite different.

**Our next 'Filby Sunday' at All Saints Church, Filby,  
will be on 2nd July 2006 at 2.30 pm.**

Come and introduce yourselves and meet new friends. Have a look through our files and laptop information for your lost ancestors. Perhaps you could bring along a copy of your family tree to add to our records.

**"We have pleasure in announcing that at this Filby Service, we have arranged the Christening of four of our grandchildren, AMELIA, DOMINIC, LOUIS and AMI-LOU, a party has been arranged in the church hall after the service and we hope everyone attending will join us."**  
**LYNN & ALAN FILBY**

### **Treasurers Report 2005**

I have pleasure in presenting my fourth report as Treasurer, to cover the year from December 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 to November 30<sup>th</sup> 2005.

Since the introduction in the last Chronicle and the request for "Chronicle & Membership Registration" and the introduction of the "In Touch" in August the response has been terrific, and the donations have more than doubled over the previous year, This augurs well for the future of the Association as shown in the accounts, the only big outlay is for the Chronicle & In Touch. This may not last for ever, as at the moment our website is sponsored by our web master's Company, and our Officers pay for small expenses, only claiming for large outlays; may this continue, some even make donations. Jim, our web master, has donated £200, he said that this is to ensure the continuation of the Chronicle.

One problem has been highlighted by the donations from overseas. The UK banks put a hefty Bank Charge on changing foreign cheques; this comes to about 50% of the donation and in one case the Bank Charge would have been 90%, I have therefore felt obliged to return these with thanks; I can change cheques made out in pounds sterling or any foreign currency notes without any problem, The Bureau de Change that I use for changing currency does not charge commission and is next door to the Bank,

I would like to thank all who have sent donations during the year. Below I name all that have contributed - I have not included those who have made a donation and wished to remain anonymous:-

Marion & Alan Filby	York, North Yorks.	Mrs Mary Edwards	Hawkley, Hamps.
Jenny & Geoff Clark	Colkirk, Norfolk.	Mrs E Mitchell	Haverhill, Suffolk
Mr & Mrs Southgate	Westcliffe on Sea, Essex	Geoff & Betty Philby	Whitstable, Kent
Alan & Pat Filby	Bedford, Bedfordshire	Mr George J Filby	Southwold, Suffolk
Mrs Jo-Ann Buck	Sandwich, Kent	Ron & Kath Filby	Doncaster, Yorks
Harry J Briars-Filby	St Ives, Cambs.	Mr RD Gardner	Winsford, Cheshire
Mrs Doreen Downes	Chelmsford, Essex	Mr & Mrs HJ Irving	London SW2
John Derek Filbey	South Croydon, Surrey	Mr HW Filby	Cambridge
Francis George Filby	Waltham Cross, Herts	Mrs RM Filby	Goffs Oak, Herts.
Mrs Veronica M Finn	Minchinhampton, Glos.	Nevin B & M Filby	Victoria, Australia
Leslie & Elizabeth Filby	Cottingham, East Yorks.	Susan Ward,	Belton, Doncaster

Helen & Herbert Filby	Newmarket, Suffolk	Charles & Daphne Filby	Meopham, Kent
Jean & Melvyn Filby	Hornchurch, Essex	Kathleen & Ray Boast,	Diss, Norfolk
Mr S R Filby	Waltham Cross, Herts	Mrs Ethel Filby-Eslick	Bournemouth
Robert W Filby	Western Australia	Ed & Diane Filby	Ontario, Canada
Keith & Barbara Filby	Mitcham, Surrey	Mrs Connie Filby-Alison	California, USA
Alan Filby	Littleover, Derbyshire	Mrs Daphne Nichols	Norwich, Norfolk
Derek & Pamela Filby	Bexhill on Sea, Sussex	Ian H Roberts	Rayleigh, Essex
Katrina Filby	Abingdon, Oxfordshire	Mr Paul R Frauman	California, USA
Angela F Philbey-Ashley	Quebec, Canada	Mr SH & Mrs DM Filby	Barnet, Herts.
Mr C H & Mrs B Filby	Sherborne, Dorset	Paul & Jane Filby	Torquay, Devon
Mr John (Jack) Filby	Ontario, Canada	Denis A Filby	Ingoldmells, Skegness
Mrs Marie J Hamilton	Thetford, Norfolk	Mr & Mrs Leslie Filby	Tooting, London
Madeleine Filson-Filby	Melbourne, Australia	Mr MB & Mrs AFA Filby	Hitchin, Herts.
Mr A R & Mrs J I Quick	Swindon, Wiltshire	Mr R G & Mrs J C Filby	Surrey
Trevor J Woolner	Shipston-on-Stow, Wks.	Don & Phillippa Laurenson.	New Zealand
Mr & Mrs AJ Bull	Bellenot sous Pouilly, Fr.	Peter & Lynn Filby	Henleaze, Bristol
Janet Shrimpton	Sevenoaks, Kent.	Mrs Mary Gregson	Cheltenham, Glos.
Mr & Mrs HM Filby	Kennet, Suffolk.	Jim Filby	Blidworth,
Notts.Brigitte Philbey	High Wycombe, Bucks.	Edith Christiansen	Ore-
gon, USA			
Molly & Henry Kuttner	Edgware, Middlesex.		

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

### Filby Association Accounts 2005

#### Reserve Account

<b>Balance as at December 1<sup>st</sup> 2004</b>	<b>£754.60</b>
<b>Income</b>	
<b>Bank Interest</b>	<b>£ 0.75</b>
<b>From Current Account</b>	<b>£600.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 0.00</b>
<b>Balance as at November 30<sup>th</sup> 2005</b>	<b><u>£1,355.35</u></b>

#### Current Account

<b>Balance as at December 1<sup>st</sup> 2004</b>	<b>£479.20</b>
<b>Income</b>	
<b>Donations Association</b>	<b>£1,209.89</b>
<b>Donation Church</b>	<b>£ 5.00</b>
<b>Goods Ties Etc</b>	<b>£ 24.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£1,238.89</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
<b>2004 Chronicle (Inc. Postage)</b>	<b>£ 333.44</b>
<b>2004 In Touch (Inc. Postage)</b>	<b>£ 158.65</b>
<b>Address Labels &amp; Stationery</b>	<b>£ 37.52</b>
<b>Guild Subscription (Goons)</b>	<b>£ 12.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£541.61</b>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 697.28</b>
<b>Transferred to Reserve Account</b>	<b>£ 600.00</b>

**Balance as at November 30<sup>th</sup> 2005** **£576.48**

#### Balance sheet as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005

<b>Reserve Account</b>	<b>£1,355.35</b>
<b>Current Account</b>	<b>£ 576.48</b>
<b>Accumulated fund at November 30<sup>th</sup> 2005</b>	<b><u>£1,931.83</u></b>

**Wally Filby (Treasurer)**

## **Nevin Filby Honoured at 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day**

*On 23 June 2004, four Australian ex-servicemen were invited by Alliance Francaise (Melbourne, Australia branch) to attend an evening commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day invasion of France. This report is written by Nevin Filby of Melbourne, Australia, one of these ex-servicemen, and a pilot of B25 Mitchell bombers involved in the D-Day raids.*

It was a very pleasant evening with invitees and audience welcomed by the Director and Mlle Alexandra Balafrej of the Alliance Francaise. Professor Cuthbert of Monash University gave a general overview of pre and post D-Day from an historian's perspective. He made the point that D-Day was delayed because of inclement weather. The four ex servicemen were then asked to recount our experiences on and after D-Day.

Howard McLaren (91 this year) told us that he navigated a Stirling full of parachutists on the morning of 6 June 1944.

Commodore Dacre Smith (RAN) was in the rigging of the Royal Navy ship to which he had been seconded, and was calling the fall of shots on coastal gun positions. The next day he was on the beach among the bodies and detritus of the landing.

Tom Hall, flying a Typhoon with 175 Squadron, had been asked to take out some heavy gun positions near Cabourg on the eastern side of Sword beach, and with 12 aircraft flying on "finger four" formations had successfully silenced the positions with 8 rockets each, and suppressed fire with their four 20mm cannons each. Tom had luck because a 20mm projectile had gone through the armour plate just behind his head.

My crew and I, flying a B25 Mitchell from 98 Squadron (RAF), were briefed to fly behind the beach-head and bomb a defile and a road-and-rail bridge over the River Orne near Thury Harcourt, to delay substantially any reserves of troops and armour coming to the assistance of the enemy at the coastal defences. All the aircraft had flak damage, but returned safely to their bases. The next night we bombed a marshalling yard near Vire and dropped individual bombs in between strafing any target of opportunity in that area.

From then on, Tom Hall and 175 Squadron attacked tanks, motor transport and troops by day, including the absolute slaughter at Falaise. My crew and I did pathfinding, dropped target indicator flares for the Mosquitoes to strafe and generally harassed the enemy at various choke points near bridges, crossroads and small villages during the night. In addition, I flew with the Squadron and pattern-bombed various heavy concentrations of the enemy by day, including a significant raid on Day 4, which demolished Panzer Group West HQ, and killed Major-General Von Dawans and about 14 of his staff. This important raid seriously impeded organised Panzer action against our very fragile beachhead.

We also participated in the raid on a German strong point at Colombelles, which was obstructing the 51<sup>st</sup> Highlanders from breaking out over the difficult Bocage country.

Tom Hall and his fellow squadron members kept up day attacks, and I kept up the night attacks – all were successful. From 6 June to 28 July 1944, I did 25 day and night sorties, depending



on weather, repair and servicing of the sometimes heavily damaged “W” (for Wallaroo Warrior shown in photo above) – up to 2 raids per day.

During this period of the Battle of Normandy, my crew and I were sent to lecture the USAAF B26 Marauder Groups 322 and 323 at Earls Colne and Great Saling. We spent 3 days talking to about 500 aircrew concerning the tactics used at night to harass the enemy, and we made suggestions relative to navigation, modification of their B26 aircraft and the need for absolute crew co-operation. (The food was excellent and my unofficial trip in a B26 was exhilarating.)

From D-Day to the completion of my tour of 52 ops on 28 July 1944 with 98 Squadron, I had done 24 sorties in 49 days. I’m sure many other air crew had done as many and were just as tired. Our Commanders were complaining about the excessive number of ops we were doing.

Tom Hall went on to the Rhine River and was posted back to Dunsfold, which in 1945 became 83 Group Support Unit. I spent a short leave at Swanton Morley and then went on to No. 2 TAF Communications Squadron, where I flew 113 Courier, VIP and taxi flights etc in some atrocious weather, and into some very small and hazardous strips. I lost 2 aircraft and was seriously damaged in a nasty crash. This tour mainly involved work with “Monty’s” forward HQ.

After questions we were thanked by the Director and invited to a glass of champagne with our hosts. Generally the evening was successful and the French Nationals were complimentary about the Australian participation in helping France to defeat Hitler.

**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***

## In Memory of Keith Cotterrill (1946 – 2005)

*Susan Cotterrill Shares Her Precious Moments.*

I am the daughter-in-law of Daisy May Filby (1915–2003). Daisy's parents were Thomas Filby (born 1873 in Stratford, East London) and Harriet Willis. Thomas and Harriet had six children, Thomas, Louise, twins Matilda and Violet, Daisy and Grace. Sadly, Violet died before her first birthday.

When I first met Daisy in 1964, she only had contact with two of her sisters, Tilly and Grace, unfortunately having had a falling out with Tom and Louise some years before. They did resume contact later in life but in the early days Daisy centred her life on her own family, her husband, George Cotterrill, and their son, Keith. She was more than content with her life as a middle class suburban housewife. Married to a Police Officer, she was happy to stay at home.

Daisy had gone through a very sad time in her life after the birth of her first child – Peter. He was born a year after she and George had married, and adoring children as she always did, to find out when he was three months old that Peter had a very short time to live must have been a tremendous shock. Daisy was offered help by the authorities - offering to care for Peter in a children's home but she was having none of that, she bravely nursed him herself until his death. Peter suffered from an illness, which caused fluid on the brain and he unfortunately died at age 16 months. Some ten years went by, and there was never a sign of any further children. After a long talk with one of George's cousins, Daisy and George decided to adopt. They adopted Keith, my husband, and from that day on their lives turned around.

When I first met Daisy she was rather taken aback with me! There was she, living in their 'own' house with a car parked outside the door and in an area, which in those days was regarded as middle class. There was I, one of four children of a dockworker, living in a Council house in Canning Town! Her first reaction was "Oh!" Until Daisy found out that I worked as a secretary in the Town Hall. Acceptance came quite quickly after that, as she was most impressed.

In those days, it has to be said that Daisy was a rather prudish lady, and having found out through my research that her grandmother, Susan, had been married three times in close succession, having had children with each partner, I am sure that so far as Daisy was concerned, that "story" would have been worthy of a total "tut-tut", and would have been locked firmly behind closed doors, and most certainly not a subject for open discussion. In latter years I have no doubt her thoughts on that would have dramatically changed!

Having lived in an elderly persons complex for over 20 years and having shared many stories with the other "inmates"- as she and my own mum (who also lived there) referred to them, her ideals had changed.

She loved their get-togethers, the jokes, dancing and a good old singsong (she had a terrible singing voice, but loved to share it!). I feel sure that by the time of her death she would have found discussing the stories that she would earlier have regarded taboo, as “all a bit of a giggle”. Yes, Daisy most definitely did change over the years.

Daisy and I talked often, but she never discussed her family, with the exception of the fact that her mother had died in 1951, and her father, who had suffered from depression that had caused the family a lot of hardship, had died some years earlier. I find this so strange now, having found out so much about the Filby family and having discovered how close to where she lived some of the family were! As much as anything, I am surprised that she never mentioned that her grandmother and I shared the same Christian name – Susan. I wonder whether she even knew? Thomas Filby Snr. clearly left home very young, aged about 19, and I do wonder whether he walked away leaving all contact behind. There were no “memories” within the close family, no stories to pass down to future generations. With my own family being absolutely massive and knowing so much about them, it all seems very odd to me. At least now there is a history to pass down!

My research of the Filby family only started a matter of months ago, but I have now learnt so much about them with the assistance of Marion Filby and the Filby Association.

Thomas Snr., Daisy’s father, had a sister - Lydia Jane Filby. By tracing Lydia’s family, I have discovered that I actually went to senior school with her great grandson. How’s that for a coincidence? Daisy would have been delighted to find out all of this, and would have been very excited to find out that there is a village named after the Filby family - she would undoubtedly have lived off that one for many years.

I can picture her now - with me telling her all about her own family and many of the facts she most probably didn’t know. She would put her hand on my shoulder, tap it a few times and then put her hand across pulling my face toward her and kiss me on my cheek, two or three times – and she would say “Ah, my Sue, ah, you are so clever!”

I would love to share it all with her. But then I have no doubts that she is sitting alongside me now reading it all!

My husband, Keith, Daisy’s son, encouraged me with my research of both his and my own family trees. Every day he would eagerly await further news of the family he previously knew nothing about, and he would be amazed at every little snippet of information that I managed to discover.

Sadly, Keith died in April 2005, and he will never be able to see the tree completed, but I am so glad that I was able to share with him while he was alive, so much about his family that he would never otherwise have known. I truly believe that by now he will have filled Daisy in on all that I have discovered about her Filby family.

## Births & Birthdays

**Emma & Dan** announce the birth of their daughter **Norah Olivia Carlson-Filbey** on Monday, 17th October 2005 in Sweden. A sister for Mathilda, born 10th May 2001 and another granddaughter for Derek and Gun-Britt Filbey.



### **Our President, Leonard W.R. Filby**

Celebrated his 80th birthday in July 2005.

### **Henry Filby** from Cambridge

Celebrated his 85th birthday in July 2005.

## Deaths

### **Doris Filby aged 86 years**

On February 16th, 2005 peacefully at Burman House, Terrington St John, formerly of Magdalen. Beloved wife of Maurice, (deceased) much loved mum of Ivan and Pat.

### **Larry Dan Filby**

Sadly, on 29 October 2004 in Davis California. Larry visited Filby village for one of our Reunions during a holiday in England several years ago. Missed by his wife, Sandra, and children, Scott and Ann.

### **Frank Filby**

of Richmond, Indiana, U.S.A.

### **George Thomas Filby (of Leeds)** **1919—2004**

*by his cousin, Henry Filby of Cambridge*

George died in the early hours of Monday, May 3rd, 2004, he was 85. Much of his life's work was spent with the Leeds Police Force and he worked his way up to the rank of Sergeant. Because of his exceptional personality he was a very popular officer.



During the last war he served with one of the principal Scottish Regiments and led at least one escapade across the North Sea to blow up a factory in Norway, which was in enemy hands.

He lived alone for some time after the death of his wife, Blanche, and when convenient he occasionally came down to Cambridge to visit our side of the family.

Although he was not a smoker, some years ago he had to have his larynx removed, which made it most difficult for him to communicate. It was a condition that he accepted with a great deal of fortitude.

## Marriages

### **Paul Fellows married Caroline Filby**

at Congham Hall  
on 6th August 2005

Caroline is the only daughter of Ivan & Bridget Filby and granddaughter of Mary & Len Filby  
Bridesmaids were Bethany Fellows, Molly Filby and Keiran Filby  
Best Man was Steven Fellows.



**Lisa and Ian Filby** (son of Jim Filby, our web master) were married on 19th March 2005 in St Mary's Church, Blidworth.

*(Photo on back cover)*

Their reception was held in the Calverton Welfare Club, Notts.

## Celebrating 60 years of Marriage Down Under

*(Photo on back cover)*

On 24<sup>th</sup> September 2005 **Mary and Nevin Filby** celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with 27 members of their extended family at the home of their eldest daughter, Suzanne Filby, in Geelong, Victoria.

Mary Frances McFarland was born in Grafton, NSW on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1918. She also spent time in Lismore, NSW. Her mother died during the pneumonic flu epidemic of 1918 when Mary was only 10 months old. Her father later remarried and the family moved to Wagga Wagga and then to Sydney, NSW. Nevin Boswell Filby was born in Grenfell, NSW on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1919. His great-grandparents were pioneers of the Grenfell district of NSW. Mary and Nevin met when they were about 20 years old and Nevin was about to leave the bush and go to the city to pursue his career in accounting having completed his articles in Grenfell. Nevin was working in an accountancy position at Sydney Hospital and Mary was completing her physiotherapy course at Sydney University when WWII broke out. Nevin enlisted in the RAAF and moved to Canada to train and then to UK to serve as a pilot with the RAF (98 Squadron of 139 Wing, TAF, and later, No. 2 TAF Communications Squadron). They delayed marrying until Nevin returned from the war but kept up communication and they still have a small record made of Nevin's voice sending greetings to his unofficial fiancée back home. Mary continued to work as a physiotherapist.

Nevin returned from overseas on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 1945 and on 15<sup>th</sup> August, Victory in the Pacific Day, they were officially engaged. Nevin and Mary were married 60 years ago in St Phillips Church of England, Sydney. Nevin's navigator, Keith Herman was best man and Mary's half-sister, Barbara McFarland was bride's maid.



### **Four Generations**

*(Sent by Daphne & Charles Filby of Kent)*  
Martyn Filby with his mother, Daphne, standing behind Phoebe Vousden, (Daphne's Mother) holding her six day old great granddaughter Jessica Filby, who was born on June 14th 2000.



Mary & Nevin Filby celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 24th September 2005 at Sue & Russell's farm in Geelong, Victoria, Australia. They have 4 children, Suzanne, Peter, Jillian and Michael, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild. Mary & Nevin at 87 & 86 years are a testament to the love and commitment needed for a long and successful marriage.

### **Four Generations**

*(Sent by Robert & Doreen Filby)*  
(left to right) Grandmother, Janet Shrimpton (nee Filby) Baby Lily Louise who was Christened on 19th June 2005, with her mother, Emma Keem and Great-grandmother, Rose Filby age 92 .



Lisa and Ian Filby were married on 19th March 2005 In St Mary's Church, Blidworth.

