

# The Filby Association

Manager: Mary Filby  
Downham Market, Norfolk, England.

No. 5 **Chronicle** 2007



Officers of The Filby Association  
on parade at our Sunday Service at All Saints Church,  
Filby, in July 2006

*From left to right*

Wally Filby our Treasurer, Ruth Smith our Secretary  
and Jim Filby our Web Master.

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 Friends,

I have found great satisfaction in the results of our working together on both research and our Chronicle. I must thank so many of you for helping to make it an interesting read by sending your articles for inclusion.

In sharing your stories and photographs we have managed to bring together relatives from across the world, who, after reading these articles have made contact through our Association and found family members they didn't know they had.

Some have already travelled great distances in order to meet. Others have communicated to share a mutual interest in their family tree. Either way there is good reason to write to me and share your information with our members.

Please don't hesitate, act now while it is in your mind, you never know what the outcome may be!

Email me **marion.filby@virgin.net**

Or write to the **address shown in the left side column**

**My best wishes to you all**

**Marion Filby (Editor)**

## News from our Manager, Mary Filby.

Dear Friends,

I do not have much to report about the running of The Filby Association at this time because I have had to leave it in the care of our Officers for most of the year. Their articles will keep you informed about progress better than I.

Unfortunately, I was admitted into hospital at the beginning of 2006 and remained there until after my spinal operation in April. From there I was moved to a nursing home in Downham Market on 12th May where I convalesced until July. Whilst in hospital I was delighted to receive a visit from Jill and David Yates, who had travelled from Australia for a holiday in the UK. We go back a long way and it was good to hear all their family news.

Whilst in the nursing home Marion and Alan Filby visited me when they were on holiday in Norfolk, and I have had many cards from wellwishers.

During this time, my husband, Len, was also taken ill and confined to hospital. We seemed destined to be apart.

After I returned home in July and following several visits from Jim and Ruth, most of my association files have been taken into their safe keeping so that they are on hand for our researchers, as and when required. I am still taking telephone calls to help them where I can from memory.

I can rest knowing that the association is in good hands and that all those working in their spare time on behalf of the association are loyal friends to us all.

**Sadly, Len died on 30th August 2006. This came as a shock to us all and I am taking time coming to terms with my loss. I have much support from my loving family and many friends.**

**This also means that our Filby Association has no current president and decisions will have to be made in 2007.**

I hope to be able to attend the next 'Reunion' on 1st July 2007. I have been told by Jim Filby that he will get me there - "one way or another!" We are expecting some overseas visitors so it would be wonderful if more members tried to attend on this occasion. I look forward to seeing many new and old friends there.

I would like to thank everyone for registering their membership with us, as this will make administration so much more efficient as we strive to keep in line with other family history organisations. The wonderful donations we have received will ensure the Association continues and All Saints Church, Filby, will benefit from our financial gifts. I thank you most sincerely.



**Best Wishes to all, Mary.**



## Obituary of our President Leonard W. R. Filby

The funeral of Mr Leonard Filby, who died aged 81 years on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2006 at Shouldham Hall Nursing Home, took place on September 8th 2006 at St Mary's Church, Bexwell, followed by cremation at Mintlyn.

Mr Filby was born in Downham Market on 17th July 1925, the only son of William and Olive Filby. He spent his early years at Wimbotsham.

He commenced work at the Radio Garage, Downham Market, as an apprentice motor mechanic at the age of 14.

He was a member of Downham Market Home Guard during the war and was conscripted at the age of 21 into the forces and spent two years in the Royal Army Service Corps based in Taunton in Somerset. Following discharge from the army he returned to Downham and lived with his parents.

In March 1959 he married Mary Elizabeth Day, also of Downham Market, and they moved to King's Lynn, where he was employed at Gore's Garage on Railway Road, as a motor mechanic. Following the closure of Gore's he was employed at Giles' Garage until his retirement.

He had two sons, Alan and Ivan, whose careers he followed with great interest and pride.

Following retirement he moved back to Downham Market where he resumed his interest in gardening and took great pleasure in tending his garden. Other keen interests included East Anglian Speedway Teams and home wine making.

He was also a founder member of the Filby Association, which is a genealogical society of people with the surname of Filby, and its variants, who are interested in researching their family tree. Since 1967 he regularly attended annual reunions at the Norfolk village of Filby and made many friends worldwide through this association. In 2003 he became President of the Filby Association of which his wife, Mary, is Manager.

He was, until recently, a regular attendee at Bexwell Church. Sadly, the onset of Parkinson's Disease increasingly prevented him travelling from home.

Mr Filby leaves a wife, two sons and four grandchildren.

**Only family flowers were requested, but any donations received were split between All Saints Church, Filby, and Bexwell Church, 'St Mary the Virgin'. When the fund was closed the total amount was £590.85. Mary said that Len would have been thrilled to have brought so much cash in for his two churches.**

## The Guild of One Name Studies AGM and Conference

by Ruth Smith (Secretary)



Jim and I attended the weekend event at the beginning of April 2006. It was our second full conference, and our third AGM, when we only attended on the Saturday.

Unfortunately, The Filby Association Chronicle was not placed in the newsletter competition and we did not enter our web site this year.

We had lectures on both Saturday and Sunday covering a wide range of interests by lecturers who knew their subject.

The first one on Saturday was about Methodism and Methodist Records, which I found especially helpful because my mother was a Methodist.

The second was “Denominations, Dynasties, Diaries and Dictionaries of National Biographies”. This had a historical bias to religions and evangelism – tradition, Wesleyans, Baptists, Quakers and other Christian Sects, War, Authority, etc.

This year the GOONS have been carrying out a “Marriage Challenge”, whereby volunteers look up marriage entries in their area for other members. The lecture covered how marriages were recorded and where. The information gathered will be fed into the GOONS Marriage Index.

The two final lectures on Saturday were about Emigration and Immigration and how to use the various records available, also records of Criminal Ancestors in England and Wales.

Sunday morning covered Fire Insurance and Workhouse Records. Both afternoon lectures were on a much more modern subject – DNA Testing. The “Y” Chromosome is present only in the male line. Family historians and researchers are using this to establish family connections of men with a given surname or its variants, as the spelling of a surname can change over the years for various reasons. The tests can show which particular family tree the man belongs to. The Filby Association has a lot of different Trees that are not related as far as we can see at the moment.

Informal discussions took place during the evening covering many relevant topics in genealogy and the GOONS projects, which in themselves were informative and interesting.

**Arising from the Sunday lectures, we wondered if any of our members would be interested in taking part in a Filby Association DNA Project? There is obviously a fee to pay for the tests. I would welcome feedback on this so if anyone is interested or has any particular views on the DNA Project please contact me by mail or at my email address [ruth@filby.org.uk](mailto:ruth@filby.org.uk)**

**YOUR WEBSITE ~ [www.filby.org.uk](http://www.filby.org.uk)** by Jim Filby ~ Web Master

We are now into our sixth year on the Internet with our own Domain. We are still receiving a number of queries through our web site, 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.

When the web site was set up for the Filby Association, following discussion between the officers at that time, we came to a decision not to put any of the Association's Trees on the web; this was to ensure we did not conflict with the Data Protection Act. We do have one tree on our web-site - however, every living person on that tree was asked for their explicit permission, not just to put their name on the site, but also their relatives and ancestors' names, whether they were living or dead.

There are a number of web sites on the Internet that are making a mockery of this decision, two of them being "genesreunited.co.uk" and "ancestry.com"; there are possibly others. These sites invite you to put your tree onto their site, which a lot of people are doing.

To access any data you have to pay a subscription to the site, and then (with Genes Reunited) get permission from the owner of the tree you wish to view. This creates a problem; if I do not want my name on the site how do I find out if my name is there without paying the subscription and getting permission? I can't. I do know that there are four Filby trees on the Genes Reunited site and unless I pay the subscription I can't find out if my name is on any of them.

The other thing that the Association objects to, is that a lot of our members, especially our Researchers, have spent a vast amount of time and money to assemble the data and trees that we have. Genes Reunited and the other sites are getting this data for free and then asking us to pay for the privilege of accessing this information. We give it away to our members, and others researching their Filby name, for free, although we do hope there will be voluntary donations to the association to help pay for our expenses; and sometimes we exchange data to add to our files. That is all we do.

Some amateur researchers charge for their time and subscribe to these sites in order to find easy results without giving the time and effort their clients expect from them.

In future, when we give information to others, we are going to request that they do not put the information we pass to them onto other web sites. However, on their part this will be entirely voluntary, because the information that they have will be theirs to do with as they please. We do not know who has already put data on the web that came from us; we do however request that if anyone has, we politely ask them to consider removing it.

Finally, I would like to point out that I believe these sites only exist because of a loophole in the law. If you place data on their site about any person, especially a living person, and you do not obtain that person's permission, you, and not the website owners, could be liable under the Data Protection Act.

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

## Garden Party at Buckingham Palace *by Wally Filby (Treasurer)*

As reported in the 'In Touch' last August I was invited to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace to celebrate 50 years of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Each Operating Authority in the country was asked to decide which three from their Authority should attend.

The Award officer from Croydon was naturally invited, and she asked me, as the longest serving member in Croydon, if I would like to attend. I have been involved with the award in Croydon for 20 years, the first 15 years as a voluntary expedition leader and the last five as a paid co-ordinator. She also asked me to help her pick the third person and I suggested my best and longest serving volunteer. We were allowed to take along one guest each.



**In the picture taken in the palace gardens showing the rear of the palace, we are from left to right "Michelle Higgins (Award Officer for Croydon) her husband, Paul, Ruth (your secretary) Me, Gillian Phillips (volunteer), and her partner, Hugo.**

We were to enter the palace gardens from the rear gate at 2.00pm so we all arranged to meet in the pub outside Victoria Station at 1.30pm, which is a two minute walk from the garden entrance. Gillian and Hugo arrived on time but Michelle rang to say that the train was late and she would meet us there.

We arrived at the garden entrance about 5 minutes early to find a queue had formed due to the security checks, but every one was laughing and joking and enjoying a lovely sunny day. We were eventually inside and all the Operating Authorities were given an area of the garden in which to form. Our group consisted of all the London Boroughs.

Each group had a VIP who would present a Certificate of Thanks to each Operating Authority, our VIP was Chris Tarrant of 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' fame. Gillian accepted our certificate on behalf of Croydon, which I am holding in the photograph. Ruth started to take a couple of photos until told that cameras were not allowed in the gardens. We did manage to take one of us all after the Queen had left.

At 3pm The Queen, The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward and Sophie, (Prince Edward is the only member of the Royal Family who has achieved the Gold award on his own merit), entered the gardens. They then separated and The Queen with The Duke, Prince Edward with Sophie, strolled through the garden in different directions talking to everyone in a very relaxed atmosphere. There were no barriers so it was pot luck who you met and our group were able to speak to Prince Edward. Refreshments were served in a large marquee with China cups and plates.

The Royal party returned to the palace at 5.30pm and then we were allowed to leave through the palace and out through the main gate at the front. We all had a very enjoyable afternoon and one that none of us will forget. I felt very honoured and proud to have been invited. Croydon is the top London Borough for the number of young people to achieve their awards, between 300 and 400 young people each year, and I am proud to be part of the team that helps them achieve their goal.



**John H Filby of Groveland Lodge, Norfolk, sent photographs and a letter to me in January 2006;**

“My father, Eric Filby, of Grove Farm Felbrigg took all our family to possibly the first reunion at Filby church in about 1965/66. At that time my son, Paul, was the youngest Filby there and made news in the Eastern Daily Express.

Eric Filby died in 1992, my mother, Rose, still lives at Felbrigg near to my brother, Brian. I am now 63 and live in Roughton near the family business, which is Groveland Fruit Farm where we sell home produced meat and veg.

We have recently purchased a 4000 acre farm in Australia, this will keep me busy for a while—one day you will hear the whole story.”

***We look forward to that John. (Photographs of John and Zoe, and Paul with his wife, Rose, and sons, Jordan and Ashley, are on the back cover.) Editor***

***Peter Filby of Wembury, Devon, writes:***

A few things caught my eye in the last Chronicle:

The piece by Jim Filby (page 9): My grandfather was a sergeant in the Tank Corps. He happily survived the war but I don't know very much about his service. He was the illegitimate son of Fanny Kezia Filby whose great grandparents were Samuel and Elizabeth (Whitworth) of Tuddenham in Suffolk. There is a project waiting to be tackled there.

The same grandfather was named Victor Herbert and he spent some time in the Bury St Edmunds area which links with Herbert Victor Filby's piece on page 7. I wonder if there is a connection. Also that same piece refers to Lily Langtry's life. By coincidence, here where I live in South Devon, is another place where she had her rendezvous with her royal friend. It is a large country house on the coast and in return for the then owners' discretion and because he was unable to make any public thanks, he made the unusual gift of the shore line between high and low tides which normally belongs to the Crown. That gift still stands and is held by the current owner.

Finally the above mentioned Fanny Kezia had aspirations as an actress and one of her contemporaries described her as looking just like Lily Langtry!

***Violet & Henry Irvin from London write:***

Now in their nineties they recall the many Filby Sundays they have attended. They also remember the many people they have met; especially the late Fred Filby, who did so much for them, and Robert Irvin, who came every year from America. The swell vicars, and good times they all had in the village hall, with beautiful teas made by the ladies of Filby. Now unable to visit, or do any more, they hope that the younger ones will keep coming, for it's a lovely church.—They will never forget.

**Paul Wade of Derbyshire writes:**

If you hear of anybody showing an interest in the Downham Market Filbys (19th Century), then push them in my direction. (Trees 15,20,68,77) I am still trying to find out, or to be precise, I'd like to know whether anybody might possess a particular photograph of my great-grandfather, great-grandmother (Lizzie Filby 1872-1946) my grandfather and great uncle as I do.



**Please contact Ruth Smith if you can help:  
Email [ruth@filby.org.uk](mailto:ruth@filby.org.uk) or write.**

**Kim Blecke of Illinois, USA writes:**



I have sent this photograph of my grandma and me taken in 1996. My grandma, Lora Schlieff Bender, daughter of Hope Elizabeth Filby will be 96 in October 2006. I am also expecting my first grandchild in October.

**As the cost of printing the 'Chronicle' is getting bigger every year, it would make sense if we could send it out electronically. We are already producing the document in Adobe Reader format, so if any of you would like to receive the 'Chronicle' by email could you please let me know. The advantages would be that you would save the Association money, any excess goes to Filby Church, and all pages would be in colour.**

**The 'Chronicle' Adobe Reader file would be approximately 500K in size, and you will need Adobe Reader Ver.5 or above to read the document.**

**If you don't have 'Adobe Reader' you can obtain it free from:-  
[http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/eadstep2\\_allversions.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/eadstep2_allversions.html)  
Ver.7 is for Windows XP only, Ver.6 for all other operating systems.**

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

## Jessie King (nee Philby) writes:

"It was a lovely surprise to find a photograph of my cousin, Geoff Philby and his wife, Betty, and family on their sixtieth wedding anniversary, on the back page of the Chronicle 2005. It is a long time since I have heard anything about him. Being such a large family there is a lot of difference in our ages and one tends to go in different directions, I didn't know he had moved to Kent. A lot of the Philbys stayed in Sussex, which was where I was until seven years ago when we moved to Holbeach in Lincolnshire."

Does anyone know who any of the other people in this photograph are?? Please write to us if you do as the family are keen to identify them.



This is a photograph of Jessie's grandparents on their Golden Wedding Anniversary with all their children and grandchildren at that time. Jessie is in her father's arms on the extreme left and Geoff is also in this photo. It is his father and the baby is his elder sister, Gladys, in the four generations photograph shown below with their grandfather, Robert Philby, and great grandmother.



Jessie's father was one of fourteen, seven boys and seven girls, she knows of only four grandsons and two great grandsons. Her grandfather was Robert Philby born 1863, probably in Hampshire. He married Elizabeth Ann Tulet on 22nd January 1885 at St Michael's Church, Amberley, Sussex when he was an itinerant farm labourer. He later rose to be foreman at Amberley Chalk Pit.  
***I met Jessie and her husband at the Filby Sunday on 2nd July 2006. Sadly, she died of a massive heart attack on 29th July. Our condolences to Patrick and family. (Editor)***

## Frank G Filbee of Cheshunt writes:

“Looking through some old photos I came across this one taken three years ago with four generations of Filbees.



The little girl nearest to the camera is Jade, now 14 years, next is their mother, Carmen, 36 years, then Gemma, 9 years, myself, 93 years, and my son, Francis, 64 years. The woman in the white jumper is my son's wife, Patricia, and the other person is my partner. Sadly, Patricia was killed on the M25 in a motor accident.

I also enclose a photo of my great granddaughter, Natalia, age 18 years, who has just been crowned Queen of Mazarron, Murcia, Spain. She was also voted best sports female of the year in Mazarron and is a champion kick boxer.

My son's other daughter, Sara-Jane, has lived in Spain for twenty years, was married to a Spaniard and Natalia was born there.

Carmen and her two children are now living in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where Carmen runs a school teaching how to use computers.”



**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 Search of my Ancestors** by *David Matthews (Braintree, Essex)*

It would seem that most of us embark on trying to discover our ancestry too late in life, when those who could have given us much useful information have passed away; in my case, my mother, who was a Filby before marriage and died aged 45. I was 15 years old at the time, which is hardly the age at which you become interested in family history, although she did tell me a great deal about her childhood.

My mother was born in Damgate, Wymondham in 1907, the only daughter among the four children of George (John) Filby and Ellen (nee Bennington). Her mother died when my mother was nine years old. After the death of her mother she went to live with an aunt and uncle in Carleton Rode, and subsequently moved to Stamford Hill in London to take up employment as a laundress in an Anglican Convent. From Stamford Hill she later moved to Cornwall and went into service, again as a laundress, on the island of St. Michael's Mount where she met and married my father.

Although my father's family ancestry has been well researched and documented in a book entitled "The Mount People" which traces the original island families back to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, I knew nothing of my mother's family history beyond my maternal grandfather (I didn't even know at that time who my grandmother was). However, with the great interest at the moment in family history and the amount of information available particularly on the internet, I made a start to trace my mother's family by posting a message on Genes Reunited, which for a long while produced no results until one day I was contacted by Marion Filby, researcher for the Filby Association.

Marion was able to put together a huge amount of detailed information on this branch of the Filby family, taking the descent back seven generations to Richard Filby of Reymerston, born 1735. It seems that over the generations the family remained in the same small area of Norfolk, which included the villages which lay roughly in a line between Wymondham and Dereham, such as Garveston, Reymerston, Hardingham and Winborough. For the most part they also married into families from the same area, with surnames such as Brooke, Softley, Thompson, Websdale, Bennington, Jerny and Hunt.

One of the advantages of Genes Reunited is that it results in an ever expanding list of contacts whose family trees contain names that match those in your own tree, with the opportunity to make contact by e-mail. Although this has thrown up a number of similar names that have no obvious connection to my own ancestry, some have been positive connections, and I have been surprised at the number of people contacting me from Australia and New Zealand who turn out to be distant cousins. They have also enabled me to extend the maternal line of the Cornish families.

As regards the Island of St. Michael's Mount, the island was at one time an important port before a harbour was built at Penzance, the heyday being in the nineteenth century when the tin and copper mining was at its height. The trade was mainly in the import of Baltic timber for the mining industry and the export of local materials. Goods had to be transported by horse and cart over a stone causeway at low tide. Most of the island families were engaged in the shipping trade as seamen, ships masters and trinity house pilots, with others carrying out the associated trades such as sail-makers and shipwrights as well as fishing. Besides sailing to ports around the world, a large number of families left for Australia, America, New Zealand and South Africa on the demise of the Cornish tin mining industry, which is probably the reason that most of my internet contacts have come from those areas.

There is an interesting article in the book "The Mount People" relating to my great grandfather Martin Mathews. It is an extract from the Cornishman newspaper which reads;-

ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT, MARCH 30<sup>th</sup> 1882

*Some anxiety is being felt here about the lengthy voyage of the brigantine 'Zeal' Captain Mathews (of this place). She left Cadiz for Rio Grande November 26<sup>th</sup>. Sixty days would be an average passage from England; 54 from Cadiz. There are three chances in her favour – calms, a gale which has carried away her masts but has not injured her hull, and the fact that craft have been lately detained for 40 days outside Rio by a sandbar. Still, due allowance being made for these chances, the lapse of four months keeps a wife and many friends in painful suspense.*

Despite the worrying entry in the Cornishman that year, we know that he returned safely to the Mount. However, he did die at sea on a later voyage.

I still hope to expand the family tree of the Filby family, particularly on the maternal lines, and have now come to realise what an extensive family it is.

## **New Zealand, Christmas/New Year 2005/06**

*by Ruth Smith (secretary)*

Jim and I went to visit a cousin in New Zealand for their summer, stopping off in Kuala Lumpur for 2 nights each way. Brenda and Michael share a large property with their daughter and son in law and their family, and have built another bungalow for themselves. Brenda remembers staying with us in the summer holidays when we were children, and the English flowers in our parent's garden, so she has grown an English garden outside their French windows, as well as having raised vegetables and fruit trees. Michael has his own garden of native New Zealand trees. They also have farm animals and grow hay etc., and have a

native breed of pig, a Kunekune, called Maggie. Their son has a large property too, with animals. They work as well!!

Christmas in New Zealand is much the same as in the UK, and most other places I expect. We enjoyed the turkey and all the trimmings and were also offered Christmas pudding. The only thing different was that we went down to the beach, and instead of the dip in the cold sea as some people do here, we had a lovely warm paddle and a balmy stroll along the beach. The same could be said of seeing in the New Year. We stayed up and greeted in the New Year several hours ahead of our family and friends in the UK. We watched a very moving film on the television on New Year's evening- 'Whale Rider', a story about a Maori girl and a whale. If ever available it is well worth watching, and very moving.

Jim played on several golf courses around the North Island. Their method of working out the handicap is different there, which was a disadvantage to Jim. Jim says it makes a good excuse as he did not win anything

Even though we stayed nearly a month, we only had time to explore North Island. We managed to go inland and along most of the coastline. The most memorable was the volcanic area around Rotorua. Our hotel rooms there overlooked the mudpools of Te Puia, which plopped constantly, and we could see most of the other volcanic activity. We had a helicopter ride whilst there and landed in a crater. We went south to Wellington, and saw the Beehive, part of the seat of Government, and saw an exhibition of models of Leonardo da Vinci's drawings.

We went to the far north to Cape Reinga, along unmade gravel roads. Quite a few roads there are gravel in the more remote areas, but there is still heavy traffic in the large towns like Auckland. North Island has a ridge of volcanic activity through the middle and has had several terrible disasters over the centuries. We went to the Hot Water Beach, where you can hire a spade and dig a hole to sit in the hot/warm water springing up from the volcanic activity under the sand. But we were disappointed as we chose to go to the beach at the time when the tide was almost in, and as fast as Jim dug, the tide covered the hot water- it had to be Friday 13<sup>th</sup>!!

The museums have a great deal of Maori culture. We went for an evening of Maori entertainment and a meal at Tamaki, and visited the Treaty House at Waitanga, where the Treaty was signed between the English and the Maori Chief. At Ohinemutu there is St. Faith's church, which has many Maori panels on the inside walls. A lot of the place names are of Maori origin. The only part of a name I can remember the meaning of is "wai" which is "water".

I could write about so many other interesting places that we visited, and the flora and fauna so different from England. Everything will remain in my memory for many years to come.

One of our last outings was to Matamata, where by sheer chance, much of the Hobbit village from Lord of the Rings is still there. For someone who has read the books by J R R Tolkien, this was well worth a visit. There are other sites used in the filming of the series, for people to visit.

We were out and about most of the time, and were either in the wrong place, or at the wrong time, to try to contact any of our New Zealand members. But we did appreciate their beautiful and diverse country.

### **Did You Know ?.....**

**that.....**a potwalloper (or potwaller) was a person who had their own separate fireplace on which they could cook, and as a result qualified as an official resident of a town and sometimes a voter? The word literally means "one who boils a pot" and these householders could include both owners and tenants.

In the country the right to vote was based on the ownership of land, but in the boroughs it depended on local custom. In some boroughs all potwallopers had the vote, whilst in others the franchise was restricted to freemen. Each English borough returned two MPs (the Welsh boroughs shared an MP with another borough) and they had roughly three times as many MPs as the counties. Some were the notorious 'rotten' boroughs where nobody lived.

Poll books were produced recording those who voted, where they lived and for whom they voted. Most survive from 1696 and in 1711 Parliamentary legislation required them to be deposited with the Clerk of the Peace. With the introduction of the Secret Ballot in 1872, the 1868 election was the last election for which poll books were published. Many poll books have been published and local reference libraries and county record offices have extensive collections. The British Library, the Institute of Historical Research and the Guildhall Library also have good holdings.

*Taken from the IHGS newsletter Number 62*

### **Voters Through the Ages...**

Before 1971 people in Britain had to be 21 or over to vote; soldiers, sailors and airmen aged 19 and 20 were also allowed to vote after World War 1 came to an end. Women were only allowed to vote in local elections providing they were aged 30 or over, and were the householder/owner or married to the householder/owner, up until 1918 when they were also allowed to vote in Parliamentary Elections as well. From 1918 SOME women were allowed to vote in Local Elections from the age of 21. From 1928 women were given equal voting rights with men. From then anyone over 21 was able to vote. From 1971 the age of 'majority' and eligibility to vote was reduced to 18.

## **Custodian 3 & Data Report 2006** *by Wally Filby*

We started the Custodian project about six 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 the Family Tree information, this is compiled by Jim and contains all the names held on our Master Family Trees. A search for a name on this database will tell you which Tree or Trees the name is on. This database contains over 6,000 names.

The other database that I am compiling is one holding all the records of Birth, Marriage and Death indexes held at the FRC (Family Records Centre). Since the last report I have added the years 2002 & 2003. I have also started to add all the Scottish Birth, Marriage & Death Records.

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. We have also put onto this database records from Parish Registers, Baptisms, Marriages & Burials - most of these are pre-1837. Lastly, we have added 15 Birth, 25 Marriage, and 14 Death records from the IGI.

I have also added all the World War 1 & World War 2 Deaths taken from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which contains 76 records. I am starting to add all the Wills and Probate Records that were extracted from the indexes held at Somerset House by one of our founder members, and are now held by Ruth instead of Mary. I hope eventually to digitise all the Association written records onto DVD.

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. The main Index of this database now holds over 18,500 entries and we will be adding further records as they become available

Besides the above, Ruth, our secretary, has over 600 Certificates. These have been scanned and digitised onto computer. I have also received some certificates from Australia, which have been added. We now have over 700 certificates that have been scanned. If anyone has certificates that we do not have, could I ask you to send me a copy or a scanned image please. If you cannot copy or scan I would be able to do this for you, even if larger than A4 and in colour. I would then return the originals to you immediately.

All the above records have been put onto CD and are marked 'Copyright Filby Association' and I update the disks each year. Jim has also been producing a Data CD each year that contains all the Family Tree data and is distributed at our yearly gathering at Filby Church. These disks are only available to our officers & researchers for research purposes and are not available to anyone else.

I found this year I had more data than could be put onto one CD so I contacted Jim regarding his Tree data. We decided to put all our data together and instead of using a CD we put it onto a DVD, which can contain over 6.5 times more data than a CD. We continue to add and update our data and will continue to produce a Data DVD each year in June.

I can assure all readers that any information we hold that is gained by research will not be divulged outside the Association or passed onto others unless express permission has been given.

## **Philip Buxton Etheridge and the Norwich Shawl –**

*by Christine Williams (researcher)*

When Audrey Meyer from New Zealand approached the Filby Association for help with her family history, I thought it would be the normal research - births, marriages, burials and parish records if I was lucky.

With the help of others Audrey had already carried out a lot of research, but wanted to know more about one particular ancestor - Philip Buxton Etheridge, who was a shawl manufacturer. It was his son, Robert Philip, who married his second cousin, Anne Filby, in 1842, but what Audrey really wanted was more information on the woollen mills in Norwich and the shawl industry in particular.

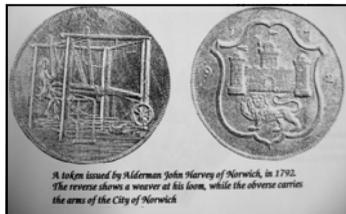
Being an immigrant to Norfolk from Essex, I had no knowledge of these industries but set off to investigate. I made an appointment to visit the Carrow House Museum and the Archive Centre, both in Norwich, and looked through the many photographs and papers they had. I found it all very fascinating.



Apparently, Norwich had been an important textile producing city since the 12<sup>th</sup> century and was responsible for high-quality cloth manufacture. When demand for exotic shawls rose towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Norwich manufacturers were among the first to meet this fashion. However, during this time shawls were being imported from Kashmir. They were of a very high standard, very light, supple and warm. There is a very interesting article in *The Lady Newspaper* describing how the wool was collected from Tibetan goats, how the shawl was made like mosaics composed of many patterned pieces embroidered separately, and then sewn together, and that the chief revenue of the Government was derived from the shawl manufacture.

Dresses at this time for the fashionable lady were made of thin muslin so the Cashmere Shawl was seen as a must to keep warm. They were also seen as a status symbol as they were so expensive.

Norwich spent time and money in trying to make a comparable shawl and one of the first to compete with the Cashmere Shawl was a master weaver, Alderman John Harvey, who manufactured a finely spun worsted-yarn weft combined with a silk warp for strength, at Colegate, Norwich. For this he received a Royal Society commendation. In the *Norfolk Chronicle* of 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1790, he is described as being visited by the Duke of Norfolk and in 1797 received a visit from Prince William of Gloucester, who placed an order for a shawl dress. A report in the *Norwich Mercury* of 1<sup>st</sup> August 1795 lists a complaint John Harvey made against the proprietors of the Mail Coaches, who had lost a parcel of shawls, which had been sent by coach to London. It did not say how much they were worth.



He was later joined by Philip James Knights, an entrepreneur.

In 1792, P J Knights wove a shawl counterpane, which he presented to King George III and Queen Charlotte. This measured 12ft square, was seamless and had the Royal Coat of Arms in the centre, surrounded by a wide border of flowers and leaves. The prototype of this counterpane is housed at the Carrow House museum in Norwich. He received the Silver Medal from the Society of Arts, which said of the garment: "It is made by J P Knights in imitation of the East India shawl counterpanes, and is the finest article and so fine a texture that was ever so made in so large dimensions with no seams, he has brought the manufacture to so great a perfection



in shawls, waistcoats etc., that they can hardly be distinguished from the Indian, though they can be afforded at 1/20<sup>th</sup> of the price."

Knights was appointed Shawl Maker to her Majesty, and a report in the *Norwich Mercury* of 28<sup>th</sup> July 1792 stated that "he received orders to furbish the Queen and princesses with shawls to be manufactured to the pattern of a drawing sent down with his warrant". He was certainly in favour with the Royal Family as he went on to visit them at Windsor Castle and presented a shawl counterpane at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Norfolk visited an exhibition, which was held the following year, and gave J P Knights an order to furnish three new rooms in Arundel Castle. Also, Mrs Coke, of Holkham Hall in Norfolk, asked him to fit part of the mansion. In 1793, he was visited by the Queen and the princesses at his shop at 136 New Bond Street, London, and the following year saw a manufacturing tour of England, which was a great success.

At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, weaving in Norwich was an important cottage industry and many of the old houses have long horizontal windows, essential for letting in the light. There were 12 manufacturers listed in Norwich; they obtained the yarn, had it dyed, and then employed whole families to weave and finish the shawls. This was a prosperous time for everyone. In the beginning designs imitated those from Kashmir known as the *butah*.

In Norwich it was called the 'pine', in France the 'palme' and is now known as the Paisley pattern. The Jacquard Loom came to Norwich in 1830 which proved a big development in the weaving industry - no longer was there a use for the 'draw boy' who could make mistakes.. This loom was worked on punched cards. There was a series of acrimonious letters in the Norwich Mercury written in 1836 from various weavers who were disputing with each other as to who actually used the first Jacquard. Apparently it was Willett & Nephew in about 1829.

During the 1830s, however, weaving in Norwich went through a very depressed period; work was uncertain, wages low and other centres were producing shawls of as good quality and cheaper, especially from Paisley in Scotland. There had been rivalry between the two centres with accusations of piracy from Norwich. In 1838 Parliament appointed a Commission to enquire into the plight of the handloom weavers. It was suggested that designs of shawls might be registered, and in 1842 for a fee of 1 shilling a design could be registered for a period of three, six or twelve months.

Although, out of 26 shawl makers only three registered their designs. Between 1843 and 1875 only 315 designs from all over the country were registered from seven manufacturers and 15 of these came from Norwich.

By the middle of the 1800s longer shawls were fashionable and they had wonderful patterns of elongated pines and intricate geometric designs. In 1849 the order book of E & F Hinde offered 26 different types and a total of 39,000 shawls had been made in that year, and in the 1850s shawl production in Norwich was at its peak. One of Thomas Claburn's shawls was presented by the City of Norwich to Princess Alexandra when she married the future King Edward VII, and in 1869 a shawl, woven by Abel Towler, was given to Queen Victoria on her visit to Norwich.

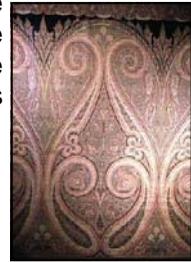
A shawl from Clabburn, Son & Co. was exhibited in the Great Exhibition in 1851 and was described as "Norwich cashmere wool of pine and flower pattern, with gold introduced". Another shawl described as "Norwich Cashmere green scarf shawl with gold pattern and gold introduced" was also exhibited by E T Blakely. Clabburn, Son & Co also won a first class award at the Paris Exposition in 1855 that was described as "made by a patented process differing from any other in use which besides making a perfect back, imparts so exquisite a finish as enables them to bear comparison with the finest productions of India." In the 1862 Exposition, Middleton & Answorth exhibited and were mentioned in the catalogue; "We would especially recommend an inspection of a very rich Jacquard Bordered Shawl with a centre of Norwich twill, the design being most recherché."



In the 1860s and 1870s Clabburn, Son & Co. made what are generally considered to be the most perfect Norwich shawls. They were woven entirely of silk frequently using a rich, deep crimson for the warp. The designs, ones with a pine motive, had become



very flowing and some had a strong feeling of the style later to be known as Art Nouveau.



By the middle of the 1870s the popularity of the shawl was over, fashion changed and the bustle became popular. The graceful drape of the shawl was no longer wanted and with women becoming more active and life styles changing a coat became more practical to wear. Shawls became table and bed linen, some were made into jackets and dressing gowns. However, a few more were made until the 1930s by Grout & Co. and when the last hand loom became worn out it was passed to the Bridewell Museum in Norwich..

Mention must be made of Philip Buxton Etheridge - the starting point for this research. He was born and baptised 9.4.1785, the son of the Rev. Robert and Elizabeth Etheridge, nee Moore, and married Massey Roberts 10<sup>th</sup> May 1810 in St Martin At Palace, Norwich.

He is mentioned in various trade directories, the first being in 1811 when he was listed with London and Roberts at Norwich Warehouse, 19 Lad Lane and Pottergate; in 1822, as a Shawl Manufacturer in St Swithins, Norwich, but by 1826 the Norwich Mercury of 12th January recorded that he had been declared bankrupt.

In 1839 a Commission to Report on the Conditions of the Handloom Weavers referred to protection of patterns and designs and said: "Mr Etheridge, in September last year, stated that a short while before he had brought out a shawl of a most beautiful pattern and it was taking well with the public and yielding a good profit; but he had just received a letter from his London agent telling him that his pattern had been imitated by the Scotch and advising him to discontinue making it immediately".

In the trade directory for 1839 he was listed as a shawl manufacturer at St Clement's; he had moved to St Martin at Palace by 1842 and by 1851 he had retired and was living at 83 Carrow Road and described as a retired manufacturer from Starston..

Philip and Massey had ten children and it is their fifth child, Maria Louisa Amelia Etheridge, who is Audrey's direct ancestor. The Filby connection then starts with one of his sons, Robert Philip Etheridge, who married Anne in 1842 (his second cousin). She was previously married to William Edward Filby,

Philip Buxton Etheridge died on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1861 in Pulham St Mary and buried in Starston. His widow, however, is listed in the 1861 census as living in Pulham St Mary; an annuity holder.

If anyone has any knowledge of this family or has any information about the Norwich Shawl, I can certainly put them in touch with Audrey.

**Bibliography** - *The Norwich Shawl* by Pamela Claburn: *Shawls* by Pamela Claburn: [www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk): [www.fashion-era.com/index.htm](http://www.fashion-era.com/index.htm): Norfolk Chronicle: Norwich Mercury.

**We regret that coloured photographs do not print in colour on the inner pages, but hope that you will be able to enjoy them in black and white rather than not at all. (Editor)**

**Hello to all from Don Filby** (*USA / Canada Correspondent*)

This last year I became a "victim" of the famous "hard drive crash" and it is a long recovery from which I am still working. I had a lot of information saved but my address information somehow did not survive. I am working on that. However, we are still moving forward at a slow pace.

**I would like to share with you another "Name of FILBY"**

**This is about the Finnish Family who used and adopted the FILBY name.**

**HISTORICAL:** The name FILBY, as an insurance man attracted the attention of Ellsworth L. Filby, as he had reported, while driving from Duluth Minnesota to Fargo North Dakota. Waino J. FILBY was the agent who advertised his business in the Cloquett, Minnesota area, by bill board signs along the Highway. So the story of how the FILPPULA brothers from FINLAND became "FILBY" began.

Two brothers, MATTHIAS and ELIAS FILPPULA, were born in Finland near Kuortane, Vaasa Laami. Matthias came to America about 1893. He was attracted by the mining activity in Montana. He married here and then in 1897 Elias Filppula brought his bride to America.

The story, as it is related in Finnish in later years by Mrs. Matthias Filppula to her daughters, is that "MATT", her husband, was employed at the Granite or Olympia-Columbia mine at Granite Montana, to drift a tunnel in the same mine. The mine Foreman - a Scot, suggested that the name FILPPULA was too difficult to spell or pronounce and would be a hindrance in America, so he suggested that Matt use his name, which was FILBY, for payroll purposes. Just who this Scot with the name FILBY was is unknown and will probably never be known as Granite is an abandoned mining town and only the 1880 Federal Census is available for research. Granite County was formed between 1890 and 1900 from parts of Anaconda, Deer Lodge and Missula Counties. This happened in 1896 and Mrs. Anna M. Filppula did not recall the first name of the mining Foreman. So the new short name became in use but the older Finnish name was also used. It is not known if Matthias was ever naturalized.

The two names were used, but in 1918 all aliens had to register as such and ELIAS FILPPULA, then farming in Barron County, Wisconsin, near Turtle Lake, went before the court there and legally obtained the use of the name FILBY. The procedure is listed in Volume 1 page 12 of the "Change of Name Book" in the County Court House at Barron, Wisconsin. The application for the "Change of Name" states "ELIAS FILPPULA, age 44, born in Finland, came to the U.S.A. in November 1899 and spent 6 months in the State of Washington, then 9 years in Butte, Montana, and then came to Barron County, Wisconsin, about 10 years ago. He has lived here ever since owning N1/2SW1/4 section 2 township 33 range 14 west farming and dairying. On July 12- 13th 1918 he applied to adopt the name of ELIAS FILBY due to the difficulty in spelling and pronouncing 'FILPPULA'- No. 149279 register for the Change of Name."

As mentioned the two brothers used both names at times and held property under both names. It is not known if MATTHIAS FILPPULA ever legally changed his name but his family seemed to have used FILBY.

We have Matthias as the first to arrive in America. The family develops as best can be had, through the efforts of Mrs. Ethel Filby Buchanan, of Warrington, Oregon, Mrs. R. L. Folk of Eugene, Oregon, and Waino J. Filby of Cloquett, Minnesota. The family is widely dispersed but as regards to the surname of Filby, apparently, will soon disappear.

Bye to all, take care, Donald R. Filby.

## **Secretary's Report from Ruth Smith**

**Please do let me know if you move**, as we are still receiving envelopes that have been returned after each mail out. It means that you will no longer get our Chronicles and if you enjoy reading them it is a shame to lose your membership.

This is the last year that the Chronicle will be mailed out to anyone that we have not heard from requesting membership. **If you have a number on the envelope address label, you are a member.**

### **New Members**

Stephen John Filby, Victoria, Australia.

Jacqueline Rix Lambert, Wiltshire.

Scott Filbey, Cornwall.

Michael A Filby, USA.

William A Filby, USA

Wesley Filby, The Netherlands.

Andrew and Carole Filby, Hertfordshire

Philip Filby, Wiltshire

David R Filbee, Surrey

Barbara Miller, Maryland, USA

Patricia Dent, Carmarthenshire, Wales.

Edward C Gilbert, Northampton

### **Filby Sunday 2006**

As usual it was a beautiful sunny day. Marion and Alan Filby stayed the night before and took part in the activities that evening. Alan's brother and sister-in-law, Ron and Kath, and Jim, Wally and I, joined them for lunch, and then went to Filby Church for the Service, which was taken by Peter Chapman. Jessie and Patrick King came, two of our new members; Marion was able to have a long chat with them, but sadly, at the end of July, Jessie died. The other Alan who came is brother to Jim, Wally, and me, he brought most of his large family as well. His grandchildren will be Christened at the Reunion in July, which as explained in the 2006 'In Touch' was postponed for several reasons. We had refreshments in the Church Hall as usual. Then I walked with my brothers to the Green where the two Filby Association benches are. The flowerbeds are very pretty, and the 1975 village sign is still there. It is well worth having a walk around the village and perhaps having lunch at the Filby Bridge Restaurant by Filby Broad.

### **Reunion 2007**

Please put Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007 in your diaries now and complete and send me the attendance form enclosed with this Chronicle. We have already heard that one person from Canada and two families from Australia are coming to join us. The time is 2.30 pm at All Saints Church, and refreshments afterwards in the Hall. There will be data and Trees available on computer as usual, as well as some paper records and you will also be able to meet the new Vicar of All Saints Church, The Reverend Graham Steele.

**Our triennial 'Reunion'**  
**will be at All Saints Church, Filby, Norfolk, England,**  
**on Sunday, 1st July 2007 at 2.30pm**  
**We are expecting some overseas members and hope that you**  
**too will make the pilgrimage to support us.**  
**After the service the ladies of Filby village will serve refresh-**  
**ments in the church hall where you can mingle with friends .**  
**All our files and 'Trees' will be available for your information.**  
**Please complete the enclosed attendance reply form**  
**if you will be joining us**

### **Filby Association Accounts 2006**

#### **Reserve Account**

Balance as at December 1 <sup>st</sup> 2005	£1,355.35
Income	
Bank Interest	£ 1.28
Expenditure	£ 0.00
Balance as at November 30 <sup>th</sup> 2006	<b><u>£1,356.63</u></b>

#### **Current Account**

Balance as at December 1 <sup>st</sup> 2005	£576.48
Income	
Donations Association	£552.00
Donation Church	£ 10.00
Goods Ties Etc	£ 30.00
Total Income	£592.00
Expenditure	
2006 Chronicle (Inc.Postage)	£450.14
2006 In Touch (Inc.Postage)	£128.82
Guild Subscription (Goons)	£ 12.00
Total Expenditure	£590.96
Excess of Income over Expenditure	£ 1.04
Balance as at November 30 <sup>th</sup> 2006	<b><u>£ 577.52</u></b>

#### **Balance sheet as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

Reserve Account	£1,356.63
Current Account	£ 577.52
Accumulated fund at November 30 <sup>th</sup> 2006	<b><u>£1,934.15</u></b>

## Treasurers Report 2006

I have pleasure in presenting my fifth report as Treasurer to cover the year from December 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 to November 30<sup>th</sup> 2006.

The cost of the 'Chronicle', 'In Touch', and postage continue to rise, but we have still made an excess of income over expenditure. If I had been able to count the cheques sent from overseas that I have felt obliged to return, this would have been more and I must again repeat the problem highlighted by these donations. The UK Banks put a hefty Bank Charge on changing foreign cheques, this comes to about 50% or more of the donation, and I have therefore felt obliged to return these with thanks.

Please note that I can change **cheques made out in pound sterling, and any foreign currency notes** without problem, so please consider this when showing your generosity so kindly.

The Bureau de Change that I use does not charge commission and is next door to the Bank.

I would like to thank those who have sent donations during the year.

Below I name all those that have contributed, I have not included those who have made donations and wished to remain anonymous:-

Mr H M Filby	Newmarket, Suffolk	Daniel & Helen Filby	Boston, USA
Brigette Philbey	High Wycombe, Bucks	Ian & Jill Philby	Luzech, France
Sheila Filby	Cheam, Surrey	Ron & Kath Filby	Doncaster, Yorks
John H Filby	Roughton, Norfolk	Alan F Filby	Bedford, Beds
Mavis Evans	Camberley, Surrey	R A Filby	Truro, Cornwall
Peter Filby	Plymouth, Devon	Judy Doree	Watford, Herts
Ann Filby	Long Eaton, Notts	J D Filby	Sanderstead, Surrey
H & B G Filby	Brighouse, Yorks	J M Filby	Basingstoke, Hants
James & Rita Filby	Rainham, Essex	Isobel Fendt	Diss, Norfolk
Mr F G Filbee	Waltham, Herts.	Roy Filby	Sidcup, Kent
Margaret Pitt	Cook, Australia	Mr & Mrs Irving	Brixton, London
Mrs A Whithear	Little Chalfont, Bucks	Angela Ashley	Quebec, Canada
Dr & Mrs Ray Filby	Potters Green, Coventry		
Bob & Joyce Filby	Thames Ditton, Surrey		
Mr C H & Mrs B Filbey	Sherborne, Dorset		
Jill & David Yates	Queensland, Australia		
Nevin & Mary Filby	Victoria, Australia		

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

**Wally Filby**  
**(Treasurer)**

## **Jill (nee Filby) and David Yates' Travels in 2006**

We left Brisbane the day after Good Friday, on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> April, and flew to Hong Kong, the start of our Long Service Leave.

Hong Kong is a strange combination of East and West. The busy markets and shops were similar to other Asian cities we have visited, but the traffic was well-ordered, a legacy from the British, with double-decker buses following road rules. Parks were different – they had no grass, but were used for sitting - with signs saying: no paraphernalia, no graffiti, no urinating, no lying on benches, etc. We made sure we did none of these things!! Our trip up to Mt Victoria revealed the smog of HK, which cleared sufficiently at night for us to be able to watch the laser light show over the water.

Two days later, and following a 1 hour turbojet trip from HK to Shenzhen on the mainland, we caught our plane to Guilin, a place where limestone karsts have become a famous tourist attraction. Footpaths and kerbs were lined with marble, reflecting the geology of the area. The next morning we took a Chinese cruise down the Lijiang River to Yangshou. Little 5-logged bamboo rafts pulled up beside our boat as their owners tried to sell anything from jade trinkets and ornaments to meat.

Our next flight was to Xi'an, in central China, site of the Terracotta Warriors and 8 million Chinese, who are obviously adept at transplanting trees. In the middle of Xi'an there is a forest of 15m tall pine trees that wasn't there last year! Throughout the city there are new tourist parks and malls with many beautiful potted plants and trees. There were also decrepit buildings, people, shops, markets, buses, cars and trucks.

We left Xi'an at 10am, arrived in Shenzhen, the closest "mainland" city to Hong Kong and promptly departed by high speed ferry to Hong Kong International for our flight to Rome.

It was good to land at Rome airport and experience truly European queues - as opposed to Asian non-queues. The trip into Rome was fine and we managed to spend a couple of hours looking round the area where we stayed previously. We caught the train to Florence and walked to our hotel where we had a view of the Duomo (the cathedral), albeit across some very run-down looking roofs.

After two years absence Florence is still a great place, although the huge rats in the river remain! We were attracted again to the myriad jewellery shops and street performers, but the huge number of tourists detracted rather from our enjoyment. We really enjoyed strolling streets and lanes that are so old.

The bus trip to Siena was fine. Suffice to say that as with most other Italian towns, there is a lot of history and Siena is full of small shops selling magnificent clothes, shoes and jewellery. The browns and greys and blacks of the stones and bricks are in sharp contrast to the brightly lit colourful up-market fashions on display. In Australia, most upmarket goods come from upmarket-looking shops, but here this isn't the case.

San Gimignano is an even smaller town than Siena, built on a hilltop, and spectacular. We enjoyed the views of rural Tuscany along the way.

After bussing back from Siena to Florence we caught a train to Venice. Well, where do we start? Water, water everywhere, and people, people everywhere. There are 5,792 shops selling Venetian glass jewellery in Venice, but somehow we missed three of them. There are almost as many lace shops and we did get to see all of them! The glasswork is rather spectacular and we went out to the island of Murano where all the glass furnaces are. We also visited the island of Burano where lace is an important industry.

It was something of an adventure when Jill decided we would walk through Venice from one side of the island to the other at 10pm. We hadn't strayed from easily recognised paths until this point. We did see quite a bit of Venice this way, and discovered just how many dead-end alleys there are, and alleys that just end with a 1m drop into a canal.

We hired a car and headed north to the region of the Dolomite mountain range - simply spectacular! There was a considerable quantity of ice and snow on them but fortunately the roads were clear. We drove up and down mountain passes and were somewhat terrified at the placing of some roads. Looking down was definitely OFF the agenda.

We spent a night in Bozen or Bolzano, the final resting place of the 5300 year old ice-mummy found a decade or so ago in the Alps in an area near where we were driving. We actually saw Otzi in his freezer, but the detail of all the equipment and clothes he had with him was even more impressive than he. It is hard to believe that so much material was found, but it is clear that he was well prepared. In 2001 someone discovered that he actually died of a spear wound, and still had a stone spear-head in his upper back.

The second night we spent just outside the town of Assisi. The town is part way up a mountain and has a commanding view of surrounding country. The next day we managed to get to Rome airport for our flight to London.

After staying with Joe (our younger son) for a number of days, we flew to Cork.

We journeyed clockwise around the (WHOLE OF) Ireland over the next few days. There is no question as to why it is called the emerald isle... the green has to be seen to be believed. Small country lanes and dry stone walls were everywhere and we enjoyed their variety.

We visited the south-west coast with its magnificent scenery; Ring of Kerry, Dingle Peninsula included. We visited Muckross house in the Killarney National Park. The garden was breathtaking.

The Cliffs of Moher were rugged and windswept and very free of tourists at 8pm! Everywhere we met the Irish; they were so much more friendly and happy than many other people we have met on our trip.

The Burren is an unusual area in the north-west in which there is very little soil over smooth limestone. Early settlements removed trees (with soil following) so that today there are huge expanses of bare rock. This was strikingly stark, but very interesting, especially when we started looking at the plants growing on it. We drove through Galway and headed north through Donegal to Dungloe for the night.

At this stage we were on a mission to see the Giant's Causeway, a huge area of basalt (that stretches to Scotland). In many places this is exposed as "organ pipes" or tessellated pavement. The Antrim hills in the area were simply superb. We realized that from the cliff tops at their edge we could see not only an Irish island, but the coast of Scotland.

We rocketed down the east coast, spending only an hour negotiating Belfast. Street and road signs in Ireland could do with some attention - they received plenty from us!

We spent a night at Enniscorthy. The Museum had a superb presentation of parts of Irish history and struggles. We were highly impressed and finally Jill seemed to come round to a different view of the value of a monarchy (especially these days). The presentation certainly gave a different slant on history than one gained in an Australian school education in the 1950's.

Then it was a bee-line to Waterford for the crystal factory. This was probably the biggest disappointment of the week.

Back in London we hired a Ford Fiesta to head north. First stop was Downham Market where we visited Mary Filby who was recovering from an operation, we spent an enjoyable hour with her. We had met the family in 1981 at a "Filby Reunion" when Mary was secretary of the Association.

We travelled up to York and stayed overnight with Marion and Alan Filby (our Chronicle editor). Alan cooked a superb English breakfast and Marion took us on a guided tour of historic York which included an underground archaeological dig. This was an excellent presentation showing habitation of Jorvik (now York) by the Vikings, and earlier.



Here we are in York, England.

From left;  
Alan Filby with Jill and David Yates.

We travelled up to Scotland to dig a little into David's past and arrived in Perthshire where some of his forebears had originated.

Our hand-carved oak table was made by David's great-great-grandfather, John Smith. His wife was Margaret Elder, she and her family lived in Perthshire. David's cousin, Marion, had told him of a stone in a churchyard in Kinfauns. We found and photographed this stone in detail, erected in memory of his parents by the brother of Margaret Elder. Nearby we visited three farms on which the family had lived and worked. We visited St Monans, a small town near St Andrews from whence John Smith had come.

After twenty four hours in Edinburgh we drove south to Carlisle and the magnificent Lake District. We looked around Keswick and visited the only working slate mine in England.

We headed toward Leicester where we were to meet Joe again. Passing through Wensleydale we saw the cheese factory, and stopped to find out what it was that 'Wallace' likes so much.

In Leicester we looked at the three streets where we know 'Yates' forebears lived, though the second generation of factories are being torn down in these. Originally the streets comprised terrace houses. We also went to St Margaret's Church graveyard and looked for gravestones.

We drove to Loughborough and wandered the market. It was much less 'country' than when we were there in 1980-81. Shepshed (where we had once lived) has not changed much. The church we attended looked the same. We drove round a bit to get bearings and then found our home at 15 Tamworth Close, Shepshed. There it was - almost as we had left it. The three of us sat in the car and reminisced about the past. Whilst it was a bit wet, we walked along the disused train line where we used to take Sunday walks - with the boys in gumboots - and the forest on the other side of the line where there had been a dense carpet of bluebells. It was good to spend that bit of time in an area which had been part of our life 26 years ago.

We drove to the Peak District. Whilst the area is a national park, there is nothing but farms, villages, gentle hills and a few craggy outcrops, SO different from what Australians expect to find in National Parks.

We climbed "Mam Tor", a windswept peak in the hills with barely a tree in sight. It had been an ancient dwelling place of previous civilisations and had a fantastic view down the valley and to the tiny village marking one end of the Pennine Way, a celebrated walking route in England. Eventually, we caught the Stansted Express back to Joe's place in London.

Our next country destination was Egypt and Joe joined us for the 12-day tour from Cairo to Aswan. We arrived in Cairo at about midnight and found that the streets were extremely busy and temperatures bearable (about 28°C). Our guide informed us that we should be up early next morning to fit in the three pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx, the Egyptian museum, the Khal Al Khalili Bazaar, the perfume 'museum' and the papyrus 'institute' - the last two were actually 'shops'. That night we caught the overnight train to Luxor (12 hours) where we joined our Nile river cruise ship..

At Luxor, we were met by another guide who took us to Karnak temple, the largest temple in the world, then to Luxor temple which is 3 km from Karnak and supposedly joined by an avenue of sphinxes, only some of which have been excavated.

The next day we went to the West Bank of the Nile, the Valley of the Kings, the tombs of Ramses III and Thutmose III, which are in amazingly good condition, with ceilings and walls beautifully painted. Queen Hatshepsut's Temple in an adjoining valley is another magnificent construction, especially considering the heat and the lack of equipment they would have had. All of these Egyptian mummies would have been alive at the time of Ötzi in the Italian Alps - the Egyptian mummies preserved by dry conditions and Ötzi by freezing conditions.

Returning to the cruise ship again, we headed upstream - an amazingly relaxing and comfortable way to travel through such inhospitable country. The desert comes close to the edge of the Nile River, which is indeed the lifeblood of the country. The ancient shadufs have been replaced by water pumps, and a canal runs beside the river. Donkeys continue to be used for transport as work animals, and are washed in the river like family pets. Mud brick houses with grass roofs, mango trees, bananas and crops grow along the narrow fertile strip reached by the river which no longer floods, thanks to the huge Aswan dam.

We visited other temples along the way to Aswan: The Temple of Horus (the falcon) at Edfu is one of the best-preserved temples in Egypt. Kom Ombo Temple where crocodiles were sacrificed has a couple of mummified crocs and a Nilometer which measures the height of the Nile.

At Aswan we visited the unfinished obelisk in a pink granite quarry – its 42 metre length makes us realise what amazing engineers these people were (are). The Aswan Dam is enormous. The wall itself is 4km long and about 1km wide at its base and holds back the largest man-made lake in the world, Lake Nasser. The water is not only used for irrigation and drinking, but also to produce hydro-electricity and provides 70% of Egypt's electricity. These days, crocodiles are not found downstream from the dam due to a net which catches them, but the dam has increased the presence of the organism Bilharzia that lives in the river and precludes people from swimming in it – not that this stops the locals!

We took a trip to a Nubian village, Nubia being the old name for Sudan, and also visited the Nubian Museum.

The overnight train downstream took us back to Cairo and then Alexandria where we visited a mosque, Pompey's column, the Roman amphitheatre and catacombs, and drove past the library, once the largest in the world.

We returned to Cairo and sadly, the next morning David and Jill left for Australia, while Joe returned to England. What an amazing holiday!

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## Obituaries



**Gun-Britt Filbey (née Strömberg)** was born on the island of Gotland, Sweden, in the Baltic sea, on 13th April 1941. She met her husband, Derek, in London in 1960 whilst staying as an au-pair. They were engaged 10/10 1962 and married 10/10 1964 in Lundsund, Sweden. Gun-Britt became a nurse in England and they moved back to Sweden in 1967 where she lived and worked with the elderly in Örebro. They had three children, two adopted Korean babies, Emma and Caroline, and one biological son, Peter. Gun-Britt died one month before her 65th birthday on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2006 in Örebro, Sweden.

Her surviving family are her husband, **Derek**. **Emma & Dan**, and grandchildren **Mathilda and Norah**. **Caroline & Matthias**. **Peter**.

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This photograph of **Patrick and Jessie King** was taken by me at the Filby Sunday on 2nd July 2006.

Sadly, **Jessie died on 29th July 2006**

She had just sent the information and photos for us in this edition on page 8 and was looking forward to my researching her family history for her.



## In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that  
**James & Rita Filby** remember  
**their dear daughter, Susan,**  
who died on 9th February 2002  
"Always in our thoughts"

In loving memory of **Patricia Filbee,**  
wife of **Francis, and mother of Carmen and Sara-Jane.**  
Tragically killed whilst visiting England to see Carmen pass out at  
Cambridge. The family have lived and owned a bar in Spain on the  
Costa Calida for 14 years motoring back and forth many times before  
this accident happened. Patricia is on the four generations photograph  
supplied by her father-in-law **Frank G. Filbee** on page 9

Mr Stanley E Southgate died 2nd January 2006 aged 90 years.  
Eileen and he had been married for fifty five and a half years.

## Anniversaries

Congratulations to **Henry and Molly Kuttner**  
on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary  
11th February 2006. *(photo on back cover)*

Congratulations to **Cecil (Phil) and Barbara Filbey**  
on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary  
4th February 2006 *(photo on back cover)*

Congratulations to **John and Sharon Filbey**  
on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary 2nd May 2006

## Births

To **Karl Filby** and **Maria**, a son, **Alex Alan Filby** born 28th July 2006.  
**Karl is the son of Alan Filby**, whose grandchildren will be Christened  
at All Saints Church, Filby, at our Reunion on July 1st 2007

**Jacob Liam Filby** was born on 7th February 2006  
A brother for **Leo**, and son for **Lisa & Ian Filby**  
who is our web master, **Jim Filby's son.**

## Birth and Marriage

On 10th June 2006 **Jason Filbey and Zoe Curtis**  
were married in Leicester.

On 28th July 2004 they had a daughter, **Morgan,**  
who is the first granddaughter for **John and Sharon Filbey.**  
Last year, **Jason, who is John's stepson and Sharon's son,**  
honoured them by changing his surname to **Filbey.**

## Apology

In last year's Chronicle I wrongly stated that **Caroline Filby**, who married  
**Paul Fellows**, was the granddaughter of **Mary & Len Filby**, she is actually  
the granddaughter of **Doris and Maurice Filby.** Please accept my sincere  
apologies for this error. *Editor*



John H Filby's son, Paul, and his wife, Rose, with sons, Jordan and Ashley



John H Filby and Zoe, on holiday in China 2005.( see page 6 )

Cecil (Phil) and Barbara Filbey of Sherborne, Dorset, perusing the message from HM The Queen on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 4th February 2006. Their son, John, and his wife, Sharon, celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary on 2nd May 2006



Molly and Henry Kuttner celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary in July. The anniversary was on 11th February 2006 but had to be postponed due to Henry's delayed operation.

You will no doubt remember Molly, as editor of the Filby Newsletter for the seven years prior to my taking over as Chronicle editor in 2003. We still value Molly's input when association business is discussed, although she mainly prefers to remain 'retired'!