

In Touch

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The Filby Association

AUGUST 2007

Dear Friends,

Our aim is to bring the Filby (and variants) Family closer together by regular contact. I have already started the lay out for our Chronicle 2008 so if you need reminding that you are sending an article to me - this is it - the 'In Touch' for 2007 is out and the Chronicle is next! Send your article or photos to me at the above email address or by post to 22, Aldwark, York, YO1 7BU, England.

A message from Jim Filby our new Manager

Mary Filby, among others, asked me if I would be willing take on the task of becoming your new manager because she felt that due to health reasons she could no longer continue in the position herself. I eventually agreed to accept, on one condition, that all the officers and past officers unanimously agreed that I should become manager of The Filby Association. I was pleasantly surprised and honoured when Ruth informed me that I was elected.

I am now finding out just how much background work Mary put in to make our Association what it is today; I hope and pray that I can do justice to what she has achieved. I will do my best to do what Mary, all our officers, and most importantly, you, our members, expect of me. I know I have the support of all our officers both here in the UK and abroad, who make and are a fantastic team.

I feel that I have four major tasks in front of me as we enter into the twenty first century:

Firstly, to ensure we continue to be a successful and truly world wide Association.

Secondly, to make us more open and democratic to our members.

Thirdly, to make sure that we have members who will take over from us when we, like Mary, make the decision to retire from office.

Finally, to make sure that with the help of our treasurer we will continue to have enough funds to run the Association and also support All Saints Church, Filby, with our donations.

I myself am in favour of keeping our status quo by not charging a yearly subscription, instead, accepting the kind donations from our members and friends. If you look at our accounts, which are published in the Chronicle, you will notice that 99% of our expenditure goes on the printing and posting of our 'In Touch' and 'Chronicle'. The main reason the 'In Touch' costs a lot less is that it is emailed to every member with an email address, a total of 124 members; the 'Chronicle' being different, at the moment is posted to all members.

The 'Chronicle' being in A5 book format is nice to keep as a memento. However, we asked in our last (2007) 'Chronicle' if anyone would like to receive it in electronic (Adobe Reader) format; so far only 13 members have taken up the offer. For every copy we can email, apart from saving us time, will save us over £1.50 in the UK and £2.50 for overseas posting. How about a few more of you taking up this offer?

While talking about money; if you look at our accounts, apart from the In Touch and Chronicle there is no mention of expenses. Did you know that all our officers and researchers not only give their time freely to the Association and our members, but neither do they ask for any expenses, which of course they are entitled to claim. Stationary, stamps, petrol etc. are not cheap, and they are getting to be more expensive as each year passes.

Finally, what I do promise is that I will do my best to make sure that what Mary Filby and our other two co-founders, Ellsworth Filby and Fred Filby, started in 1961 (the

Association was formed in 1968), continues well into the future. Just think what it will be like attending All Saints Church in Filby on the 1st July 2068 for our Centenary Reunion; I will not be around then but my grandchildren, and yours, could well be. jim@filby.org.uk

The Filby Reunion - Sunday, July 1st 2007

Our day began with light showers, so I suppose we were quite lucky because the rest of the country seemed to be under water! When we arrived in Filby we took the opportunity to visit our Garden of Remembrance where between the benches that were dedicated to our Founders, Ellsworth Filby and Frederick N. Filby, the 'Filby' sign proudly stands. This year it had a beautiful garden of flowers beneath, which added to the many hanging baskets that adorned houses and village roads supporting the county's 'In Bloom' competition.

By 2.00pm the sun was shining and the Filbys were gathering en route to All Saints Church. We were early, but so were many more, perhaps afraid they might not get a seat! Smiles and handshakes, as well as hugs and kisses continued as friends and families met for the first time this year, or in many cases - for the first time. Everyone was pleased to see our Honorary President, Mary Filby, greeting arrivals inside the church.

The new vicar, Reverend Graham Steel, was busily organising things for the service and the Christenings as well as receiving items for the church. We made ourselves known to put him at ease during what was to be his first Filby Association service. My husband, Alan Filby, had last year commissioned an artists drawing of the church, and we were delighted to have a framed copy to present to the church at this year's Reunion. It was gratefully received by Martin Moore, the church warden.



It was a pleasure to see the church full. The first hymn was the Filby Hymn, which I am coming to know quite well now. This was followed by The Absolution, Collect, the Reading: Luke 3: 21 – end, another hymn, 'For all the Saints', and Peter Chapman read the sermon.

Next was the dedication of two kneelers that were presented to All Saints Church by Ray and Sue Filby of Coventry. The kneelers, bearing the names of Ray's parents, Stanley Harold Filby and Ida Esther Filby embroidered along one edge, were duly blessed to commemorate their life. Thank you Ray and Sue for your generosity.

Our hymn, All Things Bright and Beautiful led us into the Baptisms of Louis Filby (aged 4) and Ami-Louise Filby (aged 3) Louis appeared to enjoy the whole event whilst Ami-Louise looked a little hesitant. After prayers and the hymn 'O Lord My God', Blessings and Notices, we had Dismissal from the Baptism service to watch the children follow the Reverend Steel with lighted candles to the font for photographs. It was in all an excellent service.



The congregation of about seventy people strolled down to the church hall for food and beverage where the buzz of chatter soon illuminated the hall. We had prepared a few interesting items. Jim Filby had produced a DVD containing all the newsletters from 1962 to 2003 and included the much sought after document 'The Manors of Filby, Norfolk', that was researched and written by Philip N. Skelton MBE with additional material by Douglas W. Hamley and Frederick N. Filby. These were great value at £3 each. Jim had also managed to acquire more ties with the Filby Coat of

Arms which were also on sale, there were car stickers, pens and a few ladies pin badges available too.

I hung a box chart family tree for all to see, which is the largest of our 105 Master Trees, and contains many members of our association including my family. One young man watched as I hung it up and noticed his sister's name. He pointed out that he wasn't there! I was delighted to meet him because I had tried to contact his mother when we visited East Harling in Norfolk only four years earlier, but she was at work when we called. The family had



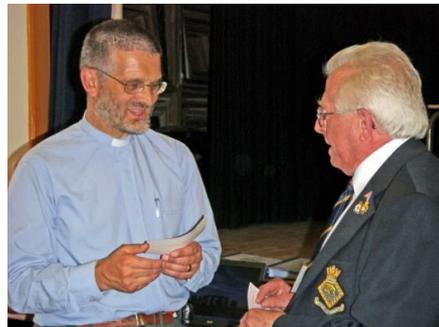
never attended a Filby Sunday before, but had often talked about coming along - I am so pleased that they did. They are now members and eager to trace their family ties. I will add the information they gave to me at the reunion to our tree and let them have details.

After welcoming all our guests and announcing that Mary Filby had recently been made our Honorary President, I invited our newly elected Manager, Jim Filby, to speak. Jim extended his congratulations to Mary Filby on over 45 years dedicated service to the Filby Association and

introduced our guest of the day, Michael Carttiss, Chairman of Norfolk County Council and representative of Filby village, to make the presentation. Mary was delighted to accept our gift, an engraved decanter and glasses set on a silver salver.

Then it was the turn of Wally Filby, our Treasurer, who presented cheques to the Reverend Graham Steel to the value of £500 donated by the Association to All Saints Church Fund.

After business it was a time for getting to know everyone and the first person I welcomed was Madeleine Grove, who had come all the way from Australia for the occasion. After researching her family history through the



Filby Association, Judy Doree had made contact with her missing step-sister, Madeleine, her step-brother, Ross, and their ever growing family. This was indeed a celebration! Other overseas visitors were in fact from my family. My husband's half cousin, Melanie Battell, her daughter, Emma, and son-in-law, Adam, had travelled from



Canada also for this special occasion. They were spending a week in Suffolk sightseeing with us and other members of our family.

Henry Filby, aged 87, was probably our most senior member present, with his wife, Joan. We had been in touch whilst researching the Filbys of Downham Market and Henry had helped



by completing a family questionnaire. Both Henry and his wife are very interesting and pleasant people to chat with and there will be an article in the next Chronicle by his nephew, Tony Filby.



Albert and Ann Filby of Luton had brought their own family tree chart with them and had only got back as far as knowing that William Arthur Filby (born 1819) who married Susannah Johnson in Thetford had a father called John Filby. When Albert approached my

box chart on the wall he noticed that his family were shown too. After asking me more I was able to show him that his family actually went back to Nicholas ffylbye (1520) as did mine. He was delighted. Since then we have had further contact to pass on mutual information.

Ursula Phillips made herself known to me as did John Filbey, who has written about his father, Cecil Filbey's life, for our next Chronicle. I thank you both. We had organised and printed name badges for all to wear, but this plan failed and we all had to approach each other to be identified. I never did meet the lucky person who had the FILBY car registration that I have long been searching for, but perhaps I will next year! My apologies to those of you that I missed speaking to, I would have enjoyed meeting everyone but time was short

I popped into the kitchen to thank the ladies of Filby Church for the wonderful tea they had prepared for us, much work had gone in both before and during the event, which should not go without recognition.

Already being planned for next year is our special 40th Anniversary celebration on Sunday, 6th July 2008. We will make sure that we all have identification to help us through. Please do try to attend and make it yet another very special day for us all.

Marion Filby (editor/researcher)

The Guild of One Name Studies AGM and Conference - April 2007

The AGM began with election of the committee and then Chairman, Peter Walker, presented his summary of the last year. Money is available for new projects this year as Charity Commission rules dictate that reserves must be brought down. Ann Shankland won the Guild Website award and it was announced that she is to be the Guilds new webmaster. Our Chronicle did not get any recognition as the A4 size is preferred, but I will retain our A5 size for convenience.

The first speaker of the day was Maggie Bird, a serving officer with the Metropolitan Police, who talked about their Police Records. The Met was formed in 1829 in order to prevent, amongst other things, garrotting of members of the public. The records are mostly held in the National Archives, but unfortunately there is no single index to police officers, so it is not simple to check a registered name. They are however, preparing a website. Maggie revealed that she had been researching the Jack the Ripper files and suggested that 'He' may have been a 'She'!

Next, it was the turn of Dr. Pamela Horn on Victorian Elementary Schools. In the early Victorian period, many elementary schools were set up by voluntary agencies, particularly the National Schools backed by the Church of England. Of particular significance is the year 1880, when school attendance, in theory, became compulsory. Interestingly, large bronze medals were awarded annually to pupils for exemplary behaviour and 100% attendance.

Kathy Chater spoke on Black Ancestry. You may think this is not relevant, but it is estimated that 10-20,000 black people came to Britain between the 1660's and the abolition of slavery in 1807. Many of them will have had families and left descendents. Often their colour wasn't even mentioned in parish records, but physical descriptions when joining the army or navy are worth investigating.

Next there was a presentation on Dr. Williams' Library in London by Alan Ruston who started with a biblical justification for family historians. This quotation can be found in the Book of Joel, Ch 1, v 2 and 3. The library holds a large number of Nonconformist records, including Baptists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Unitarians, but not those of Roman Catholics or Methodists. The most important of these, in history terms, is probably the Registers, a voluntary system by which people could send in the details of births and, upon payment of sixpence, have them recorded.

Paul Blake spoke on British India. This dates back to the end of the 16th century, when the Honourable East India Company was founded. Many of its records are now in the British Library, including ecclesiastical returns which cover many locations as far a field as St. Helena.

David Bartram gave an insight into 'Behind the Handwriting' and the last speaker was Nick Barratt of "Who Do You Think You Are?" fame. Nick is a mediaeval historian who fell into television more or less by accident. He entertained with some stories about the making of the TV series and apologised for the unrealistic manner in which it often presented its discoveries, particularly the certificates in brown envelopes, which he pledged to remove.

Marion Filby (GOONS representative)

Secretary's Report

Jim, Wally and I went to Filby Church in January for the Installation of the new Vicar, Graham Steel, and his wife Mandy. The Church was full, including many from his previous Parish of Westcliff St. Peter with St. Cedd, in Essex. They both circulated afterwards and spoke to everyone so we were able to meet them.

We have made some changes, for various reasons, to the distribution of the Chronicles. We now send them all out from the UK, either by post, or now by email for those who would like it that way. We have always kept the world wide mailing lists in the UK. The only continent where we do not have members is Asia. We are all part of a worldwide 'Family' based in the UK. Don't forget to give me your changes of address, telephone number or email address. And if you are not in Europe, let Don Filby (USA) or Don Barry (Australia) know as well.

If you would like any of your late family remembered we have a Book of Remembrance, which was on display at the reunion on July 1st. The cost is £5.00 per A4 page and you will get a copy of the entry.

We would still like to have members join our committee if they have some spare time. Contact Jim or me and say how you would like to help. We do not usually ask for any expenses except for large amounts such as printing and postage for the Chronicles, but that should not be a barrier if you need to claim. Jim is still financing the web site so that does not at the moment come out of any donations made to the Association. We are therefore able to be more generous when making donations to Filby Church for help on their various projects.

Henry Filby, of Cambridge, sent me a cutting that had been sent from near Dunedin in New Zealand. It was for a Sapphire Wedding Anniversary, 65 years. The wedding was on 25th October 1941, in Norwich, between Wattie Robinson and Gladys Filby. If any of our members know about Gladys and Wattie, can you give them our congratulations and let us know more about them.

Jim and I went to Norwich in January and were interviewed by Maggie Secker on her Sunday afternoon programme on Radio Norfolk. Did any of you hear it?

Please remind me if you have asked for help with research and have not heard from anyone.

Marion has mentioned the Christenings that took place at the Reunion. Louis and Ami-Louise were the grandchildren of Jim, Wally, and my brother, Alan. My two children, Helen and Mark, were able to come this year for the first time. They enjoyed their visit to the village and loved Filby Broad, the Green with the Filby sign and the two seats donated by The Filby association. ruth@filby.org.uk

Family Records Centre (GRO part) to close early

The Guild, along with other representatives of the family history community, were informed at the FRC Users Group meeting on 25th July that the Public Search Room facilities at the FRC, Myddelton Street will close at the beginning of November, some 5 months earlier than previously indicated. No certificate ordering or collection service will be available and the paper indexes will be withdrawn. A limited set of microfiche copies of the indexes will be available on the 1st floor in the National Archives area. The ONS believes that this, together with sets in various libraries and the online commercial indexes, meets its statutory obligations.

This news is very disappointing as the closure of the FRC was supposed to be matched by improvements in the online records.

Our best wishes to you and your families, on behalf of The Filby Association,

Marion Filby (Editor)