

In Touch

Editor: Marion Filby, 22 Aldwark,
York. YO1 7BU, England.
Email: marion.filby@virgin.net



The Filby Association

AUGUST 2008

Dear Friends,

Here we are again, into the summer season with lots of news and views to share with you all. We hope that you are well and keeping yourselves busy.

First the important news: our treasurer has a new address and this is where you can send any donations that you may like to give to our Association in the future; Mr W. Filby, Flat 209, Elis David Almshouses, Duppas Hill Terrace, Croydon, Surrey, CRO 4BT, England.

Our Manager, Jim Filby, writes:

In April, Ruth Smith, my sister, who is our Filby Association secretary, and my self, the Association manager, attended the Guild of One Name Studies A.G.M. and conference, which we have for the last five years, but this year we thought it was one of the best we have attended. We were pleasantly surprised when asked to 'dress as an ancestor' as a theme for the conference.

I therefore decided to go as my uncle who served in the Tank Corps during World War One. We decided that Ruth could go as Arthur's younger sister (he was always known as Arthur), our Aunt Edith, who served as a Red Cross nurse in the Second World War.

The search was now on to find original uniforms; The Red Cross uniform was found along with many First World War army uniform items: jacket, trousers, trench cap, puttees and the Browning pistol and holster. Being almost a century old they are like gold dust to find but we were successful. The only items that were not original was the belt for the Browning pistol holster, it should have been leather but I had to settle for a standard web belt; and the army boots were second hand which I managed to buy from an army surplus store.



Being able to go to the dinner in the evening as my uncle, and wear his original medals, made it extra special to both me and my sister.

We received equal first prize with a gentleman who had come over from Canada for the conference.

My thanks go to all the organisers for such a magnificent event and weekend.

GOONS Representative - Marion Filby reports:

I was most impressed when I received the GOONS Journal to find that our manager, Jim, had written an article about his Uncle James Arthur Filby, who was born in 1897, and whom Jim honoured by wearing the uniform his uncle would have worn. He kept that a secret from me!!

The speakers at this years A.G.M. were Dr. Alan Dodge, on Parish Councils, Caroline Verney, of Exeter University, who explained how servants and 'below stairs' people could be linked to their masters and should not be dismissed out of hand, but investigated more thoroughly. Inspector Simon Dell on Police Archives, Dr. Michael Braund on Australian records and Janet Few explained how to reconstruct 19th century families, groups and communities. Dr. Helen Doe talking of 19th century coastal communities and David Hawkins covered Transportation Records.

I think the highlight of the weekend was the sumptuous dinner and the wearing of 'ancestral costumes' because the centre pages of the Journal contained some delightful photographs, including 'our' Jim and Ruth appearing to be having a jolly good time! It isn't all work then?

marion.filby@virgin.net

Changes at The National Archives by Wally Filby

When the Family Records Centre (F.R.C.) at Myddleton Street closed earlier this year, records were transferred to The National Archives (T.N.A.) at Kew. Because of this changes have been made at T.N.A. and in the way records and indexes can be viewed.

All the indexes that were at F.R.C. have been put onto microfilm or microfiche and together with the other records that were already on microfilm or microfiche (Census Returns etc.) can now be viewed on the first floor of T.N.A.

For those who have been to T.N.A. the alterations are: the ground floor has been changed in that the restaurant area has been rearranged and enlarged and the locker room extended. The book shop is the same, but the museum is being altered and is still closed.

It is no longer necessary to have a reader's ticket to reach the first floor where the viewing and reading rooms are because the T.N.A. indexes, census returns, and other records are now on microfilm and microfiche, and records that can be accessed through computer terminals, are open to the public.

You still need a reader's ticket to use the newly extended reading room for viewing original documents, and to use the map and large document room on the second floor.

To view the births, marriages, and deaths, it is easier to use the computer terminals where pages can be viewed and printed off if required. Census returns and some other records can also be viewed from the computer terminals.

There is no facility for purchasing certificates at T.N.A. but you can order certificates from the General Register Office online at www.gro.gov.uk by phone at 0845-603-7788 or by post address; General Register Office, PO Box 2, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 2JD. The basic cost of a certificate is at the moment £7 but other fees can be viewed online.

To order certificates you will need the person's name, year registered, quarter registered, district, volume, and page. If after 1983, the register reference must also be included. This information can be obtained free at the T.N.A.

You can also get this information online from www.findmypast.com or www.ancestry.co.uk but to obtain the above information from these websites you have to pay a fee. You can access these sites free from the T.N.A.

You can obtain the above information free for Filby names using our website www.filby.co.uk and going to records, which gives you a link to our archive on the Guild of One Name Studies (GOONS) website. Other surnames may also be available free on this site www.one-name.org

The only fee payable at T.N.A. is the cost of printing if required, which is 20p a copy and can be paid by using special payment terminals and a special payment card obtainable at T.N.A. Or, if you have one, a reader's ticket which includes the printing of census returns, and then pages can be printed off for 20p per page instead of the 75p charge to download and print online.

There are always members of staff at help and enquiries desks to assist you in using the facilities. Also on the first floor is the facility for obtaining a reader's ticket if you want to use the reading and large document rooms. You will need photo proof of identity (drivers licence or passport), and proof of residence (recent utility bill), to have a guided tour of instruction before being issued with your reader's ticket, this usually takes a couple of hours.

wally@gutteridge-name.org

Our U.S.A./Canada Correspondent – By Jim Filby (Manager)

On the 30th April I accepted the resignation of our U.S.A./Canada Correspondent, 008 - Don Filby, who resigned for personal reasons. I thanked him for his help as an officer of the Association over the last 10 years; Don, and his wife, Ellen, remain as members of the Association.

I wrote to all our members in the U.S.A. and Canada informing them of Don's decision, stating that in the meantime we would support them from the U.K. until a new correspondent could be found. I also invited any volunteers to put themselves forward for the position of U.S.A./Canada correspondent.

Member 010 - Ray Filbey, from Stafford, Virginia, a retired officer of the Association, who was responsible among other things, for putting all our handwritten trees onto computer and keeping them updated, put forward and recommended the following two people who would be willing to help the Association in the U.S.A.

Kirk Filbey, Ray's nephew, who lives in West Haven, Utah, with his wife, Trish. Kirk would be happy to volunteer to be our new U.S.A./Canada Correspondent. Also Jessica Gill, Ray's daughter, who lives in Huntersville, North Carolina; there is a photo of Jessica with husband and new born son on the back page of our 2008 Chronicle. Jessica would like to assist Kirk with any help he may need and also do any research that is required in the U.S.A.



As there were no other volunteers I am happy to report that the executive committee were unanimous in appointing C08 - Kirk Filby, as our U.S.A./Canada Correspondent, and C10 - Jessica Gill, as our new U.S.A. Researcher; I am sure you will all want to thank them for volunteering to help the Association and will wish them well in their new duties. They will both be writing a small



introduction article for the 2009 Chronicle.

jim@filby.org.uk .

Secretary's Report - by Ruth Smith

I would welcome any newspaper articles or mention of Filby/Philby of all spellings. Please send them to me, either the item or a photocopy, or by email. We have had some interesting ones in the past, but I have had very few recently.

If any of you would like to help the Guide Dogs for the Blind, you can save used stamps from your envelopes and bring them to the Reunions, or send to me. Sue Smith, from Filby Church, collects them. She also does Bed and Breakfast, if anyone wants a few days in the village and surrounding area please let me know.

Please don't forget to let me have any changes of address/email etc. We do have mail returned and emails that come back to us which means that sometimes we lose touch with members.

Keith Johnson, from Filby village, sent me a 2008 calendar with photographs of the village and events. They are proposing to have a calendar for 2009, which will include some Filby Association old and new photographs. You can order through him on either the webmaster@filbyvillage.org.uk email address, or phone number 01493 369536, or write to Keith Johnson, Homeward, Main Road, Filby, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. NR29 3HN. The current price for the 2009 "Filby, Then and Now" calendar is £7. Postage will remain at £1 in the U.K. unless there is an increase in postage, overseas rates can be determined. Profits go to the new village hall fund.

We have had two enquiries from Asia this year, so we are truly international.

ruth@filby.org.uk

From your Manager, Jim Filby

First of all I would like to thank all those who came to our fortieth ruby celebrations. It was nice to see so many old friends and welcome a number of new ones too, which makes all the hard work our officers put in worthwhile. If you couldn't be with us this year, maybe next year or the year after; 2009 will be just a normal get together but 2010 will be our triennial reunion. Both events are of course on the first Sunday in July so please put the dates in your diary.

Secondly, I would like to thank Rev. Graham Steel and his parishioners for the wonderful memorial bookcase/stand for All Saints Church in commemoration of Len Filby, our past president, and Mary's late husband. It was a big surprise, and something that brought back fond memories, as well as tears from Mary and all of us. Thank you again to all in Filby.

We had our first ever A.G.M. at 11.00am before our afternoon service and I was very pleased to see quite a few of our members at the meeting, more than I had expected. Thank you for attending. A number of resolutions were passed, which will be acted upon in the next few months; details of which will be in the next Chronicle. In future, we, your committee, will be holding an A.G.M. on the morning of all our Filby Sundays and I hope as many as possible will attend because your voice is important to us.

Ruth, Wally, and I, managed to attend a memorial service at 2pm on the village green (before our service at 2.30pm) to dedicate a memorial garden in honour of the Far East Prisoners of War. This service turned out to be especially relevant because in his sermon, Rev. Graham Steel touched on the importance of family history, and history in general, pointing out that we should remember the past and not make the same mistakes as our forefathers. This is mentioned in the F.E.P.O.W. prayer:-

*And we that are left grow old with the years
Remembering the heartache, the pain and the tears
Hoping and praying that never again
Man will sink to such sorrow and shame
The price that was paid we will always remember
Every day, every month, not just in November.*

jim@filby.org.uk

Our 40th Anniversary Reunion 1968-2008 by Marion Filby (editor/researcher)

Sunday, 6th July, was a very busy day! After our 11.00am A.G.M. Wally Filby and I were interviewed by Radio Norfolk for their 2.00pm show. Then we managed an hour for lunch before returning to set out our displays in the church hall.



We were fortunate once again that we had lovely sunshine to welcome us all to church for our 2.30pm service. First there was our Honorary President, Mary Filby, greeting everyone as they arrived with her usual beaming smile. People soon circulated amongst friends from earlier reunions to chat and introduce new members and first time attendees. There was a lively buzz of friendship echoing around the church as the guest book was

signed and Ron Filby kindly gave out the order of service booklets and hymn books.

Jim Filby had prepared a wonderful twenty-eight page commemorative 40th Anniversary booklet containing the order of service, foreword by Mary Filby, our President, photographs of Officers and Researchers, and our three Founder Members; also Past Honorary Presidents, Retired Association Officers and new U.S.A. Officers. From the past we had photographs of four vicars, the 1968 Filby Homecoming, 1971 First Reunion, 1977 Reunion, 1981 Reunion, 1995 Reunion, 1997 Reunion and 2001 30th Anniversary.

The booklet went on to contain the history of the Filby Association and pages from our web site. The Filby Coat of Arms, The Name “de filby”, a Royal Connection Family Tree and information about earlier records. With the drawing of All Saints Church on the front cover and the Filby Hymn on the back cover.

Attendance in church was excellent and the service was taken by Rev. Graham Steel. It was a pleasure to hear a full congregation sing, supported by a small church choir. The highlight of the service was a surprise to Mary Filby when a book case with brass plaque was dedicated in memory of our late President, Leonard Filby, Mary’s husband.



After a robust singing of our Filby Hymn, I was asked to read Psalm 78 which was then followed by the remaining service. We then wandered down to the church hall where every member received a commemorative gift; the ladies glass paper weight contained the Filby Coat of Arms, and the gentlemen received a Coat of Arms lapel pin. The ladies of Filby church had prepared a banquet for us and we showed

our appreciation in a small gift presented by Jim, to each, along with many thanks.

We were delighted to welcome members and many new friends from all over the U.K. who had taken time to spend a few days in the area, and especially pleased to greet Maurice and Christine French from Australia, with Bronwyn, their daughter, who is currently working in London.

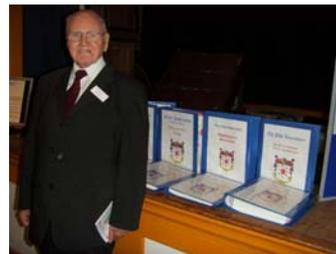
I had spent the previous week preparing a ten metre long wall chart, which was a box chart showing over 1000 descendents of Nicholas ffylbye, 1520-1560, mainly because it is my family tree and there were nine of us attending, but also because it is one of our largest trees and I knew that several members of other families on this tree would be attending: Jane and David Johnson with Rod Filby and Maggs McArdle,



Mary Lilly, Marjorie Swinburne, also Olive and Marilyn Filby who are in this photo. I put different coloured stickers for each family to show how we all descended from the same ancestors. It drew quite a lot of attention and was much appreciated. The hall was crowded and everyone was asking questions about their own personal family history, which kept Jim, Wally, Ruth, and me, very busy. There was great interest in the association

files that Jim had prepared containing more data than one could possibly search in a day. Here's Henry Filby, who is 88 years young, standing by some of the records.

At about 5.00pm everyone began to disperse and we all agreed that it had been a very successful and enjoyable 40th anniversary celebration. I just hope that we can make a weekend of it at some time in the future allowing us more time to assist with your research on a one to one basis; but you can always email us for help!



Chronicle 2009 – Editor, Marion Filby.

If you have anything that you would like to be included in the next Chronicle, which will be issued in January, 2009, please do let me have information at the end of November. It can be posted or emailed to me at the address on this letter heading.

Many of you have already sent me information about B.M.D. and some have agreed to prepare an article for me, and I thank you very much because it is news from 'members' that 'our members' enjoy reading. I will be out of the country until mid-November so please excuse no immediate response, but I assure you that upon my return I will get back to you all (maybe with another of my stories?)

If you have a story to tell about your life, a family member, or your research – we all want to hear about it – please share it with your 'family'. Thank you to all who have helped make our Chronicle the success it is and I look forward to hearing from anyone.

Gift Aid - Treasurer, Wally Filby

The Inland Revenue have accepted that we are a charity and can now claim Gift Aid. This means that from any donations made by U.K. tax payers, we can claim back from the Inland Revenue 28p for every £1 donated.

A Gift Aid Declaration form is included with this years In Touch to all U.K. members. If you are a U.K. tax payer and have already given a donation after the 1st Oct. 2007, could you please sign and return the declaration. Or if you decide to send a donation could you send the signed declaration with the donation.

You do not have to sign the declaration if you do not want to, but it will help the Association if you do. Please remember that you have to be a U.K. tax payer, and the tax you pay must be greater than the tax we claim back.

Anyone signing the Gift Aid Declaration will remain anonymous as only our Treasurer & the Inland Revenue will see the declaration. Personal details will not be divulged to any other party.

Best wishes from all Officers of The Filby Association.