

In Touch



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The Filby Association

AUGUST 2010

Dear Friends,

Having just returned from our Filby Association Triennial Reunion in the village of Filby, Norfolk, I feel that I must share with you the wonderful day that all who attended enjoyed.

Our Officers were delighted by the number of members who attended our AGM on the morning of Sunday, 4th July. As twenty-three people arrived we had to bring out more chairs because we had not anticipated such a good attendance, thank you to all those who came.

The meeting was an hour in duration whilst we gave reports of work done during the year, and Keith Johnson, of Filby village, kept us up to date on what had been happening there. The sad news was that our church hall has been condemned because it would require damp proofing and rewiring, so future meetings will have to be held in the church. Funds have to be raised for alterations to accommodate a meeting and social area at the rear of the church.

Keith also informed us that our Robin Pear trees had suffered this year, not only from the drought and heat but also from disease, so a fungicide has been administered. The good news was that our apple trees were fruiting and apart from shortage of water, they were doing really well. It's a bit early to go into business yet!

The weather was magnificent and at lunch time everyone enjoyed strolling through the village admiring the wonderful floral arrangements that had been nurtured for the Anglia in Bloom and Pride of Norfolk village competitions.

By 2.00pm the church was brimming over with many more members who had made the journey to Filby as well as villagers eager to welcome us. It was particularly pleasing to have overseas members join us from Canada and Australia, which made for great conversation finding out who was related to whom.

Ed and Diane Filby came from Ottawa, and from Ontario, Emma (of Filby roots) and her husband, Adam Barker. Glennis and Darryl Philbey made the pilgrimage from Cecil Plains, Australia, so that they could present the Association with a journal of their family history, entitled Descendants of John Philbey (1871 -1945). I have been reading the book and am very impressed by both its presentation and content. Thank you so much for your gift. I have found more of your ancestors dating back to 1562.

Reverend Graham Steel took the service and Jim Filby did a reading. Everyone was in good voice and the church came alive to the sound of the Filby Hymn. After singing 'Great is Thy Faithfulness' and the Blessing, we were invited to a sumptuous buffet set out at the rear of the church and provided by the Ladies of Filby village.

I made my usual speech in welcoming and introducing our guests, as well as making our new Web Master, Mark Filby, and his family known to everyone. At this

same time we made presentations of two cheques from The Filby Association to All Saints Church. Ruth Smith presented £260 interest from the Joint Fund, and then our President, Mary Filby, was extremely proud to present Revd. Steel with a cheque from donations made of £1,500 to help the church with their development project. This was received by sharp intakes of breath in amazement from the church congregation who expressed their delight and appreciation of the gift. Thank you to all who have made donations this year including the family of one of our late presidents, P.W. (Bill) Filby, who wished that he be remembered on this day.

Lots of members brought along their family trees to share with us and made inquiries through our files about ancestors they couldn't trace. I think we solved a few mysteries but there are still many outstanding challenges ahead for us all. Please remember to inform us as your tree develops so that it can be stored on disc and shared with other members when needs arise. We may even introduce you to a living relative – it has been known!

In April, the Guild of One-Name Studies held their AGM that Jim Filby attended because I was on holiday. I understand it was a good meeting and from the Journal I made notes of the speakers attending. Kirsty Gray was introduced as the new Chairman.

Elsie Churchill opened the conference with a talk on 'Records for the British Overseas' and following this they had a quiz – which I understand was quite hilarious. Then Sherry Irvine gave an overview of the records available in the Federal Archives, much of which is accessed via their web site. This was followed by Sharon Hintz who gave an overview of the resources available at the LDS's Family History Libraries, emphasising that there were far more than just UK records. All before lunch!

Peter Bailey was first speaker in the afternoon giving a talk on 'Researching Ancestors in British India 1600-1947' and he was followed by Bob Cumberbatch with his talk on 'Caribbean Records for One-Namers'. I understand it was a personal story, presented in a very amusing but informative style. The Saturday evening is always a banquet followed by entertainment.

On Sunday Paul Millington gave a talk on 'Developments with the Guild Archive Facility' and Helen Osborne asked 'Do We Share the Same Language?' This gave comparisons between American and British genealogists. After lunch David Evans gave a very amusing and enlightening talk 'Looking Down Under' – (and we could do with some help when researching our Australian Filbys!) Sherry Irvine gave the final talk, her second of the weekend, drawing from threads of previous talks.

It sounds as though I missed a good conference. However, on 18th July I attended our Yorkshire Regional Meeting of the GOONS in York, so I don't feel that I neglected duty too much this year. I gave a short talk again about our ongoing DNA Project. Do we have any more male volunteers? Please contact Jim Filby if you are willing to be tested for Filby DNA. It's only a mouth swab, no bloodletting!!

I would like you to spare a thought for our USA/Canadian correspondent Major Kirk Filbey, who is currently on deployment in Kabul, Afghanistan. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers that he returns home safely when expected in either September or October.

Kirk has been of great help to me when needing research done from US archives and I have missed his input this year. I found a common ancestor for him last year that linked his tree to another so when he returns I look forward to working on the new tree with him. It appears also that he links into one of our master trees too.



Our USA / Canada Face Book editor Jessica Gill is pleased to announce the birth of her daughter, Carys Grace Gill born in Chicago, Illinois, on 19th May, 2010, at 1.11pm CST. Weighing 6 lb 5 oz and measuring 20 inches! *(I was told that if you multiply her birth length by three that is how tall she will be in adulthood – it seems to work for most full term babies! Editor.)*

Congratulation to Mum and Dad.

FIVE GENERATIONS

I wonder if this has happened in the Filby Association before, five generations of one family and all living. I am Francis George Filbee, aged 96. Francis Raymond Filbee is my son, aged 68. Sarah-Jane Bull is my granddaughter, Natalia is my great granddaughter, Rihanna & Sarah are Natalia's twin daughters and my great-great grandchildren. The problem is that I am the only person living in England because all the others live in Spain and have for twenty years! Good luck to the Association.

Four Generation Photo

On the left is my son Francis, in the middle, Sarah-Jane (my granddaughter) Then Natalia (my great grand-daughter) with her twins (Sarah & Rihanna)



Phil Filby emailed to say:

'I thought I'd send you a picture of my eldest son at his recent graduation at Cambridge University (Gonville & Caius) in 2009 – he's the long haired one!'

- and we all say:

'Congratulations Matthew, good luck for your future and do keep us informed. My, you do look like your dad!'

Your Manager ~ Jim Filby

First I would like to say a big "Thank you" to all our members and friends for their support, and welcome all new members to our large extended worldwide family.

We have had another successful reunion and AGM, it was our triennial reunion and although our numbers were down slightly on other triennial reunions I was pleased to welcome members from Canada and Australia, not to forget of course all the other members who came too.

The ladies of the village put on a marvellous buffet for us after the church service; this had to be held in the church as the church hall has been condemned. We were pleased to give £1,500.00 to the Church towards an alternative venue. This excellent sum was down to the generosity of our members and the fact that we now claim Gift Aid. Hopefully this will continue in the future.

We have received offers from two members to assist us in running the Association, which will take a lot of pressure away from the rest of us. We thank them profusely and welcome them to our team.

Alan Starkey will be taking over as our 'Tree Manager,' which will give me more time for management duties. Alan and his wife, Christine, live in West Yorkshire.

Sue Reynolds has been appointed as our new 'Secretary', and I am sure we will all give her our support. Please note any communication for our Secretary should now go to; **Mrs. S. Reynolds, The Courtyard, No.1 Weasenham Road, Great Massingham, Kings Lynn. PE32 2EY. England.** Email sue@filby.org from 1st August. Sue's husband, Clive's grandmother was Lily Filby.

Ruth Smith is still on the executive committee but as our UK Correspondent.

We now have a new website www.filby.org and a new webmaster, Mark Filby, who is doing a better job than I managed to do. He is currently working hard on further improvements that we hope to have installed and running before our reunion next year. Do have a look at our re-designed website.

Finally, I must say a big 'Thank you' to all three members who have come to our aid and volunteered to give some of their time to assist in the running of our Association.
jim@filby.org

ANYTHING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CHRONICLE

Please post to Marion Filby, 22 Aldwark, York, YO1 7BU, England, or email them to me at either address on the header. No-one else is responsible for the content of the Chronicle and late arrival may mean that an article will not be included.

Our UK Correspondent, Ruth Smith, has moved to a new address:
54, the Dell, Colchester, Essex, C01 2YH

While Officers have shared secretarial duties this year Ruth has taken a less active role on Association business and enjoyed her own family research. She met some of our Australian members when they visited Colchester after they had spent the day in Filby with Jim. Ruth is pleased to inform you that a member may be able to help Wilfredo Filby in the Philippines with information on his grandfather following our appeal in the Chronicle.

Our Treasurer, Wally Filby, has also moved to a new address;
Flat 208, Ellis David Almshouses, Duppas Hill Terrace, Croydon, Surrey, CRO 4BT
Please note when sending any donations to the Association.

I hope you have enjoyed reading our news and look forward to hearing from you in due course,

Best wishes to all,
Marion Filby (Editor)