

## Gloucestershire Family History Society FOREST OF DEAN BRANCH NEWSLETTER

NO. 114 – MAY 2019

### Last Branch Meeting

The last branch meeting, held on Wednesday April 17<sup>th</sup>, was the Branch Annual General Meeting. Five members, including two branch officers, and one guest were present, and there were six apologies for absence. In spite of the low numbers in attendance the necessary business of the meeting proceeded. The minutes of the 2018 A.G.M. and the chairman's report on the year 2018 – 2019 had been previously circulated by email. The 2018 A.G.M. minutes were accepted. The Treasurer's report and branch statement of accounts and balance sheet for the year 2018 – 2019 were distributed to attendees at the meeting and accepted. The branch officers agreed to stand on in office for the forthcoming year. Two committee members had passed away during the year and Pat Morris volunteered to join the committee. There was some discussion of ideas for increasing the branch membership and attendance at meetings, and to hold the branch open day again this year. That, more or less, completed proceedings.

### Next Branch Meeting

The next branch meeting is Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup> when Sandra Ashenford will be the speaker. Sandra's presentation will be on curious objects and utensils which the audience is invited to identify and say what the item was used for. Something new and unusual for members to experience. West Dean Centre, Bream, 7.30pm.

### Future Meetings and Events

Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> – A tour of the Georgian Dock at Lydney led by Paul Barnett. Meet at Lydney Docks, **7.00pm** start.

Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> – Members' evening

Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> – NO MEETING.

SATURDAY, September 14<sup>th</sup> – Branch Open Day at the Witherby Room, West Dean Centre, Bream, 10.00am to 3.00pm.

Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> – Sally James on "Growing up in Lydney" – recounting tales of her childhood and childhood times in the town.

SATURDAY, October 12<sup>th</sup>. The branch has accepted an invitation to take a stand at the annual Glamorgan F.H.S. Fair at Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre, 10.00am to 3.30pm.

Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> – Averil Kear on "North Foreland Lodge School at Lydney Park in WW2.

Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> – Diana Standing on "A History of Underground Dean".

Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Social.

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of G.F.H.S.

The Forest Branch was represented at this event at Gloucester on Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> by volunteers Geoff Davis, Steve Cooper, and Eric Nicholls. As there are adequate resources at the Family History Centre we did not go equipped to carry out research for visitors but took along the branch's library of local M.I. recordings books. These attracted a pleasing amount of attention and admiration for the work involved in compiling these records and the professional way they are presented.

The event was very well attended, Barbara Thomas and Robert Ensor from the branch came by to see us.

In his address, at the cutting of the anniversary cake ceremony, the Society President, Dr. Colin Chapman, gave an account of how G.F.H.S. was formed and how it had progressed, and also kindly commented on the strength of the Forest Branch.

All in all a good day and too important an occasion for us to ignore as a branch.

The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake



The volunteers relaxing, as captured by Robert Ensor



Geoff, Eric, and Steve.

**Artist and Illustrator J. W. King's sardonic 1939 Register entry**

Whilst recently researching the artist and illustrator J. W. King (John William King 1867 – 1955), sometime resident of Scarborough, I found his somewhat sardonic entry in the 1939 Register in which he gave his occupation as – “Artist (painter of unwanted pictures)”.