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Family and Community History

The Journal of the FACHRS

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Editorial

I must once again apologise for the delay in the publishing of this issue of the Society Newsletter. Unfortunately, this is due to a variety of medical problems (some still not yet resolved), and I hope you will forgive the lateness of the appearance of this issue.

As you will notice there is only a smattering of Society items. There was to be a committee meeting on 19 January to discuss many important matters. However, this was cancelled due to the adverse weather conditions and it was decided that the next Newsletter should contain all the details of these issues.

I do, however, have three very diverse articles for you to read and which I hope you will find very interesting.

The first is taken from the winner of the Paul Newton Taylor Award for best poster submission at the May 2012 Conference, which was presented by Janet Cunnar. Entitled ‘Call the Midwife’ it relates to her aunt who was a midwife during the same period as the television programme of the same name, but in a different part of the country.

The second item is connected to our last research project on almshouses and written by our Project Co-ordinator, Anne Langley. It gives a brief glimpse at information gleaned on an almshouse in Warwickshire founded in 1699.

The third article is my own contribution and relates to the Olympics. The village where I live has had a long association with cycling and was at one time a Mecca for cyclists from around the world. Since the advent of the motor car this link declined - until 2012, when the Olympic Cycling Road Races came through the village. I hope you will find this bit of history of a small Surrey village worth reading.

And last, but certainly not least, please make a note in your diaries for this year’s Conference to be held in Farnborough, Hampshire on Saturday 18 May. The theme will be WWI, but, once again due to illness, our Conference Organiser still has to finalise the programme details. I hope to see many of you there. Do introduce yourselves to your Committee members if you attend. We love meeting our members and look forward to seeing you in Farnborough.

Copy date for the next issue is 23 February 2013

Don’t forget the copy date for the next issue 23 February 2013

SEND ME YOUR ARTICLES NOW!
e-mail
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Family and Community Historical Research Society Newsletter

ISSN 1740-0333

December 2012 Volume 13 Issue 3

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Call the Midwife:
Initial assessment of a source which chimes well with the recent TV series

Janet Cunner

Introduction

My aunt Lilian Lane, a former nurse, midwife and hospital manager, is approaching her 90th birthday and is having a clear-out prior to moving into a retirement flat.

Lilian recently asked me to destroy the contents of a large blue plastic bag as she was not sure how to go about it. At first sight the bag contained a potential treasure for the historian.

Inside were five registers all issued by the Central Midwives Board. Four of them record details of every delivery at which Lilian had a role between December 1951 and September 1961. This covers her entire period working at Cuckfield Hospital in West Sussex and included both her supervised Part Two training (a photograph of Lilian and one of her ‘babies’ at this time can be seen below) and her years there as a qualified midwife and Sister.

There are numerous medical terms, drug names and abbreviations some of which will require research to establish meaning.

The data appears comprehensive with very few blank columns.

They are hand-written in ink by Lilian or completed directly under her supervision.

There are five registers all issued by the Central Midwives Board with pre-printed columns and charts for completion.

Evaluation of the Registers as Sources

- They are contained in bound books specially printed and published for the Central Midwives Board with pre-printed boxes, columns and charts for completion.
- They are hand-written in ink by Lilian or completed directly under her supervision.
- Although clearly written space is limited and the writing is often small and squashed, so not always easy to read.
- The data appears comprehensive with very few blank columns.
- There are numerous medical terms, drug names and abbreviations some of which will require research to establish meaning.
- The details were filled in soon after the events took place, probably being drawn straight from the patients’ official medical records.
- Given the legal implications the accuracy of the information recorded is likely to be high.

The recent series Call the Midwife set in the East End of London in the 1950s generated a lot of public interest. It showed a midwifery service that appeared very different from the present. Lilian’s records were compiled in the same period and although she herself came from the East End, they reflect the maternity service in the more affluent West Sussex.

This article is a very preliminary investigation of the information relating to maternity cases treated by Lilian (The Study Group) in an effort to establish what information can be extracted from the registers and whether they would provide a basis for further work.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Victorian City - Everyday Life in Dickens’ London by Judith Flinders

Inconvenient People: Lunacy, Liberty and the Mad-Diagnoses in Victorian London by Sarah Wise

PUBLICATIONS FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

http://www.oup.com/uk


PUBLICATIONS FROM THE HISTORY PRESS

http://www.thehistorypress.co.uk


Bloody History Series

Price each £9.99

Somerset ISBN: 978-0-7524-8741-4


Not a Guide To Series

Price each £3.99


Then and Now Series

Price each £12.99


Warwick ISBN: 978-0-7524-6606-1


Tonbridge ISBN: 978-0-7524-7755-4

Bristol ISBN: 978-0-7524-7678-6

Ashbourne ISBN: 978-0-7524-7478-8


NEWS IN BRIEF

The Recent series Call the Midwife set in the East End of London in the 1950s generated a lot of public interest. It showed a midwifery service that appeared very different from the present. Lilian’s records were compiled in the same period and although she herself came from the East End, they reflect the maternity service in the more affluent West Sussex.

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Vol 13 Issue 3 December 2012

Family and Community Historical Research Society Newsletter

There are 784 deliveries in all recorded including eighteen twin births. In the other book Lilian has written up full medical records of twelve of the pregnancies and deliveries she oversaw during the last stages of her training in 1951 and 1952.

The data appears comprehensive with very few blank columns.

They are hand-written in ink by Lilian or completed directly under her supervision.

Although clearly written space is limited and the writing is often small and squashed, so not always easy to read.

The data appears comprehensive with very few blank columns.

There are numerous medical terms, drug names and abbreviations some of which will require research to establish meaning.

The details were filled in soon after the events took place, probably being drawn straight from the patients’ official medical records, methodically kept hospital records.

The paragraph printed inside the front cover by the Central Midwives Board emphasises how important it was to the individual Midwife to keep the Registers to be used as evidence in case of problems.

Given the legal implications the accuracy of the information recorded is likely to be high.

Vol 13 Issue 3 December 2012

Family and Community Historical Research Society Newsletter
Robert Ruegg ISO

28 January 1933 - 6 December 2012

Robert was born in Eltham, and at the age of three moved to Egypt when his parents were posted there by the Civil Service for a couple of years. During the war his father was posted to Leeds, where he attended Roundhay School from the age of seven until sixteen. During this time he instigated a cycling club with his friends, keeping log books of where they had been and of the ice creams consumed. Ice creams seem to have figured quite prominently in his life!

On leaving school, Rob joined the War Office. After his period of National Service in the RAF Northwood, sharing an office with actor Brian Murphy of George and Mildred fame, Rob returned to the Civil Service.

Whilst living in Fulham he joined the Civil Service Sports Club. He met his wife-to-be, Milly, when playing tennis at the Chiswick Tennis Club. They married in 1966. Shortly afterwards Rob was posted to Hong Kong, where their first son was born. They returned to Sunbury in 1972 and their second son was born in 1973. They moved to Weybridge in 1976. At the time, Rob was working in Teddington at the Admiralty Marine Technology Establishment and later went to the Defence Operational Analysis Establishment in Byfleet for the last eight years of his service. In 1991 Rob was awarded the Imperial Service Order, which he proudly received from HM The Queen.

During his life Rob travelled extensively, making life-long friends and visiting family as far-flung as New Zealand. He retired in 1992, when he started studying with the Open University, gained his diploma in social and family history and took over the family research from his father. His OU studies researched the area of London that was settled by his ancestors when they arrived in England. Rob has also been involved in projects on Weybridge Women Workers and on a book of oral family histories, which is due to be published.

A member of FACHRS since its inception, Rob took part in many research projects, and contributed the chapter on rules and regulations in the Society's book Breaking New Ground. Rob regularly helped at the FACHRS stall at the West Surrey Family History Open Day every November and will be sorely missed at that event. He managed to attend the Society Conference held in Gloucester in 2012 despite being ill.

Rob and I spent many sessions together at the Surrey History Centre researching Surrey almshouses. He was cheeky and jolly and well-liked by all who came in contact with him. The History Centre staff certainly had a ‘soft spot’ for him!

When he was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2010 he never showed he was unwell and was an inspiration to those around him. He was always up for a walk, regularly going to Painshill, Claremont and Polesden Lacey as favourites, especially the teas and ice creams afterwards. Rob continued to be upbeat despite the leg trouble and ten sessions of chemotherapy in 2011. With constant infections he went into St Peter’s Hospital, Chertsey and later to Sam Beare Hospice, Weybridge, where he was cheeky and joking to the end.

It was a privilege to have known Rob and to have worked with him manning the Society stall over the years at the annual West Surrey Family History Society Open Day and on the almshouses project. He will be missed by all who knew him, but especially by Milly, his sons, David and Andrew, and Kellie, Andrew’s wife.

Angela Blaydon

Caveats to using the Registers as Sources

- Personal names, addresses, etc., should not be used in resulting published work.
- Any details of cases that could identify individual mothers, babies or staff should not be used in resulting published work.

The Information contained in the four Registers

- Mother
  - name, age, address, number of previous births and miscarriages, expected date of confinement
- Labour
  - time and date of midwife’s arrival at the home or admission to hospital, position of the baby, medicines administered, details of any complications
- Birth
  - time and date of birth, sex and weight of baby, whether born alive or dead, whether full term or premature
- Discharge
  - Discharge date, mother’s condition, feeding method, condition and weight of baby
- Doctor
  - the name of any doctors involved in the birth are recorded

The Information in the Record Book for each of the twelve training cases

- (three births in hospital and nine home confinements)

Exploring the Sources: Some initial efforts at extracting information

Table 1: Numbers of deliveries by year (Study Group Cuckfield Hospital)

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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0/4</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Number of unplanned Caesarean Sections by year 1951-61 (Study Group Cuckfield Hospital)

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
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<td>0/4</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The Registers are the property of the named Midwife.
- The Registers include names and details of mothers and medical staff.
Table 3: Stillbirths (fifteen in total) by year 1951–61 (Study Group Cuckfield Hospital)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>0/4</td>
<td>0/4</td>
<td>1/55</td>
<td>1/55</td>
<td>1/55</td>
<td>1/55</td>
<td>2/101</td>
<td>2/101</td>
<td>1/68</td>
<td>1/68</td>
<td>1/68</td>
<td>1/68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* includes one twin stillborn whose sibling survived

Table 4: Age of mothers having first baby 1951–61 (Study Group Cuckfield Hospital)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>16 -19 years</th>
<th>20 – 29 years</th>
<th>30 – 39 years</th>
<th>40 – 44 years</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>73.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td></td>
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<td>1957</td>
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<td>1958</td>
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<td>1959</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Weight of babies born alive 1951–61 (Study Group Cuckfield Hospital)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>3–4 lbs</th>
<th>4–5 lbs</th>
<th>5–6 lbs</th>
<th>6–7 lbs</th>
<th>7–8 lbs</th>
<th>8–9 lbs</th>
<th>9–10 lbs</th>
<th>10–11 lbs</th>
<th>11 lbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959</td>
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<tr>
<td>1960</td>
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<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* weight data omitted from 9 birth records

Table 6: Days spent in hospital after birth: Mothers of babies born alive** (Study Group Cuckfield Hospital)

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0/4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0/3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** data not available on length of stay for 14 mothers in the Study Group
with the road through Send closed and using the lanes behind Ripley High Street, the route joining Rose Lane and following the Olympic route again once again the cyclists having to negotiate the very narrow bridge in Ripley Lane - the continuation of Rose Lane - where some riders in the women’s Olympic road race briefly came to grief as the lane narrows to a car’s width over the bridge, quickly resuming without even losing much time). But the Union Jacks remained to welcome the cyclists.

Because these races have been so popular with the public, Surrey County Council is planning to apply for a stage of the Tour de France, and with Boris Johnson proposing to hold an annual road race using the Olympic route, Ripley looks set to continue its cycling connection for many years to come.

With grateful thanks and acknowledgements to Les Bowerman, chairman of the Send and Ripley History Society and cycling historian, for allowing me to use his photographs of the Olympic road races and his image of The Hut at Wisley, and for checking my text for accuracy. All photos in this article, unless otherwise stated © Les Bowerman.

Possible areas for further research based on the Sources

- Extraction of further statistical detail from the sources
e.g. average age of all mothers, distance from mother’s residence to the hospital, analysis of drugs used, how many deliveries involved intervention from a doctor, feeding methods while in hospital.
- Explore if similar Registers exist for other midwives. If they are deposited it is unlikely that access will be allowed. There may be some with ex-midwives as in this case.
- Explore the nature of maternity services in England between 1951 and 1961 to give a national context, establish if there were organisational and legal changes.
- Research the medical aspects of childbirth in the period
- Find out more About Cuckfield Hospital and its Maternity Unit in the period.
- Consider seeking out former midwives and mothers from the period, possibly Cuckfield Hospital in particular, to collect oral testimony of their experiences.
- Identify other statistics with which data may be compared, both in the period and in the present, e.g. Office of National Statistics, Birth Summary Tables, www.ons.gov.uk
- Identify any other research on similar topics in a similar period
- Identify autobiographies and fiction set in the period which will help set the scene.

Conclusion

The Registers, relating to ten years in the career of one midwife, contain detailed observations of the hospital births of 800 babies and can be regarded as a robust source.

They could form the basis for a viable project that might take a number of approaches, such as:

- A local study relating to Cuckfield Hospital and the experience of staff and patients in the Maternity Unit during the period.
- A look at the experiences of those in the Study Group and staff treating them compared with current experience or with other areas of the country in the period to establish how typical Cuckfield was.

This project will remain a ‘work in progress’, and users are invited to contribute by contacting the Editor via the site - www.fachrs.com. Access is also available via the Group’s main site. Constructive comments and suggestions will be welcome.

http://www.poms.or.uk/

People of Mediaeval Scotland 1093-1314 is a database that contains all information that can be assembled about every individual involved in actions in Scotland or relating to Scotland in documents written between the death of Malcolm III on 13 November 1093 and Robert I’s parliament at Cambuskenneth on 6 November 1314.

www.wealdeniron.org.uk

The Wealden Iron Research Group’s on-line database of iron-working sites has been in existence for five years, and continues to be updated when new sites are discovered or when additional information becomes available.

A new facility allows users to search for people associated with the iron industry. More than 2000 individuals have already been included, ranging from the owners and tenants of iron sites to those employed in various roles in smelting and forging, and other occupations. People are linked, where possible, to the sites with which they were associated.

http://bombsight.org/#15/51.5050/-0.0900

Interactive map showing all the bomb sites in London during the Blitz (7 Oct 1940-7 Jun 1941).

http://maps.nls.uk/series/hart_half_england.html

 Bartholomew half inch to the mile maps of England and Wales 1902: it is now online. You can also purchase copies from the site, either as a print (sizes A0, A1, A2) or as a black and white photocopy at the original size or as a digital image. Prices range from £4p to £25.20 depending on selection.


Calendars of the Inner Temple now online 1505-1845.
These almshouses in the West Midlands (formerly Warwickshire) were built in 1699 during the lifetime of the donor, Thomas Huntbach the younger of Shustoke Farm, who died thirteen years later. He composed this poem about them:

This Schoole House
Which is built you see
In poore and rich I make it free
For all that in the parish dwell
To teach their youth how to live well
And to catakise [sic] them frequently
That they may know truely thereby
When they in riper years doe come
Their duty both to God and Man
Six houses here anext unto
With gardens there belonging to
I gave unto the poore for ever
Desirous this my quit may never
At any time abused should be
But that trustees will always see
And be unto the poore a friend
Forever unto the worlds end
Pass here accompts this chambers free
In poore and rich I make it free
Praise not the giver but let him have
All praise that give a heart that gave
Soli Deo Gloria.

The building, which is Grade II listed, stands next to the parish church and was originally thatched back-to-backs with three facing east and three west. There were just two rooms in each unit (one upstairs and one down) and each had a little garden. The almshouses were for poor widows and men: ‘Those unable from age, ill-health, accident or infirmity to maintain themselves by their own exertions’ who had lived for at least two years in the parish. Originally there was an adjacent schoolhouse endowed by the same founder (which makes more sense of the poem). This was rebuilt in 1844 and incorporated into the almshouses when they were modernised in the 1960s (on the left side of the photo).

The trustees were Huntbach’s heir, Charles Huntbach, the local Vicar and the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor. Charles very honestly regularised the position of the endowment in 1712. The almpeople received 10 gp divided between them twice yearly; by 1826 they were (not surprisingly) also receiving parish relief. New rules were drawn up in 1868; there was to be no sub-letting of rooms and: ‘If any Almsperson be guilty of insobriety, insubordination, breach of rules, or immoral or unbecoming conduct’ they were to be removed. This threat was carried out on occasion: Ann Holt was removed for bad language and unbecoming behaviour in 1869. Coals were provided (from 1895), milk (in the late 19th century), loaves of bread (from 1906-1925) and butter (in the 20th century). A winter shawl was provided on entry from 1906 onwards and £1 (in 2012 prices) in receipt of financial assistance. Other interesting entries include: ‘Paid for digging and for beans and plants for the widow Ann Arnold’s Belly when she lay ill a great while 5s 6d’; sadly Ann died later that year and some years later Sarah herself was in receipt of financial assistance. Other interesting entries include: ‘Paid for digging and for beans and plants for the widow Wrights garden 1s 2d’ and ‘Paid for cutting Anne Arnold and Wright’s hedge 6d’.

Occupations recorded in the 1851 census (all also ‘paupers’) were: 2 servants, 2 Ag. Labs, a soldier and a dressmaker plus a sempstress daughter of one of the almshadies. Few occupations were recorded in 1881: just an Ag. Lab and his wife. In 1901 again just one occupation was given: a dressmaker, who was in fact a boarder in one of the tiny houses. Catherine Williams lived in the almshouses from 1827 for 33 years until she died at the age of 98.

During the morning the crowds grew, with window ledges, ladders, lamp-posts and roofs being used as vantage points. The pubs and cafés were open and doing a roaring trade and one enterprising individual was online and providing race updates for the crowd. There were people from far and field, including Europe, crammed into the village, some wearing flags, others with faces painted with Union Jacks and many waving flags.

Then helicopters were heard, heralding the approach of the peloton, followed by police motorcycle outriders (who joined in the spirit of the day by high-fiving the crowds!). The crowd shouted loudly. The outriders were quickly followed by a breakaway group and then the peloton; cameras, phones, tablets rose above the heads of the spectators photographing, filming, and in a flash it was all over! Thousands of people had gathered in the centre of our quiet village and shouted themselves hoarse supporting the cyclists.

Sunday 29 July 2012. Same place, same crowds, same enthusiasm even though it was wet. That just added to the atmosphere for the women’s race as they negotiated the chicane, with one not quite making it. And then it was all over. The crowds dispersed, the barriers were taken away, and Ripley slipped back into its routine. But, for one weekend Ripley was once again the ‘international centre for cycling’.

Sunday 16 September 2012. Here we go again! This time it was the Tour of Britain and the route slightly different –
As the Olympics drew closer, excitement grew and many plans were made for the big weekend of 28/29 July 2012, when many local roads would be closed off. As can be seen from the map a large area of Surrey was encircled by the route.

Saturday 28 July dawned bright and sunny. Ripley was about to become the cycling centre of the world once again. The centre of the village was decked out with Union Jacks everywhere. One enterprising shop decorated the Georgian parapet to their Tudor roof with model cyclists holding Union Jack balloons, and Drake’s Restaurant placed a large Union Jack on their roof with a banner saying ‘Good Luck Team GB from Drake’s Restaurant Ripley’. For those unable to get close enough to the route to view the cyclists coming through the Village, Ripley Village Hall had a large screen to show the TV coverage to visitors. Also, to while away the time waiting for the cyclists, there was a small exhibition of vintage cycles at the Village Hall, all supplied and owned by local cycling enthusiast and historian, Les Bowerman. These included a velocipede, a ‘penny farthing’ and a large tricycle.

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Anne Langley (project co-ordinator)

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To Be or Not To Be... The future (or not) of the census

Despite all the bright yellow oblong notices that had been placed along the route of the race and adjoining roads declaring either ‘Road Closed 28/29 July for Olympic Road Race’ or ‘No Stopping Tow away zone 28/29 July’, still some people were caught out by the road closures. The most surprising of all, though, was the driver of the No. 515 bus, who was politely but firmly denied access. You would think the bus company would have told him to stay on the A3 and not to try and go through Ripley. Whatever happened to him or whether his solitary passenger got to their destination is not known, but he did a three-point turn (rather than me with a bus on our local roads!) and drove off back the way he had come.

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I am delighted that Sue Lambert, one of our researchers, put together material on the history of almshouses for a recent display at the University Library in Cambridge.

Anne Langley (project coordinator)
I live in a small rural village of a little over 2,000 inhabitants about 1.5 miles outside the M25 and, although so close to London, few people have heard of it. We have been ‘in the wilderness’ for years. Nobody seems to want to take total responsibility for us. We belong to Guildford Borough as far as local council services and taxes are concerned, but postally we come under Woking. As for parliamentary... well that’s even more obscure. When we first moved here in 1974 we came under Esher constituency – just over 8 miles away to the north and closer to London and inside the M25. Then, with the re-organising of constituencies in the 1980s we became part of Mole Valley (based in Dorking) – over 15 miles away to the east. Our local council, Guildford Borough, is only 6 miles away to the south. Also, we have not been called up (I believe Tony Blair wanted the whole country called by 1998!) and it is reported that we have the 5th slowest broadband in the whole country! On the plus side, it is a beautiful village, with some great architecture, purportedly with the largest village green and common in the country, and a strong community – which is probably why, when people move to the area, many rarely move away.

Being situated on the main road out of London (the A3 or Portsmouth Road) to the south and south-west (until the by-pass was built in the 1970s), Ripley is about 25 miles from the centre of London, about a day’s walk. The road is thought to have possibly been part of a Roman road to Winchester, which was the joint capital with London at the time. The road is first documented by Gough’s map of ca. 1360, which shows one of the few roads, passing through Kingston upon Thames, Guildford, Winchester and to Exeter. It took the development of the naval dockyard at Portsmouth, by Kings Henry VII and VIII, before the road from Guildford to Portsmouth developed. Samuel Pepys’s entry in his diary for 6 August 1668 indicates that the journey from London to Portsmouth took three days to complete by coach.

Originally, with the poor roads, it would take a wagon about a day to reach Ripley and it became a convenient stop-off on the way to Portsmouth or Plymouth. The nautical connection is obvious, with four of its pubs being named The Seven Stars, The Anchor, The Ship and The Jovial Sailor. The road between Kingston and Petersfield (with Ripley along this stretch) was the last stretch to be turnpiked in 1749 and the surface greatly improved. This then allowed the journey to Portsmouth to be reduced to 7 hours 50 minutes by coach. The nearest tollgate to Ripley was just south of The Jovial Sailor pub, about one mile from the centre of the Village. There was a turnpike cottage and the tollgate, which survived until around 1910. However, the coming of the railways ended this as the preferred form of transport and Ripley became just another village. But in the late 1800s Ripley became a cycling Mecca, and was ‘invaded’ every weekend by cyclists from all over London, it being a very convenient distance to cycle to and back in a day.

At first, cyclists would meet at The Hut on the outskirts of Ripley at Bolder Mere (now known as Wisley Lake). The Anchor pub, close to the parish church in the centre of the village, eventually became the meeting place, due to the amazing hospitality of the Dibble family, who provided refreshments and nourishment for these exuberant and active cyclists at all times. The fame of the village spread and more and more cyclists made Ripley their destination. A visitor’s book was started at the Anchor, and these contained details of cyclists from near and far, in fact as far as San Francisco, Dunedin and Toronto! By the end of the century, though, the fad was waning. The death of the Dibble sisters and the advent of the motor car saw the demise of Ripley as a cycling Mecca – until now... Seven years ago London won the bid to host the Olympic Games. Exciting – yes. Important to Ripley – well we didn’t think so. That is until it was announced that the cycling road races would take a route into Surrey. When the route was finally published early last year our local roads once again became a Mecca for cyclists from as far afield as Australia, although many of them didn’t seem to be riding the Olympic route! The route actually ‘cut’ Ripley in half. The old Portsmouth Road, which runs north/south through the centre of the village, was to be closed so that the cyclists could race west/east at the staggered crossroads in the centre – they emerged from a narrow lane onto a great wide natural chicane only to funnel back into another narrow Surrey lane. A few days before a trial race took place a lot of barriers appeared in the village centre ready to be deployed. All went well and the roads were only closed for a few hours with minimal disruption. Come the Olympics they would be closed most of the weekend.
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Gazetteer
The pilot work on preparing material for publication on the web is now complete. However this work will probably have to go on the back burner whilst we concentrate on getting the almshouse book published.

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ALMSHOUSES

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with the road through Send closed and using the lanes behind Ripley High Street, the route joining Rose Lane and following
the Olympic route again. Once again the cyclists having to negotiate the very narrow bridge in Ripley Lane - the continuation
of Rose Lane - where some riders in the women’s Olympic road race briefly came to grief as the lane narrows to a car’s width
over the bridge, quickly resuming without even losing much time. But the Union Jacks remained to welcome the cyclists.

Because these races have been so popular with the public, Surrey County Council is planning to apply for a stage of the Tour
de France, and with Boris Johnson proposing to hold an annual road race using the Olympic route, Ripley looks set to
continue its cycling connection for many years to come.

With grateful thanks and acknowledgements to Les Bowerman, chairman of the Send and Ripley History Society and cycling
historian, for allowing me to use his photographs of the Olympic road races and his image of The Hut at Wisley, and for
checking my text for accuracy. All photos in this article, unless otherwise stated © Les Bowerman.

Possible areas for further research based on the Sources

• Extraction of further statistical detail from the sources
e.g. average age of all mothers, distance from mother’s residence to the hospital, analysis of drugs used, how many
deliveries involved intervention from a doctor, feeding methods while in hospital.

• Explore if similar Registers exist for other midwives. If they are deposited it is unlikely that access will be allowed.
There may be some with ex-midwives as in this case.

• Explore the nature of maternity services in England between 1951 and 1961 to give a national context, establish if
there were organisational and legal changes.

• Research the medical aspects of childbirth in the period
Find out more About Cuckfield Hospital and its Maternity Unit in the period.
• Consider seeking out former midwives and mothers from the period, possibly Cuckfield Hospital in particular, to
collect oral testimony of their experiences.

• Identify other statistics with which data may be compared, both in the period and in the present, e.g. Office of
• Identify any other research on similar topics in a similar period
• Identify autobiographies and fiction set in the period which will help set the scene.

Conclusion

The Registers, relating to ten years in the career of one midwife, contain detailed
observations of the hospital births of 800 babies and can be regarded as a robust
source.

They could form the basis for a viable project that might take a number of
approaches, such as:

• A local study relating to Cuckfield Hospital and the experience of staff
and patients in the Maternity Unit during the period.

• A look at the experiences of those in the Study Group and staff treating
them compared with current experience or with other areas of the
country in the period to establish how typical Cuckfield was.

• Identify autobiographies and fiction set in the period which will help set the scene.
** data not available on length of stay for 14 mothers in the Study Group

* weight data omitted from 9 birth records

includes one twin stillborn whose sibling survived

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### Table 3: Stillbirths (fifteen in total) by year 1951-61 (Study Group Cuckfield Hospital)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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### Table 4: Age of mothers having first baby 1951-1961 (Study Group Cuckfield Hospital)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>0-10</th>
<th>10-20</th>
<th>20-30</th>
<th>30-40</th>
<th>40-50</th>
<th>50-60</th>
<th>60-70</th>
<th>70-80</th>
<th>80-90</th>
<th>90-100</th>
<th>100+</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mothers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>56.7</td>
<td>95.7</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>63.3</td>
<td>86.0</td>
<td>52.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Table 5: Weight of babies born alive 1951-61 (Study Group Cuckfield Hospital)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Birth Weight (lbs)</th>
<th>3-4</th>
<th>4-5</th>
<th>5-6</th>
<th>6-7</th>
<th>7-8</th>
<th>8-9</th>
<th>9-10</th>
<th>10-11</th>
<th>11</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>(762)*</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* weight data omitted from 9 birth records

---

### Table 6: Days spent in hospital after birth: Mothers of babies born alive** (Study Group Cuckfield Hospital)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>14+</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mothers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**</td>
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<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* mother discharged herself against medical advice

10* denotes the most frequently occurring length of stay in each year for mothers who gave birth to living babies

** data not available on length of stay for 14 mothers in the Study Group

---

** The FACHRS Publicity RoadShow **

Hello everyone, and a very warm welcome to all the new members that the Roadshow has recruited over the past year.

We are booking the Roadshow into more Fairs in 2013; the list is below and keep an eye on the FACHRS website as I hope to add a couple more before long.

If you have not been to a Family History Fair/Open Day then I do recommend them they are excellent places not only for getting more information about ancestors from the relevant Family History Society, you will usually find the local Records Office/Archive will be represented and there is always the shopping (something I’m very good at!). They usually have many different types of stall including the FACHRS Roadshow of course. (We stock the two FACHRS books Swing Unmasked and breaking New Ground, along with several others by FACHRS member, Anne Langley).

If you go to one of the larger events such as York then you will find that the big genealogical websites will have a stall, TNA may be there and the Family History magazines as well. At most Fairs whether large or small there is the opportunity to purchase both new and second-hand books (which is why my car tends to be heavier on the way home). The other stall which is a must with me is the one selling maps. This is often the stall of fellow FACHRS member Chris Makepeace. Chris is very knowledgeable and always sorts me out as to what map I need. I then spend hours tracing where forebears lived, why they were likely to have ended up where they did, the location of the Silk Mill where the women of the family worked (both sides of the family and in different parts of England) and the location of the church whose records I have used amongst many other fascinating observations. There are usually stalls selling all types of archival storage and software so something for everyone.

There is also even more important the opportunity to speak with both family and local historians and often there will be the small locally focussed society or local author promoting their book.

As FACHRS is a national organisation we don’t get an opportunity to meet with fellow members other than at the Annual Conference but the Roadshow coming to a Fair near you is that chance to meet up and in 2013 we want to actively encourage this. If you let me know that you will be coming then I can look for you. I hope that we might get a small gathering of FACHRS members to talk about anything you may want to talk about with fellow members including FACHRS Projects big and mini. The best time for these small gatherings would be in the afternoon from about 2.30pm as Fairs tend to go quieter then. It also gives you the opportunity to go round the Fair first. I am thinking that we could get a table in the refreshment area of the Fair to chat. The idea is out there I leave it with you.

---

**Breaking New Ground**

Hello everyone, and a very warm welcome to all the new members that the Roadshow has recruited over the past year.

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Robert Ruegg ISO
28 January 1933 - 6 December 2012

Robert was born in Eltham, and at the age of three moved to Egypt when his parents were posted there by the Civil Service for a couple of years. During the war his father was posted to Leids, where he attended Roundhay School from the age of seven until sixteen. During this time he instigated a cycling club with his friends, keeping log books of where they had been and of the ice creams consumed. Ice creams seem to have figured quite prominently in his life!

On leaving school, Rob joined the War Office. After his period of National Service in the RAF Northwood, sharing an office with actor Brian Murphy of George and Mildred fame, Rob returned to the Civil Service.

Whilst living in Fulham he joined the Civil Service Sports Club. He met his wife-to-be, Milly, when playing tennis at the Chiswick Tennis Club. They married in 1966. Shortly afterwards Rob was posted to Hong Kong, where their first son was born. They returned to Sunbury in 1972 and their second son was born in 1973. They moved to Weybridge in 1976. At the time, Rob was working in Teddington at the Admiralty Marine Technology Establishment and later went to the Defence Operational Analysis Establishment in Byfleet for the last eight years of his service. In 1991 Rob was awarded the Imperial Service Order, which he proudly received from HM The Queen.

During his life Rob travelled extensively, making life-long friends and visiting family as far-flung as New Zealand. He retired in 1992, when he started studying with the Open University, gained his diploma in social and family history and took over the family research from his father. His OU studies researched the area of London that was settled by his ancestors when they arrived in England. Rob has also been involved in projects on Weybridge Women Workers and on a book of oral family histories, which is due to be published.

A member of FACHRS since its inception, Rob took part in many research projects, and contributed the chapter on rules and regulations in the Society’s book Breaking New Ground. Rob regularly helped at the FACHRS stall at the West Surrey Family History Open Day every November and will be sorely missed at that event. He managed to attend the Society Conference held in Gloucester in 2012 despite being ill.

Rob and I spent many sessions together at the Surrey History Centre researching Surrey almshouses. He was cheeky and jolly and well-liked by all who came in contact with him. The History Centre staff certainly had a ‘soft spot’ for him!

When he was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2010 he never showed he was unwell and was an inspiration to those around him. He was always up for a walk, regularly going to Painshill, Claremont and Polesden Lacey as favourites, especially the teas and ice creams afterwards. Rob continued to be upbeat despite the leg trouble and ten sessions of chemotherapy in 2011. With constant infections he went into St Peter’s Hospital, Chertsey and later to Sam Beare Hospice, Weybridge, where he was cheeky and joking to the end.

It was a privilege to have known Rob and to have worked with him naming the Society stall over the years at the annual West Surrey Family History Society Open Day and on the almshouses project. He will be missed by all who knew him, but especially by Milly, his sons, David and Andrew, and Kellie, Andrew’s wife.

Angela Blaydon

Caveats to using the Registers as Sources

- Personal names, addresses, etc., should not be used in resulting published work.
- Any details of cases that could identify individual mothers, babies or staff should not be used in resulting published work.

The Information contained in the four Registers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>Name, age, address, number of previous births and miscarriages, expected date of confinement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour</td>
<td>Time and date of midwife’s arrival at the home or admission to hospital, position of the baby, medicines administered, details of any complications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>Time and date of birth, sex and weight of baby, whether born alive or dead, whether full term or premature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharge</td>
<td>Discharge date, mother’s condition, feeding method, condition and weight of baby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor</td>
<td>The name of any doctors involved in the birth are recorded</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Information in the Record Book for each of the twelve training cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mother’s name, age, religion, husband’s occupation, date of booking. Details of previous pregnancies, births, miscarriages, previous medical history and a physical description of the mother with an opinion on character. Record of observations taken at ante-natal clinic attendances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>For a home birth: situation and condition of dwelling, water supply, rent, patient’s bedroom, number of occupants of the bedroom, number in family. Name of Doctor if summoned to the birth. Details of preparations for the mother, preparations for the child, name and address of ‘Home Help’. For all births: Social Services required. Full record of the progress of the labour. 3. Pupil’s reports on the labour, and on the condition of mother and baby in the 12-14 days following the birth. Baby’s weight chart and record of feeding method. 4. Mother’s medical observations in the 12-14 days after birth. Observations on two home visits in the first three months after the birth. Address of doctor giving post-natal care and address of welfare clinic. Signature of the tutor midwife.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exploring the Sources: Some initial efforts at extracting information

| Table 1: Numbers of deliveries by year (Study Group Cuckfield Hospital) |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 54   | 55   | 76   | 57   | 66   | 68   | 68   | 65   | 65   | 65   | 68   |
| 4    | 3    | 5    | 5    | 5    | 7    | 11   | 8    | 8    | 8    | 8    |

| Table 2: Number of unplanned Caesarean Sections by year 1951-61 (Study Group Cuckfield Hospital) |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1/0  | 0/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  |
| 1/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  | 1/0  |

The Registers are the property of the named Midwife.
The Registers include names and details of mothers and medical staff.
Evaluation of the Registers as Sources

- They are contained in bound books specially printed and published for the Central Midwives Board with pre-printed boxes, columns and charts for completion.
- They are hand-written in ink by Lilian or completed directly under her supervision.
- Although clearly written space is limited and the writing is often small and squashed, so not always easy to read.
- There are numerous medical terms, drug names and abbreviations some of which will require research to establish meaning.
- The details were filled in soon after the events took place, probably being drawn straight from the patients' official documentation.
- The data appears comprehensive with very few blank columns.
- Although clearly written space is limited and the writing is often small and squashed, so not always easy to read.
- They are hand-written in ink by Lilian or completed directly under her supervision.
- The paragraph printed inside the front cover by the Central Midwives Board emphasises how important it was to the individual Midwife to keep the Registers to be used as evidence in case of problems.
- The paragraph printed inside the front cover by the Central Midwives Board emphasises how important it was to the individual Midwife to keep the Registers to be used as evidence in case of problems.
- The legal implications mean the accuracy of the information recorded is likely to be high.
- Lilian recently asked me to destroy the contents of a large blue plastic bag as she was not sure how to go about it. At first sight the bag contained a potential treasure for the historian.

Inside were five registers all issued by the Central Midwives Board. Four of them record details of every delivery at which Lilian was involved during the last stages of her training in 1951 and 1952.

The recent series Call the Midwife set in the East End of London in the 1950s generated a lot of public interest. It showed a midwifery service that appeared very different from the present. Lilian’s records were compiled in the same period and although she herself came from the East End, they reflect the maternity service in the more affluent West Sussex.

This article is a very preliminary investigation of the information relating to maternity cases treated by Lilian (The Study Group) in an effort to establish what information can be extracted from the records and to determine whether they would provide a basis for further work.

There are 784 deliveries in all recorded including eighteen twin births. In the other book Lilian has written up full medical records of twelve of the pregnancies and deliveries she oversaw during the last stages of her training in 1951 and 1952.

The Victorian City - Everyday Life in Dickens’ London by Judith Flanders
Inconvenient People: Lunacy, Liberty and the Mad-Doctors in Victorian London by Sarah Wise

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Moat Farm Mystery: the life and criminal career of Samuel Herbert Dough by MW Oldridge

Bibliography

- Book: Call the Midwife - Editorial by Janet Cumar
- Book: Call the Midwife: Initial assessment of a source which chimes well with the recent TV series by Janet Cumar
- Book: Call the Midwife: Evaluation of the Registers as Sources by Janet Cumar

Family and Community Historical Research Society Newsletter

Vol 13 Issue 3 December 2012

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2013 Subscriptions Now Due

Please don’t forget that your Subscription to FACHRS is now due and if you have not yet done so, please send your £21.00 to our Membership Secretary (details below) as soon as possible. If you do not renew then the February/March issue of the Newsletter will be the last that you receive.

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Editorial

I must once again apologise for the delay in the publishing of this issue of the Society Newsletter. Unfortunately, this is due to a variety of medical problems (some still not yet resolved), and I hope you will forgive the lateness of the appearance of this issue.

As we will notice there is only a smattering of Society items. There was to be a Committee meeting on 19 January to discuss many important matters. However, this was cancelled due to the adverse weather conditions and it was decided that the next Newsletter should contain all the details of these issues.

I do, however, have three very diverse articles for you to read and which I hope you will find very interesting.

The first is taken from the winner of the Paul Newton Taylor Award for best poster submission at the May 2012 Conference, which was presented by Janet Cumner. Entitled ‘Call the Midwife’ it relates to her aunt who was a midwife during the same period as the television programme of the same name, but in a different part of the country.

The second item is connected to our last research project on almshouses and written by our Project Co-ordinator, Anne Langley. It gives a brief glimpse at information gleaned on an almshouse in Warwickshire founded in 1699.

The third article is my own contribution and relates to the Olympics. The Village where I live has had a long association with cycling and was at one time a mecca for cyclists from around the world. Since the advent of the motor car this link declined - until 2012, when the Olympic Cycling Road Races came through the village. I hope you will find this bit of history of a small Surrey village worth reading.

And last, but certainly not least, please make a note in your diaries for this year’s Conference to be held in Farnborough, Hampshire on Saturday 18 May. The theme will be WWI, but, once again due to illness, our Conference Organiser still has to finalise the programme details. I hope to see many of you there. Do introduce yourselves to your Committee members if you attend. We love meeting our members and look forward to seeing you in Farnborough.

Copy date for the next issue is

23 February 2013

SEND ME YOUR ARTICLES NOW!

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Family and Community Historical Research Society

The Journal of the FACHRS

Please contact the editor or assistant editor with your contributions

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