

## The Goddard Association of Europe

### NEWSLETTER

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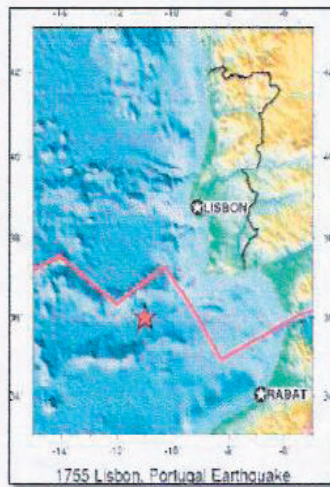
## TWO BROTHERS IN PORTUGAL

### The Lisbon Earthquake

In April 1752 Ambrose Goddard left Swindon to board a packet boat from Falmouth to Lisbon. Three years later he was joined by his older brother Richard. Neither of them knew they would soon be caught up in a cataclysmic natural disaster. Ambrose, born in 1729, was the fourth son of the Ambrose who inherited the Swindon estate after the death of his cousin Pleydell in 1742. At the age of 23 young Ambrose was sent to Lisbon to join the firm of Jackson Branfill & Co. By 1755 he had become a junior partner and the firm was now Jackson, Branfill & Goddard. They were in business as importers on their own behalf and also acted as commission agents for London merchants, mainly dealing in wool textiles but later in bullion.

After several trade agreements with Portugal in the 17<sup>th</sup> century so many English merchants had established offices in Lisbon that they had become known as the “English Factory”, referring to their activities as factors rather than to a building. There was also a social and religious side to this community of English Protestants in a fervently Catholic country.

Back in Swindon Ambrose senior died in May 1755 and the estate passed to his eldest son Thomas. Edward, the second son, had died aged 18 in 1743. The third son, Richard, born in 1728, had graduated at Oxford in 1753 and had been appointed vicar of Laycock, the Goddard family being the patrons of the living. A few months after the death of his father Reverend Richard sailed to Lisbon for the sake of his health and to check on his younger brother. The four-day voyage did



little to improve his health, the departure from Falmouth being delayed for three weeks and the weather so rough that he spent the voyage in his cabin, suffering from sea-sickness. Nature was soon further to disturb any recuperation he hoped for.

On the morning of 1 November 1755, All Saints Day, a massive earthquake, estimated to be of at least 8.5 magnitude, occurred in the Atlantic, the effects of which were felt all over western Europe

and as far as the West Indies. But in terms of damage and deaths it mostly affected Lisbon and so has since been known as the Lisbon Earthquake. On that Saturday morning Ambrose had left the city on business and Richard was due to assist the Chaplain of the English community with a service, it being a holy day for both the Catholic and Anglican churches. However, prior to the service and because it was a bright morning, he had decided to take a stroll on St. George's Hill which overlooked the city. When the 'quake struck, the hilltop castle collapsed and so did the Cathedral, churches and many other buildings in the city. Out in the open Richard was out of danger from falling masonry but had still to save himself from falling. The bright sun was soon blotted out by dust rising from the destruction. In near darkness, amidst hundreds of terrified and irrational people, unable to understand the language and not able to find his way round, Richard was confused and frightened. When he later found himself seized by a crowd of Catholics shouting and questioning him he feared that as a Protestant he would be attacked, thinking that they believed the disaster was a punishment from God for allowing heretics to live amongst them. In the crowd was a priest who, Richard eventually gathered, was asking him, accompanied by the chanting crowd, to be baptised. Richard, fearful of antagonising them, pretended not to understand, but the priest nevertheless went ahead with the ceremony at which the mob excitedly celebrated their conversion of a heretic.

Survivors of the initial tremors tried to make their way to safety, some fleeing to the harbour and

others to the higher ground of St. George's Hill. Many of those at the harbour fell victims to a side effect of the 'quake. The river Tagus was seen to drain away, leaving boats aground on the river bed, but out at sea huge waves were rushing in to fill the void. Soon this tsunami had flooded the low-lying parts of the city and demolished a newly built quay with the loss of several hundred Portuguese who had sought refuge on it. Added to this was the outbreak of fire in several places, as a result of the hundreds of candles that had been lit in the churches at Masses for All Saints Day. The fire raged through the city for a week and completed its destruction. The loss of life is not known, but estimates range from ten to forty thousand souls. Richard believed that thirty thousand people had died.

Richard and a group of other English men and women who had assembled on the hill fled to the safety of the countryside a few miles away, meeting on the way the British Consul and his family who had narrowly escaped. From them Richard learnt that his brother Ambrose had survived and was safe. Richard remained in Portugal for several more months at least, possibly to stand in as Chaplain to the English community whilst the post was vacant in 1756. Nothing more is known of him until his death in May 1758 aged 30. After his arrival in October 1755 and in the months after the disaster he wrote long letters to family and friends in England, detailing the events he had witnessed. These letters survived in the family and passed down to our late patron Capt. John. They are now in the British Library and Wiltshire archives. The firm of Jackson, Branfill & Goddard continued in business but had suffered severe losses as a result of the earthquake. In 1758 they owed £12,000 to William Braund, a London merchant for whom they acted as commission agents. Ambrose remained in Lisbon, receiving a visit from his sister Priscilla and her husband John Awdry, who she had married in 1765. Sadly, Priscilla died whilst there in December 1768. On the death of his brother Thomas in 1779 he inherited the estate in Swindon and returned home to become head of the family. He served as MP for Wiltshire from 1772 to 1806 and died in 1815.

*John of Accrington*

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### INVICTUS GAMES

Several of you spotted a Lavinia Goddard taking part for Great Britain in the sailing at the recent Invictus Games in Sydney. She also represented her country in weightlifting, but unfortunately did not win any medals. Can anyone tell me anything more about her? Or does any member claim her as a relative?

### NEW MEMBERS FAMILIES

Because of the new data protection laws I have been advised not to continue the practice of publishing the names and addresses of those new members who have joined since the last Newsletter went to print. They are, of course, warmly welcome and, as usual, the outline family information below is given to enable existing members to contact new members who appear to belong to the same branch. In future, however, they must do so via the Membership Secretary whose details are on the back page.

**Kathleen Wilson** descends from a Southampton branch which moved north to Gateshead via Newcastle and Huddersfield around 1900. The family starts with William born in 1832, through Charles born in 1866 and Frank born 1889, to Kathleen's grandfather Charles born in Gateshead in 1921.

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### ELIZABETH CROSS

Many thanks to member Karen Hawker who initially brought this to our attention on the Association's Facebook page in September. The families of Private Derek Goddard and Private Douglas Laventure, who both died on active service in Cyprus in the 1960s, have been presented with Elizabeth Cross medals in a special ceremony at Headquarters 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade in Aldershot. Mrs Beryl Pearce (sister of Pte Goddard) and Mr Brian Laventure (brother of Pte Laventure) were recipients of the medals and special memorial scrolls presented by her Majesty the Queen's Lord Lieutenant for Hampshire, Mr Nigel Atkinson. Beryl said she was only told her brother died "while bathing", but she was honoured to receive the award: "Proud, very honoured to be here today; it's so sad we've got to celebrate these things. Obviously Derek would be 80 now and it's hard to fathom that he was only 18 when he was killed – I find that hard to comprehend actually." The Elizabeth Cross is awarded in national recognition of the loss and sacrifice suffered by the families of those service personnel killed in operations in the line of duty since WWII. At the time of its inauguration in 2009 her Majesty stated: "As people, we accord this ultimate sacrifice the highest honour and respect."

Derek Campbell Goddard was most likely the second child of John F. Goddard and Grace I. Campbell who married in the registration district of Hungerford in the March quarter of 1937. He had an older brother Michael J. and younger siblings Gerald, Beryl J. and Linda J. All of the children were registered in Newbury. Is this your family? I'd love to hear from you if it is.

*Joan Dibble*

## SWINDON GODDARD CAR

From day to day one can never tell what request or information may come in to the Association next. At the beginning of August John of Accrington fielded a plea from a Mr James Clayton, a vintage car owner. Mr Clayton wrote: "I am the owner of a 1934 Alvis Speed 20 Drop Head Coupé that I believe was first owned by Captain William Ambrose Goddard MC, care of the Naval and Military Club, 94 Piccadilly, London. I am researching the early history of the vehicle and would be very grateful if you could put me in touch with any of your relatives who could shed light on the time when it was owned and used by Capt. Goddard. I am also trying to establish when and to whom it was sold, so if the date of disposal is known I may be able to complete the full history of the vehicle straight away. I live in Hullavington, Wiltshire, and the vehicle is in full working order and 95% original so I would be very happy to meet any member of the Goddard family who is local to me – from your Association website it would seem that there is a significant presence in the north Wiltshire area. On the 23 September I hope to be displaying the vehicle in Cirencester town centre, so that may also provide an opportunity to meet some of the family."

John forwarded the request to me as he thought I was more in touch with the Swindon family. Thereupon I wrote to Mr Clayton as follows: "Your query to the Goddard Association has been forwarded to me, but I regret I can only help you marginally. You are right in thinking there are a good number of Goddards in north Wiltshire. In particular there are two main branches, those of Clyffe Pypard (my branch) and Swindon, their common ancestor dating to the first half of the sixteenth century., Your Captain Ambrose William Goddard comes from the latter branch – the Ambrose bit is the give away! Unfortunately the Swindon Goddards are no longer supporters of our Association following the death some eight or ten years ago of Captain John Hesketh William Goddard who was the then head of that branch and keen on the family history. He was also the second son of your Ambrose. I know he had two sons, Nicholas and Richard, but I do not have addresses for them. However, as far as I am aware his widow Carol is still alive and possibly still living in their house at Rendcomb near Cirencester [and I gave him her address]. As I recall she was more interested in horses than cars, but she could put you in touch with her family. I wish you every success in your quest."

Sadly, not long after this interchange, on 21 3

August I spotted in the *Daily Telegraph* the obituary of the elder son Nicholas: "Nicholas died suddenly on August 10<sup>th</sup> in Marlborough. Much loved son of Carol, father of Charlotte, Zoe and Ben." In 1989 together with his wife and little daughter Charlotte, who was only eleven months old at the time, he had attended the third AGM of the Association, which was hosted by his parents at Rendcomb (see Newsletter 13). I immediately wrote again to Mr Clayton, telling him of this unexpected occurrence and suggesting that now might not be the best time to approach the family. I have not subsequently heard any more of the matter.

### DEATH OF AN ACTOR

In Newsletter 69 of January 2004 we recounted the trial of Henry Norris at the Old Bailey on a charge of murdering Henry Goddard. To recap. The two men had made some sort of business deal, but Goddard had not kept to his side of the arrangement. Meeting one night in a London alehouse, they had a heated argument that resulted in them going outside and fighting with swords. Both men were wounded, Goddard with a 12 inch-deep cut to his abdomen that resulted in his death the following day.

We can now add further details to the story. Henry Goddard was an actor and possibly the only notice he received in his career was of his death. He had apparently acted in Dublin before coming to London about 1716 and joining the company at the 'Old Playhouse', Drury lane, three years later. There he 'indistinguished' himself in minor roles. He also had dealings with Henry Norris, senior, a well-known comedy actor on the London stage, who became known as 'Jubilee Dicky' after his performance as a character of that name in a Farquhar comedy.

Henry Norris' son, Henry, was also an actor and dramatist, belonging to the 'New Playhouse'. What his relationship with Goddard was is not known apart from the fact it ended in Goddard's death in mid-July 1725. Despite his wounds Norris junior immediately fled to Ireland where he remained for several weeks until returning and surrendering to the authorities. The trial was held on 27 August when Norris was charged with murder and/or manslaughter. He was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to be burnt on the hand. This was a common penalty at the time and involved being branded on the thumb with the letter M. All that we can say of Henry Goddard is that his star flickered briefly in the London theatre before falling into a black hole of anonymity.

*John of Accrington*

## HAMILTON GODDARD

As I have said on previous occasions, I am always pleased when an article in a Newsletter prompts another member to write a follow-up. Imagine my delight then when my article on Hamilton Goddard in the last Newsletter has elicited not one, not two, but three responses, and I am grateful to all three members for their input. The first was from John of Accrington who writes as follows: “For information, Charles Skinner Goddard was born on 8 December 1822, the son of John and Ann Goddard of Beer Alston, Devon. He was baptised at Beer Ferris and subsequently married Maria Louisa Carey Gedye at Stoke Damerel parish church on 5 August 1850. John’s occupation was that of tailor, and Charles was a draper cum grocer. An older brother, John Skinner Goddard, was born on 8 December 1816 at Beer Ferris, also known as Bere Ferrers. I have not found the marriage of John and Ann, although both were born in Devon; and there is no indication where Skinner enters the family. It seems that the connection to Upham may be wishful thinking!” I certainly concur with this last observation.

The second response comes from Association member Beth Leach who writes: “I have just seen the article which mentions Keith Hamilton Goddard in the latest GAE Newsletter. Ancestry have recently added records of UK Allied Prisoners of War 1939-1945, so I searched for him and found an entry, which seems likely to be the correct one. Unfortunately one needs a Fold3 subscription to view the image. There was free access to Fold3 Commonwealth records a few weeks ago, but unfortunately that has expired, so I have no way of accessing it. Perhaps one of the US members might have access. There is mention of him on this site, but it doesn’t tell us much: <https://prezi.com/dj01ngppl-mz/prisoners-of-war/> I had a look on the Australian Trove website and he certainly survived the war as I found an announcement in *The Sun*, a Sydney newspaper, on Wednesday 15 April 1951 about his engagement: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/> (Just put Keith Hamilton Goddard into the search.) It also brings up a newspaper advertisement about a request for a replacement for a lost share certificate in July 1951. Perhaps he wanted to sell the shares to raise money to buy a house and found the certificate had vanished! This application also appears on one of the three hits on Australian government gazettes. This is in the Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales. The other two are in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, one in 1943 where he is included in a list of those promoted on probation with the rank of pilot officer, and the other in 1948 when he seems

to have been promoted to temporary squadron leader. His name was also picked up by google in a history of the Forwood family, but there were 365 pages of pdf document and I’m afraid I hadn’t time to plough through that: <http://www.airgale.com.au/histories/A%20Forwood%20History%20by%20Keith%20Goddard.pdf> I didn’t want to download it! Anyway we know he survived.”

And, thirdly, Brian of Newbury writes at greater length, having done more research: “Procrastination is a wonderful hobby; it doesn’t require lessons, improves with practice, and I practice like mad! The article entitled ‘*Hamilton Goddard*’ in the last Newsletter based on 70 year old research, posed several questions which I thought could be answered with a little armchair work with coffee, the computer and modern data. At any rate it was much more attractive than painting a fence, the only alternative going at the time.

To quickly put aside an argument in the article that the name ‘Hamilton’, given as a Christian name to members in both the Wiltshire Goddard family and in an Australian émigré family is possibly derived from a single source: the Goddard Association President and the writer of the Newsletter article traces his family back to **Upham**, near Swindon in Wiltshire, while the Australian family come from **Upton** near Honiton in Devon.

The given name of ‘Hamilton’ within the Australian family is derived from the marriage of David Dunlop to Eliza Hamilton, daughter of Hon. Solomon Hamilton, in about 1821, at Coleraine, County Londonderry, Northern Ireland. This Dunlop family tree is published on website <http://www.airgale.com.au/dunlop/d1.htm#g1> A copy of this tree has been lodged with Joan Dibble, our research co-ordinator.

David Dunlop and his wife, the ex-Hon Eliza Hamilton, emigrated to Wollombi Colony of New South Wales in about 1836, with his family of four children, all born in Coleraine. Their first child, Rachel Rhoda Nevin Dunlop, was born in 1822 and died in 1908 in Petersham, Sydney, NSW, Australia.

Rachel Rhoda Nevin Dunlop married David Ambrose Milsom (sometimes Nielson) in 1853. David Milsom was born in 1817 and died in 1890 in Wollombi Colony of NSW. Their fifth child, Thalia Dunlop Milsom, was born in 1864 in Parramatta Colony of NSW and died in 1919 in Petersham, Sydney, NSW at age 55. Thalia married Charles Henry Goddard, son of Charles Goddard and Maria Louise Carey Goddard, née Gedye, in 1888 in

Wollombi Colony of NSW. Charles was born in 1858 and died in 1895. (As all GAE newsletter readers will know Thalia, according to the ancient Greek poet Hesiod, was the mother of the Corybantes, attendants of Rhea, a Grace and the muse of comedy.)

As for the lineage of her husband, Charles Henry Goddard, some guess work is involved because parish records for Devonshire are poorly represented on the web at present, so I can only show details from the work of earlier researchers without proof. Here is a problem, searches show, as there is more than one Charles Skinner Goddard! Firstly, a Charles Skinner Goddard born circa 1822, was probably the brother of William Cumberland Goddard, who was born in 1825 to John Goddard and Ann Skinner. William Cumberland Goddard married Eliza Parker and they had nine children, including one Charles Skinner Goddard born on 8 April 1867. William died on 26 September 1882 in Gunnedah, NSW, Australia. The Charles Skinner Goddard named in the previous GAE Newsletter is from the hamlet of Upton in Devon, and almost certainly the elder brother of William Cumberland Goddard. Charles of Upton married Maria Louise Carey Gedge (sometimes Giddy, but Gedye is the correct spelling) in the third quarter of 1850 in Stoke Damerel (now part of Devonport) Devon. By 1856, and the birth of their first son Charles Henry Goddard, born in 1858, they were living in Sydney, Australia, as subsequently were their other children, Alice Carey Goddard born in 1861, Sydney E. Goddard born in 1868, and Alice Eliza born in 1875.

This is possibly the 'Charles Goddard and family', having had a financially assisted passage, who arrived in Sydney on the *Washington Irving* on 11 April 1855, having sailed from London on 4 January 1855. Charles Henry Goddard, born in 1858, became an accountant but died at the early age of 37 in 1895 in Petersham, Sydney Colony of NSW. His marriage to Thalia Dunlop Milsom at St Johns, Wollombi on 18 April 1888 is shown in <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XTZ3-L34> The children from this marriage were: Roy Hamilton who was born in January 1889 in Petersham, Sydney Colony of NSW; he died in 1958 in Sydney. Keith Gedye born in 1890 and died in 1972. And Ida Louise who was born in 1895 and died in 1974.

Roy was a keen sailor and member of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron (he served in the 1939-45 war as home based Sub-Lieutenant RANVR) and member of the Union Club, Sydney; author of over thirty books, papers and pamphlets, amateur anthropologist and sometime Vice-Consul for Honduras. So it is not

with great surprise that one reads: 'Roy (1888-1958) was a chartered accountant with qualifications from the University of Sydney. However, his business was not particularly successful as he spent so much



time away collecting Aboriginal artefacts.' [http://www.nma.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/4719/FriendsJun03-goddard\\_coll\\_rf.pdf](http://www.nma.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/4719/FriendsJun03-goddard_coll_rf.pdf)

Roy Hamilton Goddard married Helen Noel Keep (1893-1992) in 1921 in Burwood Colony, Sydney. They had two children, Keith Hamilton Goddard who was born on 26 February 1923 and Thalia Helen Goddard who was born on 22 November 1926.

A member of the Royal Australian Air Force, Keith Hamilton Goddard was captured by the Germans in WW2 after jumping out of his plane, spending the rest of the conflict as a Prisoner of War. After the war ex-Pilot Officer Keith Hamilton Goddard, No. 422641, continued with aviation, joining a small air company, (Crowley Airways Pty.), which links Sydney with Papua New Guinea, becoming a director in 1974.

Keith married Pamela Ann McKewen on 20 July 1954. Pamela was born on 11 October 1925 and died on 28 December 2006 in Woollahra, Sydney at the age of 81. Children from this marriage were Sarah Anne who was born on 12 September 1955, but who died young, as did James Hamilton who was born and died in 1957. The twin to James, Katherine Louise, was born on 19 September 1957. Anna Hamilton was born on 20 July 1960, and Susan Helen on 21 September 1963. All three have since married and raised families, but when Keith Hamilton died on 17 March 2001 in Edgecliff, Sydney at the age of 78 the Goddard name for this branch died with him."

So, thanks to this research, the queries raised in the last Newsletter are, satisfactorily, all cleared up.

## TOM RUSSELL GODDARD 1884-1948

This is a follow up to my article on my ancestor Tom Russell Goddard, which was printed in the April 2017 Newsletter 122. Earlier this year, when I was in England, I visited “Great North Museum: Hancock” in Newcastle-upon-Tyne where Russell was curator from 1923 to 1948. It is an imposing building and its contents very interesting. June Holmes, who is an archivist there, very kindly brought out for me to see, read and photograph Tom Russell’s diaries, scrapbooks and photographs. It is a huge collection and available for anyone to see if they make an appointment with June.

I really enjoyed my two and a half hours there, handling Russell’s books, knowing he had written in the diaries in great detail and had collected cuttings from newspapers and built up four large scrapbooks of scientific news and photographs of himself at various events around England. His photographs of bird life on the Farne Islands are in black and white and in A3 format. He was obviously very skilled with a camera, and his diaries tell of how he sat waiting for a certain shot.

Tom Russell’s father’s house was at Glen Magna in Leicestershire, and the following is an extract I read in his introduction to his first diary begun in 1923: “In our grounds at Glen Magna we had rook, jackdaw, starling, greenfinch, chaffinch, house sparrow, skylark, meadow pipit, tree creeper, nuthatch, great tit, blue tit, coal tit, golden crested wren, spotted flycatcher, chiffchaff, wood and willow warblers, whitethroat, mistle thrush, song thrush, blackbird, robin, hedge sparrow and wren.” I wonder if any of us could identify twenty-four birds in our gardens today. Another note I made was the following: “Skylarks were plentiful in No Man’s Land in front of Albert (in France 1918). One of them in which I took particular interest during April 1918 was known to the men in the front line as ‘Goddard’s Skylark’. Punctually at 4 o’clock every morning it roared up into the sky with a magnificent burst of song. So regular were its habits that when an enquiry was made about the time during the early hours of the morning someone would be sure to say ‘It cannot be four o’clock yet because Goddard’s Skylark hasn’t gone up’!

Russell’s diaries are beautifully written, very neat, with no mistakes and in black ink. He wrote mostly on one side of the paper only, in hard covered exercise books over a twenty year period. There are seven books in total, but the last three are written in the hand of Grace Watts, his colleague, from notes Russell left on his death in 1948. His camera was left to Grace in his will, and on her death in 1986 it was given to

the museum. Unfortunately amid renovations in 2006 the collection of cameras the museum held lost their tags and now no one knows which camera was Russell’s.”



On 15 January 1949 Grace Watts wrote the following postscript to the diaries: “So ends T. Russell Goddard’s Farne Island Diary for he became ill on 17 August 1948 and died from cancer in the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 17 October 1948. All through his last summer he was fighting against ill-health and the increase of the nodules (of supposedly unknown origin) caused him considerable anxiety. It was particularly unfortunate that the weather was so bad and that he was only able to spend one week-end on his beloved Inner Farne. There is no doubt that he had a premonition of his approaching end and that he knew he would not see another Farne Island season. When I was on Inner Farne with him he looked at St Cuthbert’s and said ‘I shall soon be here making a nice scrape for one of my terns’. His body was cremated on 20 October

1948 but, unfortunately, bad weather and gales have so far prevented the scattering of his ashes on Inner Farne. This diary has been completed, to the best of my ability, from his rough notes.” And she added on 5 May 1949: “Gladys Scott and I today went out to Inner Farne and I scattered his ashes in St Cuthbert’s Cove. Later Bill sank the casket in deep water off Inner Farne and said ‘God rest his soul’. So we pray that he may rest in peace on his loved islands and that his work may live on.”

Grace died on 30 December 1986. Her ashes were scattered upon the sands of St Cuthbert’s Cove, Inner Farne, on 20 March 1987. This day was the 1,300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St Cuthbert, the first of Britain’s nature conservationists, who died there on 20 March 687.” *Julie of Christchurch, New Zealand*

### BIRTHDAY

Each day the *Daily Telegraph* carries a ‘Today’s Birthdays’ column of significant people. That for 8 November included ‘Prof Andrew Goddard, President, Royal College of Physicians, 51’. Does any member claim him as a relative?

### DECORATORS

I am grateful to Association member David of Shrewsbury for the following: “In July Diana and I were enjoying a visit to the Scilly Isles off the tip of Cornwall. Whilst walking through Hugh Town on the island of St Mary’s this van drew up. The driver



got out and we discussed the name ‘Goddard’. He told us that the next door island of St Martins was home to a considerable number of Goddard families, which was where the owner of the van came from. Do we have any Goddard members from there?” The answer to David’s question is in the negative; but see Newsletters 80 and 111 for previous mention of the Scilly Goddards!

### ROBERT GODDARD AGAIN

John of Accrington has kindly notified me that author Robert Goddard has produced another thriller, his twenty-seventh; though, as it came out in March, even John must have missed an announcement, as I also clearly did. The book is called *Panic Room* and the dust jacket contains several glowing reviews, one of which says: “For thirty years Goddard has been my go-to guy for a certain kind of storytelling, full of easy charm blended with sinister menace, and propulsive pace with twisty plotting, and likeable characters in bad situations. If you’ve read him, join the discussion: Is this his best yet? If you haven’t, start here and work backwards.” The story is mostly set in Cornwall – where Robert lives with his wife Vaunda – and the dust jacket further whets the appetite: “High above a Cornish cove stands a vast, uninhabited, modern villa. Uninhabited except for Blake, a young woman of mysterious background, currently acting as house-sitter. The house has a panic room. Cunningly concealed, steel-lined, impregnable – and apparently closed from within. Even Blake doesn’t know it’s there. She’s too busy being on the run from life, from a story she thinks she’s escaped. But her remote existence is going to be threatened when people come looking for the house’s owner, missing rogue pharmaceutical entrepreneur Jack Harkness. Soon people with questionable motives will be asking Blake the sort of questions she can’t – or won’t – answer. Will the panic room ever give up its secrets?” Why not buy a copy and read on.....

### ALBERT GODDARD

Two Newsletters ago I had, very sadly, to announce the death of former Executive Committee member Albert’s wife Gwen. I have now heard from his nephew Peter, kindly copied to me by Margaret of Worsley, as follows: “New Address for Albert Goddard. Since his beloved wife Gwen passed away in February, Albert has moved into Whitestones Care Home in Chapel-en-le-Frith. He has settled in well and the house on St Anns Close has just been sold. Although his memory is not so good, he would like all his family and friends to know his new address in case any of you would like to write or visit: Albert Goddard, c/o Whitestones, 139 Manchester Road, Chapel-en-le-Frith, High Peak, SK23 9TW. If you would like more information, please contact Peter Goddard (nephew) on 0771 267 3240 or [pete.Goddard@mft.nhs.uk](mailto:pete.Goddard@mft.nhs.uk) I have printed this in full in case any member was not on Pete’s mailing list and would like to contact Albert.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee held its autumn meeting at the President's house on 21 October. All were present except for John of Fareham who, I am pleased to say, is much better but not allowed to drive any distance yet. Malcolm was not present in person, but joined us by telephone link from Brisbane for twenty minutes or so. The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May were approved and signed. It was agreed that Denise Syndercombe Court should be asked to write an article for a subsequent Newsletter indicating the current state of the DNA project, but the President warned members not to hold their breath as Denise was an exceedingly busy lady. There were no other matters arising not covered by the Agenda.

As Malcolm was shortly due to telephone from Australia, the President dealt with the business concerning him first. Malcolm confirmed that the 'members only' section of website was now as secure as it had ever been. He also confirmed his agreement to take over the production of the Newsletter when the President was ready to retire. The latter confirmed to the Committee that age and particularly ill health meant that he did not intend serving as President beyond the 2021 AGM at the latest, and it might have to be earlier. Malcolm had submitted a protocol to make sure we were compliant with the requirements of the new data protection laws. The Committee adopted it – with the exception of the clause requiring the destruction of the details of ceased or deceased members, since accumulating such information is one of the main points of a genealogical society! More will be said on this subject in the next Newsletter. Malcolm thought the cost of printing was too high, and the President agreed to look into it. Malcolm was also concerned to acquire new members, a point also raised by Alex Morris (see below), and suggested raising the subscription to £10 a year. With an increase having taken place recently, the Treasurer and other members of the Committee did not feel another was needed just yet. All these points were discussed with Malcolm when he phoned, as was the question of the electronic payment of subscriptions. Treasurer John said he would make available the details of the Association's bank account on the form for new members as well as when reminding existing members of renewal, stressing that it was essential that his or her membership number was included by the payee to avoid potential confusion.

Joan Dibble again said she was receiving fewer requests for help with research than she used to, although she always offered it when welcoming new members. The President indicated he had been in

contact with the Archaeological Library and Museum in Devizes and that they were prepared to store the Association's records. Alex Morris raised issues relating to publicity for the Association. She had contacted the Guild of One Name Studies to see how they were adapting to the current genealogical climate, as well as drafting a potential membership survey. After discussion she was asked to continue developing this.

The date and venue for the 2019 AGM were discussed. Two key members of the Committee could not manage the usual third Sunday in May so the second (May 12) was chosen instead. The meeting had only once before been held in East Anglia (King's Lynn in Norfolk 2003), so it was decided to try Suffolk on this occasion. Full details will be given in the next Newsletter.

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## OLDEST MEMBER

Belated birthday wishes to our oldest member, so I believe, Daphne (Goddard) Bennett who celebrated her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday at the end of August. Many thanks to her niece, member Barbara Goddard for letting us know.

*Joan Dibble*

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## OBITUARY

The Association is saddened to record the death of Margaret of Worsley's elder sister and send her and her family our deepest condolences.

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## USEFUL ADDRESSES

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