

The Goddard Association of Europe

NEWSLETTER

No. 157 - January 2026

The Forgotten GODDARD Woman behind the USA Declaration of Independence

The *Declaration of Independence* is the founding document of the United States of America. It was written in June 1776 by Thomas Jefferson, one of the five members of the committee appointed by Congress to draft it. The other members were John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman.

Congress voted for Independence on July 2 and then took up Jefferson's draft for the next two days. Eighty-six alterations were made, and Congress approved the document on July 4, 1776. Congress then ordered the committee that drafted the Declaration to oversee its printing. The broadside was quickly disseminated to the colonies and by July 18, twenty-four newspapers had published the text.

The signed manuscript copy, now held by the US National Archives, was not completed and signed until August 2.

In 1777, after the victories at Princeton and Trenton, The American Congress decided to print the *Declaration of Independence* with a complete list of signatures and they chose the Goddards of Baltimore as printers. Because Mary was running the printing operation by this time, the document, printed on January 18, 1777 reads "printed by Mary Katherine Goddard."

"The Goddard Broadside" was the first printed version of the *Declaration of Independence*



specifically intended for preservation. Mary Katherine Goddard's imprint at the bottom of her broadside proudly presents not only her full name, but also the city where she lived and worked for over forty years."

Mary Katherine Goddard, (16 June 1738 – 12 August 1816) was the daughter of a physician and postmaster, Dr. Giles Goddard and his wife Sarah Updike. This family descends from Anthony Goddard and later numerous Giles Goddards who arrived in New England in the mid-seventeenth century and left many progeny. After her father's death, the family moved around a bit. With each move, Mary's brother William opened and ran printing presses and newspapers. But the

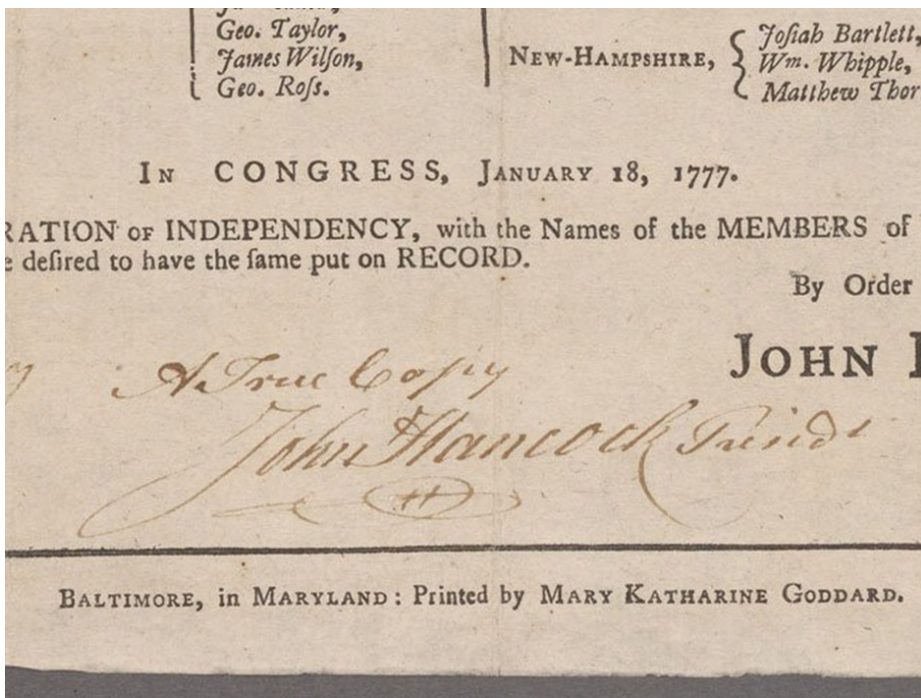
females in the family ultimately shouldered the burden of running these publications. In January 1770, Mary's mother passed away and Mary was then left to perform these duties alone.

Mary was a good businesswoman who worked hard to stay afloat during difficult times. Indeed, she managed to stay in business throughout the Revolution when many other publishers were floundering. She opened up a book shop on the side of the printing press, to help bring in money. Her name soon appeared on the masthead for the Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser, and all this in a time when women's names didn't usually appear on publication mastheads at all. She also later became the postmaster of Baltimore, the first female to hold such a position in the colonies.

Recognizing the excellence of her work, Congress granted Goddard the honour of publishing the first copy of the Declaration of Independence with all the signatories listed, in 1777. It had been a long time coming. For many months, the names of all the signatories were not known. Signing that document was considered treason by the British, and the action was punishable by death.

Maybe that makes it even more interesting that Mary's full name appeared immediately underneath? She was making a statement—a statement that could get her hanged by the British.

During the first year of George Washington's presidency, Mary was unfortunately the victim of patronage or sexism (or both). Despite having held the position of postmaster successfully for fourteen years, she was forced to step down.



At the bottom of the United States of America's Declaration of Independence, appears the statement—
Baltimore, in Maryland: Printed by Mary Katharine Goddard.
 The only woman who's name appears on that document, a risky task during the American Revolution.

Goddard herself directly appealed to President George Washington and the U.S. Senate for her job back, and even had a petition signed by more than 230 local businessmen, but to no avail. The new postmaster general wanted to appoint a political ally to her position.

Her brother William had, by then, returned to run his printing business. Apparently, his return was not an entirely amicable affair. Mary was left with only a book shop to run, which she did, until shortly before her death in 1816."

Goddard, as a contemporary of hers declared, was "a woman of extraordinary judgment, energy, nerve, and strong good sense." Though sex discrimination and her ne'er-do-well brother ended her career too soon, Goddard left a mark as one of the Revolutionary era's most accomplished publishers and a female pioneer in the U.S. government.

Mary K Goddard Printer/Postmaster.

silhouettescostumes.com/completed-projects/projects-1700s/1770-mary-k-goddard-printer-postmaster/

GODDARDS music shops in Buxton (3)

continued from newsletters 155 & 156

Before she married Frederick, Edith lived with her family at the Queen's Head and was an apprentice dressmaker. She was related to yet another George Hobson, whose pharmacy eventually became Clowes chemist.

Frederick and Edith had two children but, sadly, both died in infancy. Tragically, Edith died in 1900, aged just 25. Although many women died in childbirth at that time, I was told Edith may have died of tuberculosis.

The 1901 census recorded Frederick as a widower, aged 54, and living at 1 Mill Cliff with his 18 year old son, George W. Goddard. Both were listed as musicians. Alas, this George died in 1902, aged only 19. Despite suffering the loss of two wives and his son at such young ages, in 1903, Frederick, then aged 56, married for a third time to Alice Maud Jeens, who was 24 years younger than him. They did not have any children together.

Frederick's brother, George Goddard, had a more stable home life but his wife, Emma, had died in 1898, aged 50. The 1901 census recorded George as aged 58, a widower and living at 62 South Ave.

Living with him were three of his sons and three daughters. As mentioned before, George and Emma had eleven children, in total. Many of them were musical and became involved in the Goddards music shops, tune pianos, teach music and/or play in local orchestras and bands.

I am not sure of the exact date the photo on the next page was taken, but it was probably after the death of George's wife, Emma, in 1898. It may have even been the day of her funeral.

George is in the middle of the front row. On the left of the back row is George's daughter, Lydia. She had been born in 1871 and worked as an assistant in the family music shop. Lydia was a fine pianist, married a musician called John Cresswell and went to live in Birkenhead with him. After John died, at the young age of 35, Lydia moved back to Buxton and, in 1911, was living with her father on Marlow Street. Another daughter, called Georgina, is on the right hand side of the back row. She was regarded as 'feeble at birth' and not musical or involved in running the business. She lived with her father and then in a home.

It is four of George and Emma's sons that we are particularly interested in because they were all musicians and important in carrying on the family music tradition and business in Buxton. They were George Reginald (1873-1932), Frederic Charles (1876-1955), Henry Ernest (1878-1934) and



A great photo of George Goddard with his family.

Edward. Percy (1883-1917). The four brothers were often known as Reg, Fred, Henry and Percy.

But which son is which in the family photo? I am not one hundred percent sure, but think; Reg is standing on the back row, three from the right; Fred is sitting on the front row, on the left hand side; and Percy is standing on the back row, three from the left. I believe Henry is either sitting on the front row, on the right hand side, or standing on the back row, one from the left.

By 1910 the Goddards music shop, had moved from the Devonshire Colonnade to just up the road at 6 Cavendish Circus and was known as the Cavendish Music Warehouse. This shop was just a couple of doors down from George Hobson's pharmacy (the precursor to Clowes chemist) at number 4 Cavendish Circus and also very near the Potters' branch that was at 3 Cavendish Circus, at the time.

In those days, a piano was often the centre of home entertainment. A lot more households had pianos than is the case today, and most pubs and theatres had them too. Selling, repairing and tuning pianos could be a very lucrative trade, although the advent of radio and the Great Depression of the 1930s saw sales of pianos plummet.

By 1911, George Goddard was living at 2 Marlow Street. With him were five of his daughters, a son, Walter (who was a railway clerk) and four of his grandchildren. George grew flowers and vegetables and won prizes in competitions.

At this time, Frederick Goddard was 66 and living at 20 Crowstones with his third wife, Alice Maud. His occupation was still listed as a musician. He continued to advertise music lessons from that address and conduct the Pavilion Band. George died in 1915, aged 72, and is buried at Christ Church, Burbage. Frederick outlived George by three years, dying in Chorlton-Cum-Hardy, Manchester, aged 71. The death of George and Frederick bought the first phase of the Goddard family story in Buxton to an end. It leaves us to concentrate next on the four of George's sons - Reg, Fred, Henry and Percy - who continued to take the Goddards music business forward.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, all four of George Goddard's sons, married. Reg married Alice Florence Cosgrave in 1896. Fred married Ellen Needham in 1900, followed by Percy marrying Florence Belward in 1905 and Henry marrying Maud Eleanor Buxton in 1907.

Reg Goddard:

In 1909, Reg's wife, Alice, died, aged only 34. The 1911 Census reported Reg as 38 and living at 89 Windsor Road with his daughter, Mabel and a domestic servant, 21 year old Florence Skidmore. His occupation was listed as 'Musician'. At the time, he was the musical director of the Buxton Hydro-pathic Orchestra, the house band at what became the huge and glamorous Spa Hotel on Hartington Road. The hotel was owned by Herbert Reginald Pomeroy Lomas.

Later in 1911, presumably soon after the census had been conducted, Reg Goddard married his servant, Florence Skidmore. He was 17 years older than her. By 1921, Reg and Florence had moved to 8 Marlow Street where they were living with six children, aged 1 to 19, the eldest being from Reg's first marriage. Reg's occupation was recorded as 'Musician Pianoforte Tuner'. He performed both roles for many years. Reg later moved to Leek, where he died in 1932.

Fred Goddard:

In 1901, Fred was 25 and recorded in the Census as a 'Musician piano tuner', living at 9 Charles Street with his wife, Ellen. The 1911 Census recorded the couple as living at 9 Mill Cliff and having five children, aged 3 to 9. Fred was listed as a 'Pianoforte tuner' and, like his father and uncle before him, was the conductor of the Pavilion Orchestra.

Fred played with his brother, Reg, in the band at the Buxton Hydro and also taught H.P.R. Lomas the violin.

Maureen Davies of Nottingham

"To be continued"

[Ed]

Hartham Park Manor, Corsham, Wiltshire.

A GODDARD country home

The Goddards of Hartham (a branch of the Goddards of North Wiltshire) owned this country home from the 15th century until the late 18th century.

The manor of Hartham Park is a Grade II listed former Georgian country house estate set within approximately 50 acres in Wiltshire, England, about two kilometres north of the town of Corsham

In 1790 following the death of her husband, Lady Ann James (née Goddard) commissioned the renowned architect James Wyatt to redevelop the home. Wyatt set about removing an earlier house and in 1795 delivered the new house, Hartham Park.

Shortly after its construction however, the property was sold to the American exile Michael Joy, then briefly to the Methuen family, before being purchased by the Poynder family, who acquired the estate in 1855.

Winston Churchill had been a regular house guest of Sir J. D. Poynder and is recorded as having stayed at the home during 1896, 1897 and 1899. During World War II the property was used by the Royal Air Force as a billet for 10 Group, RAF Fighter Command.

Since 1997 the home has become serviced as short-term office accommodation which remains its primary use to this day. Subject to planning, the opportunity exists to utilise the building again as a country house or even a luxury hotel. It was for sale in 2024, with a guide price of £8,000,000.

[See newsletter 118 for additional information]

Hartham Park Manor, below.



RAINALD W. K. GODDARD

Waiting for his boat to come in!

Born on November 19, 1859, at Acocks Green, Birmingham, Rainald William Knightley Goddard was a man deeply rooted in both history and architecture. His life was woven with threads of artistic ambition, genealogical passion, and family legacy. Rainald's family, from the Goddards of North Wiltshire, held a distinguished lineage, tracing their roots back through William Goddard and Elizabeth Miles, who had immigrated to Boston, USA, in 1665. Rainald's grandfather, Samuel Aspinwall Goddard, moved back to England from Massachusetts in 1817, where he established a successful trading, iron and armaments business and became a vocal political advocate during the American Civil War, using his influence to sway British support away from the south and toward the Union.

Often in the household of his prominent grandfather in Birmingham, Rainald grew up amidst conversations of commerce and politics. His father, Rev. William Henry Goddard, initially a merchant, later took up the cloth, serving as an Anglican minister in Devon and Essex before his death in 1884. Rainald was also influenced by his father's sister, Julia Bachope Goddard, a children's author and staunch advocate for animal welfare and women's rights, whose legacy would leave a lasting mark on his worldview.

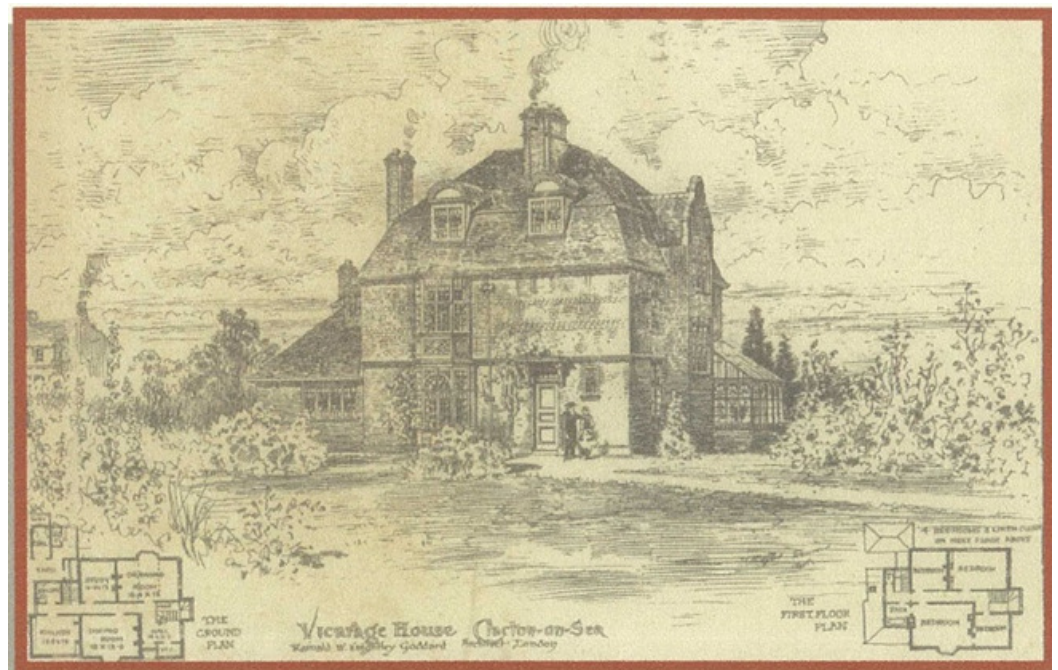
Rainald's artistic journey began at the Birmingham School of Art, where he studied from 1878 to 1883, followed by the Westminster School of Art (1883-1889). He later apprenticed as an architect under Basil Champneys, a renowned British architect, through a connection of his father.



Sara B. C. D. Goddard and a bronze bust of Robert Anning Bell by Sir George Frampton, photo 1972.

This partnership, which began in 1899, lasted until 1906 when Rainald embarked on his own independent architectural practice. Over the years, he made his mark with designs ranging from churches and public buildings in London to projects as far a field as Argentina. He also contributed to several journals, detailing his passion for genealogy, particularly through his extensive research into the Goddard family, and wrote a number of books.

In 1890, Rainald married Elizabeth Cornock, a woman with a fascinating lineage that included Gypsy ancestry, which caused friction with Rainald's mother. Elizabeth was the grand-daughter of the Squire of Goldwick, Gloucestershire, and Elizabeth Harper, née Bradshaw. Their marriage, though briefly secret, resulted in a lasting bond, and they shared a deep love of the arts, attending operas and hosting intellectual gatherings in their London home at 133 Denmark Hill. Their daughter, Sara Beatrice



Clacton rectory, Essex, designed by Rainald William Knightley Goddard



Sydney Harbour from Milsons Point, by Tom Roberts 1897

Cornock D'Oyley Goddard, born on 5 May 1896, would go on to collect much of their family history, preserving their legacy for future generations.

Rainald's architectural career was distinguished by his membership of the Royal Institute of British Architects, his regular exhibitions at the Royal Academy of Arts, and his inclusion in *Who's Who in Architecture* in both 1910 and 1914. He was well-known among his peers, counting Sir George Frampton and Robert Anning Bell among his very close friends and collaborators, they were both witnesses at his marriage. Beyond architecture, Rainald was consumed by his genealogical pursuits, publishing numerous works including "*Goddard of Englesham, A New England branch*" and "*Goddard Wills 1417-1809*" (copies of both are held on the GAE website) on the Goddard family lineage and leaving behind four filing cabinets filled with photos, data, books and charts chronicling his extensive research.

Despite his professional success, Rainald often spoke of waiting for his "*boat to come in*", a phrase that reflected his deep yearning for something more, perhaps a grand estate in the countryside or a financial windfall that would allow him to escape the pressures of city life. That boat, however, arrived in a way he never anticipated. One of Rainald's closest friends, British born Australian painter Tom Roberts, gifted him a painting, *Sydney from Milson's Point, 1897*. During his life Roberts produced a great many paintings depicting late 19th and early 20th century life in Australia, his paintings were popular even during Roberts' life. Rainald, and later his daughter Sara, never much cared for the painting, (seen above), but after Sara's death, it was discovered to be a highly valuable work.

The painting was auctioned in New York City in 1976 for US\$70,000 (US\$390,000 in 2025 dollars) and now resides in the New South Wales State Art Gallery in Sydney Australia—a posthumous reminder that sometimes, fortunes arrive unseen.

Rainald's life came to a tragic end on August 22, 1938, when he was struck by a motorcycle driven by a man named Alexander Bird on Victoria Embankment in London. He passed away the following day at the age of 78 and was laid to rest on August 27 in Camberwell New Cemetery. Although his life ended suddenly, Rainald left behind a legacy that spanned architecture, genealogy, and family lore, continuing to inspire those who carry his name.

Through his meticulous research, architectural contributions, and rich family history, Rainald William Knightley Goddard's story stands as a testament to a life spent not only waiting for one's boat to come in but also building legacies that sail across generations.

Research from the diary's and writings of RWKG and Sara Goddard, [Ed]

NEW MEMBER

The following new member has recently joined the Association. They are warmly welcomed and their lineage information below is to enable members to contact them. Please do so via the Chairman, details p.8.

Katherine Knight of Old Portsmouth, England, she claims descent from Hampshire based Goddards.

A Guide for Interviewing Family Members

Another part of our series on general genealogy

The purpose of this questionnaire is to guide you in recording the life experiences of any member of your family. Not every question needs to be answered, but the information you record will become an important link between you and your descendants.

Write down the person's full name, and their date and place of birth. Then record, their mother (include maiden name), father, brothers and sisters, spouse, and children and the date and place of marriages for everyone. Don't forget to include their brothers and sisters spouse's names, and children (with their spouse's maiden names).

Write your thoughts on sheets of good quality paper, numbering each answer to correspond to the appropriate question. Write your name and contact details on each page too, to record who collected the information, and leave space to add any new thoughts later.

Grandparents

1. What were the names/details of your mother's parents?
2. When and where were they born and where did they live?
3. What did they do for a living?
4. Do you have personal memories of them?
5. What were the names/details of your father's parents?
6. When and where were they born and where did they live?
7. What did they do for a living?
8. Do you have personal memories of them?
9. Did you know your grandparents well or at all?
10. What do you remember about your Great-Grandparents?
11. Did you ever meet them?
12. Did your great-grandparents, grandparents, or parents come from overseas? Were any stories told in your family about the journey? Do you have any relatives overseas today?
13. What traditions are still practised in your family?

Childhood and the family home

14. What type of house did you live in as a child?
15. Were there other buildings on the same property?
16. If you moved during your childhood, tell where and when and what you can remember of each house and the circumstances or the reason for the move.
17. In what room did you eat? Kitchen, Dining room?
18. How was your home heated? Wood, Gas, Coal?
19. Did you have a fireplace?
20. What kind of kitchen stove did your parents cook on?
21. What fuel was used? Wood, Gas, Electricity?
22. Did you have to buy the fuel or was this a chore, such as cutting wood, getting coal in, with which you had to help?
23. Did you use candles or kerosene lamps?
24. Did you always have electricity at home? If not, when did you get it
25. Did you have a cellar? Where did you store food?
26. Where did your family get water, a well or rainwater tank? Was it plentiful? Did you have to conserve water?
27. Who cooked the meals?
28. Who did the ironing?
29. Did you buy or make your own clothing?
30. When did you learn to cook and who taught you?
31. Did you ever learn to sew or knit, and who taught you?

32. Did you ever learn to ride a bicycle? Who taught you?
33. Did you learn to drive a car and who taught you?
34. Did your family keep in touch with distant family?
35. Did you visit relatives very often or at all?
36. Was your mail delivered or collected?
37. What do you remember about family pets?
38. Were you especially close to anyone in the family?
39. How did the family spend its evenings?
40. Did your family have a radio? When did they get one?
41. Did your family have a TV? When did they get one?
42. How did your family get news? Newspapers, letters, radio, word of mouth from family, neighbours, friends?

Family income and livelihood

43. What did your father do for a living?
44. Did your mother ever work outside of the home?
45. Did you contribute to the family income?
46. When did you get your first job outside of the family?
47. Did your family have a vegetable garden?
48. Did your family have fruit trees?
49. Did you raise chickens?
50. What kind of meat did you eat?
51. Did you keep a cow for milk?
52. Did you make your own butter and cheese?
53. Did anyone in the family sell eggs or butter?
54. If you lived on a farm, what crops were planted?
55. Who did the work? Family? Hired hands?

Days, seasons, and special occasions

56. What did Saturday mean to you?
57. Did you attend a church?
58. How did you spend Christmas?
59. Did you receive any gifts at Christmas?
60. Did your family observe Easter?
61. How and where did you celebrate other holidays?
62. Do you have religious beliefs?
63. How was your birthday celebrated?
64. What kinds of gifts did you receive on your birthday?
65. Did your family entertain often? When?
66. Did your family attend family reunions?
67. How did you keep cool in the summer?
68. What did you wear in the winter to keep warm?
69. Do you remember any natural disasters? Fires/floods?

School

70. Where did you go to school?
71. How did you get to school? If you walked, how far?
72. Did you attend and/or finish high school?
73. Did you study after high school or in your adult years?

Marriage and Later Life

74. When and where did you meet your husband or wife?
75. How and when did you get engaged?
76. When and where did you marry?
77. Did you go on a honeymoon?
78. Where was your first home?
79. Where and when were your children born?
80. Did you or your spouse go into military service?
81. Did you belong to any organizations?
82. Have you been politically active during your lifetime?
83. Which party did you vote for?
84. What are your most important achievements?
85. Do you have a philosophy of life to share?
86. Did you have a happy life?

GAE Committee Meeting—Summary

16 Nov 2025, via Zoom

Summary: The minutes from the March 2025 meeting were approved.

Matters Arising: Work on sourcing a suitable e-reader continues after the original supplier folded. Membership list coordination is ongoing; a single consolidated list is being rewritten to improve usability and will be synced between committee members.

Overseas subscriptions were reviewed. Several non-paying overseas memberships have been suspended, reducing postage costs. Newsletters now go overseas only to Australia and one member in New Zealand.

Digitisation work at Chippenham remains stalled pending contact from local staff; a visit is planned before the next meeting. Preparations for future Howard Goddard-Jones Awards were discussed, with one long-serving member suggested as a potential recipient.

Finance: Income & Expenditure to 31 Mar 2026 shows subscriptions at approx. £950 (slightly down on last year). UK membership stands at 86 paid-up, with 17 still to respond. A subscription reminder will accompany the April newsletter. Adding subscription status to the website was considered but deemed too complex.

Newsletter and postage costs have dropped to £80 due to fewer mailings and reduced overseas distribution. PayPal fees from overseas subs remain a cost. Usual expenses include website and Ancestry subscriptions and HGJ Awards. A £1,000 donation was sent to Clyffe Pypard; donations to Rendham and Margate are pending. Funding for Chippenham will wait until digitisation is complete.

Newsletter & Communications: Material remains limited—enough for only two more newsletters—so members are encouraged to share family stories. General genealogy advice and content is being used in the newsletter more often.

Membership & Facebook: The Facebook group skews to middle-aged users but remains active, including one recent notable DNA-based family-history success. The committee agreed to maintain the £45 “Family History Federation” subscription but not pursue additional advertising. A broken link on the Federation site will be reported.

Other Business: A speaker is needed for the AGM, with one possible candidate identified. The committee plans to refresh the welcome process for new members by creating a digital welcome pack based on the old handbook. Stationery updates and a template welcome letter were also discussed. Scans of previous materials will be circulated for redesign. Stickers for filing will be redistributed. Bank details need updating in person at a branch.

Next Steps (summary):

- Purchase e-reader; renew Ancestry membership; redirect membership emails; update FHF link.
- Reconcile membership lists.
- Prepare article for the newsletter; scan/share existing welcome materials.
- Follow up on archived minutes, AGM speaker and HGJ Award.
- Update bank account details.
- Visit Chippenham before next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: 17 March, 2026, 12:15pm.

GODDARD women, Among World's First Voters

On 19 Sept. 1893, the New Zealand Governor, Lord Glasgow, signed a new Act into law. New Zealand thus became the first country in the world to grant all women aged 21 and over the right to vote in parliamentary elections.

In other democracies – including Britain and the United States – women did not win the right to vote until after the First World War. New Zealand's leadership in women's suffrage became a hallmark of its reputation as a pioneering “social laboratory.”

Central to the campaign for suffrage was the work of Kate Sheppard, who in 1891, 1892, and 1893 organised petitions signed by almost 25% of the adult female population of the country, calling on Parliament to grant women the vote. Their collective effort helped push Parliament toward this historic breakthrough.

Among those who supported this historic cause were several Goddard women, whose names are recorded here. Does any member claim these New Zealand women pioneers?

- *Goddard, Kate; Roxburgh St., Mt Victoria, Wellington*
- *Goddard, Elizabeth; Caversham, Dunedin*
- *Goddard, Annie E.; Taradale, Napier, Hawke's Bay*
- *Goddard, Ellen; Masterton, Wairarapa*

[NZ Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Manatū Taonga
nzhistory.govt.nz/politics/womens-suffrage](http://nzhistory.govt.nz/politics/womens-suffrage)

USEFUL ADDRESSES

- Association Website:** www.goddard-association.org.uk
Website Admin: admin@goddard-association.org.uk
Chairman Karen Bell,
Oxford, England.
Email: chairman@goddard-association.org.uk
Membership Secretary: position not filled at present
Email: membership@goddard-association.org.uk
Newsletter Editor: Malcolm L. Goddard,
Queensland, Australia. Ph: +61 414 421 998
Email: editor@goddard-association.org.uk
Research Coordinator: John C. Goddard, details above
Email: research@goddard-association.org.uk
Secretary: position not filled at present
Email: secretary@goddard-association.org.uk
Treasurer: Richard N.U. Morris, 119 Blount Avenue, East
Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 1JN. Ph: 01342 324691
Email: treasurer@goddard-association.org.uk
Australian Co-ordinator: Donna Goddard, PO Box 678,
Scarborough Western Australia 6922 Ph: 0499 988 855
Email: australia@goddard-association.org.uk
North American Co-ordinator: Steve Sauls,
Florida, USA.
Email: canada@goddard-association.org.uk
Email: usa@goddard-association.org.uk
New Zealand Co-ordinator: Julie Goddard, 2/36 Young Street,
Christchurch, New Zealand. Ph: 03 981 5175
Email: newzealand@goddard-association.org.uk