



Newsletter 16

July 2008

EDITORIAL

This e-newsletter takes our newsletter into a new format. It is designed to keep you informed about discussion of mutual and fraternal life at conferences and exhibitions and within new publications. We also want to promote exchange of ideas about research. In order to keep members informed about friendly societies research please send information about to D.Weinbren@open.ac.uk. Because we do not have email addresses for all FSRG members, some copies of this newsletter are being posted. If you receive a posted copy please email your address to Dan. The enews will be posted on my website and will later be added to the Group website.

Best wishes,
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MUTUAL AID: MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND INQUIRIES

This section is open to all members. When you send in your questions and information please provide contact details which can be shared. If you are responding please do so directly (if a contact address is provided) and do keep us informed of your ideas.

Ritual

Marc J Quigley-Ferriday writes: 'My interest is in the comparison between Masonic Ritual and the ritual of friendly societies. Most friendly societies appear to have taken, at least as a starting point, their ritual from Emulation Ritual, and then reworked it for their own particular needs. All fresh material that I come across in my research, I have donated to the Library & Museum of Freemasonry in London, in order that others may study the material. As I am a member of the Foresters and the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, as well as a Freemason, I have concentrated my initial research of those two friendly societies, but have enquired into other societies rituals as well.' To contact Marc about his research, especially with any information which will help his further research, please write to him at 135 Manor View, PAR, Cornwall, PL24 2EN, Fax on: (01726) 815216; or email: ferridayenterprises@midasmail.co.uk

The Order of Loyal Caledonian Corks. Roy Fell, a student on the MA West Midlands course at Birmingham University, writes: 'During the next few months I shall be writing a thesis on the role

of friendly societies in the West Midlands during the late 19th century. During my research I have come across an archive in Walsall Local History Centre of the 'Order of Loyal Caledonian Corks', this contains accounts, rule books etc, and a series of fraternal newspapers dating from 1884. The Order had over 500 lodges distributed over Birmingham and the west Midlands. Apart from this archive there seems to be very little known about the Corks. Would it be possible that any member of the FSRG has come across this particular society?'

Mutual societies in Brazil (1850-1934). Cláudia Maria Ribeiro Viscardi , who is completing a PhD in the History Department, at the Federal University of Juiz de Fora – MG in Brazil, writes: 'This research is about mutual and philanthropic aid in Brazil. The first Brazilian organizations were founded in the first half of XIX century and ended close to the decades of 1930 and 1940. Taking for granted that mutual benefit society had as its main purpose to offer social protection in the lack of state care, we suppose the welfare expander was the most important cause of the mutualism decline. Their relations with Government were very ambiguous. Some of mutual societies received resources from the Government or got some tax exemption. Besides that, we can always argue if the mutual movement was important to develop citizenship, to contribute for democracy or just to accumulate civic culture. Our research has proved that they had an effective importance in mobilizing the Brazilian civil society. They were almost the unique institutions to promote social aggregation, to join the workers in one institution, to be a space of shared values, to establish common interests and to contribute for the process of the making of Brazilian working class. Even knowing that Brazilian mutualism happened at the same time trade unionism did, there is no empirical evidence that make us think mutualism made difficult the expansion of trade unionism in Brazil, as we used to think. In the opposite, many mutual benefit societies fought together, beside the trade unions, for some workers' rights, as annual vacations, wages' raises, work journey reduction, etc. Contact address: claudia.viscardi@ufjf.edu.br

History of the Independent Order of Oddfellows. Dan Weinbren is writing a bicentennial history of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity, 1810-2010. If you have images or information you would like to share on this subject, please contact him.

Moose in Gloucestershire. George Webb writes: 'I am still researching friendly and fraternal societies, with particular reference to Gloucestershire. At the moment I am dealing with the Loyal Order of Moose, now known as Moose International. This came to the UK from America in 1926, and to Gloucester in 1930. Does anyone have any details about the location of archive material, or any other information about this order. If so please let me know on gwaw@supanet.com or phone on 01452-372903.'

Marsh Shephards. Cedric A. Kitchen is trying to establish whether there existed an association or friendly society of 'Marsh Shephards' in Norfolk or Lincolnshire. There exists a ceremonial crook which now hangs in the Church of Walpole St Peter. The reason for his enquiry is that he believes that his great grandfather was a shephard, living on the marsh near Terrington St Clements in 1881.

Foresters in Middleton. Sharon Pitts asks for help for her history group in Middleton on the wolds and seeks information about the Foresters of the village. She has pictures of the village banner.

Burley Perseverance Temperance Society. Jenny Watts' great, great, grandfather Benjamin Armitage was a founder of the Burley Perseverance Temperance Society in the mid 1850s and she seeks more information. The Society's hall was on Kirkstall Road, Leeds on about the same site as today's Yorkshire Television building.

North West Burial Clubs. Gordon Glasgow is researching into burial clubs in Lancashire and the North West of England. He is focusing on several inquests and trials concerning the poisoning of children by arsenic for the purpose of getting the burial money. He asks: Do you know of any death benefit schemes run by the mill and factory owners for the workers? For example in the 1842 William Eccles inquest the mill owners Eden and Thwaites had a scheme for workers and £10 was paid on death.

Sons of the Phoenix. Mrs. S. Peters seeks information about The Original Grand Order of the Totally Abstinent Sons of the Phoenix and has provided a photograph of an ancestor who was a Chief Noble of the East Dulwich Lodge.

Editorial comment: The South London Unity of Total Abstinence Brothers and Sisters of the Phoenix Friendly Society seems to have started through the merger of local societies in the Southwark area. By the late 1880s its headquarters was in Clapham. Its supporters established a coffee house in Nine Elms at the beginning of 1887 'with a large room capable of holding some 400 persons' for meetings of Phoenix Lodges and other gatherings. They took part with their banners and regalia in the 1889 Dock Strike demonstrations. An interesting question concerns the origins of the Society's name. Was it from the mythical bird, to reflect the idea of being reborn by abstaining, or did the society start among the workforce of the Phoenix Gas Company, which, for example, had two gasworks at Vauxhall, the holders of the works survive off Vauxhall St with the Phoenix symbol on the metal frames.

Regalia. In 2005 an unsigned oil painting of Scorton Green, North Yorkshire, was given to Kiplin Hall Scorton which was built in the 1620s by the founder of Maryland George Calvert and is now owned by a charitable trust. It has been cleaned and it is clear that it features an orderly crowd with a large blue and white banner and other banners reading 'Liberty' and 'Reform'. Nick Mansfield, the Director of the People's History Museum, suspects that the picture is of a celebration of the Reform Act of 1832 and as such it is quite rare. However, who is the man on the right wearing an apron? He is at the front near the left of the two poles. There was a local friendly society but it was probably only formed in 1839 and anyway would this society have had such regalia in that period? Could he be a mason? What about the narrow sashes worn by some of the men? If you have any ideas I am sure that the Kiplin Hall administrator, Marcia McLuckie, would like to hear from you. To see an image of the picture go to www.kiplinhall.co.uk/collections/localhistory.htm

Nottingham Ancient Imperial Order of Odd Fellows. Mark Warner writes: 'We have a number of ceremonial items that belonged to my Great, Great, Great Grandfather, Isaac Warner, from the 1860s/1870s including a sash and a number of medals or badges of office. Along with these items we have a presentation clock plate with the following inscription: 'Nottingham Ancient Imperial Order of Odd Fellows. Presented to: Bro' Isaac Warner P.D.I.M. by the members of the pride of the North Lodge No.651 for his valuable services as secretary July 27th 1874.' We are finding it very difficult to find much information on Isaac Warner and to identify him through Births, Deaths and Marriages or Census information. If it is possible to find out if any information exists in an archive somewhere or book would be very grateful.' Mark can be contacted at mark@abalis.co.uk

NEWS

Obituary: Dr Malcolm Bee

It was saddening to learn of the death of Malcolm Bee who was an enthusiastic, helpful and supportive member of the FSRG since its inception. He contributed to its committee in a variety of ways, including helping to organise a meeting of the group in London at the Library and Museum of Freemasonry. He proposed ideas, recommended articles and wrote some

groundbreaking material.

He grew up in the north of England, and like his father Walter, (who was active in the Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society) developed an interest in local history. Together they wrote 'The Casualties of Peterloo' in the *Manchester Region History Review* Vol. III, No. 1, Spring/Summer 1989. He was also an enthusiast about the culture of Oxfordshire and Berkshire village life and he brought his knowledge of mumming and morris dancing to bear when talking about friendly societies. He actively sought out records and those who had been members of local lodges and societies and recalled how he located an elderly locked society box and then spent some time finding possibly the only remaining member of the lodge and asking this man to break it open so that they could assess and preserve whatever lay within.

After years spent studying local life he collected his articles together into a doctorate by publication. His PhD was conferred in 2006. He then took early retirement from Oxford Brookes on grounds of ill-health and died late in 2007. His work includes the following:

'A friendly society case study: the Crompton Pilgrims Benefit Society', *Southern History* 11 (1989)

'Berkshire Mumming Plays: A Geographical Index and Guide to Sources' (1991) with S Roud.

'Providence with patronage: The Royal Berkshire Friendly Society 1872-1972'. *Southern History* 16 (1994)

'Unity, industry, plenty: the Banbury Co-operative Society, 1866-1970', *Midland History* 23 (1998)

'Co-operation in Oxfordshire, 1860-1913', *Southern History* 20/21 (1998/99)

'Co-operation in Berkshire, 1860-1913', *Southern History* 22 (2000)

'Pro Bono Publico: The Chipping Norton Co-operative Society, 1866-1968', *Family and Community History* 4, 2 (2001)

He had plenty more to write. He will be missed by his readers and his friends.

The Foresters Heritage Trust Museum & Archive. This was opened in August 2007. Many congratulations to Audrey Fisk and Roger Logan for their dogged determination to see the Museum and Archive a reality. Nick Mansfield, the Director of Manchester People's History Museum opened it. For further information about the Trust Museum and Archive see: www.aoforestersheritage.com.

Changes at the Centre for Research into Freemasonry. Andrew Precsott left the Centre at the University of Sheffield to go to the University of Lampeter. Dr. Andreas Önnerrfors was appointed his successor as Director and Senior Lecturer in History. The Centre is expanding to cover Fraternalism as well. An MA course is also being established. A new website is being developed: www.freemasonry.dept.shef.ac.uk. For the time being its home page automatically transfers you to the old site with all the rich archive of material put on by Andrew. Dr Önnerrfors continues to produce the regular Enewsletter started by Andrew. To receive it contact the Centre, 34, Gell Street, Sheffield S3 7QY. Tel: 0114 222 9893. Email: a.onnerfors@sheffield.ac.uk.

Editorial comment. As a former history graduate of the University I was pleased to be able at a recent alumni event to congratulate senior members of the University on these developments and express the hope of their continued support for the Centre.

The People's History Museum. This Manchester museum recently acquired artefacts, including a banner, some regalia and some written material, connected with the Independent Order of Rechabites, Salford Unity Friendly Society, now known as Healthy Investment. The IoR was a very popular teetotal friendly society which once hosted a meeting of the FSRG. The Museum is currently closed for redevelopment. To keep up-to-date with news of its re-opening visit <http://82.71.77.169>.

Winchester Gun Riots 1908. These were led by Joe Dumper 'a working man and an ex-worker on behalf of the Good Templars.' Check out the details on the web by searching "Winchester Gun Riots 1908". There was an article on the Riots in the May issue of *Picture Postcard Monthly*, (www.postcardcollecting.co.uk)

Fraternal Societies in Australia. Check out Bob James' Australian Centre for Fraternal Studies at www.fraternalsecrets.org. Bob has moved the work on fraternalism in Australia considerably forward since his talk at the Band of Brothers Conference in 2004.

Finstock Club Day. On Saturday, 17 May, the small village of Finstock in West Oxfordshire, four miles north east of Witney, held a reconstruction of a Finstock Friendly Society Club Day, based on a photograph from around 1900 of the Stonesfield Brass Band together with members of the Friendly Society. The photo was reconstructed by Finstock residents, in the same spot as the original, and a photo for 2008 taken by a professional photographer, who then joined and photographed a march around the village. The March was also filmed by a local resident. The March was led by the Hook Norton Brass Band, mostly dressed in period costume. Most History Society members also wore period costume. There was a Church Service and a Club Dinner at the Plough Inn based on a recipe from the time. There were also Mummers and Morris Dancers. The event was organised by Shaun Morley, whose MSc dissertation in English Local History at Oxford University examined Village Clubs in West Oxfordshire. Photos of the Finstock Club Day, taken by the professional photographer and local resident who offered his services free, can be seen on his website: www.pbase.com/neilhansonphotography/finstockclubday

Freemasonry in Latin America and the Caribbean. Following a conference in Cuba it has been decided to inaugurate an academic centre (as a network organization) devoted to research on the history of freemasonry in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Director is Professor Eduardo Torres Cuevas. A conference is scheduled for December 2008 in Havana.

Museum Development. The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council has established Subject Specialist Networks as a way for the sector to share knowledge, expertise and collections, with the aim of improving visitors' experience. The intention is to bring together the wider museums community, with expertise and experience from archive and library professionals. The aim is to strengthen the sector's capacity to understand existing collections and to extend the benefits to related collections outside of the networks themselves. Over £500,000 was invested and some of that went to the Fraternal and Friendly Societies and Associations Network. The network members include the Library and Museum of Freemasonry, the Peoples' History Museum and the East Sussex Record Office. They felt that fraternal collections are little displayed, inadequately interpreted and often misunderstood. Their intention was to use the grant to improve fraternal collections for the public and to develop the skills of sector professionals working in this area. This would allow the public to encounter these collections, understand the vital role the organisations played in families' lives, interact with the symbolic language and understand how they empowered and integrated communities. In October 2006 Andrew set up FRATERNALISM-SSN@JISCMail.AC.UK to support the Network by sharing information about the identification, preservation, cataloguing and interpretation of artefacts, archives and books created by all forms of fraternal organisations. The aim was also to discuss related issues of categorisation and academic research. Apart from two initial postings by Andrew there has been no use made of this email facility. To find out how to access this JISC group go to www.jiscmail.ac.uk/maillinglists/a-z/index.htm.

Exhibition. An exhibition 'Women and Freemasonry' is currently on display in the Museum of Freemasonry at Freemasons Hall in Great Queen Street, London until 19 December. See: www.freemasonry.london.museum/events.php. Anne Pilcher-Dayton has just published a new

book to coincide with this exhibition, called "The Open Door: The Order of Women Freemasons, 1908-2008". It is available to buy on-line through the bookshop at Freemasons Hall, London www.letchworthshop.co.uk/products.php?p=b006b6 The Order's website is at www.owf.org.uk, and there is a Wikipedia page at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_Women_Freemasons

CONFERENCES

Female Friendly Societies. In November 2007 the Women's Committee of the Economic History Society meeting heard a paper from Nicola Reader on 'Women and management: the case of the female friendly societies 1780-1850' and papers on women in the co-operative movement.

Archives for London Group. In November 2007 the 2nd Annual Conference of the Archives for London Group met in the Library and Museum of Freemasonry in London to hear papers from:

- Malcolm Chase (University of Leeds) on Guilds and Trade Unions in the C18th and C19th
- Anne Barrett (Imperial College) on Mechanics Institutes and working class self help
- Dan Weinbren on friendly societies
- Mark Dennis (Museum and Library of Freemasonry) on Iconography of Friendly and Fraternal Societies
- Andrew Pink (University College London) on The 'Philo-musicae' Society: middle-class freemasons and problematic patrons of Italian music and musicians in early eighteenth-century London
- Anne Pilcher-Dayton on the Order of Women Freemasons
- Andrew Prescott (University of Lampeter) on the London Livery companies.

More information about the Archives for London Group can be seen on www.archivesforlondon.org

Working-class women's savings strategies 1780-2008. In May 2008 a one-day conference took place on working class women's savings strategies since 1780 at York University. The organisers' aim for the Conference was to create an interdisciplinary forum that, in the first instance, would meet to discuss the state of current research in this area, exchange ideas, suggest sources for further studies and explore possibilities for collaborative ventures. Speakers included:

- Beverley Lemire, University of Alberta: 'The intersection of material and monetised savings and the role of housewives over the long nineteenth century'
- Nicole Robertson, University of Nottingham: 'Women and the divvy in the co-operative movement'
- Basia Spalek, University of Birmingham, author of *Farepak Victims Speak Out: an exploration of the harms caused by the collapse of Farepak*

To find more about the outcome of the Conference and the next steps in developing the work contact Caroline Greep at York University on cmg8@york.ac.uk

Freemasonry and Mariners. The 5th International Congress of Maritime History held on 23 - 27 June 2008 at Greenwich, included papers on Freemasonry and mariners from Helen Doe, Roger Burt, Andreas Önnersfors, Andrew Prescott and Dan Weinbren. More information on the Congress can be found at: www.imeha2008.com. Information on freemason mariners in Sunderland can be found on www.durhampast.net/sunderland_masons.htm and on the Durham County Resources page of www.englandspastforeveryone.org.uk/home

William Beveridge's *Voluntary Action* 60 years on – Symposium. On 27-28 November 2008 to mark the 60th anniversary year of the publication of William Beveridge's *Voluntary Action* a symposium will be held. The aim is to re-evaluate the ideas contained in the report and reassess its impact on the UK and other countries in the British World, especially Australia, New Zealand

and Canada. Registration fee: £50 waged / £35 unwaged (to include refreshments and lunch both days plus wine reception). Speakers: Frank Prochaska, Jose Harris, Nick Deakin, Pat Thane, Jill Roe, Margaret Tennant, Dan Weinbren, Peter Elson, Paul Smyth, Melanie Oppenheimer, Karl Wilding. Venue: Downer Room, Australian High Commission, London in association with the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies. Sponsored by Andrews Communications Systems, Australia. Contact m.oppenheimer@uws.edu.au or frank.bongiorno@kcl.ac.uk. For further details see www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/humanities/depts/menzies/events/conferences/beveridge.html

International Conference on Freemasonry. On 29 - 31 May 2009 there will be the Second International Conference on the History of Freemasonry. This will be held at Freemasons' Hall, George Street, Edinburgh. See www.northernnetworking.co.uk or www.ichfonline.org.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Creighton, Sean (2007). 'Freemasonry and Other Mutual Organisations in Battersea and Wandsworth'. *Wandsworth Historian*, No. 85, the Journal of Wandsworth Historical Society. This is available from www.wandsworthhistory.org.uk

Weinbren, Daniel (2006). 'The Good Samaritan, Friendly Societies and the gift economy'. *Social History*, 31 (3). pp.319-336. ISSN 0307-1022

Weinbren, Daniel (2006). 'Beneath the all-seeing eye: fraternal order and friendly societies' banners in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Britain', *Cultural and Social History*, 3 (2). pp. 167-191. ISSN 0309-1333

Weinbren Daniel (2007). 'Supporting self-help: charity, mutuality and reciprocity in nineteenth-century Britain', in Bernard Harris & Paul Bridgen (eds) *Charity and Mutual Aid in Europe and North America since 1800*, ISBN: 978-0-415-36559-8.' Routledge.

Wenzerul, Rosemary (2008). 'A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in the United Kingdom' and 'Tracing your Jewish Ancestors' (The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain). Both have information about Jewish friendly societies provided by the FSRG.

Past Newsletters can downloaded from the Group's website:

www.open.ac.uk/socialsciences/friendly-societies-research-group/fsrg-about-us.php