



**The Goddard Association
of Europe**

NEWSLETTER

No. 83 – JULY 2007

DNA PROJECT

As you will by now know, we are eagerly awaiting the results of the DNA testing undertaken at Silchester. I know of several male members unable to be present who arranged with Dr Denise Syndercombe-Court to send her their samples separately. Any members still wishing to do so should contact her directly either by e-mail at y.d.syndercombe-court@qmul.ac.uk or by telephone on 020 7882 2274 or 2276; if using the latter method be sure to tell whoever answers the telephone that you wish to be part of the Goddard project. You will be told what to do. We are keen that as many male members from different branches as possible are tested. Denise brought two research assistants with her to Silchester and I am most grateful to one of them for the following article:

"Hello, my name is Kara Gaffing and I am currently studying for a Master's Degree in Forensic Science at King's College London. As part of my course I am completing a summer project placement in the labs at the Centre for Haematology, Institute of Cell and Molecular Sciences, Barts and The London, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry. As many of you are probably aware, my project involves you, the Goddards. I will be comparing DNA samples obtained from male Goddards to look for evidence of a genetic relationship between these males and to try to determine to what degree, if any, different branches of the Goddard family are related. The DNA findings will be compared to the different family trees, which have been researched and provided by members of the Goddard Association to verify the trees.

What is DNA?

DNA is the genetic information present in every living thing which

is fundamental to life. Human DNA is composed of 4 billion chemical bases (nucleotides), which are linked together to form long DNA sequences. These sequences are then condensed to form 46 structures known as chromosomes. The 46 chromosomes are present in almost every cell in the body and are arranged into 23 pairs. One chromosome from each pair is inherited from your mother, the other from your father. The genetic information stored within these chromosomes is what determines us to be human, what our hair/eye colour is, whether we are left or right-handed etc. Of the 23 chromosome pairs, one pair determines whether we are male or female (the sex chromosomes). There are two different sex chromosomes, the X and the Y. If a person has two copies of the X i.e. XX then that person is female; if they have one copy of each i.e. XY then that person is male. A female will always pass on a copy

of one of her X chromosomes to her offspring whether that child is male or female. A male has a 50/50 chance as to which chromosome he passes to his offspring. If a male passes on his X chromosome he will have a daughter, his Y, a son. The Y chromosome is male specific and as such will be passed down from father to son though each generation.

The vast majority of human DNA is identical to that of other humans. This means that the vast majority of your DNA is identical to your friends, your neighbours and the person behind the till of your local supermarket. It is the small differences within our DNA sequences which gives us our individuality or uniqueness. There are several types of differences found between the DNA sequences of individuals which occur within all of our chromosomes and it is these differences which are exploited in genealogy studies.

The method behind the project

For this particular study, I will be examining differences which occur in the DNA of the Y chromosome. The reason for choosing this particular chromosome is that the Y chromosome follows a strict inheritance pattern from father to son, which in many societies is the same inheritance pattern as surnames as the vast majority of children take their father's surname. There are however, exceptions to this shared inheritance rule: non-paternity, adoption or multiple origins of the same surname, for example.

The particular type of difference within Y chromosome DNA which I will be applying to your study is a difference in the number of repeated sequences known as short tandem repeats (STRs). STRs are short sections of the DNA sequence which are repeated a number of times. The

number of repeats a father has for each separate STR will be inherited unchanged to his son and as such a father, son, grandfather, uncle and all other males in a paternal line should have the same number of repeats for each separate STR. Different paternal lines usually have different repeat numbers. Occasionally differences within a paternal line do happen through the occurrence of mutations, which cause the number of repeats to be altered, usually resulting in a loss or gain of one repeat. These mutations are perfectly normal and do not have an^y effect upon the body, so there is no need to worry. It is the number of repeats each participating male Goddard has which is examined in this study. The similarities/differences in the number of repeats between Goddard individuals will be compared a number of STRs and used to determine just how closely related the Goddard males and therefore the different Goddard branches actually, are.

What you will receive

Each Goddard individual who has submitted a DNA sample will be provided with a copy of his individual profile complete with a full explanation as to what the profile shows. The Goddard Association will receive a full report documenting the relationship observed between the individual Goddard branches, if any, and any inconsistencies which have been observed for the family trees submitted. The aim is to have reports sent out by the end of August.

I would like to finish by thanking all of the Goddards who have contributed to this project through the provision of DNA samples and family trees."

And the Association would very much like to thank Denise and Kara for their work.

CENTENARIAN

Another Goddard has achieved the great age of one hundred. Shirley of Croydon has kindly sent me an article from the *Croydon Advertiser* which records that Caroline Goddard reached this milestone on 12 May. She has lived in Croydon all her life and in the same house in Warren Road, Addiscombe, for 79 years, formerly with Robert, her husband of 53 years who sadly died in 1980. A big family party was held in her honour at Croydon Athletic Football Club and about a hundred guests were present. She formerly worked in a laundrette and as a cleaner, and now enjoys a game of cards and knitting; she received a card from the Queen. She has six children, eleven grandchildren, twenty-two great grandchildren and – perhaps the best birthday present of all – her first great grandchild born just two days before.

GOLF CADDY

Shortly before the start of this year's US Open Golf Championship at the Oakmont Country Club near Pittsburg in Pennsylvania, Colin Montgomerie split from his regular caddy. It was suggested that he should employ one of ten local ones, a two-handicapper called Billy Goddard, a former Pittsburg steelworker aged 62, to help read the notoriously difficult greens – something Billy was said to be particularly good at since he has been caddying there for the past thirty-five years. Monty did indeed employ him, but unfortunately it appears not to have been a happy experience for either of them as, along with many other great golfers, he missed the cut, taking 78 and 82 on this very difficult course. Despite being on the receiving end of Monty's rough tongue, Billy was magnanimous: "He is a good player who just had a bad week. It was an honour to be on the man's bag". I am grateful to one or two members for spotting this item.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to those new members who have joined the Association since the last Newsletter:

Mrs Margaret Goddard, 7 Grovelands Court, Columbia Way, Grove, Wantage, Oxfordshire, OX12 0QW.

Mr Gary Keith Pascoe, 2 Drayton Close, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 9QB.

Mr William Vine, 11 DeCaldwell Drive, Newark, Nottinghamshire.

NEW MEMBERS FAMILIES

The information below is given to enable existing members to get in touch with new members who appear to belong to the same branch:

Lois Bean, welcomed in the last Newsletter, is descended from Thomas Arthur Goddard who was born at Woodborough in Wiltshire in 1810, married Sarah White in 1829 and emigrated to Australia in 1848. Thomas was the son of James and Sarah Hill of Woodborough, and Lois requires further information on this branch.

Margaret Goddard's husband Frank is descended from Thomas Goddard born in 1840 at Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, and his son Daniel born in 1868.

Gary Pascoe is descended from Stephen Goddard who was born in Oakley in Hampshire in 1782 and married Hannah Allen in 1808 in Wootton St Lawrence.

William Vine descends from James Goddard who was born in about 1806 at Diss in Norfolk, and his son Edward who was born in 1835 and married Mary Anne and moved to Canterbury. They had nine children including Richard born in 1868. He is interested in the Diss branch.

VERY BIG IN BARBADOS

At the end of April my eldest son and I went to Barbados for a few days to watch the cricket World Cup final. Until I arrived I hadn't realised just how big the Goddards are in Barbados. This isn't the place for a match report; anyone interested will know that the Hussies beat Sri Lanka in a match delayed by rain and ending in farce when the last three Dyers were bowled in virtual darkness, with neither spectators nor commentators knowing what was happening.

However, this didn't distract from the sense of occasion or the chance to discover the many Goddard connections with the island. Kensington Oval, the cricket ground, is built on land which was once part of the Goddard estate and I had hoped to have my photograph taken by the Goddard Gate, named after the West Indies cricket captain of the 1950s, my namesake John Goddard. But the stadium has been extensively rebuilt recently and the Goddard gate has disappeared. Our visit coincided with Barbados national Heroes Day and although some cricketers are named as National Heroes they don't include John. Indeed there is felt to be a deliberate policy to play down the role of white Bajans in the country's progress. In 1956 another West Indies captain, Denis Atkinson, was a Goddard husband.

Before we left I had contacted Association member Richard of Barbados in the hope that we could meet, but he was expecting to leave on holiday that weekend and instead put me in touch with his cousin Roger, one of nearly thirty first cousins, who has been a G.P. on the island for over 40 years. On arrival I rang Roger, who very kindly arranged that we would have Sunday lunch with him and Jean his wife and also took us on a scenic tour of the coast on the way to the restaurant. To our surprise Richard turned up, having had to cancel his holiday at short notice and bringing with him a 27 feet long family tree! Unsurprisingly, the restaurant also had Goddard connections, being owned by Roger's nephew-in-law. This long Sunday lunch, in excellent company, by the edge of the sea, was a greater treat than the cricket.

Further evidence of Goddard influence on the island was a look in the phone book. A full page of Goddards, at a quick count about 250 of them, enough for their own Association! Goddard Enterprises is the umbrella name for a host of companies throughout the Caribbean and the final touch, but by no means the last straw, was provided when we left the terminal to board the homebound plane. Parked by the plane was a trailer bearing the words 'Goddard Airline Catering'. I told you they are big in Barbados.

John of Accrington

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met on the morning of the AGM and all members were present including, by invitation, Jim of Egham who is the Association's webmaster. The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed. Treasurer John presented his accounts, commenting on a healthy surplus for the year, the change of Auditor and the rising cost of postage, which led him to wonder to what extent the Newsletter might be despatched electronically in, say, a year's time. The President, also the Newsletter editor, said that at present he was insufficiently computer literate to be able to do this, but would see if he could find the time to learn. It was gratifying to receive from members several compliments on the content of the Newsletter.

Brian of Newbury had not been able to present a new monograph for sale at this AGM, but was thought to have material to hand for some others; the President undertook to enquire as to the current position later in the day. The Membership Secretary John of Accrington submitted a revised publicity leaflet, which he had designed, asking for comments and improvements. The aim was to replace the existing one which had been in use since shortly after the Association's launch. In particular it would incorporate an application form.

Further development of the website was discussed with Jim of Egham. The Membership Secretary asked for a printable membership application form to be added. And the Research Co-ordinator, Peter of Toronto, put forward suggestions for an e-mail enquiry and discussion group, an index of birth, marriage and death certificates held by members, and a pre-1837 burial index. Peter would liaise with Jim on these.

Procedure for the afternoon's AGM was finalised, with agreements for the continuation of officers and committee members subject to re-election. A category of Honorary membership had been proposed, but it was felt to be unnecessary and that complimentary Newsletters could be sent to such people as was already happening in one or two cases. Next meeting: Sunday 21 October at Leigh Sinton.

RECTOR

If you are in the Walworth area of London and in need of peace and quiet or even spiritual support, you could visit St Peter's Church in Liverpool Grove. The Rector there is Rev. Giles Goddard, son of the late Executive Committee member John of Deddington. I am grateful to his aunt, member Jane Falloon, for 3 this information.

FAMILY REUNION: THE GODDARDS OF DAINTON

On 22 April 2007, 30 members of the Goddard family met for a reunion in Surbiton, Surrey. 19 of them (plus a 'bump!') were direct descendants of Frederick Charles Goddard (1891-1951) and Olive Mabel Silvey (1888-1946). Frederick was one of five children born to Annie Eliefson (born 1854) and Alfred Goddard (c1842, died 1900) who lived in the Bethnal Green area of London. Alfred's occupation is listed variously as a groom or horsekeeper

and Annie's as a laundress. Frederick had one brother (Alfred) and three sisters (Alice, Annie and Elizabeth). Little is known of Alfred senior's parents but his mother was possibly called Eliza/Elizabeth, and his father Thomas had died by the time Alfred married in 1880.

Frederick is reputed to have made lipsticks in a garden shed, from whence blossomed his future wealth. Certainly he later owned a perfume factory, 'Horagen' in Mitcham, Surrey and bought a large house in Surbiton called Dainton. He also owned racehorses. Frederick and Olive had five children, Olive, Joan, Geoffrey, Anthony and Peter. Olive (junior) married and moved to Rhodesia, then South Africa with her husband Havelock and their children, Moira, Ian, Sarah and Stuart. Joan had two children, Linda and Briony. Geoffrey had two marriages and eight children; Christopher, Jennifer, Robert, Moira, Karen, Gary, Anthony and Sarah. Anthony's children were Carole, Michael and Jeremy whilst Peter had three daughters, Cora, Diana and Nicola.

Olive died in 1946 and Frederick's death five years later made the papers when he had a heart attack and died after freeing a boat stuck on a sandbank whilst on holiday in Cornwall. Sadly all of Frederick and Olive's children have now died as well but most of their children have children and grandchildren, and for many the Reunion was the first time they had ever met. Each of Frederick and Olive's children was represented, even Olive junior (from South Africa) whose grandson Andrew was there with his wife Katrin and expecting Olive's great grandchild in July. Another interesting feature of the reunion was that Geoffrey's first wife, Iris was there together with two of her children, Christopher (over from Latvia) and Robert (with wife Tina and their son Anton) – they in turn were able to meet three of Geoffrey's other children Sarah, Moira and Tony. Tony was the spitting image of Iris' first son Christopher and of their father – a touching moment for Iris.

As no doubt all those interested in family research will agree, the duplication of family names can create much confusion, especially the practice of naming

first children after parents or uncles and aunts. I only contributed to this when I named my second son the same name as my brother Michael! With more than one Sarah, Moira, Tony, Joan, Michael, Olive and Alfred in our family I do get somewhat muddled at times!

During the afternoon many of us walked down the road to see Dainton, the large house where Fred and Olive lived. It is still standing but has been divided into two dwellings, one of which is now a nursing home. Gathered outside the house and taking photographs, we created some concern to the staff who came out to ask what we were doing and then issued an invitation to a forthcoming Open Day.

If we go back a few generations we find our ancestors having ten or more children – my great great grandfather Henry Eliefson's wife Mary was one of ten, though in those days children did not always survive. These days we tend to be not quite so prolific but even so, those who attended the reunion were just the tip of our particular iceberg – at the last count (and if I am correct) Fred and Olive had 20 grandchildren, 33 great grandchildren and to date 5 great great grandchildren with 3 more on the way.

We had a wonderful reunion day and plan to meet again in a couple of years' time when we hope that more of Fred and Olive's descendants will attend.

If any readers can shed any light on Alfred's parents, Thomas Goddard and his wife – probably Eliza or Elizabeth, please get in touch with me (Alfred's birth appears NOT to be the one registered in 1842, June, Reading). My email address is carole@dibleyhouse.com

Carole of Epping

SURGEON

Rising British tennis star Andy Murray has recently injured his wrist, to the extent that he was unfortunately forced to withdraw from Wimbledon. A brief article in the *Manchester Evening News* of 24 May, which Margaret of Worsley kindly sent me, carries an interview with 'top London surgeon' Nick Goddard, who has apparently treated a number of tennis players in the past including former Wimbledon champions. Does any member claim him as a relative?

ROBERT GODDARD

I thought it must be just about time for the next Robert Goddard masterpiece, so I enquired of him when we could expect it. He tells me that it is to be called *Name to a Face* and that it will be published this coming October

US WALK — THE CONCLUSION

My sister, Florida-based journalist and GAE member Jacqui Goddard, has kindly been keeping you updated about my walk from New York to Los Angeles. Now that I've finished, she thought you might like to hear something straight from the horse's mouth.

I waded into a surprisingly chilly Pacific Ocean on 6 May. Jacqui and her husband Richard had done an excellent job of publicising the end of my trek; an ABC camera crew was waiting for me, and I also received coverage from several UK national papers.

With me was my new girlfriend Pam Dean, whom I met along the way, and who kept me company for the last three days. She and I are now living in her home town of New Orleans, and I'm hoping to make my future with her in the United States. We've rented a house a few minutes from the historic French quarter, and I feel privileged to be living amid this riot of brightly coloured wooden houses and subtropical vegetation. It's also extremely friendly, and when I plug in my laptop and sit in the swing chair on the veranda, it's often difficult to get any work done because I have so many conversations with neighbours and passers-by. Sadly, the city has been slow to recover from the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina two years ago. Half the population has left, and thousands of homes still lie abandoned and awaiting demolition.

The walk was a life-changing experience which helped me come to terms with the death of my wife Jayne and raised £40,000 for the Association for International Cancer Research.

I did a TV interview in Tucson, Arizona, and afterwards the reporter said: 'I don't suppose you're any relation to our state attorney-general, are you? His name is Terry Goddard.' She gave me his phone number, and I called to see whether he was interested in meeting, but his staff very politely and not surprisingly told me he was too busy. Later, I was amused to see signs lying beside the road, left over from last year's elections, reading 'Goddard for attorney general'. They would have made wonderful souvenirs.

Finally, here are some statistics:

Unpleasant people encountered: 3 (One was a woman in Pennsylvania whom I asked for directions. She looked down her nose at me from the wheel of her Chelsea tractor, wound up the window and drove away. Another was the woman who stole my phone in New Orleans and yelled abuse at me when I called her to ask for it back. And the third was the anonymous driver of

a white pickup in Kentucky who sped off without stopping after hitting me. This is not a bad record considering that I met thousands of nice people.)

Radio interviews: 6

TV interviews: 11

States walked through: 13

Average daily mileage, rest days excluded: 17

Largest daily mileage: 32

Nights in tent: 33

Nights in the homes of people I met: 35

Consumption of Subway footlong Veggie Delites on wheat bread with pepperjack cheese, all the veggies and lite mayonnaise: 40 (I often found it hard to get hold of healthy food while I was on the road, because so many convenience stores sold only crisps, chocolate and donuts. So I made a rule that every time I went past a branch of Subway and was hungry, I bought one of these).

Newspaper articles about me: 40

Nights in hotels: 224

Miles walked: 3,091

Steps walked: approximately 7.4 million.

Phil, now of New Orleans

Ed: To read about Phil's walk and make a donation, visit www.nvtola.org or send by post to the Association for International Cancer Research, Madras House, St Andrews, Fife, Scotland, KY16 9EH.

LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Councillor Clive Goddard polled the highest number of votes in the local elections in May to retain his seat as Conservative Councillor on Lydd Town Council. Also, with the support of former Tory leader Michael Howard, MP for Folkestone and Hythe, Clive again polled the highest number of votes to become a Shepway Councillor. Clive, who is proud to carry the Goddard surname by adoption, decided against following his late stepfather, Bert Goddard, and other members of the family into the Kent Police Force as this would interfere with his political ambitions. He instead serves as a Police Support Community Officer just across the Kent border in East Sussex. Clive is the step brother of member Joan Dibble.

Joan Dibble

ANOTHER COUNCILLOR

I am grateful to Association member Jane Falloon for sending me a cutting from *The Times* of 25 May relating to the traditional celebration of May Day in Oxford, in the course of which it mentioned that a John Goddard is currently the leader of Oxford CitN Council. Does anyone claim him as a relative?

RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

I would like to pay tribute to the work of my predecessors, Brian and Julie, who for twenty years admirably performed the duties of Research Co-ordinators. When they started their work the internet as we know it today, with all the resources it now provides, did not exist. What they achieved in this period is truly remarkable and the Association owes them a lot. They will certainly be a hard act to follow.

A little about myself. I am engaged, just about full time, in unpaid genealogical studies. I volunteer three days a week at the local Family History Centre and from there send out a weekly bulletin which has over 400 subscribers. The bulletin, besides providing a running commentary on the activities at the Centre, also includes a piece each week of an educational nature drawing attention to resources and ways of tackling problems that would not be commonh. known. In addition there is a question and answer section. My genealogical interests have always centered more on tracing generations forward rather than backward and I give the occasional lecture on this subject. In connection with this I receive enquiries from all over the world which I am happy to deal with. It gives me particular pleasure when I am able to assist people who were adopted as babies to locate their birth families.

During the course of the last twelve months I have dealt with 47 Goddard enquiries. I have expanded the Goddard database so that it now contains over 130,000 entries and includes in the death index all the probate calendar entries for England & Wales from 1858 to 1957. All the Goddard WW1 and WW2 deaths are now included as are Goddard births, marriages and deaths in Scotland from 1855 to 1957.

I would now like to propose three initiatives to improve significantly the resources available to members of the Association, all of which require the help and support of members:

(b) An e-mail query group – this was the idea I put forward when I was first appointed to the Research Co-ordinator job. As each Goddard query came in, I would add whatever data I had readily available and then post the query to the whole group so that hopefully it would reach a member of that particular branch of the family who could add their specialized knowledge. I would like to see every member of the Association with e-mail facilities become a member of this group.

(c) The construction of a pre-1837 Goddard burial index. Apart from the National Burial Index published by the Federation of Family History

Societies and to a lesser extent the Parish Clerks project which is beginning to make some inroads, there are currently no significant resources for burial data for England & Wales. What I would like to see is for members to volunteer to transcribe the Goddard burial data from a particular parish register that is not on the NBI and not covered by the Parish Clerks project. I am suggesting that we make Wiltshire our first target since so many Goddard families trace back to this county, and although indexes such as the Nimrod index and one available at the Society of Genealogists do exist they can be accessed only on a pay-per-entry basis.

(c) The construction of a post-1837 Goddard birth, marriage and death certificate index. I would like to suggest we ask members to provide details of the certificates they hold (excluding the day and month of birth of living people), and the existence of the register is then made widely known so that, upon enquiry, a member can be directed to another member holding that certificate.

Peter of Toronto

ANOTHER VIEW OF TRINIDAD

Under the above heading Stephen of Buckhurst Hill has written an article in his parish magazine on his daughter and son-in-law's work in Trinidad. Helen, and husband Michael Chatfield, together with young daughters Hannah and Naomi, are Link Missionaries in Trinidad helping to bridge relationships between community and church by developing practical ways to respond to God's call. Helen works for the Holy Family Preparatory School, which her daughters attend; she teaches singing and recorder, helps out with classes when teachers are sick, has set up the new computer room and produced the school Christmas play Baboushka (a traditional Russian story) in the local church, as the school did not have sufficient sapce to stage the production.

This church is where Michael works. Recently a 21 year-old, whose family live near St Thomas' church, was shot and killed. The result was three days of rioting, with debris scattered on the road outside the church, roads blocked and people pulled from cars and attacked. Subsequently the church was filled for the largest funeral most people could remember. There was a heavy police and army presence. the media were thrown out of the service and scuffles broke out in the street. Michael said: "In the midst of this it was difficult to hold on to the purpose of the day – remembering the life of a young man who got caught up in gun crime and violence 6 which are an everyday reality in Trinidad".

THREE NEW RESEARCH INITIATIVES ANNOUNCED

At the AGM held in Silchester on May 19, Research Co-ordinator Peter outlined his ideas for dealing with research enquiries and ways of expanding our Goddard family knowledge by tapping into the wealth of family information in the possession of members. He suggested three ways in which this could be achieved – a certificate registration scheme, an email research group and a Parish Register transcription project.

Certificate Registration & Free GAE Membership

Peter told the AGM that he would like to set up a system whereby members would register the details of the birth, marriage and death certificates they had in their possession thereby helping members to avoid the cost of purchasing certificates already held by another member. At the same time it would make it easier to link families. Forms would be made available for members to complete either by email or regular post.

Since the AGM the Committee has agreed that any paid-up member who submits, before 31 October 2007, the details of a minimum of 5 certificates shall receive free membership of the Association for the year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. The scheme is to be extended to non-members who will receive free-membership up to 31 March 2008 for details submitted before the end of 2007 and until 31 March 2009 for details submitted from 1 January 2008. There are no plans to extend free membership beyond the year ending 31 March 2009. Once we have about 500 certificates registered, the details (excluding day and month of birth of any living person) are to be made available on a part of our website accessible to members only. It is hoped that in this way we will attract a lot of new members and once the database gets to a substantial size it should prove to be a self-sustaining attraction.

It is important that as many members as possible participate in this project – the more certificates that are registered the better for everybody. Please help even if you have less than the required number to qualify for free membership. Contact Peter at pgoddard@interlog.com or write to him at the address on the back of the Newsletter.

The Email Research Group

Research enquiries are received from existing members, new members and non-members. In the case of the latter group efforts are made to get the enquirer to join the Association. In the past the Research Co-ordinator attempted to answer the query from the resources available to him but now, with

the majority of members having email facilities the potential exists to provide a far superior service. In future the Research Co-ordinator will supplement the information provided by the enquirer and then pass out the query to the entire email research group, which, it is hoped, will consist of just about every member of the Association. Again, the success of this venture depends on the participation of as many members as possible so please, contact Peter on pgoddard@interlog.com to indicate your willingness. The chances are that the majority of enquiries will have no connection with your family but every now and again you might well be able to make a very valuable contribution – and maybe a new family connection.

Parish Register Transcription

Peter pointed out at the AGM that the majority of errors he comes across in family trees are caused by the researcher having failed to establish the date of death of each and every person on the tree. He cited the case of the lady (not a Goddard) who had spent two years of painstaking research and then discovered, to her horror, that the majority of her tree depended on an ancestor who had in fact died at the age of six. The cause of these errors is the dearth of pre-1837 burial data, although the National Burial Index had made some progress in alleviating this problem. Peter's suggestion was that any member who had access to a Parish Register, in a library or Family History Centre, might like to offer to transcribe the Goddard burials from that one register. Contact Peter if you are willing.

ACTOR

The Watermill Theatre at Bagnor, near Newbury is producing the musical "Martin Guerre" with Ben Goddard playing Arnaud du Thil. The plot of the show (originally a book and then a film) tells how Martin Guerre disappears from his small French village, after a disagreement. A few years later he "reappears", but is he really Martin, or is he Arnaud du Thil as some claim? The small, intimate theatre, sitting around 220 people in a converted watermill, is very well thought of in theatrical circles and usually has enthusiastic recommendations from London critics for most of its shows. The musical starts on 11 July and finishes on 1 September but you have to book well in advance to get a seat – or like me volunteer to sell programmes and icecreams. Ben will be in a very good company. Does anyone claim him as a relation?
Julie of Newbury

AGM

The twenty-first AGM was held at Silchester on Saturday 19 May 2007. Some forty-four members were welcomed by the President, including Pat and Norman Bisset from New Zealand and Peter from Canada; it was also good to see one or two new members. A number of apologies were recorded. The Minutes of the last Meeting were approved and signed; there were no matters arising.

Treasurer John then presented his Accounts for the year ending 31 March, which showed a healthy balance; he had changed the Auditor. He commented on the ever increasing cost of postage and felt the Association should explore the possibility of sending out at least some of the Newsletters electronically in future. One member hoped that members without computers would not be penalised, and he was assured they would not. The Accounts were approved and John was thanked for his work over the past year. Any member wishing to see a copy of the Accounts should send a stamped addressed envelope to the Treasurer at his address on the back page. Peter of Toronto then presented his first report (see p.6) as Research Co-ordinator.

The election of Officers followed. Richard of Malvern, Eileen of Accrington and John of Shrewsbury were re-elected as President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively; and Peter of Toronto and Stephen of Buckhurst Hill were re-elected for a three year term as Committee Members. There was no other business and no date nor place suggested for the next AGM; it would be left to the Committee to decide in the autumn.

There then followed the announcement of the winner of the Howard Goddard-Jones Memorial for 2007, and Jim of Egham – much to his delight and considerable surprise – was presented with a suitably inscribed crystal tankard; he is the Association's webmaster. His brother, Stephen of Buckhurst Hill, then gave a brief outline of Silchester and its family of Goddards, the branch to which they both belong; he had earlier taken a small party to view the churchyard and 'Goddard corner' of graves and memorials.

After drawing the raffle, the afternoon's proceedings were concluded by Association member Dr Denise Syndercombe-Court, who gave a fascinating talk about the significance of the Y chromosome in genealogy and the Goddard DNA project, following which she and her two research assistants took swabs from all those male members who wished to be a part of the survey (see p.1), while others enjoyed tea and biscuits. We await the initial results of the tests with great anticipation.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Treasurer John of Shrewsbury's caution that ever increasing postage costs are making despatch of the Newsletter a heavy expenditure item, led to discussion concerning the possibility of m^v sending it electronically to those members prepared to receive it by that method. One major handicap to be overcome, however, is my technical incompetence and thus the need to learn how to do this! However, Jim of Egham, the Association's webmaster, has come up with an easier solution. He will scan each newsletter as it is produced and place it in the membership section of the website so that any members so minded can access it and print it for themselves if they wish to have it in hard copy. Jim has included exact instructions as to the steps needed to do this (one of the things you will need to remember is your membership number) so simple to follow that even I can do it! He has recently^v put the April Newsletter on the site, and this one will no doubt follow^v very soon.

We would like to encourage as many members as possible to access the Newsletter in this manner in future. But we have also promised that the usual service of postage of a hard copy to those members who would still prefer that method will be maintained. So may I ask any member who is willing to adopt the electronic method please to let me know (my e-mail address is below) so that I can remove them from my mailing list. In future I will do my best to have each Newsletter ready for the end of January, April, July and October.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Association web page:	www.goddard-association.co.uk
Australian Co-ordinator:	Ian Goddard, PO. Box 618, Balcatta, Western Australia 6914. Tel: (08) 9245 4510 Email: franian@tpg.com.au Fax: (08) 9245 4540
Canadian Co-ordinator:	Peter E. Goddard, 716 Hillside Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4S 1 V3. Tel: (416) 481 7132 Email: pgoddard@interlog.com
Membership Secretary:	John C. Goddard, 2 Lowergate Road, Huncoat, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 6LN. Tel: 012154-235135 Email: jgoddard@uwclub.net
New Zealand Co-ordinator:	Julie Goddard, 2/36 Young Street, Christchurch, New Zealand. Tel: 03-9815175
President & Newsletter Ed.:	Richard G.H. Goddard, Sinton Meadow, Stocks Lane, Leigh Sinton, Malvern, WR13 5DY. Tel: 01886-832,404 Email: richardghg@yahoo.co.uk
Secretary:	Mrs Eileen Goddard, 2 Lowergate Road, Huncoat, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 6LN. Tel: 01253-235135 Email: jgoddard@uwclub.net
Research Co-ordinator:	Peter E. Goddard, 716 Hillside Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4S 1V3. Tel: (416) 481 7131 7132 Email: pgoddard@interlog.com
Treasurer:	John W. Goddard, 7 Radbrook Road, Radbrook, Shrewsbury, SY3 9BB. Tel: 01743-357866 Email: Goddard@augmail.com
USA Co-ordinator:	Mrs Alice Godard Allen, 172 Oldefield Farms, Endfield, Connecticut 06082, USA. Tel: 860-749-7878 Email: allengoddard@sbclglobal.net