

The Goddard Association of Europe

NEWSLETTER

No. 84 – OCTOBER 2007

DNA and the Answer to a Maiden's Prayer?

Brian of Newbury kindly wrote a long article about my visit to the Goddard Association 2007 AGM. Its arrival coincided with an article by my researcher and so we decided to leave its publication to a later occasion. As a preliminary to the results being sent out and further discussion about how this study could be useful to the Association, I have used some of Brian's original article to re-introduce the study and to provide you with some early information of the progress of the study. Brian wrote:

...at the 2007 AGM Dr Denise Syndercombe Court gave this Year's talk, the purpose of which was to introduce members to the use of an individual's (male's) DNA structure as family hereditary evidence and show its scientific basis. DNA samples were taken from as many male members present as wished, for records in a Goddard orientated DNA study. As far as the Goddard Association is concerned, it will give Goddard researchers an additional tool to determine possible relationship links with the various branches of the Goddard family.

All humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes, 46 in total. One chromosome from the pair is inherited from the mother, the other one is from the father. Only one particular pair, the "sex chromosomes", are of use in genealogical research. Of this pair, females have two X chromosomes, while males have one X and one Y chromosome. Uniquely the Y chromosome of a male holds important information

in the form of markers that tell us about that man's ancestry. This is because the Y chromosome is passed down, intact, from father to son. By testing the Y chromosome, a DNA laboratory can provide a male with his DNA markers, specific to his particular family line.

Unfortunately things are not always that simple as, with each marker we look at on the Y chromosome, the more likely we are to see a 'mutation'. Despite the lay interpretation of this word as being something bad, this is not the case here. Small changes occur between parent and child frequently, with no abnormal consequences, as the changes more often take place in areas of the DNA that are not important to how we function. In the Y chromosome we see a single difference within nine markers in about one in every two hundred proven father-son pairs, so we must expect to see more occurrences of these small changes within a genealogy. In addition, the more tests we do, the

greater is the chance of picking up more changes, and so we have to allow for this. How this is actually done remains the subject of research; some males, however, are so different after only a few tests, that we can safely say that we have not found a link, at least to those we have tested.

Where are we with the study? We have been sent types from 32 USA Goddards and have tested 36 of our own. The European Goddards seem to be more variable than the Americans, which probably reflects the smaller gene pool and longer genetic history. Eight of the males we have tested show no similarity with anyone else, whereas the others match, or show between one and three small changes with others. This will enable us to provide clusters of people who we think are related.

When the results go out you will know how many people you are similar to, and their numerical identifier, but not their identity. Of course you can share identifiers between you, but the Association will need to have a policy about how and if they reveal identities.

What if you don't match anyone? You may match with a new branch of Goddards. Or, as Brian has warned, wealth and titles can influence whether the male surname is always the one that is passed down! We are committed to continuing the study, so contact Richard of Malvern if you are still interested, or a new member, so that he too knows who has been tested.

Dr Denise Syndercombe Court

Ed. The Association wishes to express warmest thanks to Denise for producing this article under great pressure and when she has recently had to cope with immense personal difficulties.

CAN YOU HELP?

Pat Boldra of Canberra, Australia, on boldra@grapevine.net.au to trace her mother's family. She is the only child of Cyril and Olivia Goddard, and Cyril was the only child of William Charles Goddard of Kensington, London. William Charles (who was sacristan of the then Roman Catholic pro Cathedral, the church of Our Lady of Victories, Kensington) was the son of William Goddard of Axminster in Devon. Pat writes: "My mother is 85 and living on the Isle of Skye and while I was visiting her recently she challenged me to find out more about the Goddard family. I have the names of many of Cyril's aunts and uncles and all of his half brothers and sisters (his father remarried after his mother died). As I live in Australia I would much appreciate any help I can get meeting Mum's challenge."

NEW MEMBERS

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

Mr Alan Davies. 43 The Dale. Abergele, Convey LL22 7DT.

Ms Helen Davies. 12 Norbury, Close, Southport, PR9 9YW.

Mr Alan P. Goddard, 42 Church Street. Boughton, Northampton, NN2 8SG.

Mr Colin E Goddard. 2 Stratton Drive. Brackley, Northants. NN13 6HE. Mr.

Donald John Goddard. 39 Mount Hill Road. Hanham. BS15 8QT.

Mr Thomas D. Goddard, 40 Birch Crescent. Homchurch, Essex. RM11 2NW

Rev. John Kirkland. 2 Vicarage Road, Hoole, Chester. CH2 3HZ.

Mr T. Pierce. 5 Lancaster Road. Rothwell, Kettering, Northants. NN14 6DW.

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:

Alan Davies descends from Arthur Goddard who was born about 1825 in Bagshot, Surrey.

Helen Davies comes from the Hunting Goddards family (see Newsletters 66 & 67). She is related to member Sue Taylor.

Alan P. Goddard's family is based in Beckenham, but can be traced back to Norfolk in the late 1600s.

Colin Goddard is descended from Thomas Goddard who was born about 1837 at Ashbrittle in Somerset and subsequently had connections with Clayhanger, Bampton and Huntsham in Devon. He has a full tree from 1837.

David John Goddard's origins are from the Somerset / Devon area.

Thomas Goddard is descended from another Thomas Goddard born in Bethnal Green in 1847. He moved as a fisherman to Yarmouth, Norfolk where Honor, Thomas William and Charles were born, but was back in Bethnal Green in 1881.

Tom Piery's grandchildren descend from a John Goddard (born circa 1800) and John George Goddard (born circa 1833) in Ipswich, through Henry Charles Goddard born in 1863 in Southwark.

BARBADOS CONNECTIONS

It is always encouraging when members respond to an article they have seen in a recent Newsletter – it means at least someone is reading them! Liliias of Caringbah in New South Wales, writing to our Australian co-ordinator Ian of Balcatta, says: "I was very interested to read the article by John of Accrington re his trip to Barbados. As I may have mentioned, Keith [her late husband] was born there and Richard [of Barbados] is a cousin of ours. This relationship was only discovered after some research had been done. Since then genealogy information has been passed between Keith and Richard over the years. Richard's son and family live here in Sydney and Richard makes a trip once a year to visit them. At the same time he spends a few days with us and many memories have been swapped. At present [end of July] Richard is in Toronto having hip surgery [we hope it has been successful and wish him well]. He promises to be up and about by the time we reach Barbados following our trip to Scotland in September; we look forward to a Goddard reunion. Keith never returned to Barbados after his demobilization from the RAF in 1946, so this is the first opportunity we have had to visit the island. I felt it important for our children to see their father's place of birth. Keith and I visited Staple Fitzpaine near Taunton in Somerset in 1990. We were able to see the farm house, still called Goddard's Farm, where the Goddards lived before sailing to Barbados in the 1640s.

COUNCILLOR GODDARD

Stockport is not the only area in the country facing an obesity problem, but it has just been awarded £250,000 from the Big Lottery Fund which will enable its Council to fund two projects to improve the health and well-being of young people and their families in the area. The leader of the Council, Councillor Dave Goddard, was thrilled with the successful bid and looked forward to it helping to make a real difference to the health of the community.

CELEBRITY WEDDING

I am grateful to John of Accrington for spotting the 7 August edition of *Hello* magazine, which devoted a nineteen page colour spread to the wedding and reception of Christie Goddard and Shane Patrick Roche; this took place at Beaconsfield on 21 July. Christie is the daughter of Phil and Jackie Goddard, and the groom is better known as Shane Ritchie, former *Eastenders* actor. Christie is one of four sisters; sadly Shelley died from spina bifida aged 33 about eighteen months ago, but Ashley and Kelley were bridesmaids.

FRED GODDARD AGAIN

Association members of some standing will recall Fred Goddard, who wrote an autobiographical book called *Battlefields of Life* published in 1999; this was featured in Newsletter 55, and Fred's second marriage to Jean was mentioned in Newsletters 57, 59 and 61. I am grateful to Margaret Martin of Portslade for once more sending me a cutting from the Sussex paper *The Argon* of 8 March this year in which Fred features again. Under the heading 'War veteran tells how maggots saved his life', the article reads: "A veteran of the Second World War, whose life was saved by maggots when he was taken prisoner, has backed their use in hospitals. Fred Goddard, 90, contacted *The Argos* after reading of Brighton MP David Lepper's campaign to get maggot therapy more widely used in the NHS. Mr Goddard was serving in the Royal Tank Regiment when he was badly wounded and captured at Tobruk in Libya in 1941. While he was being transported in an open lorry to a prison camp in Tripoli, he was horrified to see maggots crawling around in a bullet wound in his leg. A fellow prisoner – an Australian doctor – told him to keep them there as they would eat the rotten flesh and keep the wound from becoming infected. So he did – for the next two and a half years. He even transferred some of the creatures to shrapnel wounds in his head and shared them with comrades. Mr Goddard, who lives in Ash Grove, Haywards Heath, is convinced the maggots saved his life. He said: 'It shook me a bit to see them crawling about. It was more frightening than being shot, but I had a lot of faith in the Australian chap so I kept them. He had persuaded the German guards to lend him a knife so he could cut the bullet out of my leg. Some of the other chaps wouldn't have the maggots and they died of gangrene, even though they weren't as badly wounded as me. The conditions in the camp were terrible and we had few medical supplies. I had the same dressing and I just kept turning it to make it last. I think its a great idea for maggots to be used in hospitals. I'm convinced they saved me all those years ago.' Mr Goddard still had open wounds when he was sent home in a prisoner exchange in 1943 and spent the next eight years receiving hospital treatment. He said all hospitals should use maggots as part of their treatment – as they already do at Conquest Hospital in Hastings, Queen Victoria in East Grinstead and Worthing Hospital. Advocates say they are cheaper and more effective at clearing dead skin and bacteria from infected tissue than other treatments. Mr Goddard suffered no long-term effects from his injuries, other than a 141n scar on his leg."

LOFTY GODDARD

I am grateful to Dennis and Marjorie of York for sending me a cutting from the *Yorkshire Post* of the 30 June, giving the obituary of Denis 'Lofty' Goddard who had died the previous week. He was clearly quite a character. Born in Hampshire in 1924, 'Denny' was brought up in the small farming community of Bentworth. By nature adventurous, he would disappear for days on end following soldiers on manoeuvres on Salisbury Plain, and aged fourteen announced his intention of joining the army as soon as possible, much to his teachers' regret. He went to the Royal Artillery depot in Woolwich, first becoming a boy trumpeter before becoming a full soldier. By 1942 he had acquired a second nickname: 'Lofty'. In the Second World War he served with the Special Operations Executive, the Special Raiding Squadron, the Raiding Support Regiment and the SAS. Following training in Palestine and Syria, he operated in Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria and Austria, mostly in enemy occupied territory, being parachuted in or dropped off by submarine. After European liberation he was on his way to the Far East when the Japanese surrendered. Then began his so-called 'peacetime' military career, which he spent being shot at in Palestine, Malaya and Cyprus, although he did have a quieter time in Singapore and Germany. He was twice mentioned in despatches and was awarded the BEM.

His last army posting took him to York with 10 Cadet Training Team and he settled in the area for the rest of his life, living it to the full and devoting it to those less fortunate than himself. A keen sportsman, he became a school governor and participated in many educational and political forums. Aged 70 he walked from York to London carrying an 80lb pack for the NSPCC, he abseiled from the Tyne Bridge in aid of cystic fibrosis sufferers, and at 75 made his last parachute jump in aid of deaf children. He also spent his very busy retirement involved in the SAS Regimental Association and the Airborne Association. He is survived by his wife Margaret and four children. Does anyone claim this intrepid old soldier as a relative?

US WALK

Phil Goddard's walk across America in memory of his late wife Jayne, which has been documented in the last few Newsletters, ended in May; but sponsorship and contributions to the Association for International Cancer Research have continued to flow so that the total fund had almost reached £43,000 by mid-July – a magnificent achievement.

AUSTRALIAN AEROBICS

Association member Malcolm of Brisbane is a justly proud father. Daughters Lucy and Ellen, pictured here in their Gymnastics Australia, Queensland Team uniforms, were both selected for the Queensland State team after gaining two gold,



one silver, two bronze medals and one fourth place between them in the Sport Aerobics competition. They will compete at the Sydney Olympic Stadium Gymnastics Arena in October for the National Championships. Warmest congratulations.

DIAMOND WEDDING

Warmest congratulations to Association members Jim and Marjorie Goddard of Edgeley, Stockport, who celebrated their diamond wedding at the end of July. They met just before the Second World War, but Jim was then called up to serve in the Royal Marines, so it was not until 1943 that they became engaged and 1947 before they were married at St Matthew's Church in Edgeley. Their three children took them away on a surprise holiday in the Yorkshire Dales. I am grateful to Margaret of Worsley for this information from the *Stockport Express*.

GOLFER AGAIN

Luke Goddard of Hendon, a member of England's Under-21 golf squad, has been in the news again. In July he won the Chiberta Grand Prix in Biarritz with a four-round score of 271, after scoring an incredible 63 in his second round. With a team colleague he also claimed the Nations Cup title for England.

OBITUARIES

The Association is very sad to announce the death of Executive Committee member Denise's father, Fred Goddard, in a traffic accident while on holiday in the USA in July, and offer her and her family our deepest sympathy. Fred, who featured in four previous Newsletters (47, 49, 53 and 62), was aged 66 and had been an Associate Member of the British Racing Driver's Club since 1998, having been closely associated with motor racing almost all his life.

The Association also offers its sympathy to another Denise, Dr Syndercombe Court, who is leading our DNA project. She has recently been away from work attending her mother in her final weeks. Edna Syndercombe, nee Goddard, died just short of her 98th birthday a fortnight ago. This is the sad reason for the temporary delay in progressing the project.

VALE OF PEWSEY

After ten years and more of hesitating in trying to make sense of the tangled information on Goddards who lived in the Vale of Pewsey, I have set hand to computer keyboard. If anyone has information which they have recently discovered about this collection of families, please contact me. *Julie of Newbury*

CRICKETER AGAIN

In last October's Newsletter (No. 80) I mentioned Lee J. Goddard, the reserve wicketkeeper for Derbyshire, who had played well towards the end of the season, but was not likely to have his contract renewed for 2007; I wondered which county might sign him up. In August I noticed that he was playing for Durham in their match against a Sri Lankan A eleven and in the absence of their regular wicketkeeper. He took several catches in both Sri Lankan innings and scored 52 in Durham's first innings. He obviously possesses talent and I hope we shall hear of him again.

BED PUSH

I am grateful to Association member Anne Hockaday of Ilminster for sending me a cutting from the *Yeovil Times* of 29 August, which describes a charity six-mile bed push undertaken by the Wincanton Rugby Club in aid of Wincanton's Balsam Centre which helps to provide health services for the town. It started at Bruton's Mill on the Brue Outdoor Activity Centre and one of the pushers was the Centre's instructor, Ben Goddard who is also a member of the Rugby Club, and finished at the Millers Inn in Wincanton. The stunt raised £1,000. Does anyone claim this Goddard as a relation?

GODDARD'S FAST FOOD



I am grateful to my younger daughter Julia for this photograph taken in the car park of the B & Q store in Guildford I gather the trailer has been there for at least the last eighteen months.

BASTARDY

Association member Ronald Knight has kindly sent the following from the June edition of the Journal of the Hampshire Genealogical Society: "On 29 April 1687, Lucy King, a widow, brought a charge of bastardy against one John Goddard. It was said that he seduced her in the Dun Cow at the Point [Old Portsmouth], and as a result, a girl was born. Goddard was adjudged to be her father and was ordered to pay 37/- back payment, 2/- a week until the child was 8 years old and then £5 to put her to an apprenticeship. Lucy King was sentenced to 6 weeks "correction" in a common jail."

AMERICAN REUNION

Julie of Newbur^y writes: "Mary Livingstone Goddard reports from Colorado that the latest reunion of the descendants of Richard Smart Goddard, who left Kintbury, Berkshire, for America, took place in July in Tennessee. About 75 people went, slightly fewer than in recent years but, as Mar^y says, none of them are getting any younger and travel gets harder as one ages. See the Goddard monograph, available at E3 from Richard of Malvern on the Chieveley Kintbury and Speen Goddards 1520-1900."

LOUGHTON SCHOOL

I much regret that I cannot now recall, and therefore acknowledge, which Association member some time ago sent me a few pages photocopied from the old school magazine of the late 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s of Loughton School, which closed at the end of the summer term 1990. They contained references to two Goddards. One was a young J. Goddard, who wrote a couple of poems and a review of a war film; he would probably now be in his late thirties. The other was Ralph E. Goddard who, in 1991, wrote an account of the last days of the school. He had taught there from 1962 until his retirement aged 65 in 1979, and thereafter from time to time right up to the school's closure when emergencies required him.

DEAD MAN'S PENNY

Association member Joan Dibble has a friend at Genes Reunited who has a dead man's penny belonging to Frederick Charles Goddard (1900). She obtained it from the Adlam family and believes Frederick Charles was half brother to Frank Adlam who lived in Southampton. If any member is related to this Goddard, contact Joan at JDbb1@aol.com and she will put you in touch with her contact

SELF-SACRIFICE

I am grateful to our Australian Co-ordinator, Ian of Balcatta, for sending me a sad but most interesting article from a recent Western Australian paper. Under the title 'Dad and city of Newcastle to honour WA pilot hero who saved hundreds' it reads as follows: "Syd Goddard will be both a proud dad and a sad one on Thursday. Proud because his son has officially been proclaimed a hero, but sad that his life ended so tragically young. The selflessness of WA-born, Kent Street High School-educated Pilot Officer Warren William Goddard will be honoured in the NSW city of Newcastle on Thursday to mark the anniversary of the 20-year-old's death. In dying, PO Goddard saved the lives of perhaps hundreds of the city's residents. Flying a RAAF Sabre jet alone in August 1966, he got into trouble over the town. Instead of baling out and leaving the plane to smash into the city, he stayed with it to ensure that the wreckage landed in open space. It exploded and he died with it.

Mr Goddard is flying to Newcastle for the unveiling of a plaque in the area in which the engine of the plane landed. Warren Goddard was, says his dad with firm pride, an outstanding young man, acknowledged as one of the best fighter-pilot recruits in the country. As a member of the Air Training Corps while still at school he was judged WA's top air cadet. The prize was a 10-day holiday to the RAAF's base in Butterworth, Malaysia. It was there, his father thinks, that he decided on a life in the sky. So impressed were the RAAF officers who met him in Butterworth that they recommended he apply for the RAAF Academy at Point Cook. 'They even came to visit us at home to encourage us to let him join the air force,' Mr Goddard, now 87, said yesterday. 'He was going to study medicine at the University of WA, but he abandoned that. He actually got his driver's licence and his pilot's licence on the same day, the day he turned 17'. He completed his training at Pearce in WA and was posted to Williamstown.

Mr Goddard knows plenty about flying and how many things can go wrong. He flew with the RAAF during World War II and was one of the first to crew a Mosquito fighter in the Pacific. He loved his war. A young bloke, flying planes, it was exciting and challenging. Married to Phyllis during the war – she died ten years ago – he worked as a TAA captain and manager of flying operations in WA. Another son, Merton, could well be the longest-serving commercial pilot in world aviation history. He joined TAA at 19 and retired from Singapore Airlines at 60, after 41 uneventful years, and will be with his father at the unveiling of his brother's plaque.

The story of PO Goddard's heroism came to light last year, in what would have been the 40th anniversary of his death, in part of a local newspaper report, which inspired Newcastle council to create a permanent memory of his sacrifice. Details of the accident had been kept secret for the required 30 years and only after the story was printed did Mr Goddard receive a copy of the documents." The Goddard Association joins in saluting young Warren's courage.

OTHER GODDARDS

At the end of July Julie of Newbury e-mailed me: "We are just back from our usual week at Marlborough College Summer School. On arriving and meeting our hostess at the boarding house who we know well, she revealed that she had just made an embarrassing mistake. Three ladies had arrived with the surname of Goddard and she had assumed they were related to us. But no, they were no connection. In fact one of them explained that their Goddard father had been born in Japan and they had lived for a long time in the East, including Vietnam, and they now lived in Oxted in Surrey. I was relating, this stor^y to another group a little later and another lad^y leant forward and revealed that she was another Goddard! I later found several Julias and some Julies, but thank goodness not another Julie Goddard or things could really have got complicated.

KIDNAPPED

The story of the Nigerian kidnap of three year old Margaret Hill, which made world headlines in July, also included the information that in another kidnapping the day before, one of five oil rig workers was Brent Goddard from New Zealand. The reason behind the two hundred or so kidnappings in the last two years is the ransom that can then be extracted. But the article in *The West Australian*, kindly sent me by Ian of Balcatta, quotes the New Zealand Prime Minister, Helen Clark, as saying: "It's never been the New Zealand Government's policy to pay ransoms and I don't expect that to change". Let's hope for Brent's sake his oil company will.

MODEL SOLDIERS

A free newspaper, *London Lite*, of 28 September carries an article about *FHM* magazine using real soldiers as models for 'the man on the street', posing with their tanks and talking about their time in Iraq. One of the soldiers chosen from the Royal Artillery was Ben Goddard. I am grateful to Margaret of Reading for sending it to me.

MEDWAY AREA

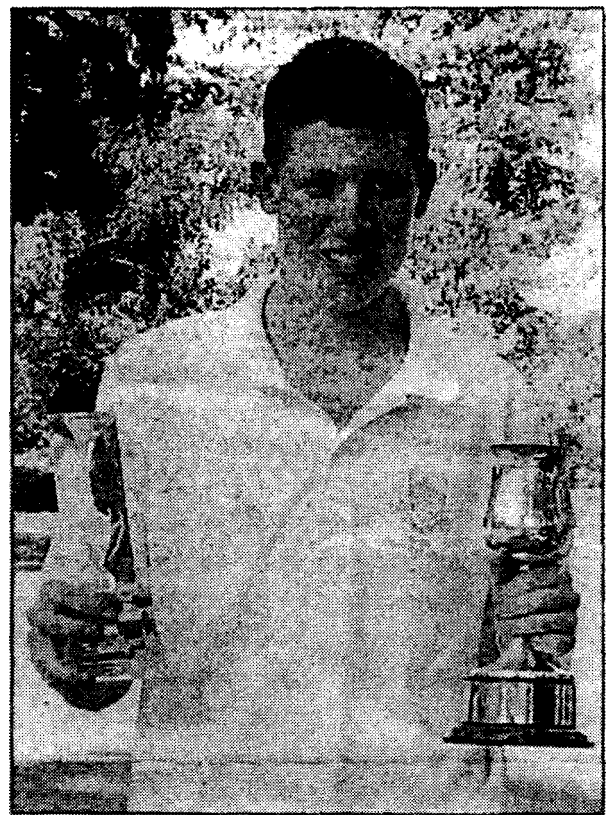
At the end of July I received a very kind offer from a newish member of the Association, Ron Dadd. "My patronymic family originated in the Medway area of Kent. As you are probably aware, the Medway Archive Service received a grant from the Lottery Heritage Service to scan in the parish registers et al of the area and put them onto a freely accessible web page. This has proved extremely useful to people like myself. However, the images are just copies of the original documents, albeit they are considerably enhanced from those on microfilm made in 1938. There is no index at the moment and I'm not aware whether or not the Kent Family History Societies have any plans to generate one. Consequently I spend a lot of time fruitlessly reading through many images. From time to time I discover Goddard family members. I'm quite happy to make notes of these 'finds' and send them to you for inclusion in the Newsletter. It may save some members looking for particular individuals a little time. Of course, my searches are not exhaustive as I usually have a rough idea of the period on which I should concentrate. However, since the Chatham Daffornes are a bit of a mystery as far as the 17th and 18th centuries are concerned I do spend a lot of time at it. I feel that this is the least I can do bearing in mind the very valuable help received from Peter Goddard in Toronto in enabling my son and I to sort out our DuLieu Huguenot ancestry. Should any member with an interest in the Medway area, not having the time to do so for themselves, I'm happy to keep a look out for any other surnames." If anyone is interested in taking up this kind offer, Ron Dadd can be contacted on ron.dadd@btinternet.com or by ordinary mail to 4 Highfield Close, Waterlooville, Hampshire, P07 7PZ. _____

SWIMMER AGAIN

In July James Goddard of the Stockport Metro Swimming Club, who has frequently featured in these pages particularly when winning gold and bronze medals at the 2002 Commonwealth Games, swam a lifetime best in the men's 200m individual medley to win the ASA National Championships in Sheffield in a time of 2:00.13, beating his previous best by one and a half seconds. He said he had been really focused recently and all the hard training was paying off. "I know I have the potential to go under two minutes." And in August he was selected for Britain's squad to compete in the Japanese Open. Our warmest congratulations to him. I am grateful to Margaret of Worsley for this information. 7

ANOTHER GODDARD GOLFER

Under the heading 'Golf ace Goddard rules the national fairways' comes a story relating to Michael Goddard, grandson of Tony and Maureen Goddard of Uxbridge, founder members of this Association, and a picture of him with his trophies. It reads: "Michael Goddard continued his meteoric rise up the golfing ranks with a brilliant victory in the National Association of Public Golf Courses Championship finals at Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire. The 19-year old Ware-based member of Stevenage Golf Club only took up the game seriously two years ago, but has since made amazing progress with his maiden national victory undoubtedly the greatest triumph to date. After battling through two qualifying stages,



Michael claimed the prestigious category three title for players with handicaps from 13 to 19 playing at municipal courses throughout England and Wales. A further tournament victory in a club event has since seen his handicap drop to 11, and the groundstaff worker at Ware's St Edmunds College does not plan on stopping there. Proud father Mark told the *Mercury* that Michael aims to get his handicap down to single figures before the end of the year, and after that to get it low enough to be able to compete on the UK tour. 'This is obviously a long way off, but the way he has improved over the last two years shows that nothing is impossible.' Our warmest congratulations to Michael.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Through illness a depleted Executive Committee met at Leigh Sinton on Sunday 21 October, apologies being received from Joan Dibble, Denise Goddard, Peter Goddard and Margaret McAlpin. The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed; there were no matters arising. The draft Minutes of the AGM were approved. The Treasurer had little to report other than the fact that some eighty subscriptions for the year were still outstanding, and he requested the editor to put a reminder in this Newsletter. In a written report the Research Co-ordinator indicated that research queries were down on the same period last year, but that the certificate registration scheme was well under way with a total of 410 already registered. May we remind members of the offer of free membership for a year in return for supplying Peter of Toronto with at least five certificates. It was understood that no new monographs were in the offing at present. One or two problems with the website had been sorted, but it was worth reminding members accessing it for the Newsletter that their user name was actually their membership number as these are unique. Clear instructions are given on the relevant page.

The delay in the DNA project result was explained and is given elsewhere. It was unanimously agreed that only one person should represent the Association in any communications with the DNA team, and that that person should be the President. A discussion followed on the need to look for younger members of the Association to join the Executive, replace older members and help shoulder the burden of running the Association in the future. While it was agreed that an appeal should be put in this Newsletter in the hope that members would come forward, it was felt that a direct approach to suitably identified individuals might prove to be more effective.

The next AGM will take place at Aldbourne near Swindon on the afternoon of Sunday 18 May 2008, where the speaker after the meeting will again be Dr Denise Syndercombe-Court, explaining the results of the DNA project and answering any members' questions. The next Executive Committee meeting will, as usual, take place the same morning. Fuller details will be given in the next Newsletter.

REMINDER

A reminder to those of you who have not yet paid your 2007 subscriptions due in April; Treasurer John of Shrewsbury is eagerly awaiting them and hopes you will send them to him before he has to send you a personal reminder!

IMPORTANT APPEAL

None of us are getting any younger – such is life! I have been conscious for some time that we need younger members to offer their services to help run the Association if it is to progress in the next generation. Treasurer John and I have held our posts since the Association was formed and, much as we enjoy them, we will not go on for ever, and nor is it right for the Association that we should. I can also disclose that one or two members of the Executive Committee have indicated to me that they do not wish to go on much longer. And now our Research Co-ordinator, Peter of Toronto, reports that he has run into some serious health problems and would very much like to hand over to someone who could take over in the event that he is unable to continue. Ideally this would be a member with genealogical research experience and with access to Ancestry.com. To take full advantage of Peter's huge databases a knowledge of Microsoft Access or a willingness to learn the basics of this software would also be useful. Would any interested members please get in touch with Richard of Malvern (contact details on this page) as soon as possible.

HOUSING OFFICER

Association member Margaret Young has kindly sent me a cutting from the *Reading Post* of 16 August last year, which mentions a Peter Goddard as sheltered housing officer of Weirside Court, Orts Road, Newtown. Does anyone claim him as a relation?

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: franjan@tpg.com.au Fax: (08) 9245 4540
Canadian Co-ordinator: Peter E. Goddard, 716 Hillside Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4S 1V3. 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: jcgoddard@uwclub.net
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