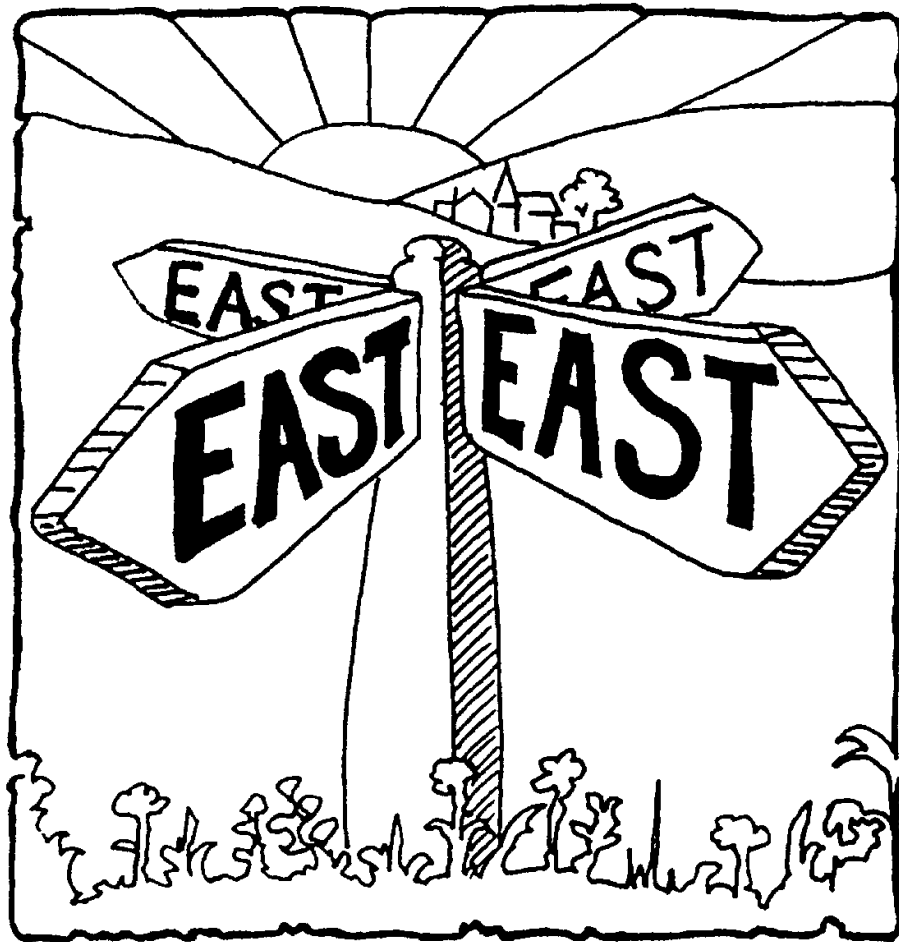


POINTS EAST

The Journal of the East Family History Society

Issue 65

ISSN 1461-2860



Spring 2026

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Editorial

Happy Springtime to all the East family!

This is my final journal for the EFHS, having begun as Production Editor, alongside Ken East as Newsletter Editor, for the Spring 2001 journal (Issue 17). I feel it is quite appropriate to retire on Issue 65!

A huge thank you to all members over the years who have contributed articles, stories, pictures or family trees to enrich our understanding of East families worldwide.

I still love doing family history research and will continue updating my family trees (currently 20 of them!), adding pictures to names and helping out friends and extended family with their research. I will continue to hunt through graveyards, join others in rambling East-related areas and continue to join free Ancestry Zoom presentations and any others that I hear about!

I hope that you enjoy reading this final issue of Points East.

Best Regards to you all. Amanda ♦

Chairman's Message

You may be thinking that this note, being the last from the East FHS, will be very sorrowful and reminiscent of things past. On the contrary, we have every reason to celebrate and look to the future! We intend to continue with our activities - all we will be missing will be the AGM and paperwork. It will be sad not to meet up at that annual meeting, but it will still be possible to look for help with your family tree, keep working at your own heritage and if you are free, willing and able, you could still join us when we have activities, such as rambles and talks.

Having had a fruitful life as a society since 1993, we have built up a tremendously 'big' tree thanks to Angela Waterfall and her predecessors. I have just received some very interesting documents from Ancestry about my father's war records. Looking through their records, there are quite a number of Easts who were also prisoners of war in the Far East, and it will be fascinating to find out whether any of these are related to our members.

We will maintain our website for as long as we have the funds; it is a wealth of information. So for many of you who live far away, nothing will change. You may not hear from us as often but there will be nothing to stop you from writing to us – and we will reply.

There will always be more Easts in the world, and we won't stop looking for them. So do keep in touch with us and tell us your news!

Angela East ♦

Minutes of the East FHS Annual General Meeting

Bishopshalt School, Royal Lane, Hillingdon UB8 3RF
18/10/2025

1. Apologies for absence

Peter East, Ros Hipkin, Jane Rimmington, Jane Hepworth, Chris Bockett, Edna Knight, Margaret & Tim East.

2. Minutes of AGM 2024

The 2024 minutes can be found in the Spring 25 edition of Points East with an addendum and corrections in the Autumn 25 edition. The minutes (with the corrections) were accepted as a reflection of the meeting.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Chairman's report: Angela East

See also the Website Members Area 'AGM 2025'.

Last year, I mentioned the need to recruit more members and this year the need is even greater. A number of our present members feel that they are now too old to take part and so our numbers are dwindling. Many thanks to those of you who have been so steadfast in maintaining their memberships.

To this end, we have held a couple of events in the hope of making membership more attractive to our present members. Angela Waterfall, our Research Manager, has organised a couple of Rambles which involves walks round certain areas where there were a lot of East families. The first of these was held before our last AGM but there has been another since, in Shoreditch in London where there were many furniture makers and 9000 East entries in the census records. These walks ended with a pub lunch. I would love to have attended but work did not permit, so I can only imagine what a good time they had.

I organised an online talk given by Jessica Feinstein, who is the speaker at this year's AGM. She is professional and bursting with the sort of information that we need. The online talk was called 'Breaking the Barriers' and was for those who had reached a dead end with their own research.

The attendance at these events was unfortunately not what we had hoped. The committee, however, are very loyal and some of them attend everything! We have discussed the problem in our meetings, and you will find the results in the proposal letter that has been sent to you with Points East. We will be discussing it further at this AGM.

On the more general administrative side, we have very much missed having a secretary, although Angela Waterfall agreed to take on the membership part of the secretarial role last year. We made a useful discovery that it is possible for those living overseas to pay their subscriptions by Paypal, thus opening the doors to any Easts living abroad, as there is no commission to pay.

We are members of the Federation of Family History Societies and as such, we are properly insured for our events. This Federation produces regular bulletins that anyone can receive just by asking them. They have many meetings which I am personally too busy to attend but if anyone would like to do so, please let me know.

Our website continues to flourish under the leadership of Adam and Paul Gostelow and I do hope that some of you spend some time reading it. If you have lost the password, please do ask Amanda for a reminder.

Several members of the committee have said that they wish to stand down at this AGM, including myself, and this will lead to an inability to have meetings, since we won't have a quorum. If anyone should feel alarmed by this, we can reverse the situation, but other people will have to volunteer for the committee for us to continue.

Many of the above points will be covered by the existing members of the committee in their reports and I would like to thank them all for their tireless hard work, especially Amanda for producing Points East so regularly when there has been only one contribution from members outside of the committee this year. The time has come for change and this will be decided at this AGM.

5. Treasurer's report: Dr John East (August 2024 - July 2025)

See also the Website Members Area 'AGM 2025'.

Introduction

In last year's report, it was noted that, although the Society was in a reasonable financial position at the time, there was a concern that without an increase in income or a reduction in expenditures, the organisation would slowly begin to operate at a deficit.

Efforts to recruit new members, which would have helped to increase subscription income, had not been successful. Consequently, we have focused on limiting expenditures wherever possible. For example, the frequency and distribution of hardcopy editions of Points East have been reduced, minimising printing and postage costs. Furthermore, any events organised, such as the recent webinar and two successful Rambles, were required to be financially self-sustaining and cover their own costs.

Expenditure

We have made significant reductions in expenditures during this financial year. The cost of printing Points East has decreased from £293.00 to £105.00, and this downward trend is expected to continue as more members opt out of receiving hard copies. The costs associated with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) were fully covered by contributions received on the day, leading to savings of £175.00. Website expenses have stabilised at £230.40, resulting in savings of £69.10 compared to the previous year. Overall, total expenditure for the year amounted to £505.40, a notable reduction from £870.75 in the previous year.

									
Year 2024-2025						Year 2023-2024			
Opening Bank Balance 1-Aug-2024			699.93			Opening Bank Balance 1-Aug-2023		1267.73	
Income						Income			
Membership Subscriptions		410.00				Membership Subscriptions	270.00		
Sale of extra copies of Points East		45.00				Sale of extra copies of Points East	18.00		
Sale of binders		24.00				Sale of binders	0.00		
Meeting Fees		135.00				Donations	15.00		
Total Income			614.00			Total Income		303.00	
Expenses						Expenses			
Committee Meeting expenses		0.00				Committee Meeting expenses	0.00		
Committee Expenses		0.00				Committee Expenses	30.00		
A.G.M. Expenses		0.00				A.G.M. Expenses	175.00		
Points East costs		105.00				Points East costs	293.00		
Points East Article Prize		50.00				Points East Article Prize	50.00		
Website		230.40				Website	299.60		
Postage		0.00				Postage	23.15		
FHF Sub		30.00							
JF Presentation Fee		90.00							
Total Expense			-505.40			Total Expense		-870.75	
Closing Bank Balance 31-Jul-2025			808.58			Closing Bank Balance 31-Jul-2024		699.93	
Opening stock of binders		120.00				Opening stock of binders	120.00		
Sale of binders		24.00				Sale of binders	0.00		
Closing Stock of Binders		96.00				Closing Stock of Binders	120.00		
Total assets			904.58			Total assets		819.93	
(Bank accounts + stock of binders)						(Bank accounts + stock of binders)			
Net movements			84.60			Net movements		-567.75	

Income

Total income from member subscriptions reached £410.00, contributed by 27 members, including one member who paid £25.00. This represents an increase of £140.00 compared to the previous year. Additional income sources included the sale of extra copies of Points East (£45.00), the sale of binders (£24.00), and proceeds from the Jessica Feinstein webinar (£135.00). Altogether, the total income for the year was £614.00, a substantial rise from £303.00 in the previous year.

Financial Position

As a result of increased income and reduced expenditure, the closing bank balance now stands at £808.58, compared to £699.93 at the end of the previous year. This represents an increase of £108.65 over the course of the year.

Outlook

While the number of members paying subscriptions has increased this year and some three-year memberships have transitioned to annual renewals, there is a possibility that membership numbers may decrease in the coming year. Contributing factors include an aging membership and the associated challenges with travel, banking, and communication.

There were no questions arising.

6. Membership Secretary / Research Manager's report: Angela Waterfall

See also the Website Members Area 'AGM 2025'.

This was the first year of combining research activities with maintaining links with membership.

The biggest problem for us as a society has been the failure to redirect the Gmail account to the research one. Despite confirming with Google that this could happen posts continue to be received by Dorothy Morgan, who forwards them to me. Thankyou Dorothy for your patience; we are using the research account for both membership and research.

I contacted all members (except for life members) in April to remind them that subscriptions were due in May. To date, ten members have not renewed their subscriptions. Maybe they are no longer pursuing family history as a hobby or can no longer get to meetings. Nine out of ten of these members are 70+ and one is over 90. If this is so, we should recognise the contributions that they have made to our substantial records. We do have a new member, Sue Adams, and I hope that she will enjoy some of our activities.

Much of my research time has been spent getting background information for the Ramblings. For each area, I search on both Ancestry and FindMyPast to discover Easts and then I match this with people on our Big Tree (using the Places facility of Family Tree Maker). From there, I can look at occupations and then, hopefully construct a walk with a theme. March's theme was Easts in the Furniture Trade in Hoxton and Shoreditch and a small group of us admired the conservation area of Hoxton, where we could see the furniture showrooms and the cabinet makers' homes, and the beautiful church of St. Monica's.

The planned trip to Monks Risborough has been postponed until Spring 2026 but I might organise a walk around central Oxford if there is enough interest.

I have had six requests for help this year. Two came via Ancestry, where the Big Tree is a private but searchable resource. One came via Family History Federation, and another came from someone finding our website. Two others were from members.

My thanks, once again, go to Pam and Ken Pearce, who continue to translate old wills for the society and regularly send in newspaper articles for the archives. I am also grateful to John East for allowing me to copy his aunt's letters for inclusion into the archives. Jane Hepworth helped me with the Hoxton Walk by providing me with details of the family she had there.

Each year, I suggest some themes to help people focus on their own research. Sometimes this leads to an article in Points East. This year, I offer:

- *50th anniversary of the first supersonic flight on Concorde*
- *110th Anniversary of the Somme – were any of your ancestors involved in this and how?*
- *Centenary of Queen Elizabeth's birth – do you have family members born in that year and what do you know about them?*

Angela W added the following in addition to her report:

'I think the theme of the planned walk around Monks Risborough in Spring 2026 will be lace making; a number of East ancestors were lace makers. There are two churches with significant gravestones, and depending on who wants to come, then it could also be a country ramble. Around Princess Risborough, you have the Ridgeway of the Chilterns; it's not a winter walk! If anybody was interested, I can do another walk around Central Oxford. I know we've got quite a lot of information about Easts from Oxfordshire, and some of them were involved in the local Oxford colleges. Perhaps another ramble in London as well, around St George's Square.

Since I wrote the report I've had two more queries – one, a potential member from America, and another, aged 76, who was the last in her East line. She gave her grandfather's and great-grandfather's names and asked whether any EFHS members might be related to them. I did find her on the Ancestry Big Tree but the only offspring from that line was a female who died in 2002. After some research, I then found her father. She and her family went out to Canada when she was a small child. Her aunt was a professional cellist called Ruth Russell East. Ruth was a member of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. This could make a good article for the website! This East family can be traced back to Easts in Essex, the subject of an interesting article written back in 2014 called 'I married a Nunn'. Sarah East had eight children by Mr. Nunn but never married. The article was sent to the lady of the initial query. It turns out that Dorothy's husband, David, is related to this lady in Canada, so I'm hoping to connect the two of them.

Another query has been a house history this year - someone bought a cottage belonging to Job East in Chesham and a lady called Jennifer (not an East) wanted to know some more facts about the family. She sent me a Will and a debtor's prison report about Job, which was really interesting in terms of social history. The report described Job having to give up all his wealth - he was only allowed to keep some bedding, and anything for use for him and his family. I presume that his family went into the debtor's prison with him. They were allowed to keep blankets, but everything else had to be sold. The Will that she sent me referred to a lot of money being left in trust to an Elizabeth East. I've given the Will to Pam Pearce to translate; the writing is awful, but I'm sure she'll be able to do it.

Lastly, I hope that John will allow us to publish some of his aunt's letters, which now sit in the archive, on the website for the remarkable social history.'

Angela E asked whether anyone would be interested in doing a ramble in Hendon as she might find something about her relatives. There are quite lots of East in Child's Hill, off Cricklewood Lane. Many of the original houses were demolished, but there were quite a lot of Easts in that area.

7. Journal & Website Editor's report: Amanda Gostelow

Amanda presented some graphs prepared by her husband, Paul, which gave the 'Year to date' metrics of the website, including the number of visits, showing that 67% of visits (275) to the website were sourced from the UK, with the next biggest representation from the US and Canada. Twenty other countries were also represented.

There have recently been many additions to the website, including more early issues of Points East, some military history, information on Wills and rambles, particularly in the Member's Area; Amanda would like to put more articles there now so that they are more easily available to members.

Adam set up the website and manages it; Amanda's husband is now editing the website. Both family members were thanked for their efforts.

8. Social Secretary's report : Pam Pearce

See also the Website Members Area 'AGM 2025'.

My main focus has been the setting up of this year's AGM at Bishopshalt School. As usual the school have been very keen to help and make our day as smooth running as possible. They also do not charge for the hire of the facilities and we always give them a donation to show our appreciation. As last year, a donations box will be placed in the entrance hall. We have the same caterer as last year and she has been very helpful and accommodating and provides a really good meal. Unfortunately, she has had to charge more this year for the meal, but even at £32, it is a bargain compared to restaurant prices. The choice of bringing a packed lunch is also available, and will be the same price as last year, at £10. This will cover the cost of tea and coffee or juice, and the use of tableware.

I have been doing this job for many years, and at the age of 85, I have decided to step down as Social Secretary. I am grateful, to all the various past and present members and committee, for the help I have received while doing this job, and to the school for their generosity in providing the facilities for the AGM and meal, free of charge, to make it such a pleasant occasion. Thank you all of you.

9. Thanks to Event Manager - Pam Pearce

Thanks were expressed to Pam for organising the AGM event, administration and meal.

10. Founders Award

It was agreed that there would be no award given this year as all contributing articles in 2024/5 were supplied by committee members or non members.

11. Proposal for the future with a vote

The proposal for the future of the Society was discussed. The fact was stated that we have dwindling members, some through death, some do not continue their membership for one reason or another. Subscriptions were due in May, but nine members were yet to renew. Income has dwindled to approx. £540 (some members are life members) which has to cover postage, printing, venue hire, insurance and running the website. Half of current members are over 75 years, and we have struggled to attract new committee members, with four of the six current committee now resigning. There is a lot of work to maintain the society in its current format; committee members write documents, produce the journal, maintain the website, keep all the East records, respond to inquiries, organize the AGM and keep the accounts. It would be sad to close the society, but unless there are volunteers for all the committee positions, there isn't any option, because we have to have a quorum in order to have a meeting. The proposal was that we disband the formalities of the society, so we have no need for an AGM and no committee meetings, but we continue with our activities such as rambles and online discussions. The journal would not be published, but articles that people would like to share can go onto the website, and all the digitized archive material could also be available there, with potentially a chat facility to enable members to stay in touch with one another. Research would continue. Current membership would continue until the year is up (1st May 2026), so nobody's going to be losing money through this.

A vote on the proposal to close the Society was required. It was reiterated that if anyone wished to vote against the proposal, then they really need to volunteer for the committee.

Dorothy (via Zoom) expressed her concerns that though the proposal to continue to add information to the website and to hold social events was very nice, she wasn't sure that it would happen. She cannot partake of walks anymore and felt that a large proportion of the older people also can't. She's interested in the research and wouldn't like to see it stop.

Angela E added that as most of the AGM attendees (all except one) were already members of the committee but stepping down, then there really weren't enough people to fill the places. She agreed with Dorothy that when the Society becomes an unofficial organization, there's no pressure on anyone to think up events or do the things we've been doing; human nature is such that if there's no pressure, nothing will happen. However, we all hope that we can remain in contact.

All votes from members in the room were to support the proposal to disband the Society. Dorothy voted against. Vote carried.

Post Meeting Note

Dorothy responded 'I supported the vote for the closure of the society but not for continuing as a social one as I couldn't see this being kept up or the website regularly either. As it reads it looks like I wanted the Society to continue as it was!'

12. Discuss consequences of the above

Membership will last up to the end of April 2026. If anyone asks about joining the society then say that ‘the society does not exist officially, but we will put you on our list, and when we have online meetings, we will let you know.’

Pam agreed to continue to transcribe Wills and send any East mentions to Angela W and for the website.

Angela E agreed to write formally to all the members to tell them of the decision. The Federation of Family History Societies will be told that we're closing as a formal society at the end of April 2026. Insurance through them can be maintained until then.

John agreed to maintain the finances of the society until there are no more. Finances would be used to maintain the website, fund membership of the FFHS and produce a final version of the journal. Events would need to be self funding where possible.

13. Election of Officers

Following the decision made to close the Society’s formal activities, there is no longer a need to elect a committee.

14. Date of next AGM

Following the decision made to close the Society’s formal activities, there is no longer a need for future AGMs.

15. Any other business

The Website password will be updated and sent to members.

The meeting closed.

Amanda Gostelow, 21/10/25

Being a member of the East FHS

By Gillian McCorry

I wanted to share with you the benefits I have gained from being a member of EFHS for the past five years.

I have met some interesting people at the AGMs and Zoom meetings. I have contributed towards the 'Big Tree' but I have not found any additional family members I did not know of.

Through Amanda Gostelow, I have been on boat trips along the Basingstoke Canal, observing wildlife and eating cream teas with my daughters. I spotted the Woking Peace Garden through the trees, with its golden roof. On one occasion I spoke with fellow passengers from Chorleywood, where my mother Connie East lived for the last 30 years of her life.

I have attended concerts where Angela East has played her cello. I enjoyed hearing her play with the Red Priest quartet and also at her recital in a flat in Notting Hill, London.

I am looking forward to joining the Rambles so I can learn about other Easts past lifestyles. I am sure the EFHS will continue to flourish in an informal format.

(Editor: Your kind thoughts are much appreciated Gillian!)

Obituary – David Morgan (1932-2026)

Sad news to relate – Dorothy's husband David Morgan died on Tuesday 3rd March at High Wycombe Hospital, following a stroke. Dorothy and their daughters had spent the previous few weeks caring for David in hospital. A private cremation took place on 17th March and his memorial service was held on 25th March at Green Acres, Chalfont St Peter. John and Carolyn managed to attend and said that it was a joyous occasion celebrating David's life, though, as Dorothy remarked 'The weather threw everything at us, sun, rain and hail with a cold wind as the day went by'. In lieu of flowers, donations in David's memory were given, supporting Medecins Sans Frontieres and Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

David's family tree links to Sarah East who had several children by James Nunn. Dorothy and David married in 1963.

All the committee sent our thoughts and best wishes to Dorothy and her family.

Christmas Letter 2025

By Angela Waterfall

Dear Members,

On behalf of the EFHS committee, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The minutes of the AGM 2025 are now on the website for all of you to read. In summary, we produced two copies of Points East, organised an on-line talk by Jessica Feinstein with tips on research , and walked around Shoreditch to explore the furniture trade and the roles played by some East families. Participants found these new ventures very interesting.

The AGM 2025 was held in October and Jessica Feinstein, who is a freelance genealogist gave a brilliant talk on how to access mediaeval and Tudor records. We also shared a delicious meal organised by Pam Pearce.

However, the AGM was poorly attended, and nobody came forward to stand for any of the roles on the Committee. The Chairman, the Points East editor, the Social Secretary and our general committee members had all expressed wishes to stand down from their roles.

Therefore, those members present at the AGM upheld the proposal circulated by Angela East before the meeting.

From May 2026, the Society will be disbanded as a formal Society and the remaining funds (and any donations given) will be used to maintain the website for as long as possible. The Spring 2026 edition of Points East will be the final issue, but any information or articles received after that date will go into the members' area of the website.

The current committee will remain in place until May 2026 and hope to arrange further rambles, informal get-togethers and on-line talks. The Research Manager will maintain the archives and is willing to help anyone who wants more information on their families.

East Soldiers who died during the Battle of the Somme
(July – November 1916)
by Angela Waterfall

Name	Rank/ Number	Year of Birth	Date of Death	Regiment	Memorial	Known to EFHS
East, Albert	Private 66532		30/07/16	Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, 2 nd Battalion	Thiepval Memorial France	
East, Albert Henry	Sergeant 1665		19/07/16	Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, 2 nd Battalion	Ridge British Cemetery Aubers France	
East, Albert James	Rifleman C/9019	1881	26/7/1916	20 th Battalion Kings Royal Rifle Corps	Ste. Marie Cemetery Le Havre France	Yes
East, Alfred John	Private G/18019	1888	21/10/16	Royal Sussex Regiment, 6 th Battalion	Thiepval Memorial France	Yes
East, Arthur	Private 22936		23/07/16	Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment) 2 nd Battalion	Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension France	
East, Arthur Frederick	Private 12/3001		3/7/16	1 st Battalion Auckland Regiment N.Z.E.F	Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery Armentieres France	Yes
East, Basil Munday	Sergeant 2070	1892	15/09/16	London Regiment, 15 th (County of London) Battalion (P.W.O Civil Service Rifles)	Thiepval Memorial France	Yes
East, Benjamin	Private		19/07/16	60 th Battalion Australian Infantry	V.C. Corner Australian Cemetery and Memorial, Fromelles, France	
East, Charles Henry	Private 3803		08/10/16	London Regiment,		

Name	Rank/ Number	Year of Birth	Date of Death	Regiment	Memorial	Known to EFHS
				3 rd (City of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers)		
East(e), Charles Henry	Private 51052		02/10/16	Royal Army Medical Corps	Bernafay Wood British Cemetery Montauban	Yes
East, E.J.	Private 136016		26/9/1916	14 th Battalion Canadian Infantry	Courcellette British Cemetery France	
East, Frank Leonard	Private 3255	1889	17/07/16	Gloucestershire Regiment ¼ (City of Bristol) Battalion	Thiepval Memorial France	Yes
East, Fred	Corporal 152370	1884	8/10/1916	23 rd Battalion Canadian Infantry	Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt France	
East, Horace Edward	L/Corporal 301944	1884	06/09/16	London Regiment, 5 th (City of London) Battalion, London Rifle Brigade	Thiepval memorial France	Yes
East, John	Captain	1888	1/7/16	15 th Battalion Durham Light Infantry	Thiepval Memorial	
East, John Thomas	L/Corporal 10406	1891	11/07/16	Bedfordshire Regiment, 2 nd Battalion	Thiepval Memorial	Yes
East, Lewis John	Private 27737		18/11/16	Hereford Regiment Border Regiment, 11 th Battalion		
East, Percy William	Rifleman A/200151		15/10/16	Kings Royal Rifle Corps, 17 th Battalion		
East, Robert Frederick	Guardsman 16728		09/11/16	Grenadier Guards, 1 st Battalion	Bromley (St Lukes Cemetery)	
East, Sidney Dick	Private G/8083	1895	07/10/1916	6 th Battalion The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)	Thiepval Memorial	

Name	Rank/ Number	Year of Birth	Date of Death	Regiment	Memorial	Known to EFHS
East, Sidney Frank	Private 251357		11/08/16	London Regiment, 3 rd (city of London) Battalion Royal Fusiliers		Yes
East, Thomas	Private 610862	1882	15/09/16	London Regiment, 19 th (County of London) Battalion (St Pancras)	Thiepval Memorial	
East, William Henry	Private	1896	4/9/1916		Thiepval Memorial France	
East, Walter	Private 10534		07/07/16	Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) 9 th Battalion		Yes
East, William Ernest	Private 26244		01/07/16	Essex Regiment, 2 nd Battalion		
East, William Thomas	Private 36798		08/08/16	Hereford Regiment, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)	Loos Memorial France	

Extracted from: Soldiers died in the Great War, The Naval and Military Press

**~ Please keep sending to Angela Waterfall your copies of Birth,
Marriage and Death Certificates ~**

A History of Big4 Easts Beach Holiday Park Kiama, South East Australia

subtitled

*‘From Cows to caravans, BIG4 Easts Beach Holiday Park has come a long way...’
(extracted from their website www.eastvanparks.com.au)*

In the Beginning, There WereCows

Before BIG4 Easts Beach Holiday Park became the thriving resort it is today, it was a dairy farm; home to the cows and also Thomas and Elizabeth East.

Thomas and Elizabeth East arrived in Australia in 1841, after a long six months on the ship “Earl Grey”. Then, in 1852, Thomas became the first in the area to purchase his own property, which was then known as “Prospect.” Together with their six boys and six girls, the family worked hard, milking the cows and selling handmade butter for 5d. a pound. Thomas and Elizabeth met day to day challenges with strength and determination carving a reputation as a highly respected family whilst creating a legacy for future generations.



Elizabeth East

Although renowned for its dairy industry, by 1893 Kiama was drawing the crowds with its spectacular natural beauty. Whilst these early tourists flocked to see The Blow Hole and the glorious beaches, George East was busy running the family farm and caring for his now elderly mother, Elizabeth. In 1901 George married Nellie Rogers and together they had one daughter and two sons. Their youngest, Bruce, began to help his father manage the estate.



George East



Nellie East

And Then There Were Campers

The East family worked hard to keep the farm running smoothly, making butter, cooling it with water and then sending it off to the ships for export to Sydney. When the opportunity arose for some leisure time the family would take the buggy to visit friends and attend picnics where everyone would dance, swim and have a good time.

By the time Bruce took ownership of “Prospect” visitors began to come over the hill to gaze down at what is now known as Easts Beach. After a time, men carrying tents on their back were asking if they could set up camp and Bruce was happy to oblige. With Australian hospitality at its best, it wasn’t long before others found their way to the secluded lagoon. The family dairy remained fully operational with campers and cows sharing the land in harmony.



Easts Beach in the 1930s



Bruce East

Bruce began to see the commercial value in camping and soon people were paying 5/- week or 1/- a night to stay at the park. Even in the very early days the park was maintained to a high standard with pit toilets and cold showers provided for the guests. There was even a field boiler for clothes. And guests were also treated to fresh milk and butter, courtesy of the East family and their dairy herd.

His life changed forever on the Christmas of 1935 when William Fuller and his family broke down just along the way from Prospect. Bruce offered the Fullers a place to pitch their tent for the night and they ended up staying for the rest of their vacation, becoming some of the first campers at Easts Beach. Cupid was at work that night and Bruce began to fall for William’s daughter, Bessie. A courtship began between the two young lovers and Bruce would travel to Sydney to visit his sweetheart. The distance proved to be tricky as it would take all day to travel by road and up to four hours by rail. But ever the intrepid young man, Bruce became acquainted with Dr Hayden, a gliding instructor for the Sydney University Gliding Club and it wasn’t long before Bruce was flying up to Sydney in a Tiger Moth! Destined to be together, Bruce and Bessie were married in 1940 and went on to have three sons—Robert, Alan and Phillip.

With three young sons and the park now open to the public, Bruce and Bessie had to work hard to keep up! But they managed and gradually the park's reputation grew, becoming popular for its natural beauty, facilities and cleanliness. As well as looking after the park, Bruce and Bessie were heavily involved in the community with Bruce president of the P&C and Bessie president of the CWA. Then, in 1964, Bruce was elected to Kiama council before becoming Mayor from 1971 to 1974.



Bruce and Bessie East

When Bruce and Bessie finally retired, they moved to Bright in Victoria and the management of the park was overseen by Robert and Alan. Bruce and Bessie were aged 91 when they lost their first-born son, Robert, aged just 63 and within a matter of months Bruce was left a widower having lost his beloved Bessie.

In October 2009 Bruce passed away at the age of 95, his departure marking the end of an era. The holiday park meant the world to him, and he played an integral part in its history. He is greatly missed but fondly remembered.

The East Family

On leaving school both Robert and Alan made the decision to stay in the family business while the youngest son, Phillip, trained to be an electrician. Robert married Judith Blow in 1966 and lived at "Valley View" in Jamberoo for ten years, managing the dairy farm by day and working at the holiday park by night. During this time Alan lived and worked with his parents managing the caravan park. The dairy farm at Jamberoo sold in 1974 and Robert and Judith returned to Easts Beach to live.

In 1980 the decision was made to extend the business and the East family purchased Fountain Caravan Park at Eden, where Alan and his wife Sandra moved to manage it. This property has now been sold. In 1985, Phillip was asked to rejoin the family business and after marrying Dianne Coffill in 1969, took up management of Lane Cove River Van Village. This park was later returned to the National Parks. Today both Alan, Phillip and their families own parks on the mid North coast and South Coast of NSW.



Early Campers

Robert East



Robert East was born in 1942 and grew up on his parent's farm and caravan park. He was helping out on the farm from a young age and on returning from school would be milking the cows and digging fence post holes by hand. Robert was known as a daredevil and a prankster, relishing in playing tricks and having fun. From the age of 16 Robert spent 5 years in the Volunteer Citizen Military Forces. He also drove taxis in Sydney and played Rugby Union in the South Coast competition before retiring with an injured knee. In 1966 Robert married Judith Blow and the couple lived together at "Valley View" in Jamberoo for almost ten years. The dairy farm eventually sold in 1974 and Robert and Judith returned to East's Beach to live. There they raised three children, Leanne, Darren and Jennifer, whilst both working long hours at the caravan park. It was hard work but their efforts were rewarded with a successful business.

Like his father before him, Robert became an active member in the community. He was elected to Kiama council in 1999 before becoming Deputy Mayor in 2004. He served on numerous council committees including the Council/Dairy Farmers sub-committee and the Kiama Tidy Towns committee. He was also a member of the Kiama Rotary Club, joining in 1977 and then becoming club president for 1982 and 83. In 1987 Robert was made a Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary's highest honor and in 2005 he received a Paul Harris Sapphire Pin for over 25 years of exceptional and continuous service. Robert was heavily involved in fundraising for various organizations and has helped raise a good sum of money for charity.

Robert was a member of the NSW Caravan and Camping Industry Australia for 35 years and president of the Park Division for 4 years. In 1982 Easts Beach joined Big4 and Robert became an inspector for parks who also wanted to become part of the group. Robert was also a director and president of Kiama Tourism and was a member of the Olympic Games Committee in Wollongong.

Whilst Robert loved his work and devoted a lot of time and energy to different projects, he also had a passion for cars, Peugeots in particular. He was a member of the local Vintage Car Association and the NSW Peugeot Car Club. His pride and joy was a restored 1954 Peugeot 203. As well as cars, Robert had a soft spot for



Tourism Industry Awards

horses. He owned a Piebald horse at the farm in Jamberoo and then a Draught horse called Phillip. One of Robert's hobbies was to collect and restore old horse drawn carts.

In 2001, at the age of 59, Robert was diagnosed with bowel cancer. After surgery to remove the tumor and bouts of chemotherapy the cancer then returned again in 2003, this time in his liver and under his stomach. Though he was only given 6 months to live Robert faced his illness with courage and determination, refusing to let the cancer get him down. In the September of 2003 Robert was dealt another blow when he suffered severe burns after being sprayed with superheated hydraulic fluid from a tipping trailer. Robert spent 3 weeks in hospital where he had over 140 visitors and 500 get well messages and cards.

Sadly, Robert passed away on the 13th of January 2006 at the age of just 63. His funeral was attended by an estimated 1000 people. Robert was to be awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia and had wanted to hear the announcement of his OAM among the Queen's list of Australia Day honors but unfortunately was unable to make it. The OAM was bestowed to Robert posthumously on 26th January 2006 in honor of his charitable work through Rotary International and his community work for Kiama.



Robert East

Robert was known as the Mayor of Easts Beach, a larger than life character who was always laughing, joking and generally enjoying life. He was described as being hugely enthusiastic and a hard worker who brought light and warmth into the lives of those he touched. His memory will never fade and his legacy will forever remain here at BIG4 Easts Beach Holiday Park.

Easts Beach Today

Today the park is run by Leanne, Darren and Jennifer, all of whom hold the same strong work ethic as the generations before them. The three siblings immerse themselves in the work of the holiday park, each playing an essential role in the smooth running of their business.

When they first came to the park, Leanne and Darren spent four years living in a caravan with their parents before moving into the new house on the hill just after Jennifer was born in 1977. The holiday park offered the young Easts a wonderful

playground, especially during the holidays when the flow of campers and guests would bring new friends and new adventures. Living on the park whilst their parents worked the children would enjoy playing and fishing in the lagoon, exploring the creeks, having rides on the horse and cart with Robert and attending various events such as Miss East Beach and Country and Western nights.

Like their father before them, Leanne, Darren and Jennifer began helping out on the park from a young age. They initially started by doing the milk run, getting up early and riding on the back of the ute to help Robert distribute milk to the campers. From there they moved up to running the ice cream van before finally gaining more responsibility with Leanne and Jennifer working in the office and Darren in the grounds.

After each going their separate ways to study and explore the world, they all eventually returned to the holiday park to work at the place that had created such fond childhood memories. Darren came back to the business in 1994 where he began to learn the ropes. After several years in the hotel industry and with a diploma in Hospitality Management, Leanne returned in 1997 and then Jennifer rejoined in 1998 following the completion of her diploma in Travel and Tourism. Leanne, Darren and Jennifer now share a unique working relationship, a special bond that allows the three to work harmoniously, ensuring the park is run smoothly and efficiently.



Judith, Leanne, Darren & Jenny

The three now have families of their own and there is a new generation enjoying life at the holiday park.

Leanne married Jamie Williams in 1997 and they have two children, Jessica and Jackson. There were two weddings in 2000 with Darren marrying Michelle Edwards and Jennifer marrying Rob Drummond. Darren and Michelle now have three children, Micaela, Ethan and Brandon and Jennifer and Rob have Bailey and Chloe.

Judith still keeps a watchful eye over proceedings but is taking things much easier these days. Having worked hard for many years, she certainly deserves the rest, though with seven grandchildren she can still have her hands full!

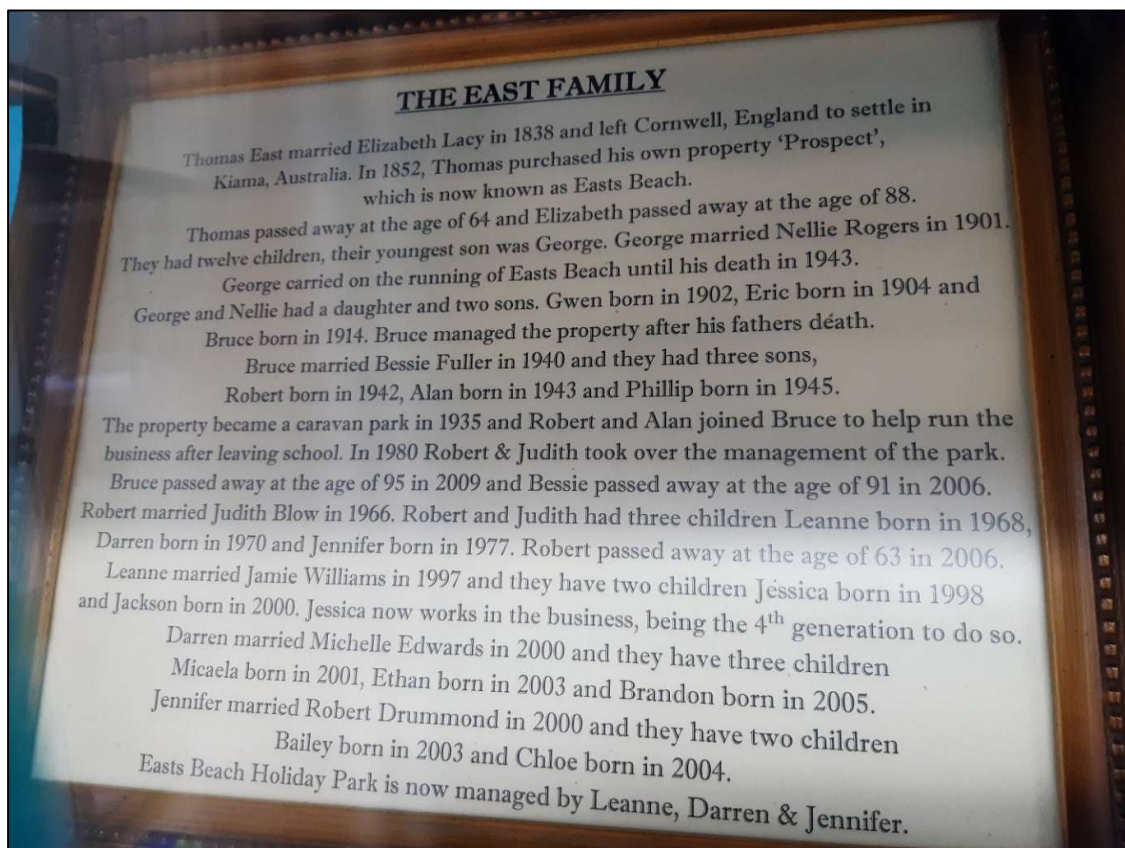
BIG4 Easts Beach Holiday Park is one of the largest and oldest parks in the country, boasting over 550 sites and a wide range of accommodation. Today we have an awesome waterpark complex, along with playgrounds, jumping pillow, games room, massage studio, café and the function room. We have a range of accommodation powered and ensuite sites right the way through to fabulous

waterfront villas. With top of the range facilities combined with stunning location, the holiday park attracts guests from all over the world.



From a dairy farm back in the 19th century, Easts Beach has grown into a glorious tourist destination that sees loyal guests coming back again and again. The holiday park was built on strong foundations of hard work, determination and a passion for the industry. Several lifetimes worth of work have gone into creating a reputable establishment that strives to give guests the best possible experience. No doubt the holiday park will continue to excel and remain a treasured part of Kiama for many more years to come.

Here are a couple of photos I took whilst visiting the Holiday Park on 2nd November 2024.





East Ramblings *by Angela Waterfall*

Oxford Rambles

The EFHS rambles provide the opportunity for members, and their friends, to meet together and share what they are doing about their family history. They are also an opportunity for a short walk!

If you would like to join us, please contact Angela Waterfall, research manager. (see the East FHS website, www.eastfhs.com, for contact details).

EFHS Ramble 3: Oxford Colleges associated with East Families

This ramble will take place on Saturday 28th February 2026 when we will meet at the café in the New Bodleian Library.

10 people with the surname East attended colleges:

Alfred Ernest East	Son of Joshua East Longstock House, Hants	Turrel Hall 65 High Street
Augustus Henry East	Son of William East, Berkshire	Trinity College Broad Street
Edward East	Son of George East, Bath	Magdalen College High Street
Edward Hyde East	Descended from Captain John East, Jamaica	Magdalen College
Gilbert East	Son of William East, Berkshire	Queens College High Street
Hinton East	Descended from Captain John East, Jamaica	Brasenose College Ratcliffe Square

James Buller East	Descended from Captain John East, Jamaica	Christchurch College
John East	Son of William East, Westminster	St Edmund Hall, High Street
Sidney Herbert East	Son of Edward East	Non-collegiate
Theophilus East	Son of John East	Corpus Christi College Merton Street

As well as looking around the colleges, we can go to an Organ Recital in Magdalen College at midday.

If you have any information about the 10 Easts, then please bring it with you.

(Editor: Thank you to Angela W for an interesting walk around Oxford colleges; the organ recital was a real treat! Here are some pics of the day...)



EFHS Ramble 4: Oxford, Jericho and St. Frideswide Church

This will take place on Friday 17th April 2026. We will meet at the café in the Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre, a new venue near Jericho. Several East families lived in the Jericho area, close to the river and the canal. These include:

John East	Blacksmith	Albert Street
George East (1883-	Butcher	Jericho Gardens Cardigan Road
Alfred East (1834-1883)	House Painter	King Street
Michael East (1791-1870)	Labourer	Walton Terrace
Henry East (1831-	College Servant	Clarendon Street
Thomas East (1866 -1894)	Railway Porter	Russell Street

The following Easts are buried in St. Frideswide Church:

Ann East (1858-1889)

Arthur Richard East (1865-1925)

Dorothy Ethel Mary East (1894-1894)

Edwin East (1870 – 1929)

Emma East (1835 – 1906)

Thomas East (1866 – 1894)

If anyone is associated with these families and has photographs of them, please share them with the society.

Larry D. Duke, ‘Estes Trails’

I have again received the latest issue of the newsletter of the Estes Family Society in America called ‘Estes Trails’, via email (pdf copy), for Dec ’25. It is usually published 4 times a year, though is suffering a similar issue to us in that no new material is forthcoming!

The December issue, as would be expected, contains articles from Estes family members in the US. It also contains an article by Larry on Estes/Eastes in the Missouri Cavalry (Civil War participants), some useful Kent websites (Kent, England being the Estes ancestral home) and a historical article (taken from: Deal: Sad Smuggling Town, by Gregory Holyoake, S. B. Publications, 2007) on Deal's time ball tower, which stands prominently on the seafront and was the earliest means of making Greenwich Mean Time known to shipping. Its purpose was to signal accurate time - essential for mariners to determine longitude - to fleets passing through the English Channel.

Larry added the following note to his latest issue – ‘We now have three collections of past issues of Estes Trails, the original Estes Trails, those published from **1981 to Summer 1994** by founder, Mary Estes Beckham; the **1995 thru 2006** issues and more recently, the **2007 thru 2014** issues. These collections are in Adobe format and are “searchable”. Each CD collection is \$15.00, which includes mailing. These three CD's contain over 2,000 pages of Estes research, stories and a few photos and cover over 30 years of Estes family genealogical collection effort.’

From now on I will make ‘Estes Trails’ issues available to East family members via the East FHS website. In your research, if you do find any Estes (or variants) references please continue to let me (Amanda) know so that I can pass them back to Larry for his information. Thank you.

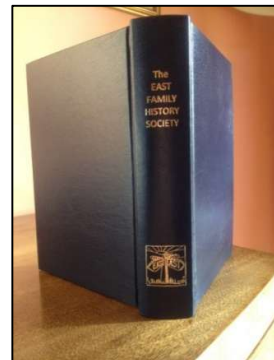
Local Research Assistants

We know that it can be difficult to get to record offices if you work during the day or don't live close to the office you need to visit; therefore, some of our members have offered to make visits to record offices to assist those who cannot go themselves. Please see the East FHS website, www.eastfhs.com, for contact details of Local Research Assistants, Peter and Pam, for their help with your research.

Alternatively, members might like the chance to accompany another member at a records office so that they have support to do their own research. If you are interested in this approach, please contact Angela, our research manager and look out for ‘Easts Ramblings’!

Binders for Points East journals

These blue Cordex binders are capable of holding 12 copies of Points East, with the spine blocked in gold with the Society's name and logo. Each comes in its own 'large letter' postal box. Please let us know if you might be interested in buying one or more binders; there are only a few left. The cost for one binder (including increased postage) is £8. The cost for two binders (including postage together) is £15. Cheques to be sent to treasurer John (see the East FHS website, www.eastfhs.com, for contact details) made payable to the 'East Family History Society'.



Back copies of Points East

We have quite a number of back copies of Points East issues which we have been selling over the years at each AGM for a small donation. As this Issue 65 is the final journal, could I please suggest that you take a look at the Indexes of Points East which can be found in the members area of the website. We are very grateful for the huge amount of work done by EFHS member June Lines in compiling these indexes, which are based on EASTs appearing in articles, lists and trees published in Points East since 1993. Information from the Society's database has occasionally been added to entries (such as the parental names of World War 1 casualties). The Indexes were produced in batches and are now merged into three groups. Inevitably there is duplication of some names which have references in several volumes. If you have your own collection of copies of Points East you can look up the references yourself; otherwise make a note of the references you are interested in and email Angela Waterfall, our research manager, to request a back copy.

Website www.eastfhs.com

Please consider some tasks to do if you get stuck with your own tree, such as visiting a local or further afield personal history site or investigating any DNA matches. If, like me, you're starting to sort out many years' worth of accumulated family history research then please consider whether it might be of interest to other East family members. Any articles, associated pictures, family photos or tree excerpts submitted to me (Amanda) or research manager, Angela, will be included on the East FHS website to give a variety of interesting information. Please remember though that we cannot publish any picture or writing that is copyright without permission. If you have any suggestions to improve the website, please do let us know.

Source Data

The Society's Research Manager holds the following data. Most of it is on computer and all of it is available, on request, to members for their personal use.

- A compilation of Family Trees (known as "the Big Tree") is held as a private, but searchable tree on Ancestry. This has over 14,000 names.
- GRO index of all EAST births from 1837 to 2005; marriages from 1837 to 2005 and deaths from 1837 to 2006. The index is held within the members' section of the EFHS website, and the access password is sent to new members when they join.
- Over 18,100 baptism, marriage, and burial Parish records. These are taken from actual records, transcripts or indexes and have been collected over time by EFHS members. Many are not on the IGI.
- Over 2,400 probate records extracted from the National Calendar from 1858 to 1967, together with some earlier probate records. These give exact dates, names and places of death, and sometimes additional information such as names of executors.
- Digital copies of over 100 EAST wills.
- A collection of over 2,800 birth, marriage, and death certificates.
- On computer, using 'Family Historian', a large collection of EAST family trees with over 12,000 individuals and more than 135 trees.
- A genealogical index of all mentions of the EAST surname from the Points East Issues 1-50.
- Civil registration indexes for EASTs in New Zealand (1840 to 1990) and Western Australia (1841 to 1905)
- An extensive collection of articles, newspaper cuttings, documents, and photos.
- Various biographies and autobiographies donated by members
- The UK National Burial Index (3rd Edition)

September 2025