

East Family History Society

Research and Membership Manager's Report October 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?

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