



LOCAL POPULATION STUDIES SOCIETY

LPSS Newsletter 49

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Contents

Editorial	1
View from the Chair	
<i>From Colin Pooley</i>	2
Shildon Fair Report	3
<i>from Peter Franklin</i>	
News from the Local Population History Book Club, from Peter Franklin	5
News from University of Hertfordshire Press	
<i>from Jane Housham</i>	8
Welwyn Garden City Conference Report	
<i>from Gillian Chiverton and Mary Cook</i>	9
Eliza and Elizabeth,	
<i>from Christine E Jones</i>	10
Servants in a 17th century Leicestershire village, from J. M. Smith	13
Oxford University's Advanced Diploma in Local History, from Adrienne Rosen	16
The MA in Local History, University of Leicester, from Keith Snell	17
Richard Wall	18
Forthcoming events	19
Leicester Conference Programme & Booking Form	20

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Editorial, by Gillian Chiverton

In the February Newsletter, Peter Franklin wrote. "We are now approaching a time of changes." These were prophetic words as, at our Spring Committee Meeting, Peter stepped down as Editor of the Newsletter. He told us that he had volunteered to produce one issue in 1993 only to find that his temporary tenure as Editor lasted for seventeen years! Colin Pooley has penned a few words to express the thanks of LPSS for his sterling work.

Mary Cook, LPSS Treasurer, and I volunteered to take over this responsibility, also as a temporary measure! If any of our readers would be interested in this position, please let us know.

In the interim, Mary will take care of the technical issues while I shall be happy to receive contributions from any member. We thought we would like to introduce a Letters Page and would welcome suggestions from members of any other issues they would like addressed in the Newsletter. Please send in your comments, details of any changes to local history centres or archives, details of conferences which you consider would be of interest to our membership or reviews of books.

Following Peter's tribute to Nigel Goose for the organisation of the St Albans conferences over the years, we were made most welcome at Campus West, Welwyn Garden City, in April, and this venue has been booked for next year's AGM, too.

The autumn conference is to be held at the University of Leicester's Centre for English Local History on Saturday, 12th November, 2011, and a booking form is available on the back of this Newsletter. We look forward to welcoming you there.

A View from the Chair, from Professor Colin G Pooley

Having started my second term as Chair of the LPSS, it seems an appropriate time to review the current position of the Society and comment on some recent changes. I have very much enjoyed being involved with the organisation of the LPSS over the past four years and look forward to seeing exciting new developments over the next few years.

We have been very fortunate to have an extremely active and committed Management Committee with a full complement of members. This has enabled us to distribute the workload between committee members and I am very grateful to all the committee members for their willingness to attend meetings and engage with LPSS business.

As those of you who attended the April AGM will know, Peter Franklin has stood down as Editor of the Newsletter after a mammoth term of office of 17 years. The Newsletter is an important and much valued part of the Society's activities, and Peter has made a great contribution to its development whilst he has been Editor. I am sure you will want to join me in thanking him for his work on the newsletter. Peter remains as Manager of the Book Club and a member of the LPSS committee so he will continue to be a familiar face at LPSS events. For the time being, the role of Newsletter Editor is being shared between other committee members with Gillian Chiverton and Mary Cook producing this edition. I am very grateful to them for agreeing to take on this task. However, we are looking for a permanent replacement for Peter as Newsletter Editor. I urge any member who is interested in taking on this role to contact either myself or the LPSS Secretary (Christine Jones). We would be happy to discuss what is involved.

Local Population Studies, the Journal of the LPSS, goes from strength to strength with a new format (since Spring 2009) and many high quality papers covering a wide range of issues in population history. I am especially grateful to Nigel Goose for his continued energy as Editor of the Journal and to the Editorial Board for their hard work on behalf of the Society.

We have fallen into a pattern of having two conferences a year (in Spring and Autumn) with the April conference moving in 2011 from its familiar home in St Albans to nearby Welwyn Garden City. This seemed to work well and the 2012 Spring conference will also be in Welwyn. Autumn conferences deliberately move around the country with the November 2010 meeting in Norwich and the November 2011 meeting scheduled for Leicester. These conferences are all well attended and provide an excellent forum for members to hear about recent research and to discuss issues in population history.

The committee is keen to expand its membership base and has been active in publicising the Society and its activities across a wide range of relevant institutions and related organisations. We are beginning to see some results from these efforts, but if members have any ideas for recruiting new members – or would like to actively recruit in a particular area of the country – please do get in touch with any member of the Committee.

In my view the Local Population Studies Society is currently well placed to maintain and expand its activities over the next few years. We are not currently planning any major new initiative – though we are always open to suggestions – but expect to see both our publication and conference activities thrive and expand.

I look forward to seeing many of you at future conferences.

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Shildon Fair Report, from Peter Franklin

This year the 'Yesterday Belongs To You' local history fair moved from its usual location at the County Hall, Durham, to the National Railway Museum at Shildon. So instead of negotiating the City of Durham's elaborate traffic arrangements, or driving around the southern end of the city in order to avoid them, the morning of 14th May found Terry Shaw and I following an unknown route to an industrial estate a few miles south-east of Bishop Auckland. At the end of the road, we found a large modern building with much of its wall surface covered with the sort of 'rocks held behind heavy-duty wire netting' that you sometimes see on Channel 4's *Grand Designs* programme. It was very modern. We would not have been surprised to see Kevin McCloud, the presenter of *Grand Designs*, stepping out to tell us how well the project had gone, and whether it had been 'over budget'. But there was no sign of Kevin McCloud: instead there were people carrying boxes and folded-up display boards through a wedged-open side door. This was clearly the right place.

I suspect that Locomotion, The National Railway Museum at Shildon - to give it its full name - is not widely known outside the world of railway buffs, but it can be recommended to any visitor to the North East. Shildon is situated a few miles off the A1 (M), and appropriately enough the town still has its own railway station on the line from Darlington. It lies in the territory of the old Stockton and Darlington Railway, and maybe this is how it got to have a branch of the National Railway Museum. Mention of the Stockton and Darlington conjures up images of George Stephenson. Visitors may well imagine that Stephenson would be the local hero, but he was actually born 30 miles away at Wylam, near Heddon on the Wall. Shildon has much stronger links with his sometime rival Timothy Hackworth, who was building his own engines there in the 1820s and whose house still stands at the far end of the museum site. Some of these engines were for the Stockton and Darlington Railway, but he is best known for one called Sans Pareil which competed in the famous locomotive trials held for the Liverpool and Manchester Railway in 1829.

The new museum building, which reminds many visitors of nothing so much as an aircraft hangar, contains a large collection of old railway engines, carriages, wagons and memorabilia. Readers may be wondering where all the stalls for the fair went, but there was plenty of space between the trains for the societies, commercial firms and other organisations taking part in 'Yesterday Belongs To You' to set up about thirty stalls. It was the first time that Shildon has hosted this event, but I was aware of nothing beyond the most minor teething problems, which were quickly put right by the museum's very helpful staff.

We soon had the L.P.S.S. stall set up along one of the wide aisles at the side of the building. There was plenty of space for the official display boards which tell you all about the Society and its activities. We had on sale a selection of thirty of the Book Club's titles, chosen as those most likely to appeal to the historically-minded public, together with plenty of 'freebies' for visitors to take, in the form of copies of *Local Population Studies*, the newsletter, flyers and leaflets kindly sent from the General Office by Karen Rothery.

The surroundings certainly gave the thing a strong railway atmosphere. Our stall was facing a large green electric locomotive, but we were clearly in Timothy Hackworth territory, because we had a good view of a full-sized replica of his Sans Pareil standing off to the right, and the memorabilia on display in a glass case a little to our left included one of his business cards.

This year's event was smaller than the 'Yesterday Belongs To You' fairs held in the spacious surroundings of the County Hall, Durham, but there was no shortage of visitors. They were treated to a fine collection of stalls run by historical and archaeological societies with interests in a wide range of periods, commercial firms such as Alan Godfrey's Maps and the people who sell charts on which you can plot your family history, and organisations including the Durham Record Office. This time there was also a special attraction in the form of the museum's own shop, lurking close to the main exit and cunningly designed to separate the visitor from any money he might have had left.

A busy and enjoyable day passed quickly, and at about 3.30 in the afternoon a man walked past carrying a Roman altar. Just as the departure of the legions heralded the end of Roman Britain, so the departure of the altar-carrier showed us that this event was drawing towards its close.

Many thanks to Dorothy Hamilton, who again helped us with the running of the stall and very kindly brought us packed lunches.

Locomotion, The National Railway Museum at Shildon has free admission, free parking, and full wheelchair access. For more information, see www.locomotion.uk.com, or tel: 01388 777999.



News from the Local Population History Book Club, *from Peter Franklin*

Conference Bookstall

We took the full bookstall to the Welwyn Garden City Conference in April. Thanks to Society members and Campus West staff for their help, and to Karen Rothery for the organisation which made things work so smoothly on the day.

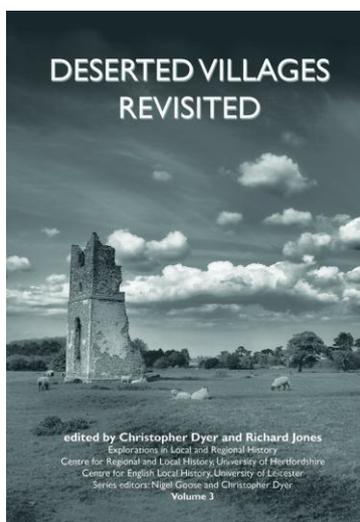
New Titles

People who went to Welwyn Garden City had the pleasure of seeing no fewer than *five* new titles which had just been added to the Club List, and since then a sixth has arrived.

The first of the new titles is C. Dyer and R. Jones, eds., *Deserted Villages Revisited*. Deserted settlements are a common feature of the landscape in some parts of Britain. They used to be described as *deserted medieval villages*, and there was a widespread belief that they must have resulted from the Black Death. If the plague had killed a great part of the country's population and hundreds of places had been left without inhabitants, then wouldn't the two go together? Much more evidence is now available, and the truth has turned out to be more complicated and more interesting. This book presents the work of eleven contributors - archaeologists, geographers and historians - to bring the reader up to date with the help of their differing approaches to this phenomenon.

This is another title in the University of Hertfordshire Press's series of Explorations in Local and Regional History, and we ought to point out that the fact that it says 'Volume 3' on the front cover means that this is *book number three in the series*: there aren't three volumes on deserted villages.

This well-illustrated paperback is published at £14.99, and the Club is selling copies at £11.95, giving our usual 20 per cent saving.



Institutional histories can be hard going. We have come across accounts of schools and universities, for example, which we suspect have never been read by anyone except their former students, and maybe not a lot of those. Fortunately Nigel Goose and Leanne Moden know how to avoid the pitfalls and have produced a history of a Norwich almshouse which can be enjoyed by readers who have never even crossed the Norfolk border.

A History of Doughty's Hospital, Norwich, 1687-2009, anchors this institution both in the world of medieval and early modern philanthropy and in its Norwich surroundings. William Doughty was a merchant who left £6,000 in his will to establish and endow an almshouse, and an impressive series of records enables its history to be traced through 320 years to the present day. For the Hospital is still a functioning institution, and the book has plenty of photos showing twenty-first-century residents at a variety of social events. The picture of 'The Three Matrons' singing for them may remind readers of Mr Harding playing his cello for the old men in Anthony Trollope's *The Warden*, before they all got into trouble with the will of *their* founder. The University of Hertfordshire Press published this 258-page paperback at £9.99, and we will sell copies at £7.95.

We have been able to obtain some copies of the 2nd edition of *The Oxford Companion to Family and Local History*, edited by David Hey. The modern Oxford Companions are single-volume encyclopaedias with entries written by teams of experts, and it is no surprise to find that the list of contributors to this one (with brief biographies) is three pages long.

When we first opened the book we thought its layout was a bit odd, because the entries under the letter 'A' do not begin until page 253 (sic). The reason is that in this 2nd edition the alphabetical treatment of the subject has been bolstered by no fewer than 29 'thematic essays' in which some of the contributors provide the reader with useful introductions to a range of topics within this general field. These include 'The Antiquarian Tradition' and 'Population Levels and Trends' by David Hey, 'Women Local and Family Historians' by Joan Evans, 'Place-Names' by Margaret Gelling, 'Landscape History: The Countryside' by Harold Fox, and 'Folklore, Customs and Civic Ritual' by Charles Phythian-Adams. These make up those first 250 pages, and their inclusion marks the largest single change to the 1st edition, which appeared in 1996 under the title *The Oxford Companion to Local and Family History*. Many other changes can also be found, reflecting the growth of the subject in recent years and the explosion of material available on the internet.

This hardback book was published by Oxford University Press in 2008 at a retail price of £25.00, and we are happy to be able to offer copies at only £12.00 each, so giving a saving of a lot more than our usual 20 per cent.

J. Mullan and R. Britnell, *Land and Family: Trends and local variations in the peasant land market on the Winchester bishopric estates, 1263-1415*, offers a treat for students of the medieval peasantry. It is a book which looks at what *really happened* when land changed hands, as opposed to what *should have happened* according to the lord of the manor's legal rights or the way in which it might be supposed that inheritance would work. It ought to be a study using manorial court rolls, and thousands of them, but in fact it uses the 'pipe rolls' which were drawn up by the bishopric of Winchester's central administrators. This enables it to cover both a long period and a wide area which stretches across the south of England, though the concentration of the bishopric's estates means that most of the evidence actually relates to Hampshire.

Published by the University of Hertfordshire Press at £18.99, we are offering this paperback at £15.15, so giving our usual 20 per cent saving. Readers will find a review of this book in the *Economic History Review*, Vol.64 No.2 (May 2011), pp.672-3.

Richard Wall's *Problems and perspectives in comparing household and family structures across Europe* is No.3 in the Cambridge Group's Working Paper Series, published in the 1990s. Most of his study is devoted to an analysis of families and households in England and Wales in 1981 and in Great Britain in 1991, with more detailed conclusions about the family and household circumstances of the widowed, lone parents, and the elderly.

This is a little booklet of about 30 pages, with plenty of statistical information set out in 11 tables. We will sell copies at £1-55.

We understand that the Group's stocks of all the titles in this series are now very low, and we may not be able to obtain more copies when our present stocks are exhausted. We still have copies of J. Robin, From Childhood to Middle Age, at £2-25, and H-J. Voth, Going Short and Working Little? at £1-55.

The year 2009 saw the 50th anniversary of the publication of W.G. Hoskins' celebrated *Local history in England*, and the event was marked by a conference held at the University of Leicester's Centre for English Local History, which was founded by Hoskins himself. C. Dyer, A. Hopper, E. Lord, and N. Tringham, eds., *New Directions in Local History since Hoskins*, is a book which has grown out of that conference and its editors represent both the Centre and the British Association for Local History.

Besides its four editors, the book has no fewer than 15 contributors, and their 15 chapters present a wide selection of local studies. Apart from Edgar Miller's account of a population moving towards crisis-point on the eighteenth-century Isle of Skye, there are few direct references to local population studies, but there are plenty of things to interest Society members. C.P. Lewis argues that the "great awakening" of English local history took place between the two World Wars, so often seen as a fallow period. Claire Cross's study of the reformation in a Salisbury parish will appeal to anyone who has read Eamon Duffy's books. David Hey looks at the careers of early-modern Derbyshire lead smelters and merchants, many of whose houses still survive. Stephen Counce examines questions of identity and politics in the post-1950 North of England. Paul Ell considers how the growth of electronic sources available on the Internet may affect the future of the subject.

This paperback book of 276 pages, with many illustrations (some in full colour) was published by the University of Hertfordshire Press in June 2011 at a retail price of £16-99. We are happy to sell copies at £13-55, giving our usual discount of 20 per cent.

Price Increases

In the current economic situation, it is nice to have the opportunity to record that there are no price increases whatsoever.

Leicester Conference, 12th November 2011

We look forward to bringing our full bookstall to the Society's conference at the University of Leicester's Centre for English Local History on Saturday, 12th November 2011. There will be about 80 titles available, including the six new ones mentioned above.

Ordering by Post

The Book Club keeps about 80 per cent of its listed titles in stock, and can supply any of them quickly by post. We have a Post Office in the next street! Send your order to Dr Peter Franklin, LPH Book Club, 46 Fountain Street, ACCRINGTON BB5 0QP.

Postage is extra, and is charged at actual cost. This is difficult to predict – the easiest thing to do is to send an "open cheque" with an upper limit marked in order to allow for the extra cost. If in doubt, consult your bank. Orders are usually sent by second-class post, in order to keep costs down. If you wish your order to be sent first class, please indicate this.

Please make cheques payable to 'L.P.H. Book Club'.

News from University of Hertfordshire Press, from Jane Housham

'Explorations in Local and Regional History' is a series of short monographs (of around 40-60,000 words in length) published by University of Hertfordshire Press. It is overseen jointly by Prof. Nigel Goose of the University of Hertfordshire and Dr Richard Jones of the University of Leicester. It continues the 'Occasional Papers' of the University of Leicester's Department of English Local History, a series started by Herbert Finberg in 1952.

So far in the series, volumes have explored the origins of medieval fields, the social history of the village, new thinking on deserted villages and the significance of the *thorp* place-name.

The editors are keen to add further volumes to the series and would be pleased to receive proposals from authors studying local themes, in all periods of English history and on any topic.

To discuss a proposal, please consult informally with either of the editors (email n.goose@herts.ac.uk for Nigel Goose or rlcj1@leicester.ac.uk for Richard Jones) or email uhpress@herts.ac.uk to ask for a proposal form.

More from 'The Lighter Side of Life', from Gillian Chiverton



A Judge by Appearance. Bathing Guide
"Bless 'is 'art! I know'd he'd take to it kindly — by the werry looks on 'im!".
Punch, 33 (19 September 1857):

Spring Conference 2011 – Welwyn Garden City

It was encouraging to hear, once gathered in our new venue of Campus West, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, that one of the delegates had come all the way from Switzerland to join us!! Well done! This is the kind of news that heartens the committee who hope that the subjects on offer, and the speakers, will appeal to the membership and beyond.

The meeting room was a change from the tiered lecture theatre we have become used to at St Albans. However, it was convenient that registration could take place on entry and large enough to accommodate the bookstall at the back of the hall allowing easy access to the splendid selection of books provided by Peter Franklin, Book Club Manager. As the dining area led off the conference room, it was not difficult to take advantage of the tea, coffee and biscuits available on arrival or the splendid buffet of ham, chicken, quiches, salads and fresh fruit at lunch-time.

As usual, Nigel Goose (University of Hertfordshire and LPSS) welcomed the delegates and did the honours on the housekeeping arrangements.

The conference started with the work of three established scholars: Jeremy Boulton and Leonard Schwarz from Newcastle and Birmingham Universities respectively on 'Domestic service and the law of settlement in the West End, 1725-1824'. Carolyn Stedman from Warwick University spoke on 'Bodies in service. Waged domestic work and the making of modern persons'. They gave shape to the broad theme of the first panel, 'Service in the long eighteenth century' through presentations based on their considerable experience of the subject.

In the second session, two papers examined the role of domestic servants in childcare in the later Victorian period. Dr Melanie Reynolds, from Oxford Brookes University, spoke first on 'Investigating childcare practices by domestic servants in the later nineteenth century'. She asked whether servants were as ignorant, neglectful and sometimes cruel towards children as they were described by some contemporaries and historians, and went on to look at what skills they actually displayed. This was complemented by the paper by Sian Pooley, of Cambridge University, '“A stranger in the house”? Servants and childcare in late-nineteenth century England', and reflected Sian's current project seeking the commonalities between very different communities with relation to childcare by live-in servants. It was apparent that servants were often seen as a race apart and the 'servant problem' was a common theme of the period.

The third panel opened with Jacob Field from the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure talked about the structure of service in England in the long eighteenth century, asking 'Who did the servants serve?' The late seventeenth century to the mid eighteenth century is now seen as the 'high water mark' of live-in domestic service in England, and Jacob has used pre-census population listings to examine who kept servants. David Thorpe, Honorary Senior Research Fellow at University College London, took the story on with another very detailed presentation 'Who kept domestic servants 1851-1921: geographic and social variations'. He divided live-in servants into groups: functional, including those in farm service, servants in shops, public houses and similar ; female replacement and female alternatives (for example amongst widowed men) and those relating to status and life-style of the household. Finally, coming far further into the twentieth century, Lucy Delap, from St Catherine's College, Cambridge, talked on 'The holes left by the departed Mary-Ann': servantless homes and the decline of domestic service in twentieth century Britain'. She talked of the increase (amongst the former servant-keeping classes) in 'servantlessness', with a long drawn-out transition between the 1920s and 1950s, with the post-war demise of domestic service followed by a resurgence in the 1980s when demand outstripped supply.

Eliza and Elizabeth, from *Christine E Jones*

It is claimed that the practice of giving a child the same personal name as that of an older sibling, when that older sibling was still alive, had died out in England after the middle of the seventeenth century, if it had ever existed.¹ It is, therefore, assumed that when a second child is given the same name as an older sibling the first child must have died, even if no burial record can be found.

Recently Galley et al have shown that the custom of giving ‘exact’ or ‘like’ names to two or more living siblings persisted on Skye and the Western Isles until the latter part of the nineteenth century.²

What follows is an account of a family in Essex in the early part of the nineteenth century. On 30 Oct 1818 John Jennings, a bachelor, married Mary Welham, a spinster, at Great Bentley, Essex.³ A total of nine baptisms of children of this couple are recorded over the next 18 years:⁴

29 Jan 1819, John son of John and Mary Jennings, Great Bentley, labourer;
14 Dec 1820, Thomas son of John and Mary Jennings, Great Bentley, labourer;
31 Dec 1822, Mary daughter of John and Mary Jennings, Great Bentley, labourer;
4 Jan 1826, Susannah daughter of John and Mary Jennings, Great Bentley, labourer;
26 Sep 1828, William son of John and Mary Jennings, Great Bentley, labourer;
21 Dec 1830, Sarah Anne daughter of John and Mary Jennings, Great Bentley, labourer;
27 Feb 1833, Eliza daughter of John and Mary Jennings, Great Bentley, labourer;
4 Jul 1834, Eliza daughter of John and Mary Jennings, Great Bentley, labourer;
30 May 1837, Elizabeth daughter of John and Mary Jennings, Great Bentley, labourer;

The baptism of the second Eliza is explained by the burial of the first on 2 Jun 1833 aged three months.⁵ Razell would account for the baptism of Elizabeth by claiming that the second Eliza’s burial is missing from the register. However, the 1841 census for Great Bentley reads as follows:⁶

John Jennings	age 45	occupation agricultural labourer born in Essex
Mary Jennings	age 46	born in Essex
John Jennings	age 22	occupation agricultural labourer born in Essex
Thomas Jennings	age 20	occupation agricultural labourer born in Essex
Susannah Jennings	age 15	born in Essex
William Jennings	age 12	born in Essex
Sarah Jennings	age 10	born in Essex
Eliza Jennings	age 7	born in Essex
Elizabeth Jennings	age 4	born in Essex

¹ P. Razell, ‘Evaluating the same-name technique as a way of measuring burial register reliability in England’, *Local Population Studies*, 64 (2000), 8-22.

² C. Galley, E Garrett, R. Davies, A. Reid, ‘Living same-name siblings and British historical demography’, *Local Population Studies*, 86 (2011), 15-36.

³ Essex Record Office [hereafter ERO] D/P 171/1/10.

⁴ ERO D/P 171/1/6.

⁵ ERO D/P 171/1/8.

⁶ The National Archives [hereafter TNA] HO107 piece 338/4, folio 26.

The second Eliza had not died and had been joined by a younger sister named Elizabeth. Ten years later the family was living at Plough Road, Great Bentley. The 1851 census entry reads as follows:⁷

John Jennings, head, married, 55, agricultural labourer,	Great Bentley, Essex
Mary Jennings, wife, married, 55,	Frating, Essex
William Jennings, son, unmarried, 22, agricultural labourer,	Great Bentley, Essex
Eliza Jennings, daughter, unmarried, 16,	Great Bentley, Essex
Elizabeth Jennings, daughter, unmarried, 14, scholar,	Great Bentley, Essex

By 1861 the family was living on the south side of The Green, Great Bentley. Their census entry reads as follows:⁸

John Jennings, head, married, 65, agricultural labourer,	Great Bentley, Essex
Mary Jennings, wife, married, 66,	Frating, Essex
Eliza Jennings, daughter, unmarried, 26,	Great Bentley, Essex
Elizabeth Jennings, daughter, unmarried, 24,	Great Bentley, Essex

Unless they went into service in the inter-censal period, Eliza and Elizabeth had lived in the same household for 24 years. They had seen their older brothers and sisters marry and set up households in Great Bentley and the adjoining parishes.

The marriage register for Great Bentley has the following entries:⁹

6 May 1861, Alfred Hibbs, of full age, bachelor, seaman, of Brightlingsea, son of Samuel Hibbs, fisherman, married Elizabeth Jennings, of full age, spinster, of Great Bentley, daughter of John Jennings, labourer.

30 Sep 1867, William Woolvett, aged 27, bachelor, mariner, of Brightlingsea, son of William Woolvett, mariner, married Eliza Jennings, aged 32, spinster, of Great Bentley, daughter of John Jennings, labourer. One of the witnesses was Elizabeth Hibbs.

The reasons why Eliza and Elizabeth were given similar personal names are unknown. Their grandmother, the mother of John Jennings, was Elizabeth and there may have been a desire to perpetuate her name.¹⁰ The first Eliza having died, it might be that in 1837 the second Eliza was in poor health and John and Mary decided to give a similar name to their latest baby in case the second Eliza also died. There are no known ancestors on Mary's side of the family called Elizabeth or Eliza.

This could be an isolated exception that 'proves the rule' that in nineteenth-century England children were not given the same personal name as that of an older sibling when that older sibling was still alive.

The author would be interested to hear from LPS members who have found other instances in the course of their researches. In the meantime the use of the same-name technique as a way of evaluating the reliability of burial registers should be employed cautiously.

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⁷ TNA HO107 piece 1779, folio 122, schedule 12.

⁸ TNA RG9 piece 1092, folio 24, schedule 144.

⁹ ERO D/P 171/1/11.

¹⁰ ERO D/P 171/1/4.

Servants in a 17th century Leicestershire village, from J. M. Smith

A minor side effect of Ted Heath's three-day working week in 1974 was that I found myself free when the Leicestershire Record Office was open. Cutting a long story short, I embarked on a population study of the village of Ashby Magna, where I was then living, by family reconstruction from the parish register from the period of its first volume, 1586-1746. I went on to read all the wills that I could find and, during the next few years, I augmented my database with any further details that I could glean from anywhere, whether in manuscript, in print, chiselled in stone, or carved in lead on the church roof. By these means, I did indeed emerge with a list, apparently more or less complete, of the village residents linked by families.

The parish register has some features that should make it favourable for the purpose. Firstly, most of it is beautifully and legibly written. For the first fifty years, it is evidently a fair copy in the elegant italic hand of Thomas Mason II, who had succeeded his father in 1634, and continued it to his death in 1672. Around 1690, it was for a time in the hands of curates very unskilful in the arts of the quill but, in the eighteenth century, it was back with a vicar whose hand was legible, if not elegant. Secondly, it appears to be substantially complete. Of 29 households listed in the 1664 and 1666 Hearth Tax returns, there is only one which does not appear in the register.¹¹ There is, however, a thin period during the Commonwealth; marriages were then in the hands of magistrates, and the baptism rate seems low also. There is another break in 1683, during the last illness of Thomas Mason III; the wardens attempted to cover this, supplying a long Bishop's "transcript" for the year, but their list covers some obscure and baffling entries.¹²

But, at the end of the family reconstitution, there are two features that make it rather difficult to establish a village population at any point in time. There were approximately 800 baptisms, which can be taken to mean 800 births, and 500 burials, but it is clear that the village population cannot have increased by anything like 300, so there was evidently a substantial net emigration, and there is nothing to establish an age profile for the emigrants.

Secondly, the database includes a very few, in fact just five, references to servants. These suggest that the village population includes a sub-group who do not usually appear in the records, but they are not sufficient to be used to estimate the size of this group. In fact, servants appear only where master or servant died, and not necessarily then. We learn of three cases, since the master died leaving a will leaving a legacy to the servant, and we learn of the other two from the register itself. The register, kept in a mixture of English and Latin, contains very little extraneous information. For baptisms, it normally only gives the names of the children and their parents and, for marriages, the names of the parties and their parishes. The gentry are sometimes accorded the title "Mr" or "Mrs" and, at the other end of the social scale, a number of disreputables are noted, including a "beggar", a "vagrant", a "peregrin", a "traviler", "an Harlott" and, presumably, also the "Londiner" alleged to have fathered a child on Hanna Hunt in 1668. For burials, more often than not, there is enough information to resolve any ambiguity. Occasionally, however, the vicar did note some interesting facts in the register, and two of the cases are recorded in this way.

Before considering what we do know about the servants, however, let us review their potential employers. At the beginning of the period, the lord of the manor was a notorious recusant, Robert Brooksby Esquire of Shouldby. Ashby Magna Hall was settled on his

¹¹ The Hearth Tax returns used were: i) Lady Day 1664 (E179 134/318) in PRO (ii) Lady Day 1666 (E179 251/9) printed by G. F. Farnham, "*Leicestershire Village Notes*" (iii) 1670 (E179 240/279)

¹² The principle sources were the first volume of the Ashby Magna Parish Register 1586-1746; the Bishop's transcripts when they were available and such wills as I could find in Hartopp's Index; all these were in the Leicestershire Record Office

daughter-in-law, Eleanor, who, with her better-known sister, Anne Vaux, figured in the innocent background of the Gunpowder Plot.¹³ (That is to say, they were almost certainly guilty of sheltering Catholic priests, but not party to the plot.) But there was another “big house” in the parish in 1586, occupied by a certain Christopher Allmye. This gentleman had an heiress daughter who presently married one Ralph Brooksby of Islington. I have not established a relationship but it looks as though Ralph made a “good” marriage to one of his wealthy relative’s better off tenants. Ralph, and his son, Matthew, seem to have remained in the village for many years, although the Brooksby’s faded out in the 1650s. The subsequent history of the Hall is obscure. It was apparently sequestered on account of Eleanor’s recusancy, and Nichols says he was told that [it/the manor] was long litigated before being acquired by Heneage Finch, later Lord Aylesford. In the Hearth Tax return of 1664, the largest house of seven hearths was held by William Turville, gent (the Turvills were another prominent Leicestershire recusant family), who is stated by Nichols to have been lord of the manor claiming view of frankpledge in 1685; the big house, then rated at six hearths, had apparently been taken over by 1666 by Edward (Brent?).¹⁴

Another potential employer must have been the vicar. Glebe terriers of 1674 and 1679, and probate inventories of 1672 and 1684, give an idea of his accommodation. He had a glebe of fifty odd acres, which he presumably worked, since he had sheep, cattle, pigs and horses. He had a barn of five bays and, in 1679, a cottage. His vicarage house was also of five bays and included, on the ground floor, a kitchen, a brew-house and a buttery, the hall, presumably of at least two bays; a parlour, and a little parlour. There was a bed in the great parlour, and four more bedchambers over the ground floor rooms. With a carpet in the parlour and curtains at the windows, his house appears the most comfortable of those of which we have any account.

Most of the other men in the village appear to have been small farmers; “husbandman” is the word used in their wills. Nichols tells us that there were four yeomen (i.e. farmers owning their own land) in 1620 but only one in 1722. But the village society seems to have been short of the craftsmen needed to make a more-or-less self-sufficient community. Fairly late in the period, a carpenter and an innkeeper appear, but there is no mention of a smith or a baker.

So, let us turn to the five references to servants, and take them in chronological order.

The first comes in the will of Christopher Allmye, who died in 1600. It says:

“Item I give unto my five servanntes fyve sheepe to be delivred them at the discreson of my executors.”

The servants are not named, so this tells us no more than that Christopher Allmye had five servants.

The next to be mentioned in the burial register in 1619, where an entry says

“Margery Byshop the Hallkeeper”

¹³ See “*Victoria County History, Leicestershire*” vol ii, pp 67-68. The family made a minimal appearance in the register when William Vause “brother to old Mrs Bruxby” was buried in 1587 shortly after being released from a period preventive detention. Eleanor must have then been about 26 and, if she was old Mrs Brooksby, who was young Mrs Brooksby? The explanation must be that the comment was added by Thomas Mason II when copying the register in the 1630s.

¹⁴ John Nichols “*The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicestershire*” 4 vols in 8, 1795, 1811, & reprint, vol ii, pp 67-68

The hallkeeper was, presumably, a superior servant. There is no other representative of that family name in the database. It would not be surprising if she were a long-established and trusted family retainer of the Brooksbys recruited elsewhere.

The third reference comes in the burial register for 1625, where we read:

*“Aprill xvii Humfry, the sonne of John Cooper, who was slaine by the fall of the north ally of the church upon Easter day.
Eodem die William Walton, a servant, who was slaine at the same time by the same accident”*

This is one of the rare cases where the vicar has vouchsafed us some extra information on an unusual and interesting event. He does not tell us that the unfortunate Humfry Cooper was only six years old, or that his father was a yeoman farmer. What he does tell us is that William Walton was a servant. Was he John Cooper’s servant, perhaps sitting in the Cooper family pew with his employer’s household? We shall never know. There is one other Walton mentioned in the database: in 1628, Joane Walton married Gilbert Mortimer of “Sutton in the pish of Broughton” *i.e. Sutton-in-the-Elms), but they are not heard of again. So, as in the two preceding instances, there is no evidence that the servant was a member of a village family, and if it had not been for the accident, we should not know anything about it.

The fourth reference to a servant is in the will of Hugh Musson, who died in 1631. He just says:

“To my servant Francis Haulford I give five shillings”

Again, there is no sign that Francis Haulford was otherwise connected with the village.

The fifth and last case presents a remarkable contrast. It conforms to the pattern, in that the servant came from outside the parish, and in that we could not know anything about it if the three words “my faithful servant” did not occur in a will, but this time we have a great deal of information. In this instance, the employer was one William Barton, who died in October 1639, and in the list of *Sepulti* for the year is the entry

“October xxviii William Barton labourer”

He had made one previous appearance in the database, having served as a churchwarden in 1627, and this, presumably, establishes him as a reputable member of the village community. His will, dated five days earlier, is unusually long in the circumstances, and includes a number of interlined alterations, which may make the requirements clearer, but do not help the legibility. He is described as a husbandman and, after a number of cash legacies, he left the residue of his estate, including his lease of 21 years, to his “faithful servant Marie Watts”, whom he also made his executrix. The lease, however, was to be subject to the payment of thirty shillings *per annum* to two neighbours, as trustees for a nephew living in another village. The will then goes on for another page to provide for various eventualities.

William Barton was not a rich man. A probate inventory of his estate survives in the Leicestershire Record Office and it shows that he lived in a humble cottage, probably best described as of two rooms. In the hall, there was a table, a chair, six stools, one form and a cupboard. There was also the only fireplace. In the “parlour”, there were two beds, two chests, two coffers and a box. A third room, termed the “chamber”, is mentioned. It contained wool, corn, bacon, and some household equipment: spinning wheel, a cheese crutch, and a winnowing sheet. The final item for the chamber, valued much more highly than anything else so far, comprised the floor and some other boards. This suggests that it

was a storage space contrived by laying boards, possibly in the roof space over the parlour, and did not form part of the landlord's property. Outside he had three cows, a hog, 29 sheep, and a stock of oats and hay in the barn.

Events could move quite quickly in those days. . The will is dated October 23. He was buried on the 28th; the inventory was taken on the 30th, and it was signed off by the archdeacon's registrar on November 6th. After that, Mary Watts was presumably free to enjoy her inheritance. Less than three months later, she married Luke Bates of Bitteswell. They had two sons, and the hearth tax returns tell us that they still had only one hearth in 1662, but had acquired a second by 1664. Luke died in 1675 and Mary in 1681. The Bates family apparently remained in the village for over 100 years (unfortunately, the links are incomplete), and a churchwarden named Bates was one of those commemorated in lead on the aisle roof.

Finally, another coincidence tells us where Mary Watts came from. In 1639, Elizabeth Watts of Bitteswell married Henry Gilliver (or Gillyflower). They had a son, William, who died unmarried in 1669 and, from his will, we learn that he had an uncle and an aunt, Luke and Mary Bate, and cousins, Luke and John Bate. Except for a terminal "s", this agrees exactly with what we know of the family, so we can infer with reasonable confidence that Mary and Elizabeth were sisters, and that, like Luke, they came from Bitteswell.



BITTESWELL VILLAGE

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements are due to the vicar, then the Reverend Peter Etchells, for permission to have a copy of the register; to the staff of the Leicestershire Record Office for microfilming it, and for producing and copying many other documents; to Mr Cyril Philimore for assistance with printing, and to Mr Phil Jeanes of Broughton Astley for help in finding sources.

Oxford University's Advanced Diploma in Local History via the Internet, from Adrienne Rosen

In September each year about fifty people start a one-year course on Local History with Oxford University. They may live in Cornwall or Ceredigion or Cumbria, or even in California or Cape Town, and some of them never set eyes on any of their fellow students, but for one year they are Oxford students via the Internet. Their ages range from twenty-something to well past retirement and all have ideas and experience to bring to the study of local history.

The Advanced Diploma, which has been running since 1999, is now part of a large programme of online courses in many subjects offered by Oxford's Department for Continuing Education. The hallmarks of Oxford's online courses are: first-class course material written by academic experts: an experienced technical support team who can sort out most student difficulties and, above all, tutors who are actively involved with the course from day one to the final unit and who are genuinely interested in helping students to learn. The success of the course is not only due to the course team. Over the past ten years we have found that discussion, debate, sharing discoveries and humour all work just as well online as in the classroom. The fellowship of the tutor group is an essential and very enjoyable part of the course for most people. Contributions to discussion can be posted online at any convenient hour of the day or night, weekday or weekend. Each group also meets weekly for real-time discussion in a chat-room (not as frivolous as it may sound! – you just need to be able to type fast). By the end of the year, some people tell us that they feel they know their fellow online students better than members of a conventional weekly class.

So what kind of local history does the course teach? In only one year, it is impossible to cover everything and the Advanced Diploma has a definite focus on concepts, methods and skills. Students who complete the course should have a sense of how local history has been written in the past, how to interpret contemporary sources and how to find and evaluate writing on historical topics. They will write a number of historical essays and develop their writing skills and knowledge of referencing and presentation. They will have been introduced to some of the best websites of historical material. The Advanced Diploma has a special focus on the use of Excel and spreadsheets and the analysis of quantitative evidence from sources such as parish registers and the census, which will be of particular interest to readers of *LPSS*. Students also learn how to use databases to analyse historical data, and develop familiarity with Access both for querying existing databases and for constructing their own. The emphasis throughout the course is not just on how to do things but how to become a more accomplished historian. We hope that the skills and judgement learned during the year can be applied to local history of any period and any area. Examples and sources are drawn mainly from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries but the ideas are widely applicable.

Well over 400 people have now completed the Advanced Diploma in Local History. Some are involved in local history projects and societies in their own areas; several have contributed to local *Victoria County History* projects, for example. Some have written up their own research and had it published in local journals – and in *LPSS*. Some decide to take their studies further and we do our best to advise on postgraduate courses in local history, both online and at universities throughout the UK.

Oxford's Advanced Diploma is recommended as a preparatory course both for the Open University's MA in History (local and regional) which is taught online. Also, for Oxford's own part-time MSc in English Local History for those who can travel weekly to Oxford for classes. And after that, should you want to go even further, many universities including Oxford now accept part-time students for Ph.D.'s in local history.

If you would like to know more about the Advanced Diploma in Local History, please look at the website at www.conted.ox.ac.uk/localhistory (and for information about all of Oxford's short online courses on everything from Archaeology to Philosophy see www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/online). Applications for the Advanced Diploma open in January each year, and we are always happy to answer questions from anyone who may be interested in the course.

The MA in English Local History, at the University of Leicester, *from Keith Snell*

The MA in English Local History has been developing since the 1960s, when it was set up by Professor W.G. Hoskins. Its scope encompasses all areas of England and Wales. It has often been emulated elsewhere, concentrating as it does both on long-term landscape history, and the history of regional societies and cultures, studied locally and comparatively. This degree also lays much stress on the teaching of skills in local and regional history: one thinks of historic map and place-name interpretation, early modern palaeography, oral history, approaches to sources, interpretation of landscape painting, and many interdisciplinary approaches.

There are now two MA programmes, which allow people to study in different ways. There is first the more taught MA format, with part-time students attending on Monday mornings or Thursday evenings, or on both occasions for full-time students. Teaching is largely over the first two semesters from late September until Easter.

The modules available include 'Medieval Landscapes' (taught by Dr Richard Jones), which covers the foundations of modern landscape and society as largely laid down in the Middle Ages. This shows how the landscape can be seen as a product of, and as a contributory factor in shaping, medieval society. Interdisciplinary coverage includes settlement history, place-names, cartography, the literary landscape tradition, climate and weather, field systems, trees and woodland, elite display, ecclesiastical influences, peasant perspectives, and medieval concepts of nature. Then there is a module entitled 'The Local Identities and Palaeography of Early Modern England, 1500-1700' (Dr Andrew Hopper). This enables students to reconstruct local identities in early modern England. It builds upon a recent coming together of social and political history. Themes include the impact upon local identities of riot, rebellion and popular politics, and problems of governance: analyses of custom, crime and immigration. The second half of each session teaches palaeography, an indispensable skill to all historians.

'Community, Conflict and Change in England and Wales from the late 17th Century to the early 19th Century' (Professor Peter King) explores core issues that affected local communities between 1680 and the 1830s. It looks at structures of power and at gender relations, at the experiences of rich and poor, at changing traditions of protest and at crime and justice. It also focuses on how local communities were governed, on local-central relationships, and involves case studies of two contrasting regions – London and Cornwall. 'Understanding English and Welsh Communities and Cultures, 1800-2000' (Professor Keith Snell), takes students into more modern topics, looking at regional communities and cultures after c. 1800. One is concerned here with local belonging and identity, cultural regions (e.g. the regional novel, religion), gender relations, and the changing nature of 'community'. There is much emphasis on rural society and welfare history. Approaches to minority groups (e.g. gypsy-travellers, or the London Jewish community) are included. Visual interpretations are stressed: landscape art, churchyards, nineteenth-century photography; and the coverage extends to methods of study such as oral history.

A field course, currently on Devon, occurs shortly before Easter, and is a week-long event looking at landscape and settlement history, which is extremely popular. Students stay in

residential accommodation at the University of Exeter, and every day are taken out to different locations by coach to consider historical and landscape issues.

Students are assessed by way of projects, reviews, a field course report, two small skills tests, and an extended 20,000 word dissertation on a subject of their choice which is supervised by staff. The aim throughout is to provide a framework within which students can develop their own local interests and expertise, and the varied options for assessed work are structured so as to allow this.

The second MA available is the MA in English Local History by Individual Supervised Study. This covers similar topics to those outlined above, but features a longer dissertation (35,000 words), and has less taught contact time. There is an intensive study week in late July, and attendance during the week's field course in Devon, and some 'seen' assignments; but most of the work is the extended dissertation, supervised by staff as if the MA student was a research student. Students can attend any of the classes and lectures for the first MA, but the assumption is that this MA appeals more to students living at a distance, or outside the UK, who find it less easy to attend regular lectures. Students can do the course in part-time or full-time modes.

At any one time the Centre has over 30 students registered for these MAs, and about 30 research students. It currently has 70 postgraduates, of all ages and backgrounds, bound together by their shared local historical interests. Further information on these two MA degrees, or MPhil and PhD degrees at the Centre, can be obtained from the Centre's website: <http://www.le.ac.uk/elh>, or by ringing 0116-2522762.

RICHARD WALL



It is sad to report that Richard Wall has died, at the age of 67, on 22nd June 2011. He was a leading scholar in Historical Demography and a past editor of the *Local Population Studies Journal*.

He established, with Lloyd Bonfield, *Continuity and Change*, an international peer-reviewed academic journal published three times per year by Cambridge University Press. It publishes articles concerned with long-term continuities and discontinuities in the structures of past societies, taking their methodology from the traditional fields of history, sociology, law, demography, economics, and anthropology. He edited, with Peter Laslett, the classic 'Household and Family in Past Time'. A full obituary will appear in the next *Journal*.

Forthcoming events

21 - 23 October 2011 Cambridge, “Reading Old Handwriting”, residential course. For details see <http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/courses/weekend-courses>

12 Nov 2011 Leicester, L.P.S.S. Autumn Conference, "Death and Disease in the Community, 1400-2010" see page 20 below for full programme and booking form.

12 Nov 2011 Preston University of Central Lancashire Institute of Family and Local History Conference, The Past, Present and future of Family History
Speakers will be Chris Pomery: *Genetics: taming the new frontier*. Andrew Gritt: *Looking into the crystal ball: the future of family history*. John Hanson: *The past, present and future of researching family history*, Martin Bashforth: *Radical directions beyond Genealogy*.
For details and booking, please contact: Susan Bailey, email: lfhistory@uclan.ac.uk Tel: 01772-893053

2 - 4 December 2011 Cambridge,
“English Place Names: Landscape and Society” residential course.
“Family History: Beyond the Basics” residential course.
For details see <http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/courses/weekend-courses>

January-June 2012: Cambridge, Madingley Weekly Programme of short courses
For details see www.ice.cam.ac.uk/madingleyweekly

13 - 15 January 2012 Cambridge, “The Anglo-Saxon Church in East Anglia”, residential course. For details <http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/courses/weekend-courses>

21 Jan 2011 Preston, UCLIFLH, Study Day: *Turning Points: 1940s*, led by David Stewart.
For details and booking please contact Susan Bailey, see above.

18 Feb 2012 Preston, UCLIFLH, Study Day: *Medicine and health care in the nineteenth and early twentieth century*, led by Keith Vernon.
For details and booking please contact: Susan Bailey, see above.

2 - 4 March 2012 Cambridge,
“Markets and Fairs: from Medieval to Modern”, residential course.
“English Village History: sources, methods and themes”, residential course.
For details <http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/courses/weekend-courses>

17 Mar 2012, Preston, UCLIFLH, Conference Lancastrians Abroad
Speakers will be Mairtin O’Cathain: *Lancashire militia units in the 1798 Irish Rebellion*. Jennifer Lewis: *Wesham and the War: the people of a Lancashire village, 1914-18*. Billy Frank: *Lancashire and Africa: from colonial servants to expats, 1945 – 1995*. Peter Park: *A Liverpoolian at Ladysmith*.
For details and booking, please contact Susan Bailey, details above.

TALKING POINT

The Committee is always interested in hearing your opinions about our choice of conference venues. We would particularly like to hear from members outside the South East. Is it difficult for you to get to Welwyn? Would you prefer to have the Spring Conference somewhere else? Our Autumn Conference is held at a different location each year. Can you offer ideas for future locations and/or practical help with setting up the meeting? Please contact Rowena Burgess by email: rowena.burgess@u.e.a.ac.uk

The Local Population Studies Society Autumn Conference
The Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester,
Marc Fitch Historical Institute, 5 Salisbury Road Leicester, LE1 7QR
Saturday 12th November 2011

Death and Disease in the Community, 1400-2010

Sponsored by The Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester, and LPSS.

9.30-10.10 Registration and coffee.

10.10-10.15 Welcome – Samantha Williams & Graham Butler (Universities of Cambridge and Newcastle and LPSS)

10.15-11.30 *Panel One: Disease and mortality before 1750*

'A plague on both your houses: college insights into medieval mortality' – Dr Rebecca Oakes (Cambridge University)

'From plague to pox: mortality in London between 1550 and 1750' – Ms Gill Newton (Cambridge University)

11.30-12.45 *Panel Two: Death, disease and dissection in the metropolis, c. 1700-1930*

'Undertakers of the poor?: death, disease and mortality in a Westminster workhouse, 1725-1824' – Professor Jeremy Boulton & Dr Leonard Schwarz (Universities of Newcastle & Birmingham)

'The Diseases of the Destitute and Dissection at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, 1832 to 1930' – Dr Elizabeth Hurren (Oxford Brookes University),

1.00-2.30 Lunch

2.30-4.30 *Panel Three: Child mortality, smallpox and Burial practices in Britain c. 1550-2010*

'Residential mobility and child mortality in early twentieth century Belfast' – Dr Alice Reid (Cambridge University),

'The history of smallpox in Britain, 1550-1850' – Dr Peter Razzell (Independent Historian)

'Churchyard closures, rural cemeteries and the village community in Leicestershire and Rutland, 1800-2010' – Professor Keith Snell (University of Leicester),

4.30 Tea and conference closes

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The conference fee is £25 for LPSS members, £30 for non members, inclusive of all refreshments.

Please reserve places. I enclose a cheque for.....
(payable to 'Local Population Studies Society').

Name & address (for map & travel information):

.....

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E-mail addresstelephone.....

Please return to *Local Population Studies*, School of Humanities, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane, Hatfield, Herts. AL10 9AB, by 31st October. Tel. 01707 285688 or 285637.

E-mail: lps@herts.ac.uk