A year has passed since the first edition of this newsletter, and what a year! Phil Bullied set up the family website, which went live in February. Seventy eight families have now registered as users and the site has names, documents, photos, articles and even two old recordings contributed by several members and friends of the family. Cathy Bullied Young designed and painted the family coat of arms above, incorporating Peter Lyne’s design for the crest. Marcus Millichope provided a logo for the family, which can also be used as a watermark.

John Fry, Chairman of the Bulleid Society in England, put me in touch with Vic Bulleid in New Zealand, who has provided information on his branch of the family there. Su Tayler and Joan Anderson have researched the family in Australia and provided a wealth of information and photos. Lynn Naegeli and Jane Raby have done the same regarding the family in Canada. Cathy Bullied Young has contributed information and photos regarding her branch of the family in the USA.

In our home county of Devon, Muriel and Richard Brine have provided space on devonheritage.org for Peter Lyne’s articles and my Bulleid and Hawkins pages. They have also made special trips to take photos of a Bulleid farm, churches and headstones. Carol Ventura is providing invaluable assistance with the organisation of next year’s family gathering, which has already attracted more than fifty participants.

“Memories” – an eclectic collection of reminiscences and records of the family – has been published on the website. It is a living document and now runs to more than seventy pages. The ‘round robin’ group was set up enabling interested members to introduce themselves to each other; those introductions have also been published on the website. The robin has more or less run its course now and, as contact has been established with dozens of cousins around the world, I propose merging it into the Bulleid Web (below).

Thanks go to everyone who has contributed in one way or another to get this venture off to such a successful start. I am sure that the former family historians, Dr Arthur Bulleid and Jack Bulleid, are gazing down benevolently on us. There is a lot more material out there and I daresay that, like me, you look forward to seeing this published next year. If so, please send it to me (geoffledden@yahoo.com) or add it to bulliedfamily.com.

There is a special message at the end of this newsletter, so I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry Christmas, and a healthy and happy New Year.
This is a précis of Jack’s 18 page document, which can be found in full on the family website. I have had to interpret some of the information contained in the original as it appears, in parts, to be inconsistent.

I was seven or eight when I first became aware of the significance of the name Field. My parents told me that “I had the same name as my grandfather.” I was known as Jack as I was John, the son of John, the son of John.

I was about eighteen when, following the death of my grandmother, I was shown the glass-fronted, much faded document reading:

“John Bulleid, bachelor of this parish, and Mary Field, spinster of the same, were married in this church by banns 28th September 1766.

Extract from the register book of marriages belonging to the parish of St John, Hackney, Middlesex, 29th September 1766 by me, Thos Cornthwaite, Vicar.”

The war years intervened; I was married with a daughter, but always aware of my father’s strong ties with Devon and his pleasure at showing me the town of Hatherleigh, where my grandfather had been born. On my first visit I remember feeling a definite sense of belonging from seeing the family name on tombstones in the churchyard. I recorded a lot of information from the parish registers and, with great difficulty, transcribed information from 1558.

In 1946, my father had retired to Seaton and arranged for us to visit a namesake, a solicitor, at Street near Glastonbury. Avalon St George Bulleid possessed a number of family documents, including a prayer book thought to have belonged to Mary Field. It was in the possession of his two sisters who ran a confectioners’ shop opposite the Crown Inn in Glastonbury. Little did I know at that time the significance of the Crown Inn, my attention being directed principally to handling a prayer book printed in 1752 by Thomas Baskett, price six pence (a day’s wage for an agricultural worker) and inscribed:
“Mary Bulleid, her book

God give her grace therein to look
And not to look, but understand
Learning is better than house or land
When house and land is gone and spent
Then learning is most excellent

Scriptum W Friend May 1764”

The prayer book contained scribblings and a loose sheet of paper detailing:

Children of John and Mary Bulleid (née Field) of Winkleigh, Devon, as stated in a letter from Mary Bulleid to her brother Capt Thomas Field at Dock Street, Hull ‘as my husband set them down in his prayer book’. No date.

John born Feb 9th 1765
Samuel born Oct 3rd 1771
Mary born Jan 16th 1774
William born Sept 19th 1776
Thomas born Sept 23rd 1781
I have buried two girls.

Progress with my family research was slow, but by 1952 I was seeking an interview with Dr Arthur Bulleid at Midsomer Norton. Unfortunately, he died before it could be arranged. He belonged to the Glastonbury Bulleids and his father had been mayor of that town seven times. Arthur had been a much respected family doctor in Midsomer Norton, as well as no mean amateur archaeologist with his outstanding discovery of the Meare Lake Village. He also spent much time and effort on the Bulleid genealogy.

Some time later, I was offered all his documents and researches into the Bulleid family history, including an extensive family tree. My own research was intermittent; I was relinquishing my job with the Forestry Commission to become sub-agent to the Marquis of Salisbury on the Cranborne estate in Dorset and started to study for professional examinations.

Dr Arthur's widow only survived her husband by a few years and shortly thereafter the large family home, 'Dymboro' at Midsomer Norton, was sold and the contents distributed amongst the family. To my joy, I
was offered the Field family portraits, which Dr Arthur had acquired from the Clifford family.

About this time, my wife and I were invited to dine with Canon and Mrs Goodall at St Edmund's rectory, Salisbury, just 14 miles from our home at Alderholt. Armynell Goodall was the third of Dr Arthur's four daughters and had undertaken to convey the Field portraits to me. Ann Mary Clifford had married Mary Field's younger brother, Capt Thomas Field (1746-1814) and the portraits of Thomas and his older brother William had been in the possession of the Clifford family. They show Thomas in double breasted waistcoat, top hat, cravat and wig (sailor fashion), with headland and sailing vessel in the background. His brother has black top coat, white shirt and bow tie, and his own dark hair going grey at the edges. Thomas is broad faced and bluff; William is very serious.

In 1961, I moved to the Ministry of Agriculture in Exeter and, in 1966, was transferred to Somerset, where my duties included writing letters of agricultural appraisal at the request of the planning authorities.

In December 1970, I was surprised to receive a letter from Avalon St George Bulleid, the solicitor in Street, who had received an appraisal letter signed by me. He referred to the Field prayer book and suggested that “you are the proper person to hold it and pass it on to your family.” He subsequently delivered it himself!

It was now time to amalgamate Dr Arthur's family tree with my own material. Armynell was anxious to see progress and enlisted the aid of a professional genealogist friend of hers in London. After several months, a more detailed family tree appeared, complete with all references down one side and measuring 64" by 38". Regrettably, it was written in a small and indistinct hand and, without the 103 documents to which it referred, could not be checked. However, we set about a wide distribution.

I had Dr Arthur's collection of the entire Bulleid baptismal, marriage and burial details of Winkleigh parish from 1510 to 1836, including transcripts of eleven wills. My gt gt grandfather's will of 1820 was one of these and included the provision for the disposal of Pearces tenement, Hatherleigh, “if my son John should die having no children.” John was then 52 and a bachelor.

Winkleigh's parish clerks were not exceptional in assuming that there was no need to distinguish between one John Bulleid and another; and anyway children belonged to their respective fathers and therefore there was no need to record the mother's name. I had a card index system of 95 John Bulleids from first records to the end of the 19th century, and another of 143 marriages where neither bride nor groom could be precisely identified. The permutations for error were,
therefore, considerable. One outstanding occasion arose when five John Bulleids, in adjoining parishes, were producing children in the same years and using both parish churches to baptise members of individual families. Two of the wives were called Mary and, although we had some idea as to which parish they came from (because firstborns were traditionally baptised in the parish where their mother was married), in this particular instance there were five Marys of the same surname, of eligible age, to be the wife of individual John Bulleids.

Further complications arise where a wife dies young, frequently in childbirth, and the husband remarries. Families of nine or ten by two wives were not uncommon with no means of relating individual children to particular wives, especially if it was not possible to date the first or second marriage, which could be several parishes distant and for which no banns book had survived.

Additionally, in many parts of Devon and elsewhere prior to 1755, the exchange of vows before relatives was regarded as a legal marriage and many families were too poor to be able to afford the festivities traditional to a church wedding. However, Land Tax details from about 1780 to 1832 helped identification for those families who were farming and from 1841 the Census gave the place of birth.

My Uncle Sidney had died in 1955 and, as the senior member of his generation, numerous family papers had been entrusted to him. He was somewhat eccentric and, when I was going through his papers, I came across a letter to his sister Lilian dated 27 March 1948: “On the 13th of this month I destroyed a number of old family letters and other papers, some of them dated 1820 and earlier years. One or two dated 1798.” He listed each letter and gave a brief resumé of its contents commencing with the following: -

"From E Bulleid of Okehampton 5th October 1832 to Farmer John Bulleid, Weekhouse Farm, Winkley - John Bulleid’s wife mentioned ? named Sally (But Sally might have been another of the family)."

For me there were three points of impelling interest in this statement:

1. What was the significance of retaining these letters set against the unresolved question of the marriage certificate that the Field branch seemed to regard as vital evidence?
2. If the Writer E Bulleid really was my gt gt grandfather’s widow and second wife, was there any possibility that John Bulleid, his eldest son, had married after the age of 52?
3. Set against the two previous questions, what was the significance of the Glastonbury branch clinging so tenaciously to Mary Field’s prayer book and how had it come into their possession?

The definitive family tree in 1982 showed the Glastonbury branch descended from my great-great-grandfather’s eldest son John (baptised 27 May 1766, four months before church marriage) and the Field branch descended from the second son Samuel. We retained the name Field; they retained Mary Field’s prayer book (albeit gifted to us in 1971). According to Dr Arthur, John had married a girl called Grace - so who was Sally? The only Sally in the Bulleid genealogy had been born in North Molton on 1st November 1818 to William and Grace Bulhead. John had an untraced brother William, known from wills to have had two daughters - could Sally have been his niece? In 1832, she would have been 14 - too young for a bride or a housekeeper. John would then have been 64! Apart from these minor mysteries here, once again, was a second incident revealing the possibility that John had remained unmarried.

Then in 1983 my worst fears were confirmed by receiving a transcript of his will, which I thought had been destroyed during the war. What slowly and somewhat forcibly dawned upon both Armynell and me was that, if John Bulleid (bp. 27 May 1766) had died a bachelor (as his will confirmed), then the whole of the Glastonbury branch was completely adrift from the family tree, in limbo, almost excommunicated!

Armynell said little, but I sensed her concern and, having uncovered this error, I was greatly embarrassed. She was anxious to publish her recollections of the Bulleids of Glastonbury and it was desirable that this should include an outline of Bulleid genealogy, and it was taken for granted that I would supply the most up to date version. On the point of going to press, there was need for accuracy to reconnect the Glastonbury branch. It all revolved around the age old conundrum - which John Bulleid? In this instance there were only about ten from which to choose and I am sure that posterity will understand why we chose to keep this unhappy secret to ourselves.

I began to give serious thought to the relationship between the Glastonbury branch and my Field branch. The firstborn to John and Mary Bulleid (née Field) appeared to have been baptised some four months before their marriage. Nothing very significant there, as betrothal marriage (i.e. exchange of vows before both sets of relatives) was regarded as legal marriage and a church ceremony merely ratification. But why did they choose to go all the way from Devon to Hackney, London, to undertake the church ceremony - quite an undertaking in 1766? The
only logical reason seemed to be that Lord Hardwick’s Marriage Act of 1758 had at last reached Devon and that condemnation was feared at the hands of the local priest.

It also left the mystery of how and why Mary Field from Howden, near Hull in Yorkshire, came to marry a Devonian yeoman farmer. And why did the Glastonbury branch set such value on the possession of Mary Field’s prayer book? Clearly there had been, at some time in the past, the need to establish which was the senior branch of the family. Social status was not unknown, even in Victorian times. The only solution I could put forward was that they believed they had originated from the firstborn, supposedly illegitimate son (largely a technicality), and we had descended from the second son and therefore carried the Field name to signify our legitimacy. With the finding that the firstborn was a bachelor, that had gone completely out of the window.

The Glastonbury branch was complete and seemingly accurate in detail commencing with the marriage of John Bulleid and Grace Hopkins at Bondleigh (the next parish to Winkleigh) on 7th February 1793. To re-attach this branch to the main tree, we just needed to identify this John. There were twelve to choose from; what easier than to work through them eliminating each one in turn until the correct connection was found. There must be a connection, otherwise why would they have Mary Field’s prayer book?

Nine were eliminated for various reasons and we were left with three, any of which would have fitted. However, we could not trace Grace Hopkins’ birth within a ten mile radius and therefore could not even guess what age the bridegroom might be. She might even have been a widow! Five years passed before we traced her baptism. Her father, William Hopkins, who had some sixteen children by two wives, had managed to get the baptism of some thirteen of them registered correctly using three churches in three adjoining parishes. Incredibly, twin boys were baptised, one as Edward Hopkins in Nymet Rowland and the other as Jonas Hawkins in the adjoining parish of Coldridge on the same day! Poor Grace suffered a similar fate – baptised in Winkleigh as Hawkins!

It was known that the only son of Grace’s marriage, baptised at Bondleigh, had turned up some 80 miles away in Bristol at the age of 22, where he married a Glastonbury girl.

In November 1985, out of the blue, Armynell and I received a letter from one of the Clifford family in Penzance saying that they had original letters from Mary Field to her brother Thomas. I went to Penzance and returned with copies of five letters, including one detailing the names and birth dates of her five children, thus authenticating the slip of paper
found in her prayer book. We could now positively identify the children baptised in Winkleigh and Wembworthy between 1766 and 1781 and born to the two wives named Mary, both married to John Bulleids of almost identical age and from longstanding Winkleigh families.

However, the firstborn in each case was named John, one baptised 25 May 1766 and the other born 9 February 1768; one baptised in Wembworthy and the other in Winkleigh; one seemingly born five months before marriage and the other the first registered birth after twelve years of marriage.

It was known that Mary Field and John had occupied Heckpen farm, Winkleigh, (John's family home), whereas Mary Radmore (spouse to the other John) had married an agricultural labourer, whose accommodation and work might change from hiring day to hiring day, normally annually, and take the family into any parish. Of the eight children in the two families one, baptised at Wembworthy, and two baptised at Winkleigh, were all described as children of 'John and Mary Bulleid of Wembworthy'.

There had been an unconfirmed, but persistent legend that the James Bulleid, who arrived in Glastonbury in 1794 and married the daughter of the Crown Inn (Priscilla Sallisbury), had been the uncle of the founder of the Glastonbury branch. Eventually, it proved possible, through the witnesses to various marriages, to identify the Glastonbury founder's father as a member of the large family of Samuel Bulleid, the butcher in Winkleigh and his wife Martha Radmore. This confirmed that James was John's uncle, despite being a contemporary, and that the Glastonbury branch was not illegitimate.

Nevertheless, this did not solve the mystery of Mary Field and her prayer book. Why had the latter assumed such importance to the Glastonbury branch? I checked the copies of Mary's letters to her brother and discovered that Dr Arthur had mistaken the year of birth of her firstborn. He had recorded 9th February 1765 instead of 1768.

I had copied parts of her letters and quotations from her prayer book to an acquaintance, John Chapman. He studied her writing very carefully and noticed that what we had taken to be the figure in 9th February 1768 - the date of birth of her firstborn - had a slight kink in the tail and was, in fact, a three. So John had been born on 3rd February and baptised on 7th February 1768.

However, I could not dismiss lightly that on another sheet of her prayer book was the entry, "John, son of John and Mary Bulleid, was born on May the third and baptised on the twenty fifth 1766." John Chapman now suggested that we had allocated the two firstborn children to the
wrong marriages and, indeed, it eventually transpired that this was the case.

It will be remembered that the prayer book was marked “Mary Bulleid, her book.” Because of the loose sheet of paper in it detailing the children of Mary Field, it had been assumed that it was Mary Field’s prayer book. In fact, it had belonged to Mary Radmore!

**Bulleid Web**

This is the new feature that I previewed in the October newsletter. It is intended to introduce newfound cousins and provide updates on what family members are currently up to, and I hope you will send me a steady stream of articles; hopefully enough material for the feature to appear every quarter.

**Su Tayler** in Bendigo, Australia, is related to the family through a marriage in 1905 between Henry James David Bulleid and her relative, Rose Ann Matilda Wise. Su is a retired librarian with a close interest in genealogy and has provided us with a mass of information on the descendants of James John Bulleid, who emigrated in 1849.

Su recently visited Rose Canning Bulleid, granddaughter of James John, who is in her 87th year and in good spirits. Rose produced her Birthday Book, compiled by her family and kindly allowed Su to photograph several pages, which she has forwarded, together with material from newspaper archives in Wangaratta.

At the end of last month, I had an experience that sent shivers down my spine. The following email from **Sue Sanders** appeared on my pc: -

“My great grandfather was called Henry Bullied, he came from the Egglesford area. Have you any connections that may help me in my research? I believe his father was called John.

Thanks

Regards

Sue”

The eerie part was that I was due to drive to Egglesford just 48 hours later, for a three-night stay in connection with next year’s Festa, the venue for which is, of course, Egglesford. I have been able to trace only one branch of the family in Egglesford and had discovered Sue’s great grandfather within the previous two weeks!

It is great that we are now in contact with this branch in advance of the Festa, especially as Sue lives not far from Egglesford.
When Mary and I visited Devon in November, to make some preparations for next year's Festa, I arranged to meet three cousins whom I last saw in Plymouth half a century and more ago: Bob Teasdale and his nieces Jenny Kirk (née Avery) and June Ings (née Whitford), and her husband Sid. We met at the Royal British Legion Club in Truro, Cornwall, where Bob was President until recently, and attended the dedication of the Field of Remembrance in the grounds of Truro Cathedral. This impressive ceremony was followed by a very amusing lunch at a local hostelry. We reminisced and looked at old family photos. My parents used to take me to Plymouth every year for a summer holiday and would take Jenny and me to the Hoe, or a local beach, to swim. Jenny kindly reminded me that I used to have to wear my sister's old bathing costume (Mother watched the pennies closely), complete with shoulder straps! Fortunately, I was too young then and too old now to be embarrassed. Mother was very cross one day when the cossie and threadbare towel were 'accidentally' left behind on the Hoe. As usual, my father got the blame! Bob, Jenny, June and Sid will be coming to the Festa, together with June's sisters Peggy Taylor and Lorraine Hatton and cousin Ann Taylor. Lorraine and husband Terry will be flying over from South Carolina, USA, whereas the others all live in different parts of the West Country.

Clockwise: Me in shorts, Lorraine, Jenny, Peggy, June outside 14 Eton Place, Plymouth, where June and sisters lived, circa 1954
Welcome to four newfound cousins: -

Allison Sargeant (descended almost certainly from the William Bulleid b. 1776 mentioned in 'Mary Field's Prayer Book' above); Allison lives in the UK.

Margaret Darwood (Henry Bulleid b. 1857, Wembworthy, Devon); Margaret and family moved from London to Australia in 1966 and now live in Western Australia. It was not previously known that her branch of the family was represented downunder.

Robert Harris. Robert is also in Australia and seeking to verify his descent from Pascowe Bulleid (1706-43).

Liz Gross (David Laurence Bulleid 1918-74). David moved his family from England to Canada in 1954 and her sisters, Barbara and Robina, still live there. Liz moved to Maryland, USA, when she married Grant Gross. She recently established contact with Nick Bulleid in Australia, who kindly copied the exchange of messages to me. By extraordinary coincidence, Nick and Liz are both former Oceanographers. Liz was Executive Director of SCOR – Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research for 20 years, where she still works part-time as Finance Director. She and her husband have co-authored two oceanography textbooks. Nick swapped oceanography for viticulture, and writing and lecturing on wine. In 1992, he became only the third Master of Wine in Australia.

Congratulations to Sarah Ledden, granddaughter of Alice Louise Bulleid (1900-67), and Marcus Millichope on the birth of their first child, Rufus Nicholas Gordon Millichope. He was born on Friday, 14 December, weighing 7lb 11oz.

Not one to do things by halves, Sarah went into labour three days earlier in St James’s Palace, London, where she was attending a Christmas party, hosted by Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, for people who work for and assist the Royal Family during the year. She was there with the Metropolitan Police Royal Protection Unit, but had to leave early. The police flagged down a black cab and sent her home, after telling the cabbie that she was in labour!

The labour lasted almost 60 hours and St George’s Hospital, Tooting, sent her home three times. They kept her in on the fourth visit and induced the birth, which was a difficult one. Rufus spent the first twelve hours of his life on a ventilator, unable to breathe alone, and on antibiotics in intensive care. He is now at home and making good progress.
Following the celebrations for his 90th birthday recently, Vic Bulleid writes from New Zealand: -

"We are still waiting for our summer. The wind has been blowing from the Great Southern Ocean almost continuously, we have had a 6.8 (on the Richter Scale) earthquake in the North Island, which I didn’t feel thank the Lord, and it doesn’t feel very festive. However, they say that our building is earthquake proof (Ha-ha) so not to worry (Ha-ha again). Meanwhile we have decorations up and the tree has wrapped parcels at its base, the family is coming in tonight to celebrate Marion’s 89th birthday and to pick up their parcels as some of them will be going on summer holiday, the year’s work being over. It is quite a different situation from the northern hemisphere and has a lot of advantages. In under a week we shall be in our caravan parked up on the shore of Lake Dunstan in the centre of the island, far from the sea breezes and about 1400 feet above sea level. It is a different climate and a great place to holiday. Some of the family have property up there and others look after a house complete with pets and aviary, while the owners go on holiday. It is a very
satisfactory arrangement. We have trout caught in the lake and orchards full of cherries, apricots, pears, peaches, apples and later grapes and a whole host of top quality vineyards with some earning gold medals in the European competitions. We go for some nice day trips from up there and really feel like lords.

And to you lovely people having your winter, we hope you enjoy your Festive Season and the thought that come six months you too will be having summer while we languish in the depths of winter.

With all our Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year,

From Marion and Vic Bulleid

40 Fenton Crescent,  
St. Clair,  
DUNEDIN  
NEW ZEALAND”

Warm regards to all,

Geoff Ledden