

# HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

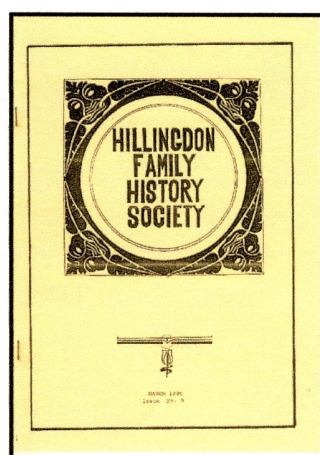
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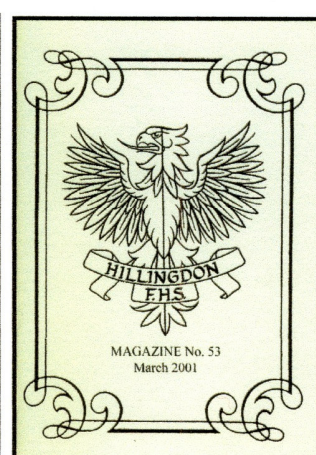
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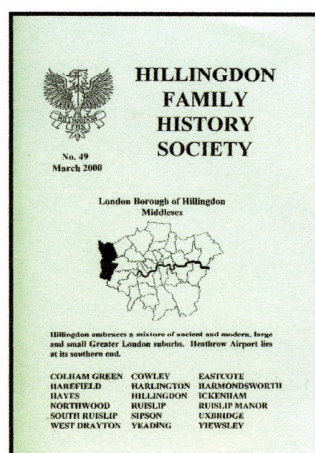
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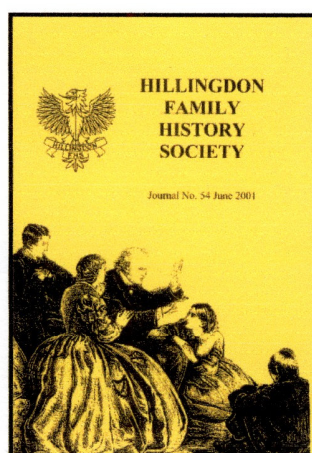
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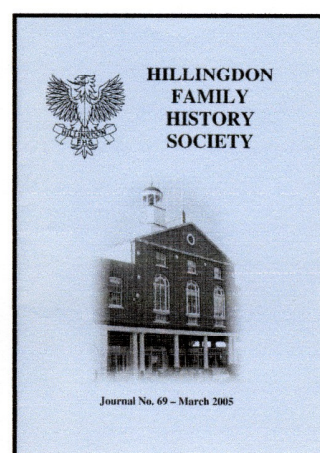
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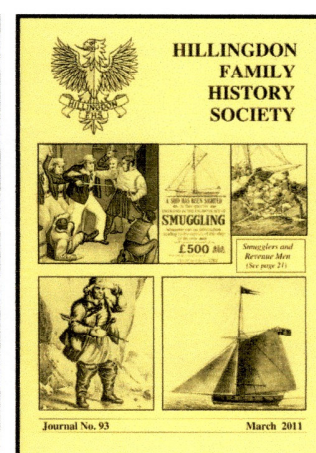
*First appeared 1996*



*First appeared 2001*



*First appeared 2005*



*A recent front cover*

**Journal No. 100**

**December 2012**



# 100 JOURNALS

As you are probably all aware this is our 100<sup>th</sup> edition. The first journal, March 1988, appeared not long after the formation of our society in 1987 and was edited by Valerie Hannington. Valerie was followed by the following editors who each served a number of years in harness;

Fay Twydell; Tom Morgan assisted by Gill May and then Christine Alexander; Arthur Potton; Arthur Dark; John Symons; Diane Holden and Alan Rowland.

John Symons instituted an editorial committee of three to help in the production of the journal — a system that still operates.

The early editions were produced using a typewriter to cut a stencil for use on a 'Roneo' machine — a rotary device that produced copies by turning a handle.

Technology moved on a little when a word processor was used to produce a master copy for photo — copying. Errors could easily be rectified before finalizing each journal.

Now of course we use a full blown computer which in addition to the word processing facility gives us the ability to easily include pictures and move text/pictures around to achieve the best layout (we hope!). The other advantage of this method is that via the internet we can send an electronic version of the journal, including coloured pictures, to anywhere in the world — instantly!

We cannot mark this anniversary without a mention of the proof reading of the draft journals. Since before I began my tenure Jenny Morrish has performed this function and continues to do so; for all her efforts the editorial committee says thank you, Jenny.

Of course, however the journal is produced we rely on you the members to send us articles etc. So a big thank you to all who have put pen to paper over the last 25 years, the regulars (we all know who they are) and those who contribute more occasionally; you really make our journal what it is. If you have not yet contributed remember part of the pleasure of researching is sharing discoveries and problem solving. These may not only be of interest to other members they might be helpful and relevant to others. So do think about what you have found, write it down (even if just in note form as the editorial team can polish it for publication) and send it to us. We look forward to hearing from you.



# HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



*1948 — the Olympic flame in Uxbridge (see page 26)*

# PROGRAMME OF OUR MEETINGS

2012/2013

Unless stated otherwise all meetings take place at  
Hillingdon Baptist Church, 25 Hercies Road,  
Hillingdon, Middlesex. UB10 9EL  
Doors open at 7.30 p.m.

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
<i>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November</i>	<i>Ian Harvey</i>	<i>'Spon Street: The Spoken Word and Family History</i>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>
<b>TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>Note: Meeting starts at 2.00 p.m.</i>	<b>Simon Fowler</b>	<b>'Making the best use of visiting The National Archives' (Joint TUESDAY meeting with U3A)</b>
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>Paul Davidson</b> <i>(aided by Beryl Chubb, Joy Higgs &amp; Barbara Nield)</i>	<b>'Benefits before Benefits: the Hillingdon Parish Rate books, 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries'</b>
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>A.G.M.</b>	<b>Followed with 'Family History Sources on the Internet: An update'</b>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Ian Waller</b>	<b>'Manorial Worth' a look at the way the Manor operated &amp; what information can found in the records</b>
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Tony Mitchell</b>	<b>'Uxbridge Past – Shops &amp; Businesses'</b>
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Ian Currie</b>	<b>'Frosts, freezes &amp; fairs: a thousand years of Winters on the frozen Thames &amp; other rivers'</b>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Judy Davies</b>	<b>'Old England, a Golden Age?' What would it have been like to live in a bygone age?</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>

Please remember that we always welcome visitors to our meetings and that the entrance fee for them is £1.



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Visit our website at: **[www.hfhs.co.uk](http://www.hfhs.co.uk)**

Contact us by e-mail at: **[hillingdonfhs@onetel.com](mailto:hillingdonfhs@onetel.com)**

*Contributions to the Journal are encouraged and should be sent to the e-mail address above or by post John Symons, (address on back cover).*

**A LARGE PRINT VERSION IS AVAILABLE ON  
REQUEST TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

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This edition of the Society's Journal is the 100th since it was first produced in 1988. Over the past 24 years it has reflected and recorded many aspects of family history. Individual family histories; local history; members interests; reports on speakers; and much, much more. It is a monument to the interest shown by members who have contributed articles; as well as to the editorial team who work so hard to propagate it once a quarter.

Nurturing a journal is a bit like gardening: and it has been a difficult year on the gardening front. First unseasonable frosts, then wet, then dry and now at the time of writing, turning wet again. The fruit crop from the orchard has been particularly miserable compared to last year; although the fruit trees have put on growth that you couldn't believe possible.

There are some interesting links that can be made and explored between family history and gardening. The most obvious is whether your ancestor had a plant named after them. The most striking recent example is Forsythia which apparently was named after an ancestor of the famous television presenter Sir Bruce Forsyth. Obviously, there are hundreds of other examples. We need to reap these plants and make sure that they are in our family histories.

For many of us, a distinguished horticultural heritage will be lacking. However; one of the things that we will all have is a grandparent's, parent's, aunt's or uncle's back garden or allotment. We probably take them for granted and don't really look at them that closely (unless we are roped into a bit of garden maintenance). Yet by their nature gardens and how they are laid out and what is planted are all very personal things.

They are not just personal but also reflective of the era in which they were created. This summer at the Ickenham festival a number of gardens were open to the public and going round it was fascinating to see the range of styles of design and planting - some very modern (all decking and trampoline); some very 1970s (delicate rock gardens and azaleas); some almost Victorian (the alms houses in Ickenham). All told a story about the people who created and have nurtured them.

*(contd.)*



How many gardens of our grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles, etc have we seen and not thought to photograph and record in some way? What would those photographs tell us about the individuals themselves or the times they lived in?

Family history is more than just birth, marriage, death and the census. It can encompass a range of sources and ideas - including gardens. This is reflected in our monthly talks but also in the Journal. I look forward to the 200th edition!

Happy Christmas and New Year.

*Ian Harvey*

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### **EDITORS' JOTTINGS**

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Another dataset recently added to Ancestry's ever growing collection is that of London Land Tax Records. These list names of property owners and tenants who were required to pay tax on their landholdings. The tax was introduced in 1692 but most of the useful records seem to fall in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century. As this was a period which predates censuses it provides some insight into the better off sections of the population in this period.

Previously only available through long winded searching through boxes of books at the London Metropolitan Archives, the main benefit now apart from ease of access is that the names are indexed, although the usual caveats about transcription errors will of course apply. You are also unlikely to get much information beyond names, rateable values and tax paid for each parish, but it will confirm who the property owners and tenants were for each parish each year. Moreover this does cover the old county of Middlesex as well so if your family lived in what is now the Borough of Hillingdon, for example, you may well find them listed.

*(contd.)*

For those who visit the research room we are able to offer a new service to help them get their findings into the formal 'tree' presentation format. Whilst this would not be a finalized version it would provide the framework for 'keeping on the right track'. The results found on each visit would be added to the file and automatically appear on the revised tree.

Initially this will be on a trial basis to see what response we get before we consider expanding the service.

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Record part of your family's history now while you can and listen to it in the future whenever you want.

If you are trying to write the history of your family or your life and find the going a bit hard, a former BBC editor, Robin Britten, might have the perfect answer. He has just launched an enterprise called **Life Stories** to help people create audio autobiographies that can be digitally stored securely, for ever. Visit [www.lifetime-stories.co.uk](http://www.lifetime-stories.co.uk) for details.

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*From the Editors to  
our members and  
all who read our  
journal;*

*The Compliments  
of the Season and  
the hope that the  
New Year will be a  
peaceful one.*

*From:*

*TOM, JOHN and ALAN*



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## ROYAL AIR FORCE OFFICERS – SERVICE RECORDS

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The National Archives has advised that early RAF Officers Service Records are now available online. The RAF was formed in 1918 and records now available include those transferred from the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service. Those still serving by the Second World War are not however available from this source at present. The easiest way to find people who may be listed is to simply enter their full name in the search screen of the new Discovery Catalogue (which also works well for other service records such as Royal Navy seamen). More information on Discovery can be found in this issue (*page 17*). If you find someone the records are extensive and include information on postings, rank, medical fitness and aircraft flight tests.

For further details see:

**<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/raf-officers-ww1.htm>**

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## METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE RECORDS

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As a result of her research into a family member who served in the Metropolitan Police, Pat Jones sent us the following information for which we are very grateful.

The Metropolitan Police Historical Collection is open to personal researchers from 10 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday. If you are able to visit them seeking to research an ancestor who served in the Metropolitan Police Force, they will make a free search of their records and provide a summary of your named individual's service. This summary will include warrant number, date of birth, place of birth, date of joining and leaving date. If you are unable to make a personal visit there is a charge of £15 for searches and information supplied. Additional information such as pension records may well be available at the National Archives, Kew under series MEPO. You should find copies of original documents, but it may be worthwhile contacting the Metropolitan Historical Collection first in order to obtain the essential information. The address is: The Met Collection, The Annexe, Empress State Building, Empress Approach, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR Telephone 020 7161 1234

Email: **[historicstore@met.police.uk](mailto:historicstore@met.police.uk)**

Web site: **<http://www.met.police.uk/history/genealogy.htm>**

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## FRENCH RESEARCH (PART 2)

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When I wrote the first part of this research I really had little idea of what might result since, as with so many of us, our research is almost entirely conducted on our ancestors here in the U.K. Only very occasionally do we need to venture abroad. So, it was with some apprehension that I sent my enquiry to the Mayor of St. Malo in North West France which is where Alfred BRIDGER was reported to have died in 1849. With the enquiry, written in French courtesy of Google, I sent an 'international reply postage voucher' so I expected a reply even if it revealed nothing about Alfred.

Time passed and with it my hopes diminished until one day a letter marked 'Prioritaire' arrived from 'Ville de St. Malo Archives'. I must admit I did feel a tingle of excitement but decided to leave the letter unopened until I could give it my full attention. It was a formal reply, in French, from M. Marc Jean, archivist at St. Malo. Enclosed was a copy of the Registration of Death entry from the municipal records.

Three problems stopped me from deciphering the contents. Firstly, the entry was written in an uninterrupted copperplate hand with words running into each other. Secondly, even if I could break it down I would need to transcribe it into current day lettering and it would still be in French. The last problem would be to translate it into English. I had hoped that the Google translation service would solve this but as it only recognised complete and correct word inputs it was not a great help.

Eventually I did make progress and in essence it read;

*'....at 11 o'clock on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1849, at the office of M. Pierre Pointel, the municipal official responsible for such affairs in St. Malo, Mr. John Penleaze (a Member of Parliament for Southampton 1831 – 1835) and a Minister of a Church in St. Malo, attended to register the death of Alfred BRIDGER age 47 years who was noted as a native of Southampton and widower of 'Dame' Mary CAPRON.'*

Alfred died at Rue Dupree, St. Malo. at 6 o'clock on the previous evening, 14<sup>th</sup> April. Mary CAPRON had died in Wales in 1839. The declaration (*see below*) was signed by both John Penleaze and M. Pierre Pointel and stamp duty of 1 franc 25 cents was paid. (*contd.*)



VILLE DE SAINT-JAMES  
ARCHIVES

61219.

2m 184 - 5. Session. Dec de Appel Bröder  
16. April 1849

Photo of Rue Dupree, St. Malo (Acknowledgement to Google Street View)



Even though I may not have produced a precise translation I had enough information to satisfy my curiosity as to Alfred's death, but perhaps of equal interest was the ability and ease with which I was able to extend enquiries to foreign parts and the information which those enquiries produced.

*John Bridger*

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### **JENNY'S REPLY TO COLYN**

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Following Colyn Storer's comments on the distances involved in completing the Australian part of Archibald BALLANTINE's route to Inverell (see journal 97), Jenny Mundy has sent us this reply.

Thanks for your comments Colyn, I will certainly bear the distance in mind if I manage to get to Australia on the family history trail. Farhand Archibald set sail on the Everton Grange as a 3<sup>rd</sup> class passenger on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1909.

*(contd.)*

After his arrival in Sydney I understand that it would have been possible for him to complete his journey by train, the last section of the branch line to Inverell having been completed in 1902. The distance, by road from Sydney to Inverell, is 376 miles. (Distance according to Bing Maps)

While it is certainly not near Sydney, compared with the distance he had already travelled, Inverell was 'not too far' from Sydney. However it is certainly not a journey which I would envisage him taking once a week.

*Jenny Mundy*

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## THE JOURNAL AND ME

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To mark the 100<sup>th</sup> edition we asked Tom Morgan to pen his memories of how he came to be involved its production.

'It was the spring of 1992 when I met a lady member of the society's executive committee in an Ickenham shop. I was most surprised when she asked me if I would be interested in taking up the post of editor of the society's journal.

Having had previous experience on both my school magazine and my trade union's journal, I agreed to her request. At the A.G.M. in 1993 I was duly elected editor and Gill May kindly volunteered to assist me.

This she did most ably for a year until she was installed as the society's secretary. Her role was then filled by Christine Alexander, who was also an excellent help to me.

In 1998 I decided to give up for personal reasons, but in 2002 it was decided to establish a journal editorial committee which I was invited to join. This committee is still in existence and for each edition we have two meetings at my house. The other founder members were Diane Holden and the then chairman, John Symons. Subsequently, Diane left us and her place was taken by Alan Rowland, who has been a tremendous asset.

I must say that I am quite proud of our journal and I hope to continue helping in its production.'

*Tom Morgan*



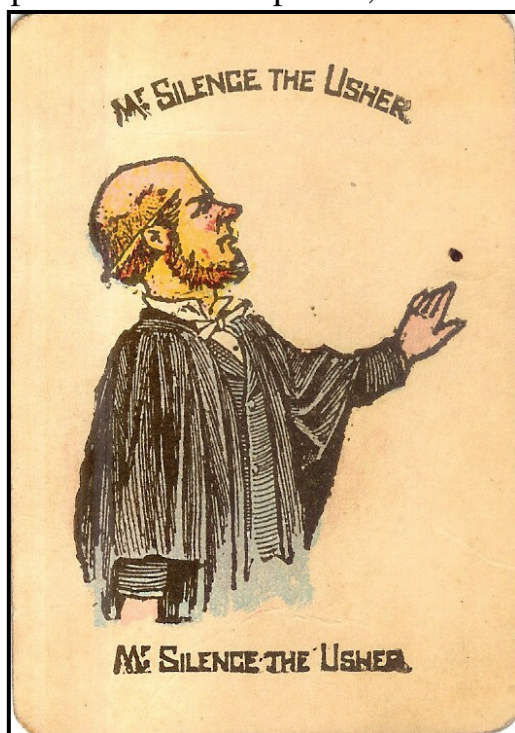
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### HAPPY FAMILIES? (PART 3): THE SILENCE FAMILY

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Jenny Mundy continues her series about the pack of Happy Families cards she found.

Most of us will be familiar with the 'usher' or indeed the cinema/theatre usherette. The dictionary defines an usher as an official whose business is to introduce strangers, or to walk before a person of rank, a forerunner and a doorkeeper. The usher's responsibility is to ensure that perfect order is kept in the environs of a function and that the relevant activities proceed in a disciplined, controlled manner.



Mr. Silence is the usher responsible for a judicial court. He wears a 'uniform of sorts'; a black robe over a smart suit, with a winged collar and white bow tie all of which denotes the professional level of his position. The pen tucked behind his ear is in readiness for the clerical duties in the court for which he is also responsible. His hand gesture might be a sign of his authority perhaps silencing those who should not be speaking at that moment.

It is typical of the period that Mrs. Silence supports her husband's position by preparing and cleaning the court room. This practical, domestic role is indicated by her rolled up sleeves and the apron. (*contd.*)

Her respectable married status is suggested by her hair style – drawn back and up into a bun. The type of court shown in the background is still familiar today with the two levels; the high status judge has a raised desk and high backed chair, whilst below it is the usher's simpler desk and chair.



His son, Master Silence is depicted playing the role of the judge wearing an overlarge wig and glasses which may or may not be donned to give him a serious, learned air. The quill pen suggests that he can write and like his father has some schooling. His suit worn with a white collar and bow tie are indicative of the social standing of the family which would have been among the better off classes. It would seem to depict the ambitions of the child to move forward in the same work environment as his father while hoping to attain the higher position.

Miss Silence wears a short skirted white dress typical for a young girl which is covered by a white protective apron suggesting that she is expected to get involved in work which would sully the purity of her clothing. She holds an open book on her lap suggesting some scholastic activity if not ability. Seated on a wooden stool she appears to be playing at another aspect of the court with her dolly propped in a box taking the role either of a witness or defendant. She is clearly speaking to the doll and her wagging finger may suggest the doll is the wrongdoer brought before the court.

(contd.)

She may well be imitating her father's gestures in his role as usher. However, it is unlikely in the period depicted that she would have any expectation of developing any such role in her later life.

*Jenny Mundy*

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## LAWRENCE OF ARABIA

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One of my boyhood heroes was Thomas Edward Lawrence — 'Lawrence of Arabia'. It occurred to me that his connection with Uxbridge might not be known or at least may have been forgotten.

He was born in Wales (1888) and during the First World War he acquired the title 'Lawrence of Arabia' as a result of his service in Arabia. In 1922 using the name John Ross he enlisted in the R.A.F. and as an Aircraftman he served at R.A.F. Uxbridge. Eventually he was driven out of the R.A.F. the circumstances of which he describes in his book 'The Mint'.

He moved on to serve in the tank corps and subsequently returned to the R.A.F. before he retired to live in a cottage called 'Clouds Hill' near Wareham in Dorset.

He was often to be seen riding his motor cycle along the local roads. Unfortunately it was on one of these journeys that he unexpectedly encountered a couple of lads out riding their bicycles and in an effort to avoid hitting them, he crashed.

He received serious head injuries and was taken to hospital where, despite treatment, he died on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1935.

He was buried in Moreton Churchyard, not far from his cottage. Among the many famous people that attended his funeral were Winston and Clementine Churchill.

*Tom Morgan*



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## I HAVE A NEW COUSIN!

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By pure chance during a recent research session I came into contact with a lady in Australia who, although not a direct relative, was interested in my correspondence with my other Australian relations via our DOUGLAS Yahoo group arrangement.

Beverly, I soon realized, was a keen family historian and had material on my side of the family here in Great Britain as well as her own in Australia. Although we have been members of the Group for a number of years, it was only recently that she realised some letters, papers and a family chart (sent to her by another party) might be of interest to me as they concerned my side of that family. Beverly kindly sent the package and I found the chart of great interest. In addition to the normal family descent there was a miniature portrait of each member of the male line back to my 3xgreat grandfather, James Edward Morton DOUGLAS as well as his father. There was however a major disappointment; the portrait of James E.M. DOUGLAS had not reproduced well and was unrecognisable. I had recorded the life of this person in some detail and if the portrait had been better it would have added to his story. It was at this point that Beverly came to my aid. Although the party who sent the chart had sadly died Beverly knew someone connected with a niece of the sender.



The DOUGLAS network went into action. I received an email from Judy, whose aunt had inherited all their family history papers including the portrait of James. Needless to say it would be a major coup to get a decent copy of this portrait. This I achieved but in addition to the copy of the portrait I also discovered a new cousin. It transpires that Judy's great grandmother, Adela, was the first cousin of my great grandmother Lucy Ann. This I think makes us fourth cousins and therefore family!

*James Edward Morton Douglas*  
*c1830.*

*(contd.)*

However the story doesn't end there. This summer Judy, together with her husband Ross, came to tour Europe and to further their family histories researches. This was an opportunity that could not be allowed to pass; so on a very wet, dreary day we all met at Hughenden Manor (*see below*). The overcast day was put to shame by the warm welcome I received.



There was much chatter, an exchange of information and before we knew it the time had arrived to part. Their tour will bring them back to London later on so we hope to get together for another 'cuppa' and a final natter before they fly back to Tasmania.

I shall keep in touch with my new found cousin particularly as Judy and Ross hope to publish their ancestry in book form. This will trace their family connections with England, Scotland and later eventually in Australia.

I will look forward to this as there is still much to be revealed in those inherited papers.

*John Bridger*

### ***POST SCRIPT.***



I did indeed meet Ross and Judy for that final 'cuppa' few days before they flew back to Tasmania.

It was only for an hour or so but it was time enough to talk about their visits to places of family interest and to exchange family titbits.

*(contd.)*

Ross had brought his computer with him and he downloaded the book mentioned previously onto my memory stick. Then all too soon time was up. We walked down Piccadilly to Green Park station and there we said our goodbyes. They went through the ticket barrier and with a final wave of the hand they were gone. A sad moment really, but I thought how fortunate I had been to meet these people who, but for the wonders of the internet and my interest in family history, I would never have known existed leave alone actually met.

*John Bridger*

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### **KEEP TRYING!**

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Once again a research room morning produced an example of a brick wall that needed to be demolished. In this particular case a first time visitor, let's call her Ann, wanted to trace the maternal side of her family and in particular her grandmother.

She had very little information and no registration documents on which to base the research. Apart from the family surname Ann had her grandparents' names, Margaret and James, the names of their various children and a story that they had a son who was killed in the Second World War. It also seemed that the family was firmly based in the Manchester area. That was all the information that was available.

With no dates to guide us we began with a Freebmd search for the birth of her mother which was successful. Fortunately she was born after 1912 which gave us the maiden name of Ann's grandmother. However when we looked for the marriage of Margaret and James, using his surname, nothing could be found. We then carried out a general birth search for all the children of these grandparents around the birth date of Ann's mother using only the family surname. Comparing the maiden name of the mother with the known first names we were reasonably certain that we had found birth dates for all the children. This also brought to light a possible name for the son who it was believed had died in WW2. This did not of course help in the search for the marriage of Margaret and James which still evaded us.

*(contd.)*



The family religion was Roman Catholic, therefore the sparse Lancashire parish records available on line were of no use.

We were not really any further forward so as a last result we decided to look at the WW2 Roll of Honour on Ancestry for the son that we had 'hopefully' found earlier.

There was just one entry that matched first name, surname and had a connection with Manchester. We looked at the image and found that it also included where the soldier was from and this Ann suddenly recalled was where her grandparents had lived. With a shock we also found that the first names of both parents were also given and they were: Rose Ann and Augustine.

At that point Ann said that she had a faint memory of the name Austin in connection with her grandparents. We returned to Freebmd and using the new names we were able to track down the entries that we had found impossible to find. This second search also confirmed the maiden name of Ann's grandmother and our informed guess that had enabled us to find the name of the missing son.

Having acquired the name, rank and number of the son who was killed we were able to trace, via the Commonwealth War Graves Commission web site, the cemetery where he was buried and Ann now had most of the information she had been seeking.

It is not surprising that using the names Margaret and James we were unable to find the records and what seemed to be a pretty high brick wall was there. Had the son not died in the war and had his father not had such an unusual first name would we have managed to scale the wall?

So do not give up, explore all avenues, employ lateral thinking and if through lack of progress you come to a full stop, return to search again after a few months. You never know what extra records will then be available.

*Alan Rowland*

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## THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES – DISCOVERY CATALOGUE

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Recently introduced by The National Archives is a new catalogue, called Discovery, which acts as a means of finding material in this vast repository. As someone who has struggled with the current catalogue for many years this looks like a welcome development.

I am not going into detail about what you can and can't do with this new facility because this is explained more than adequately on the site itself. You need to go to this address:

**<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/SearchUI/>**

Click on 'Frequently Asked Questions' and this will tell you all about the new feature.

The important point is that this is intended to be a more user friendly means of accessing information by entering search phrases, keywords, etc. You can filter results and tag records. It also incorporates the Documents Online service which was previously separate.

Searching any catalogue depends on how well the descriptions have been applied and the National Archive acknowledges that, at present, their standard in this respect is very variable. Generally my own experiences have been favourable. From a family history perspective I have entered something as straightforward as a person's name and provided it is not too common, sometimes it provides some useful results from a variety of categories. Usefully it also immediately states whether the record has been digitised for download or requires a visit to Kew. I did a few checks on records, in various categories, that I had found years before. Whilst some that I might have expected to did not appear; others, that I had not previously found, did.

The message then is to check this out for yourself, whether you are looking for armed forces service records, PCC wills, court cases, or any of the other myriad range of records that are kept at T.N.A. However do not assume that a negative result means that there are no records available; to find what you are looking for it may be necessary to browse a higher category on a personal visit to Kew. *(contd.)*

If you want to find out more about what T.N.A. has to offer then come along to our meeting on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at **2.00 pm** when Simon Fowler will be speaking on “Making the Best Use of Visiting The National Archives”.

*John Symons*

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## PINNER VILLAGE SHOW

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Following our attendance last year, we returned to the Pinner Village Show which took place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Attendance was up this year probably because the sun decided to put in an appearance. Our stall attracted a good deal of interest and quite a number of books were sold.

Shown here are JOY, PAT and GILL who as always make these days possible. Our thanks go to each of them for all their efforts.



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## REMINISCENCES OF THE WAR — 1939 to ? (No. 1)

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A voice from the past was presented to us recently in the form of fifty seven A4 sheets of paper each with two A5 pages of closely spaced handwriting. These one hundred and fourteen pages are the journal of a Hillingdon woman written at the time of the Second World War. We found them a fascinating record of that time and whilst not family history per se, never the less it is the history of a family member. With that in mind we thought members, particularly those born during or just after the War, would also find it of interest.

As it is difficult to read some of the pages we decided to transcribe, edit and serialise this wealth of local and general history. To get the series off to a good start we present the first two episodes in this journal.

①

Reminiscences of The War.  
1939 to ?

It is now Oct 27<sup>th</sup> 1940; seven o'clock Sunday evening and the 'Night Alert' has just gone. Much has happened since the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Sept 1939 and before I forget quite what happened I will try and write it down. I think the war really started for us on the Saturday when a letter came for me signed by Dr Dobson our family doctor who was also Medical Officer of Health for the district. It was to the effect that owing to the increasing gravity of the situation I was asked to report as a Nurse at the Hillingdon County Hospital.

For <sup>well</sup> over a year there had been war clouds gathering as the 'crisis' of Sept 1938 would show. We were as near war then as a country could be and we were not

The historian is Miss Daisy Buckingham born 1910 in Hillingdon and to give a flavour of the times we reproduce the first page of her record:

*'It is now Oct.27<sup>th</sup> 1940; seven o'clock Sunday evening and the 'Night Alert' has just gone. Much has happened since the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Sept. 1939 and before I forget quite what happened I will try and write it down. I think the war really started for us on the Saturday when a letter came for me.....to the effect that owing to the increasing gravity of the situation I was asked to report as a Nurse at the Hillingdon County Hosp.'*

(contd.)

*For well over a year there had been war clouds gathering as the 'crisis' of Sept. 1938.....we were as near war then as a country could be and we were not prepared.*

*Can anyone forget those Hectic days of feverish preparation for a war that didn't come till a year after!*

*One Sunday afternoon when we got to Sunday School ..... there was a man from the A.R.P. to fit us for gas-masks.....My size was put as Medium. I think it was the following Tuesday that a loud-speaker van toured the district putting everyone in a panic by urging them to go and get their gas-masks at once before it was too late.....afterwards we were provided with boxes to keep the ugly things in.*

*Well Mr. Chamberlain's visit to Munich saved us then and although wiseacres said the war was only postponed for 6 months still it gave us a chance to prepare. First Aid classes were started .....lecturer Dr. Margaret Paul .....Gas .....lecturer Flight Sergeant Tandy and Home Nursing.....3 or 4 lecturers. Well this left me with two certificates and an A.R.P. badge so when volunteers were called for I signed.....for Part-time First Aid .....that was how I came to have my 'call-up'*

*On the Sunday Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> we listened to the Premier's broadcast. We had known for a long time that war was almost inevitable. The Mad Dog of Europe had to be chained and the only way to do it seemed to be by war. So Chamberlain.....sent his message, to say if Hitler.....would withdraw.....from Poland all would be well.....if.....not.....then Great Britain would be at war with Germany. So we waited Mum, Vie, Geoff, Rose, Bill and me to hear on the wireless how it was.*

*The first words said in such a heartbroken tone told us and with tears running down our cheeks we heard the declaration. At 11.15 the sirens wailed and.....I said 'the old B — that's his answer'. After the all clear, Rose.....ordered a car and we packed Mum and Vie and little Audrey off to Alice's at Ibstone where they stayed for 1 month! .....I went to report at the Hospital.....after tea Rose and I went to see.....Stella Goodings.....Home we came in the dusk , our first job being to 'black out'. We had a warning that night .....and.....on the Wednesday; and on Friday night one of our own planes crashed in Wilton Lodge garden. Apart from this the first weeks of the war were uneventful, it seemed as if the whole place had gone to sleep. One thing.....was the putting up of the siren up the top of Long Lane.*  
(contd.)

*After Mum and Vie came home there was the sinking of the Aircraft Carrier 'Courageous' – the first big loss at sea.*

*There was also the knitting class at Wilton Lodge.....I did socks, hospital stockings, sea boot stockings, and jerseys for evacuees. Besides this .....Sunday School was combined with Evensong at 3.00 o'clock.....I wrote 7 letters a week to my class to keep in touch.....*

*January 8<sup>th</sup> 1940 Food rationing and registration came into force. Sugar, butter and margarine, meat and bacon were rationed and one had to register at grocers and butcher to get these. Tea was not rationed till some time after. At Marmalade time as in plum season and soft fruit season one went to the 'Food Office' and got a permit for extra sugar for jam.*

*The winter was the hardest.....for 44 years, and owing to the black-out as well as the weather coal was held up. We were told barges of coal were frozen in the canals.....2 thirds of the population were without coal for weeks. Shop-keepers did a roaring trade with 'Coalite' at 10½d for 14lb and.....similar products .....and anything that burns. It wasn't long before these were sold out, and paraffin too. ....some time in the spring or early part of the year.....was the invasion of Holland and Belgium, of Denmark and Norway. Poor little Denmark had no chance.....the other three.....put up a fight but had to lay down arms before very long.*

*During the Battle of Narvik (Norway) Stanley Myers was wounded and taken prisoner. In the Battle of the River Plate in which Ajax, Exeter, and Achilles fought the Graf Spee, Donald Beer from Hillingdon was on the Ajax, and took part in the 'Victory' march through London.....the Graf Spee was more powerful than our three ships put together Hitler.....gave orders to scuttle the ship – a favourite German practice.....the captain.....went down with his ship.....prisoners on the Graf Spee spoke highly of this man.....others on the Altmark.....had been treated.....as less than pigs.*

*What can be said of Dunkirk? With the collapse of France and Belgium our army was surrounded.....with their backs to the sea.....it seemed.....the whole army must be wiped out. If they could get to the sea a few might be saved but .....the enemy was closing in.*

*(contd.)*



*Out went the Admiralty order to all ships of a certain size to go to a certain spot no-one knew what for but the ships were there and the crews, ready for any job. House boats from the Thames, pleasure steamers.....Crested Eagle, Brighton Queen, etc.....even little rowing boats made the journey .....to .....rescue.....our men. These.....ships could not have gone if it had not been for the miracle God worked for us. The channel.....suddenly became calm.....and remained like it till the evacuation was complete.*

*Alan Rowland*

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**REMINISCENCES OF THE WAR — 1939 to ? (No. 2)**

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As we saw from the first installment Miss Buckingham, like everybody else, was apprehensive as to how long the war would last; hence her sub heading 1939 to ? Here then is the next transcribed installment of Daisy Buckingham's handwritten war journal.

*.....'days of Prayer' are ordered by the King.....but in this parish we have one a month.....1 a.m. of June 25<sup>th</sup> we had a surprise to hear the siren.....at night. Now our 'Spitfire' and Hurricane pilots began to get famous with air battles against Jerry.....15<sup>th</sup> Sept.....holds the record .....187 down for 25 of ours and 12 pilots safe.*

*I think it was August 15<sup>th</sup> that the 'Blitzkrieg'(whatever it means) on London began .....anyway it was a Thursday evening. It wasn't till September that the raids got really intense.....it was all night raids.....as Jerry lost too many planes in the daylight. One night (Sept 7<sup>th</sup>) Jerry set fire to the docks. Bill had to go with the A.F.S. ....Sept 26<sup>th</sup> .....Jerry decided the Connaught Rec was just the military objective for a nice land mine.....Nellgrove Rd and New Rd.....worst.....houses there had to be condemned .....All along the High Rd shop windows were broken.....in spite of all the damage only 5 people were injured.*

*From Sept 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> a Messersmitt (sic) 109 was on show in Belmont Rd in aid of the local Spitfire fund.*

*(contd.)*

*October 2<sup>nd</sup> Tudor Way bombed.....6<sup>th</sup> Dog fight.....Dinner time 6 bombs dropped on town. Six houses down.....ten people killed, in Montague Rd. 9<sup>th</sup> Coming home.....counted 56 shell bursts.....4 flares dropped. Afterwards eight more.....Geoff and I watched ours bringing them down.....night of the 10<sup>th</sup> an oil bomb and a H.E. ....on two houses opposite to each other in Granville Rd.....also d.a. bomb in Windsor Ave.*

*Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> was a bad night.....nearest.....top of Denziloe Avenue .....direct hit .....house in Long Lane.....lady of 80 was rescued. H- End Drive 3 houses down.....fourth.....demolished.....one family was out, one in a shelter un-hurt and one crawled out from wreckage un-hurt. ....in Cherry Grove.....a man and a dog was killed by blast. A delayed action bomb.....near Hardinge Close.*

*13<sup>th</sup> (or 6<sup>th</sup>) Firing at flare overhead.....noise terrific.....seemed to upset people more than anything else. A stick of bombs dropped on the night of the 14<sup>th</sup>. The Maternity Ward at.....Hospital was wrecked, mothers and babies all rescued.....Widmore Rd gas and water mains were hit.....gas burnt for  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. 16<sup>th</sup> another stick was laid across the town.....no casualties.....on the night of the 19<sup>th</sup> a bungalow in Green Lane.....destroyed by oil bomb. Parents and fortnight old baby safe in Anderson Shelter.*

*A new measure came into force on the 21<sup>st</sup> .....purchase tax. Luxury articles were taxed as follows. The fourth part should be added.....Thus.....an article costing 4/- would cost 5/-. Semi-luxury articles (adults clothing, shoes etc ..... ) were taxed by one eighth.....4/- would cost 4/6.*

*In the evening gunners scored a hit causing the bomb-rack to fall away .....21 injured 13 killed....on Gough's Estate....same district.....Thursday three women were killed on the station bridge.*

*At the court convent one went down a well.....also Jerry, and was on show at the Golden Lion the next day. 28<sup>th</sup> Italy declares war on Greece.*

*On the night of September 17<sup>th</sup> .....the childrens liner 'City of Banares(?)' was torpedoed without warning. Enid B and her cousin Audrey M were.....lost and we had prayers for them in church on the Sunday. This was one of the liners.....taking children to safety in Canada, New Zealand, Australia etc. This one was on the way to Canada .....After this tragedy the scheme was stopped.*

*(contd.)*

*'The church hall is to be taken over by the military, so no Sunday school for the children. Jan 5 Fall of Bardia, seaport of Libya, General Wavell commanding Allied forces 70,000 Italian prisoners. At night Jerrys over 3 or more dropped near. 7<sup>th</sup> Day of 'alerts' and gunfire. ....cheese joined class of 'unofficial' rationed goods 'Only sold to registered customers' 9<sup>th</sup> Oak Farm school large hole near shelters no damage.....time bomb at H.M.V. 18<sup>th</sup> When butcher boy brought meat, said if it hadn't been ordered we might not have had any.....not enough to go round.....have all but 8d of our ration, now 1s - 1d a head. Had to carry 2 eggs home in my handbag .....no bags. Foot and mouth disease at Harefield. Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. 9 p.m. listening to the National Anthem .....lull in the night raids .....seventh night free in L. 23<sup>rd</sup> Tobruk fell after 36 hrs fighting. Prisoners numbered about 25,000. On the 29<sup>th</sup> .....proclamation calling up men of 18 and 19 and 37 to 40. Day 'alerts' Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Tues 28 Jan Infants school was destroyed, another bomb fell direct on shelter.....some children slightly injured.....school attendance officer.....received injuries from which he.....died.....As one bomb was a time bomb the road was shut, till Wed noon.....Trolley buses turned at Long Lane and.....Lees Rd and Marlborough Rd.....gas main fractured.....still under repair.*

*Alan Rowland*

## **HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting to be held at 7.30 p.m. on  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013 at The Baptist Church,  
Hercies Road, Hillingdon Circus, Middlesex

### **Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at The Baptist Church, Hercies Road
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report

*(contd.)*



6. Election of Officers:
  - a. President
  - b. Chairman
  - c. Vice-Chairman (joint)
  - d. Administrative Secretary
  - e. Treasurer
7. Executive Committee (maximum 15 members)

The following are proposed:

Jude Baker, Patricia Reynolds, Alan Rowland, Valerie Fitch & Douglas Adams

8. Appointment of Auditor
9. Any other business

Nominations for the above should be with the Administrative Secretary, Gill May by 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2013.

## **HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY 2012 A.G.M.**

Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> A.G.M. held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at:  
The Baptist Church, Hercies Road, Hillingdon Circus, Middlesex

1. Apologies for absence from Gill May, Val Fitch, Jenny Mundy, Tom Morgan & Derek Blackwell
2. Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> A.G.M. held at The Baptist Church, Hercies Road, Hillingdon on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Accepted and proposed by John Symons, seconded by Judith Baker.
3. There were no matters arising.
4. The Chairman's report (printed in the June 2012 issue of the journal) was read and accepted. Proposed by John Symons and seconded by Judith Baker.

*(contd.)*

5. The Hon. Treasurer presented the Annual Accounts. These will be printed in the June journal. Charles was thanked for his production of the accounts and acceptance was proposed by John Symons and seconded by Judith Baker.

6. The following Officers were elected:

a. President	:	Michael Gandy
b. Chairman	:	Ian Harvey
c. Vice-Chairman (joint)	:	John Symons & Joy Higgs
d. Administrative Secretary	:	Gill May
e. Treasurer	:	Charles Hampshire

All the above were proposed by Jean Gorman and seconded by Roger Howe.

A vote of thanks was expressed to Michael Gandy for continuing to be our President.

7. The following, together with the above, were elected to the Executive committee: Patricia Reynolds, Jude Baker, Alan Rowland, Valerie Fitch, Douglas Adams. All the committee were unanimously proposed by John Symons, seconded by Judith Baker.

8. Appointment of Auditor, Joe Ross. Proposed by Alan Rowland and seconded by Judith Baker.

9. Any other business. There being none the meeting was closed.

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## **A TALK — HILLINGDON AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES**

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Ken Pearce gave a talk to our 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012 meeting using as his subject the connection between Hillingdon and the Olympic Games. We give below a summary of what was an interesting evening.

London first hosted the Games in 1908, with the main events taking place at a newly-built stadium named the White City. There were just over 2000 competitors from 22 countries but there was no Olympic village. Competitors were sent a list of hotels/bed and breakfast establishments in the London area and were left to make their own accommodation arrangements. The Marathon runners from the U.S.A. knew that their race would pass through Uxbridge, so they booked into the Chequers Hotel in the High Street. (contd.)

The race started in the grounds of Windsor Castle on a hot and sunny 24<sup>th</sup> July. Uxbridge was packed with people; flags and bunting had been put up in both Windsor Street and the High Street. By the time the runners reached Uxbridge the Italian, Pietri Dorando, was lying fourth and the American, Johnny Hayes, was twelfth. Uxbridge Common was crowded, people lined the roads through Ickenham, Ruislip and Eastcote as the athletes made their way to Shepherds Bush.

The conclusion of this race was one of the notable events in Olympic history. First into the stadium staggered an exhausted Dorando. He collapsed three times during the final lap, was helped to his feet and eventually fell over the finishing line in first place. However because he had received assistance he was disqualified and the gold medal went to Johnny Hayes who had finished second. There was a wave of sympathy for the little Italian who had been denied victory by well-meaning helpers and a few days later he returned to the Stadium to receive a silver-gilt cup from Queen Alexandra.

In 1912 Uxbridge sent its first competitor to the Games, held in Stockholm. William Lupton, 27, a shop assistant in a grocery store, and a member of Uxbridge Athletic Club, was chosen to represent Great Britain in the Greco-Roman wrestling. Unfortunately he was defeated in his first bout.

Just three years after the end of World War II London was asked to host the 1948 Games and although conditions were in many ways unfavourable, the request was accepted.

Many places showed signs of the recent bombing, food and petrol were rationed and there was a shortage of building materials. It was inevitable that everything had to be accomplished as cheaply as possible and consequently the 1948 Games became known as the Austerity Games.

To build an Olympic village was out of the question, so the R.A.F. stations at Uxbridge, West Drayton and Richmond Park were hastily converted into accommodation for the athletes. R.A.F. Uxbridge was a good choice because there was already an excellent athletics stadium within the camp and the open-air swimming pool was not far away in Park Road. British competitors from the London area were asked to live at home.

*(contd.)*



The main venue was Wembley Stadium, which had in close proximity the Empire Pool. There were just over 4000 competitors from 59 countries. Most foreign athletes flew in to either Heathrow Airport, which had not long been open, or Northolt which was then a civil airport.

Rationing ensured that food was in short supply. Some countries sent food, (e.g. Denmark sent 160,000 eggs) and the Americans had food flown in daily to Heathrow. In the end no-one went short, but some were fed better than others.

On the opening day, July 29<sup>th</sup>, the Olympic flame was carried through Uxbridge and was given a civic reception at Long Bridge by the Chairman of Uxbridge Council. The torch was carried through Windsor Street, High Street and Park Road before turning on to the Western Avenue (A40) to head for Wembley.

Today those 1948 Games are regarded as a success and they even made a profit of £29,000.

Since then a number of local people have represented their country. Gold medallists include the 50km. walker Don Thompson (1960) and the middleweight boxer Chris Finnegan (1968).

Ken closed by pointing out that the Hillingdon connection will continue in 2012. The Olympic flame will pass through Hayes and Uxbridge. The Brunel University campus has been the training centre both for the South Korean athletes and the Canadian Paralympic team.

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### **A TALK – COUNTING THE PEOPLE: CENSUS RETURNS ONLINE**

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On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012 we were pleased to welcome back David Annal, this time to talk about the benefits and pitfalls of using the census for family history research.

As most of us know, a census has been taken every 10 years from 1810 and since 1841 has included names of individuals. The purpose was to provide government with population information. *(contd.)*

Once the information was abstracted the returns were stored and not always in the most satisfactory environment. As genealogy became more popular it became clear that these returns were a most valuable source of information which is still the case today.

It was decided that records over 100 years old would be made available to anyone that wishes to consult them and therefore in England, Wales and Scotland we now have censuses each 10 years from 1841 to 1911 available.

The 1841 census differs from later ones because ages are rounded, family relationships not given, and people are only shown as born in county or not. The 1851 through to 1901 censuses rectify these deficiencies and all broadly follow the same format. What we see for all these years, in essentially the same format, is the enumerators' schedules which are completed on the basis of information supplied to the enumerator by householders. Although we do not see the original returns, it is useful to look at adjacent entries to get a feel for the social make up of a street or district.

For the 1911 census however, the householders' returns themselves are available to view, in their own writing, with any corrections they may have made plain to see. It is also the first census to ask questions about people not actually shown on the census; married women are asked how long they have been married, how many children, and how many of those are still alive on the date of the census. Infant mortality remained a significant issue at this time.

Although it may not always seem so, the vast majority of people did get counted in the census. There were groups that could prove elusive, for example travellers with no fixed abode.

Whether such people did appear often depended on the tenacity of the enumerator whose job it was to record people in his district. If people were present in a field or barn on census night who were not usually there, how much effort would he make to record them? Such people were sometimes recorded, but perhaps more often not. Then there is the problem of missing returns where some of the original sheets were mislaid, damaged or otherwise lost. In the case of the 1861 census in particular some entire districts have been lost, and therefore people shown on these will never be found. *(contd.)*

Notwithstanding this the most common reason why people are not found is the poor recording of names or other details. Incorrect spelling of surnames and place names may often occur especially if they are not local and therefore unlikely to be known to the enumerator. Even if they are understood the quality of writing by the enumerators was not always up to standard and this might render names and places to be unreadable.

It is against this background that a number of transcriptions and indexes to census returns have been prepared over the years. Most people now look at those prepared by commercial companies such as Ancestry, FindmyPast and The Genealogist. Whilst undoubtedly useful, such transcriptions offer the possibility of a further layer of inaccuracy beyond that which was already present.

David then showed a series of online examples of search techniques based on Ancestry which has arguably the most controllable search and enquiry facilities available. Essentially his advice when using Ancestry is to use the “Old Search” rather than the “New Search” as the former will only display results that match the parameters that you have entered.

In addition he advises to tick the box “Exact Matches Only” for the same reason. The other main strand of his advice was not to enter too much information into the search criteria. You may well know many facts about the person you are trying to locate but it would be rash to assume that all these have been faithfully recorded on the census returns. Rather just enter essentials such as name (provided it is not too common) and approximate age.

As surnames are often prone to misspelling it might be helpful to try forename only combined with a place of birth. He also advocates the use of wildcards (\*) where a middle letter or letters in a name might have been changed, for example; for Symons entering ‘S\*mons’ will show Simons and Simmons as well as Symons.

If all else fails try a different database, e.g. FMP as each was for the most part compiled separately.

Using such techniques will not guarantee success but with a little lateral thinking will often provide positive results. We are grateful to David for providing clear directions as to how this can be achieved.

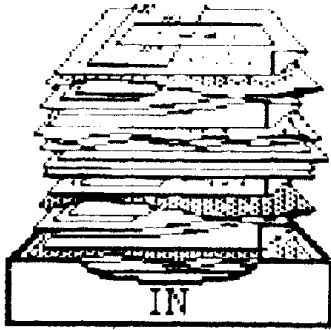
*John Symons*



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## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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It's hard to imagine that our society has been up and running for 25 years with many of us making good friends along the way.

This is our 100<sup>th</sup> edition of our journal and is the last for the current subscription year.

We hope you have enjoyed reading the journals this year and that you wish to continue your membership. Renewal of subscriptions becomes due on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 irrespective of the date of your joining. A subscription renewal form can be found inside this journal. Please send the completed form with your remittance as this enables me to keep track of the renewals. If you are paying by cheque please make it payable to Hillingdon F.H.S. and not to me, alternatively you can elect to pay by standing order. We do not issue separate receipts but your new membership card will count as your receipt.

Thank you to all who have written to me during the past year, it is lovely to hear from you all and to meet some of you at the fairs that we attended.

May I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

*Patricia Reynolds*

### **WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS**

B95 Mrs. June Barrett Email: junebarrett47@hotmail.co.uk	47 Roundle Avenue, Bognor Regis, W. Sussex. PO22 8LJ
H87 Ms. Hazel Hunter Email: hazelhunter@blueyonder.co.uk	26 Hughes Road, Hayes, Middlesex. UB3 3AW
N22 Mrs. Mary Jean Nisbet Email: benandjean@btinternet.com	Pyghtle Cottage, The Pyghtle, Denham Village, Bucks. UB9 5RD
O9 Mrs. Fiona Oakley Email: f.m.oakley@live.co.uk	26 Culvert Lane, Uxbridge, Middlesex. UB8 2XB
R51 Mrs. Jane Ryder Email: jryder@ncf.ca	530 Avalon Place Ottawa, ON Canada. K1G0W6

### **MEMBER REJOINED**

K1 Mrs. Barbara Kalopsidiotis Email: barbarak68@talktalk.net	68 Blacklands Drive, Hayes End, Middlesex. UB4 8EY
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### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

P48 Mrs. Margaret Carol Parlour Email: margparlour@btinternet.com	5 Shirley Close, Rustington, Littlehampton, West Sussex. BN16 2EG
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### **WEST MIDDLESEX F.H.S.**

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Regular meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of each month at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow and start at 7.45 pm. Meetings include talks on aspects of family or local history. In addition, many of the Society's resources and indexes are normally available for consultation from about 7.15 pm. Note that parking in the adjacent car park on Montague Road is free after 6.30 pm.

15 November, The Unwrapping of Christmas, Paul Blake  
20 December, Christmas Social and The Story of Pantomime,  
Alan Ruston

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### **HEDGERLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2012 PROGRAMME**

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Unless otherwise stated, all meetings take place at 8pm in:  
Hedgerley Memorial Hall, Kiln Lane, Hedgerley, Bucks. SL2 3UZ

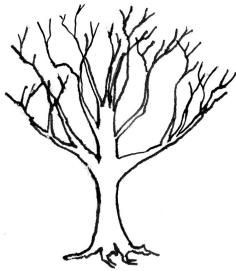
Secretary: John Lovelock, 3 Coppice Way, Hedgerley, Bucks. SL2 3YL  
Tel: 01753 647187 Email: [jdlovelock@btinternet.com](mailto:jdlovelock@btinternet.com)

October 27th (Saturday 12.00) Tickets £15. Booking required	David Wadley	Autumn Lunch & London Transport
November 21st	Sally Botwright	London Oddities Part 2
December 5th	Tony Pilmer	Georgian and Victorian Slough

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## RESEARCH BY HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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The society undertakes a limited amount of investigation on behalf of members and others.

Local investigations involving the London Borough of Hillingdon and its nine ancient parishes will generally be restricted to the sources detailed in 'Family History in Hillingdon' published by the society (at present in the process of being updated and revised).

In addition we can extend searches using the London Metropolitan Archives and the National Archives at Kew and other London record offices. We can also carry out national investigations embracing the whole of the U.K. as well as other countries worldwide.

The society charges members £5.00 per hour for pursuing such enquiries (£10.00 per hour for non-members), plus the cost of any expenses necessarily incurred such as copying, postage etc.

Those who want to make use of this service should be specific as to their requirements and should indicate clearly the upper limit of expenditure they are willing to incur. It must be appreciated that in some cases an investigation may not produce any results or may result in a negative answer, in these cases a charge will still have to be made.

Please contact the Membership Secretary or email the society, see back cover for contact information.



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## HELP LINE — BRICK WALLS DEMOLISHED?

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In this part of the journal we advertise pleas, from members and non-members, for information and assistance. If you have become “stuck” on some part of your family tree but believe that the answer may lie here in our corner of Middlesex, our local knowledge may be able to help.

Members may advertise at no cost, but a charge of £2 for each entry is made for non-members. Send your queries (with as much specific detail as possible please), together with payment, to the membership secretary:-

Mrs Patricia Reynolds,  
20 Lilac Place, Yiewsley, West Drayton,  
Middlesex UB7 8LR.

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We have received the following advertisement which may be useful to members:



**GenoCharts**

GenoCharts is a business based in Sydney (Australia) that specialises in the drafting of customised Family Trees.

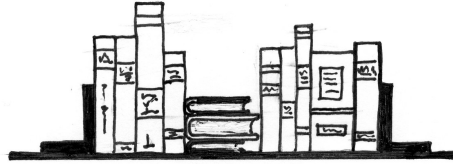
They operate an obligation free service ensuring there are no financial risks for clients.

A number of software applications are used to draft, embellish and maintain Family Trees which allow more customisation than can be achieved by basic contemporary Genealogical software applications.

They also build GEDCOM files from data supplied by clients.

Please visit **[www.genocharts.com](http://www.genocharts.com)** for more information and to view examples of their work.

# BOOK REVIEWS

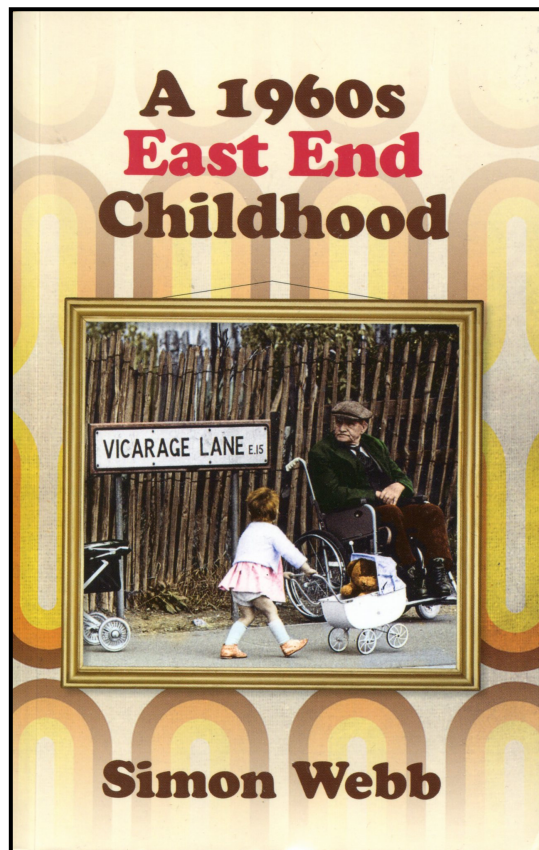


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**A 1960s East End Childhood,**  
by Simon Webb

ISBN 978 0 7524 7484 7  
The History Press, 2012, price £7.99p.

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With such a title one might be tempted to dismiss this book as just another exercise in sentimental recollection of ‘the good old days’. This however would do it a great injustice because it is totally objective, unsentimental and candid. Much of East End behaviour, for example, was explainable in terms of simple poverty and an absence of this world’s goods. Why break-in to somebody else's house if there is nothing to steal? When things that were good are described it is done with great affection but what was bad is never left out. As an historian Webb records but does not attempt any balance sheet of the good and the bad and leaves that to

the reader. This is simply how things were.

The book is arranged around a series of separate themes like Law and Order, Shops, and Health. Within these broad themes are separate sections dealing with particular aspects of the broader theme.

*(contd.)*

For example, the first section of the chapter on Playing Out is headed bombsites and building sites. Webb recognises the importance of bombsites, many of which lingered long after the war had ended and were the precursors of the supervised and sanitised adventure playgrounds that are the norm today. For children from the typical two-up, two down terraces of the East End, they were the only free, challenging, adult-free spaces literally available on the doorstep for play.

It is his perceptive, sharp analysis of the things he describes which make his book so enjoyable and unusual. His chapter on religion was particularly acute in this respect.

He calls attention to the paradoxical situation that although the average east-enders never darkened the doors of a church other than to be baptised, married or buried the influence and effects of Christianity were everywhere observable. In schools, whether church or state run, the day began with prayers and everyone could be presumed to know the Lords Prayer by heart and have an at least nodding acquaintance with the Ten Commandments. Many of the uniformed and non-uniformed youth organisations, Boys Brigades (with their marching bands), Scouts, Guides and Youth Clubs of various kinds were run by the local churches and in this way influenced the moral values and outlook of children.

Similarly, he draws attention to the importance of the informal means by which law and order was maintained, quite independently of the police. The dense social networks in which the same families lived in the same streets for many years meant that there was always someone willing and able to keep an eye on the children for half an hour or so and that any misdemeanour was observed and reported back to the parents. Strangers were instantly recognised and observed. Any adult would unhesitatingly challenge a group of teenagers doing something they shouldn't and would not expect or receive abuse in return. Such social supervision was far easier in the terraced streets of the East End than a modern tower block.

Above all, Webb is right to underline the sheer extent of social change over the last 50 years and the almost total disappearance of the physical fabric of the old East End, including the docks. With the docks moving downstream to Tilbury went the principal source of demand for unskilled labour.

*(contd.)*

Most of the physical change has been wrought not by Hitler's Luftwaffe but by municipal and governmental initiatives of various kinds. As far as social change is concerned I found the most chilling food for thought in his treatment of attitudes to the police. As a boy Webb himself had once made a disparaging remark to a passing policeman, "Wotcher, Dixon". As a consequence he had his name and address taken and a few days later his mother received a knock on the door from the police who drew attention to the fact that being cheeky to a policeman was a serious offence and young Webb must stop it. His mother cuffed him over the ear in shame and embarrassment and he never forgot it. Having himself recently witnessed an extremely ugly encounter between a group of youths and a police officer in which the policeman received spittle in the face as he was sworn at, Webb found himself amazed at the change that had taken place. We are constantly told that the past is another country. The lesson of this book is that the other country was only 50 years ago.

*Arthur Dark*

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## NAVAL – HISTORY 1998 – 2012



*Knowledge not shared is lost*

Naval-History.net has researched and published original data for 14 years, including Admiralty War Diaries and Action Reports of World War 2.

The diaries make fascinating reading in their own right. They also provide detailed movements of hundreds of ships and the men who sailed in them. To research ships and men, you can also use the search box in the top left hand side of **[www.naval-history.net](http://www.naval-history.net)**.



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## ABOUT OUR SOCIETY

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Our society welcomes all those with an interest in family history. At our monthly meetings we have a varied and balanced programme of talks by authoritative speakers. The meetings are normally held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month (excluding August and December). Even if you have no genealogical interests in Hillingdon, there is likely to be a subject of interest. Visitors are always welcome at the monthly meetings (entrance £1.00). Doors open 7.30pm.

The research room is open at each monthly meeting and in addition every Friday morning (10.00am to 1.00pm) except the Friday before the first Saturday of the month when it is open on the Saturday (10.00am to 1.00pm). Here we have five computers available and you can consult a growing collection of source material including census records, parish records and trade directories on microfiche, CD-ROMs, on-line and in print. Help is freely available and visitors are always welcome at a charge of £2 (members £1). There is no additional charge on the monthly meeting dates.

The quarterly journal, which is circulated to many other societies, is a good place in which to advertise your surname interests. Joy Higgs, our Projects Co-ordinator, is always looking for volunteers to help with sorting, indexing and transcribing our many different projects to conserve and extend genealogical knowledge. Members can borrow freely from our library which has a substantial collection of books, pamphlets and a large number of journals from other family history societies in Britain and overseas. The bookstall carries a wide ranging stock of finding aids and background material to assist you in your research.

Our website **[www.hfhs.co.uk](http://www.hfhs.co.uk)** lists the research room and monthly meeting dates all of which take place at:

Hillingdon Baptist Church,  
25 Hercies Road, Hillingdon, Middlesex. UB10 9LS

The annual membership is £12 (U.K. individual), £16 (U.K. joint if at same address), £12 (Europe, individual), £14 (Rest of the World individual). N.B. For overseas members if the journal is emailed in pdf format then the Europe and Rest of the World rates are reduced to £10.

For further details contact: Mrs. Pat Reynolds (Membership Secretary),  
20 Lilac Place, Yiewsley, Middx. UB7 8LR – Tel. 01895 444442.

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## HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

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**Please note that prices are in pounds (£) sterling and EXCLUDE postage and packing (see below).**

<b>THESE RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE ON CD – ROM</b>	<b>Cost</b>
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Baptisms 1538–1877	5.50
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Burials 1538–1877	5.50
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Marriages 1558–1841	5.50
St. Mary's Church, Harefield, Middlesex. Monumental Inscriptions.	5.50
St. Laurence Church, Cowley, Middlesex. Monumental Inscriptions.	5.50
Holy Trinity Church, Northwood, Middx. Monumental Inscriptions.	5.50
St. Martin's Church, West Drayton, Middx. Monumental Inscriptions.	5.50
The Church School, Ickenham, Middx. Pupils & Teachers 1873–1929	5.50
St. John's Church, Hillingdon, Middx. Burials 1903–1924	5.50
Ickenham Inhabitants 1841 and 1851 census transcription indexed	5.50
<b>THESE RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE AS FICHE SETS</b>	
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Baptisms 1538–1877 (set of 4)	4.00
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Burials 1538–1877 (set of 2)	2.00
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Marriages 1558–1841 (set of 1)	1.00
St. Mary's Church, Harefield, Middlesex. Monumental Inscriptions. (set of 3)	3.00
St. Laurence Church, Cowley, Middlesex. Monumental Inscriptions. (set of 2)	2.00
Holy Trinity Church, Northwood, Middx. Monumental Inscriptions. (set of 2)	2.00
St. Martin's Church, West Drayton, Middx. Monumental Inscriptions. (set of 1)	1.00
The Church School, Ickenham, Middx. Pupils & Teachers 1873–1929 (set of 2)	2.00
Middlesex Sessions Records (Hillingdon Extracts) (set of 2)	2.00

Please add postage and packaging as follows:

For each set of fiche..... 45p  
 For each CD-ROM to UK address..... 65p  
 For airmail to overseas addresses.....Email Mrs. G. May for costs.

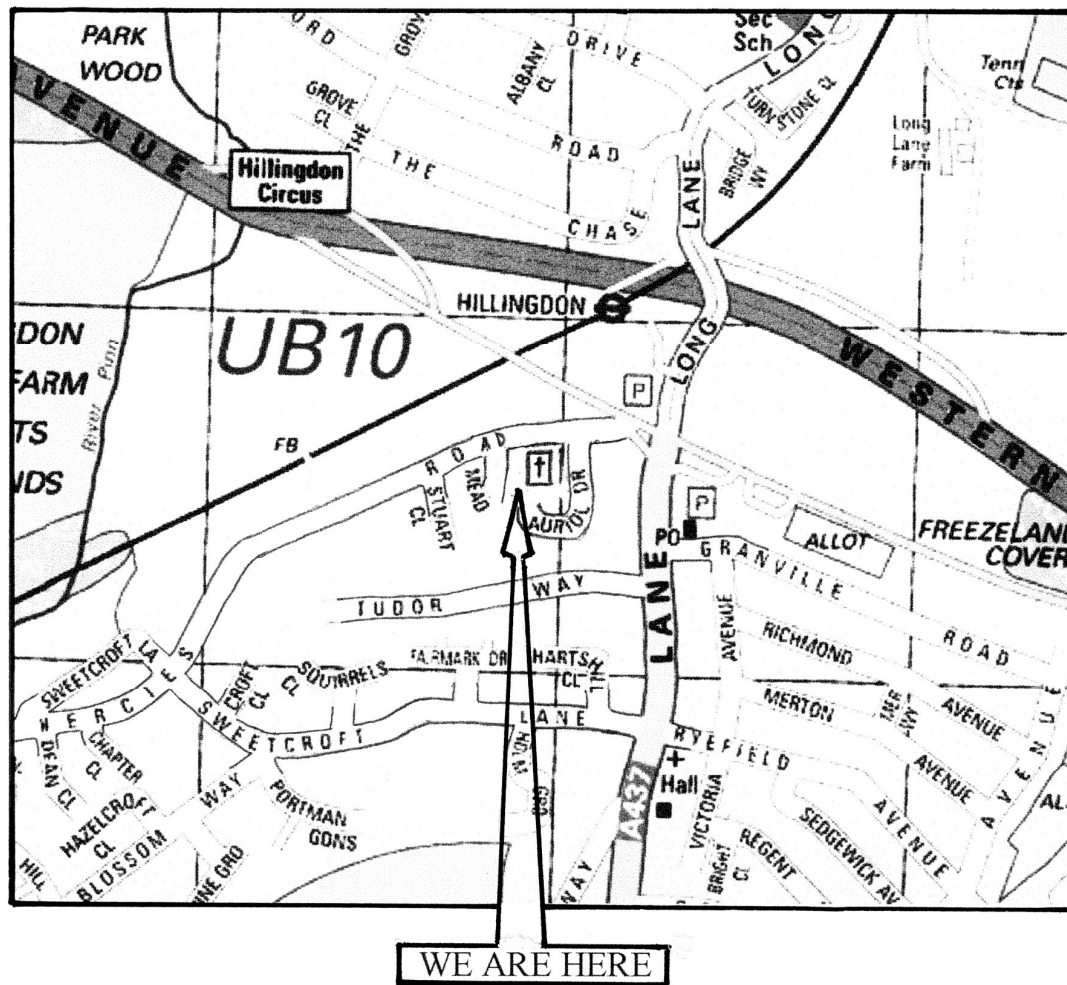
Cheques should be in pounds STERLING, crossed A/C payee and made payable to Hillingdon Family History Society.

The publications can be obtained from the Publications Officer:

Mrs. Gill May, 20 Moreland Drive, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 8BB  
 Telephone: **01753 885602** Email: **[gillmay@dial.pipex.com](mailto:gillmay@dial.pipex.com)**

or alternatively visit these on-line bookshops:

**[www.parishchest.com](http://www.parishchest.com)** and **[www.genfair.com](http://www.genfair.com)**



(The geographical centre of Hillingdon)

Hillingdon Park Baptist Church, 25 Hercies Road, Hillingdon  
(car park at rear of church accessed from Auriol Drive).

There is also a public car park on the eastern side of Long Lane (access between the Co-op & the Chinese take away restaurant, or via the exit slip road off the A40 from London). The nearest L.T. station is Hillingdon and there is a U2 bus stop on Hercies Road outside the Church. Please note that the main entrance to the building is on the side of the Church. Our Research Room is on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and is open one morning each week (Friday or the first Saturday of the month) as well as at our monthly meetings. A bulletin issued at every monthly meeting gives the opening dates of the Research Room. The Society does not meet or open the Research Room during August.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

### **Officers**

President	Michael Gandy, B.A., F.S.G.	
Chairman.	Ian Harvey 24 The Avenue, Ickenham, Middx UB10 8NP	01895 635230
Vice Chair	John Symons 11 Wye Close, Ruislip, Middx. HA4 7RQ	01895 677722
Vice Chair	Joy Higgs 16 Hyacinth Drive, Uxbridge, Middx. UB10 9QW	01895 272745
Secretary	Gill May 20 Moreland Drive, Gerrards Cross, Bucks. SL9 8BB	01753 885602
Treasurer	Charles Hampshire 4 Barrington Drive, Harefield, Middx. UB9 6RL	01895 821351

### **Executive Committee**

Librarian	Valerie Fitch 43 Doncaster Drive, Northolt, Middlesex. UB5 4AT	0208 864 4980
Membership	Patricia Reynolds 20 Lilac Place, Yiewsley, W. Drayton, Middx. UB7 8LR	01895 444442
Programme	Judith Baker 14 Appledore Avenue, South Ruislip, Middx. HA4 OUU	0208 5822705
Projects	Joy Higgs 16 Hyacinth Drive, Uxbridge, Middx. UB10 9QW	01895 272745
Publicity	Charles Hampshire 4 Barrington Drive, Harefield, Uxbridge, Middx UB9 6RL	01895 821351
Magazine Editors.	John Symons, Tom Morgan, Alan Rowland	
Webmaster.	Doug Adams	
Book Reviews	Arthur Dark 74 Breakspear Rd. South, Ickenham, Middx. UB10 8HE	01895 639168
Website:	<b>www.hfhs.co.uk</b>	E-mail: <a href="mailto:hillingtonfhs@onetel.com">hillingtonfhs@onetel.com</a>



## **GREATER LONDON**



**Nine ancient Middlesex parishes  
were incorporated into the new  
London Borough of Hillingdon :**

**Cowley, Harefield, Harlington,  
Harmondsworth, Hayes, Hillingdon,  
Ickenham, Ruislip and West Drayton**

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON**

**The original records and registers  
for these parishes are now kept at:  
London Metropolitan Archives,  
40 Northampton Road, Clerkenwell  
London. EC1R 0HB**

**Hillingdon today embraces a mixture of Greater London suburbs, ancient and modern, large and small, each with its own distinctive identity. Heathrow Airport lies at the Southern end of the borough. Other localities in the Borough include Colham Green, Eastcote, Longford, Northwood, Ruislip Manor, Sipson, South Ruislip, Uxbridge, Yeading and Yiewsley.**

# THE FUTURE

A number of members have taken up the recent option of having their journal sent by email in PDF format. This gives them a number of advantages e.g. if any of the pictures used to produce the journal are in colour then that is how they appear in the PDF version; if the member has difficulty reading the A5 printed journal, in PDF they can always increase the size of the pages and consequently the print size.

They also receive their copy immediately without having to wait for surface mail to arrive. Of course if any article or feature is of particular interest it can easily be printed for others to read. Storage space is not required as the journals can be downloaded from the computer to either a CD or a memory stick both of which will store innumerable copies.

This is a facility that provides a useful addition to our service to you and as more members acquire computers the number taking the PDF version will probably increase.

We do not however anticipate that we will ever reach the position when the production of the printed journal is not produced. We have noticed concerns expressed by other Family History Societies about the growth of 'e journals' (i.e. in PDF format), but we see this as an opportunity to expand our service to members and hope that those who use it find it helpful.

All of this however does not mean that the traditionally produced journal no longer has a place. The printed format is something that can be easily carried with you to read anywhere and it can be 'dipped' into whilst relaxing with the morning coffee or on a journey

We feel that there is a place for both versions and whichever you choose we do hope that you find something of interest in each edition.

You may have noticed the only other change to our cover pages, it is of course the Hillingdon Eagle. We changed to the stylised form because the original image was not sharp enough for use on our advertising banners.



*Our original Eagle*



*Our new Eagle*