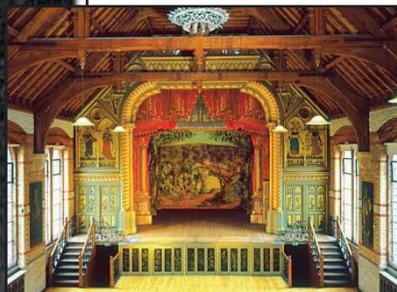
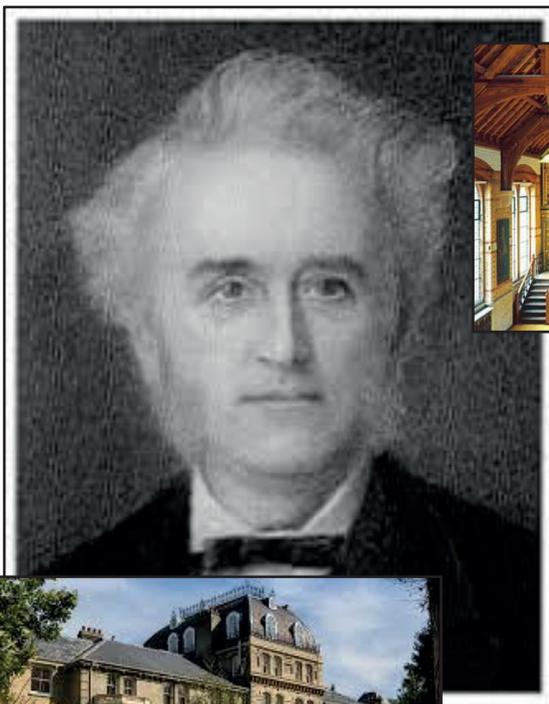




# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

VOL 35 No.3

September 2017



*Normansfield  
Theatre*

*John Langdon  
Down*

*Normansfield  
Hospital*



# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

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The following talks have been arranged:

21 Sep Heir Hunting – The Real Deal

*Kirsty Gray*

19 Oct Dig for Victory

*Russell Bowers*

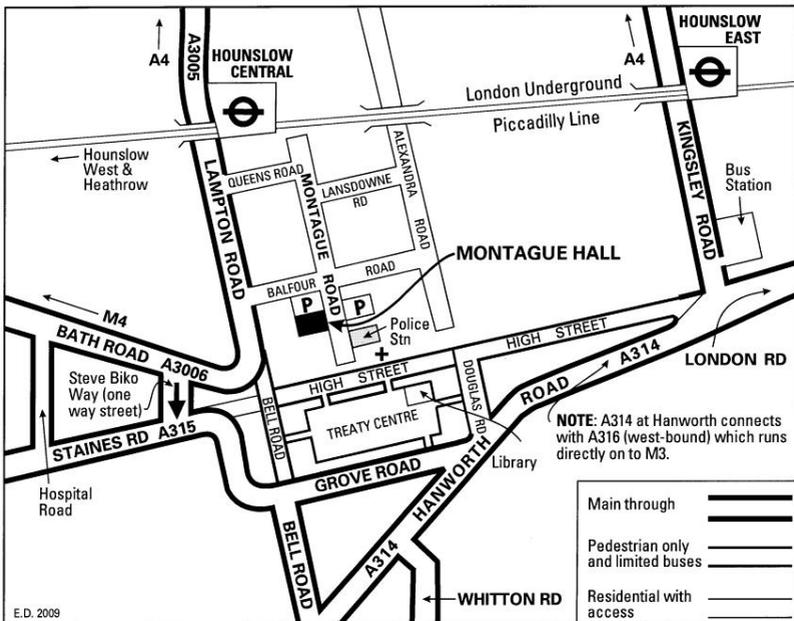
16 Nov Tracing Your Military Ancestors

*Various*

21 Dec Christmas Celebrations

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow, TW3 1LD, and doors open at 7.15pm. Parking is available adjacent to the Hall.

Reference books, exchange journals from other societies and a bookstall – all can be browsed between 7.30 and 10pm (talks take place between 8pm and 9pm), and tea/coffee, or a cold drink, and biscuits are also available. Fully accessible.





### Mary Bickle

We have had a generous donation from the estate of Mary BICKLE of £100. The Committee has agreed to use this money to sponsor the cost of a speaker at an Isleworth 390 event to be held later this year.

### Family History Fairs

I apologise for incorrect information that appeared in the June Journal listing of Family History Fairs. The Richmond Full of Life Fair will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October, we believe it will be held at the Twickenham Rugby Ground, NOT The Stoop, and entry is only free to those who are resident in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

Please note that we hope to attend the Open Day of the Hampshire Genealogical Society, the first time we have had a presence with this Society.

The Family History Show at Sandown Park Racecourse is a new venture, run by the same company who host the very successful York Family History Fair, so it will be well worth attending. They are advertising it as the "London Family History Fair" and there will be many societies exhibiting.

Do join us at one of these venues.

### SITUATIONS VACANT

Would you like to join the Committee of the West Middlesex Family History Society?

We need a Vice-Chairman and will need a new Treasurer next year. We would welcome at least two more members 'without portfolio'.

Would you like to join our team who go to Family History Fairs? It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other family historians and to spread the word about our own Society. Also it is an opportunity to visit the stalls of other exhibiting family history societies.

Car drivers would be very welcome.

If you feel you could fill one of these vacancies, please contact the Secretary and the Treasurer.

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## FROM TIPPERARY TO EALING VIA HAMMERSMITH BRIDGE

*Ian Kitson*

---

In July 1819, the recruiting sergeants of the Rifle Brigade were in County Tipperary, Ireland, looking for young men who would take the King's shilling and serve him, his heirs and successors, until lawfully discharged. One young man who answered the call was my great great grandfather, James POWER, an 18 year old, who gave his occupation as a farmer

James POWER duly served his King, and later Queen, until 1844, when at the age of 41 and with the rank of Colour Sergeant, he was lawfully discharged, having been declared unfit for the active duties of a soldier by virtue of his chronic rheumatism, caused by long service and climate. As such he became an Out Pensioner of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, who at that time were responsible for the payment of pensions to former soldiers. The splendid gentlemen who wear the scarlet coats are the In Pensioners, whilst those who simply received a cash pension, were termed Out Pensioners.

In 1838, James POWER married Harriet AITKIN, the daughter of William AITKIN, a Dockyard Inspector, and by the time of his discharge their family numbered two boys and a girl, so with a growing family to support some form of further employment was clearly necessary. At first he found a role as a Hospital Steward at Parkhurst Hospital on the Isle of Wight, where he is shown in the 1851 census with his family having increased by another boy and two more girls. The hospital subsequently closed and he found himself seeking further employment, and thus became Chief Toll Collector to the Hammersmith Bridge Company.

I had long wondered how he came to be employed in this capacity, having no obvious connection with West London. Looking through the company's Rough Minute Books, held at the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham's Archives, I found that the Chairman of the Company was a Major Charles BOILEAU and further research revealed that Major BOILEAU's regiment had been the Rifle Brigade. Clearly the Rifles looked after their own. I have not been able to ascertain the exact date his service with The Hammersmith Bridge Company commenced, he is however shown as residing at The Toll House, Bridge Road, Hammersmith, in the 1861 census: his family had now grown to a total of 12 children, although only 6 were still living with him and his wife.

The Hammersmith Bridge Company had been established in 1824, with construction of the Bridge commencing the following year to a design by William Tierney CLARK (1783-1852). He was also the engineer to the West Middlesex Water Company and was responsible for the Széchenyi Chain Bridge across the

Danube in Budapest, Hungary, for which Marlow Bridge is a nearly identical, but smaller prototype. William Tierny CLARK, originally from Bristol, lived and died in Hammersmith and his memorial in St. Paul's parish church shows an outline of his design for the original bridge, which was the first suspension bridge across the Thames.

*The Times* reported that the foundation stone was laid with great ceremony on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 1825, by His Royal Highness, The Duke of Sussex, in front of a crowd of 10,000 people. A numerous company then retired to the Hammersmith Hotel and Coffee House, where an excellent dinner was served and loyal and other toasts were drunk and the evening was spent in conviviality.

Sadly there were no similar festivities when the Bridge was formally opened to traffic on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1827. Originally it had been planned that their Royal Highnesses, the Dukes of Clarence and Sussex would attend, together with other dignitaries: the



*The 'Old' Hammersmith Bridge*

Duke of Wellington and the Marquis of Landsdowne among them, with other noblemen and gentlemen of distinction also invited. The Duke of Clarence was, however, engaged with official business, whilst the other invitees, save for the Duke of Sussex, had committed to previous engagements. With only the Duke of Sussex, who was due to leave town that evening, it was felt that it was too much to put His Royal Highness to the fatigue and trouble of going through it all. Instead, at six-o'clock in the morning, crowds assembled from all directions, both above and below, presenting a most animated scene with the Thames literally covered with boats.

Although the original proposal to construct the Bridge had met with some local opposition, it was clearly a profitable concern. Revenue from tolls in 1850 amounted to between £50 and £60 per week. Using a table which can be found on the Bank of England's website, this would amount to between £6,176 and £7,412 today. By 1867, the tolls were amounting to between £100 and £188 per week: £10,274 to £19,315 at today's values. In 1866, the directors were recommending a dividend of 42/- per share, [or £2.10p.], equal to around £247

today. The Act of Parliament which authorised the construction of the Bridge also required that every Michaelmas accounts be produced for audit before the Justices of the Peace at Surrey Quarter Sessions.

Given that the Bridge opened in 1827, James POWER was clearly not the first Chief Toll Collector. It may be that there had not been one, but as traffic increased it was felt that a greater degree of order needed to be brought, as the Bridge must have been a very busy place. Not only were people, horses, carriages and wagons crossing but also there were people and cargo alighting from barges on the river and making their way to land using the company piers. There were also those who wished to watch the various rowing regattas held on the Thames and the company was not slow to cash in, on some occasions erecting seating on the Bridge and charging spectators for its use.

Several toll collectors would have been needed to be employed and one, 20 year old John WATTS, from Hemel Hempstead, is shown lodging with James POWER and his family at Bridge Road Toll House in the 1861 census.

By July 1868, James POWER's health was clearly failing and at a meeting of the Committee of Management, held on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 1868, it was resolved that:

The Committee having taken under consideration the failing state of health of James Power the companies [sic] Chief Toll collector it was ordered that the committee must of necessity take measures at the next meeting for appointing his successor. The secretary to obtain an assistant toll collector.

The Committee of Management met again on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> August 1868, where they further resolved that:

In consequence of Mr. Power's continuing ill health it was resolved that the Chief Tollman be called upon to resign.

In consequence of which, James POWER wrote the following letter, which was entered into the minutes.

Suspension Bridge  
Hammersmith

To the Bridge Committee  
Gentlemen

In consequence of my increasing ill health incapacitating me from fulfilling the duties of Collector at the Suspension Bridge I am under the painful necessity of tendering my resignation and trust that my faithful service of seventeen years will be met with your favourable consideration.

I remain Gentlemen  
Your humble servant

James Power

The committee, to their credit, did not forget their Chief Toll Collector's faithful service and at their meeting on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, resolved that he would be paid his wages up until the following Saturday and that he be awarded a gratuity of £50: £5,137 in today's values.

As for the Bridge, the secretary having been previously instructed, the following advertisement was placed in *The Times*, *The Standard* and *The Daily Telegraph*.

Tollman Wanted. The Directors of the Hammersmith Bridge Company are prepared to receive applications for the position of Chief Toll Collector. Wages 35/- per week, [£1.75p.] house rent and taxes free. Age from 30-40. Security for £300 required.

To put these sums into context, £1.75 would equate to £179 today, whilst the security would be for £30,822.

The same meeting that accepted James POWER's resignation went on to consider the 106 candidates who had applied and all applications and their testimonials were examined by the committee. Of these 12 were selected for interview by the committee, 11 of whom subsequently attended for interview and were interrogated by the committee as to their qualifications. Following the casting of votes for each candidate, Edmund CALDOW was appointed.

James POWER and his family, which by now consisted of his wife and two youngest children, Frances born 1855 and David born 1857, moved from their tied house at the Bridge (that house was subsequently demolished to make way for the new Bridge) to a house in Western Road, Ealing. That house was demolished, this time to make way for the Ealing Broadway Centre. James POWER died there on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1869, his death certificate records the cause of death as: "Paralysis Two Years". Living and working in the cold, damp environment of the River cannot have helped a person already suffering from a rheumatic condition. He was buried on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 1870, in the churchyard of St. Mary's Parish Church, Ealing. A long way from Tipperary.

His wife, Harriet, died in December the same year and is also buried in the churchyard of St. Mary's. As for his two youngest children, the 1871 census shows Frances and David living with their eldest brother, also named James, in a house on the Euston Road.

Edmund CALDOW did not enjoy as long a period of tenure as his predecessor, as by 1881 he was working as a cashier at a meat depot. The Bridge, too, was beginning to experience difficulties, as by the 1870s it was felt not to be strong enough to support the weight of heavy traffic and that year there was alarm when 11,000-12,000 people crowded on to it in order to watch the University Boat Race.

There was also a growing demand for the bridges across the Thames to be made toll-free and in 1877, the Metropolis Toll Bridges Act was passed, making the

bridges across the Thames in London free of tolls for ever. The last three bridges to be made toll-free were Wandsworth, Putney and Hammersmith and on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1880, His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, processed over the three bridges, stopping at each one to make a short speech. The cost of taking Hammersmith Bridge into public ownership was eventually settled at £112,500, although the company had claimed £200,000: these sums equate to £11,981,690 and £21,395,876 at today's values, respectively.

On taking the bridges into public ownership, the chief engineer of the Metropolitan Board of Works, Sir Joseph BAZALGETTE (1819-1891), was instructed to inspect the state of all the bridges and return them to a safe and serviceable condition. All were found to be in a generally woeful condition but three of them – Putney, Battersea and Hammersmith – were considered not to be worth saving and Sir Joseph BAZALGETTE was instructed to design new ones.

Although the Hammersmith Bridge was widely admired by engineers and the public alike, it was too narrow for the traffic of the ensuing decades. The two towers were only 14 feet wide and insufficient for the new modes of transport, such as the horse-drawn omnibuses, to travel in both directions without danger to pedestrians. Despite the original Hammersmith Bridge having been built at a time when suspension bridge technology was in its infancy, the new Bridge was able to be built on William Tierney CLARK's original foundations.

The new Bridge was opened in the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1881, by Prince Albert Victor, accompanied by his father, the Prince of Wales, and remains in use to this day.



*'New' Hammersmith Bridge*

Images: wordpress.com      getwestlondon

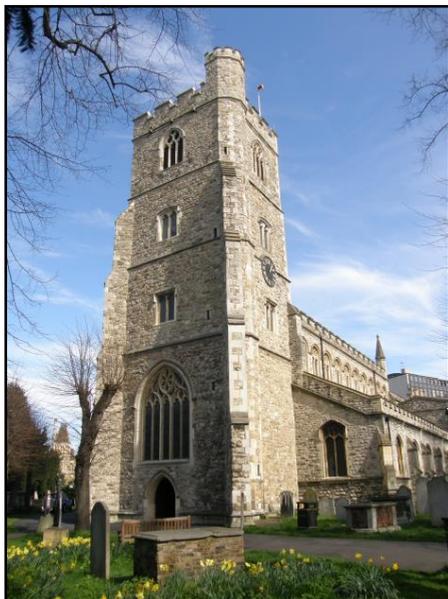
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## MATCHING THE GRAVESTONES AT ALL SAINTS, FULHAM

*Roland Bostock*

---

When I joined the Society in 2011, it was always my intention to get out into the churchyards of our area and do some recording of the gravestone inscriptions for the general benefit of those of us who enjoy doing family history. I have had a very good time.



*All Saints, Fulham*

Project Manager, Brian PAGE, was soon assigning me some churches to check out, which we had not visited before and then there were some where we had started but not completed the task. It was only more recently that Brian showed me what we had collected and prepared for All Saints, Fulham, which was markedly different from the other churches.

Whereas we had prepared Memorial Inscription (MI) documents for all the other churches, in the case of All Saints, Fulham, it was a CD that had been prepared, with a view to selling it, although we never actually sold any. The material for the CD was a copy of a document by Dr. Thomas James WOODHOUSE, entitled, *A Registry of Tombs in Fulham Church and Churchyard*. It was a substantial

document of 265 pages, all written in a clear hand, and dated 1887. A copy of the document had been obtained from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives, who gave us permission to create and sell the CD. All this was in 2009. One distinct limitation of the document is that it had no layout of the graves.

I was stimulated by the idea of checking out the graveyard at All Saints, with a view to identifying the graves as found to Dr WOODHOUSE's book and should the gravestone be hard to read, as many proved to be, I could immediately fall back on providing the inscription as recorded by Dr. WOODHOUSE.

I visited the Parish Office, where I met with their local historian, Vernon BURGESS, and he immediately supported the project, and was content also that

the completed work would also be added to our collection of MIs searchable on the internet through FindMyPast.

For the rest of this article, I highlight some of the more interesting among the memorials.

### **The rebuilding of the church.**

Perchance, one of the first memorials I checked out was a wooden panel placed high in the porch of the church. It certainly required a ladder to get close enough to read what was written, which turned out to be a record of the rebuilding of the church in 1881, after the church had *lapsed into a state of decay*, being also *subject to floods from the River Thames*. Hence in the rebuilding the *floor of the nave has been raised by 2 feet and 9 inches above the former level*.

### **The Bishop's Window**

The church has many fine stained glass windows, which I duly scanned for memorial inscriptions, of which there were a few, but the window which I found most striking in its general decoration and grandeur is the large window at the west end of the church, which I am calling the Bishop's window. It is a window celebrating notable clergymen associated with the church. There are five columns of colourful mitres and coats of arms identify the clergymen: two are Archbishops of Canterbury, five are Bishops of London and the remaining four are vicars of the church.



*The Bishop's Window*

The photo (best in colour in the website copy of the Journal) shows the bottom part of the first two columns. The words on the left are, *Fred. Hor: Fisher, Hujus Ecc. Vic*, which refers to Frederick Horatio FISHER, Vicar of this church (1872-1890). While on the right it says, *Johannis Epus Lond*, which celebrates John ROBINSON, Bishop of London (1714-1723).

### **17 generations of the MORDAUNT family**

An unusual memorial in the church is to be found beneath the tower, at the west end. It celebrates, *John Mordaunt, younger son of John, Count of St. Petersburg, from the family of Mordaunts, which for six centuries flourished in an unbroken line, first in Normandy and then here in England*. Just to prove the point, as part



*The Mordaunt memorial and family tree*

of the memorial arrangement there is an oval plaque depicting 17 generations of the family, covering those six centuries. That is quite a gift to anyone researching the MORDAUNT line.



*Benjamin Wych's gravestone*

**Resting place of Samuel Barrow's memorial**

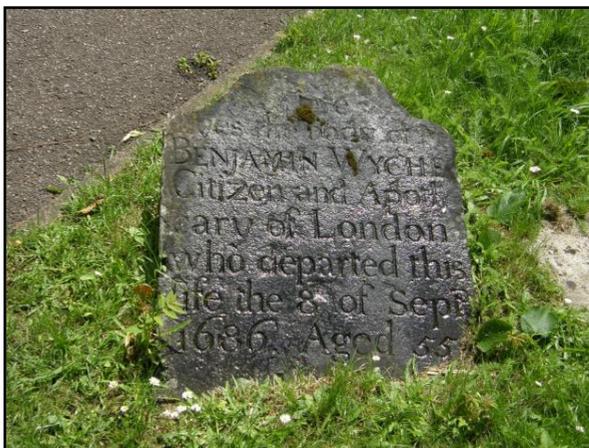
It was while identifying the memorials in the churchyard, in a quite secluded part, that I came across a memorial which certainly looked out of place. When you look at the photograph of the memorial you can, in fact, see that it looks like it was cemented into a floor at one time, and

so it was. There in the leafy churchyard was one of the very few gravestones included by Dr. WOODHOUSE as being in the floor of the church, which I had not found, but here it was resting outside. Immediately you will see that the

stone itself is in very good condition. Beneath the coat of arms the inscription is in Latin and is a lengthy memorial to the life of one, Samuel BARROW, M.D., who died in the year 1682.

### Other 17<sup>th</sup> century stones

Apart from Samuel BARROW, whose memorial was protected by being inside the church for most of its time, there are a further eight memorials in the churchyard dating from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. One of these, for Benjamin WYCHE, who died in 1686, is in a prominent position next to a main path and is remarkably easy to read to this day.



*Samuel Barrow's gravestone*

This is mainly due to the

quality of the stone they used at that time but they also kept the inscriptions short and with large lettering cut deep into the stone, all of which have contributed to their lasting eligibility.

### Stone decorations



*William Oliver's gravestone*

Another feature of the older stones is the somewhat ghoulish choice of decoration that is frequently to be found at the top of headstones. This stone for William OLIVER, who died in 1744, is a fine example, where you can still pick out the hour glass above the skull, the thigh bones and crossed palm leaves.

### Identifying headstones by their footstones or descriptions

The above stones may make it look like it was an easy task to identify the stones that we came across (Yvonne MASSON having joined me for much of the outdoor research) but there were many

where it was hard or impossible to read even a single word. In several cases it was the footstone which enabled us to make the identification. As those familiar with

graveyards will know, the convention of a footstone is that it lists the initials and the year of death for each of the deceased mentioned on the headstone. The footstone is often more sheltered than its headstone and can often be read when the headstone itself is illegible and we did indeed use footstones to successfully identify several of the graves.



*Edmund Gibson's gravestone*

tomb as having “an ornamental frame with winged heads” on its north and south sides, we knew we had found the right one.

Another grave identified entirely from its description was a headstone described as having, “a cyanthus with crossed palm branches” at the top. I had to look up *Wikipedia* before I knew what a cyanthus should look like but I knew it was the right stone once I had done so.

### **A grave with impact**

All Saints Fulham has plenty of large memorials, particularly what are usually called ‘altar tombs’. These would have been protected by their railings before the railings were taken away for their iron content during World War II but they are now more accessible and most have weathered well. One such tomb that particularly caught my attention is the memorial to Sir Frances Child. He was Alderman and President of Christ Church Hospital and in 1699 was the Lord Mayor of London: hence the display of his regalia of office. What you see is a ceremonial cap placed above a sword and mace, all in high relief.



*Francis Child's gravestone*

If you are ever near Fulham, do take a walk round All Saints churchyard, it is a most pleasant place and you can see the memorials illustrated here for yourself.

*This is a slightly edited version of the original article first printed in the Journal, Vol.8 No.2, June 1990, by Pat Johnston. Much of the material was drawn from an article in the Southall-Norwood Gazette, printed 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1898. I have updated some of the most tortuous old fashioned English but the rest I have left to give a flavour of the original article.*

Hanwell was named for a spring that rises at a point which is now just behind the 13<sup>th</sup> tee of Brent Valley Golf Course. The Parish is a strip of land some four miles long and nearly a mile wide, leading north from the Thames with the River Brent forming the Western and Northern boundaries. Hanwell covered 992 acres, it also included a detached part covering 74 acres, two miles to the east, the other side of Ealing parish, on the north slope of Hanger Hill running down to the Brent – now the site of the Hanger Lane Giratory System. The land was originally demesne woodland attached to the ancient manor of Greenford and Hanwell. It probably belongs in Hanwell parish from a manorial tenure.

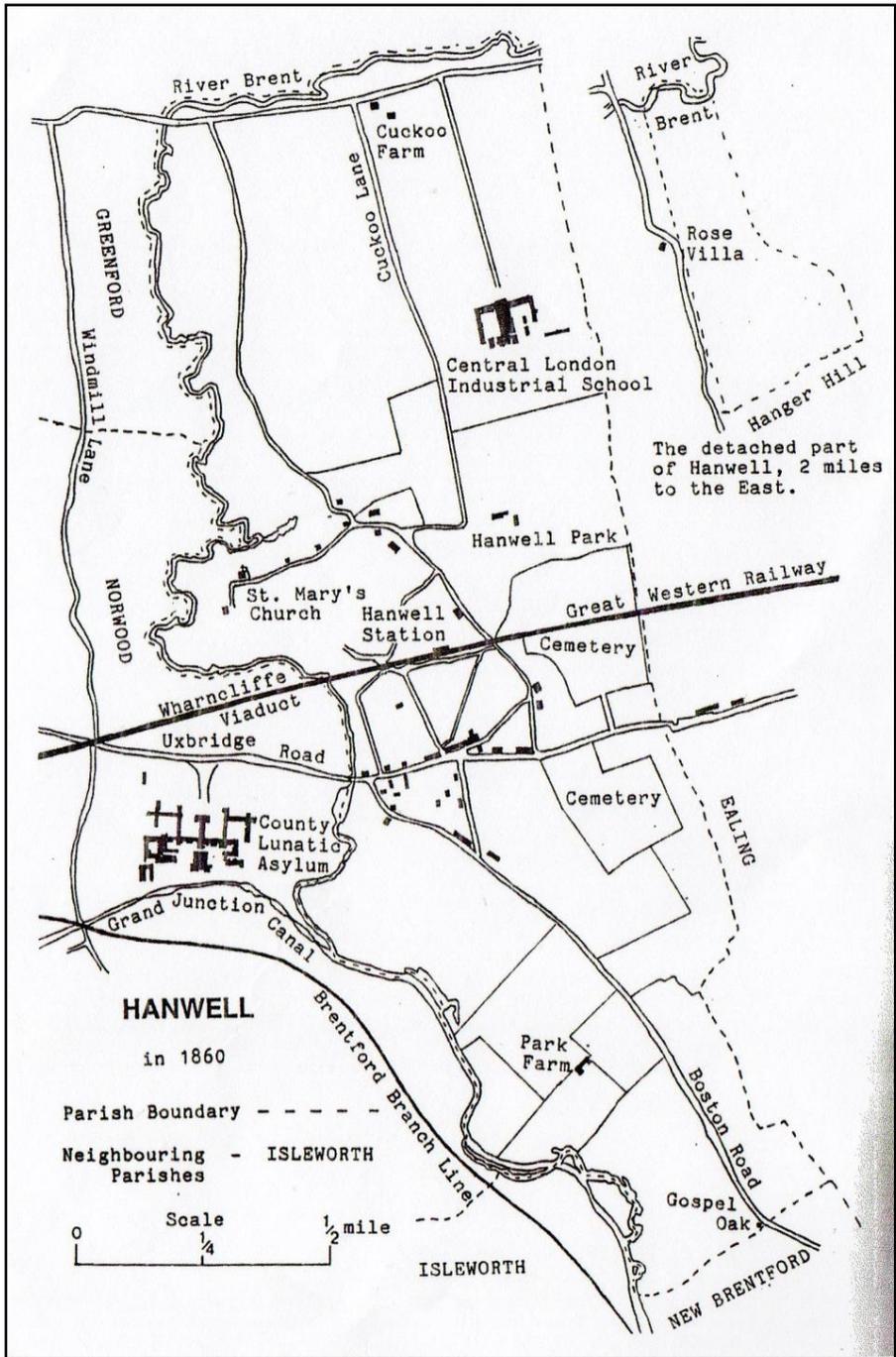
### **Hanwell under the Plantagenets**

A writer describing London in the time of Henry II said that close by to Hanwell was an immense forest, abounding in game of all sorts, including boars and wild bulls. This description would no doubt apply to the greater portion of the parish at the time, the forest alternating with open heath districts which existed until quite recently, one of which is perpetuated in the name “Heath House” in the Boston Road. At this time New Brentford formed part of the parish of Hanwell and the church of St. Lawrence in that town was then a chapel-of-ease affiliated to Hanwell Church. The original building dates back to the latter end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century: one of the family of BERKELEYS who died in 1189, having been buried in it. The church still boasts a bell supposed to be one of the earliest cast in England.

John de THORYNDEN, inducted into the church of Hanwell in 1355, is said to have been the first priest who served both cures, although it is doubtful if there were not earlier ones. Glancing backwards forty years, we find London and its vicinity between 1314 and 1317 suffering terribly from famine.

### **Tudor Hanwell**

On the dissolution of the monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII, the Manor and Church of Hanwell were given to the See of Westminster. When that See was eventually abolished, they reverted to the Crown. In 1523, when Henry VIII required a loan to carry on the war with France and Scotland, Hanwell, like its neighbour Ealing, doubtless had to contribute. The assessment was 10% on incomes £200-£300 and, anticipating a graduated income tax, was a higher rate



for larger incomes. It is an interesting fact that some of the rent rolls of Boston Manor, bearing the date 1329, are still in existence. Edward VI, in 1547, granted the Boston Manor – part of which is in Hanwell – to Edward, Duke of Somerset. In the reign of Mary, the Sovereign gave the Manor and Church of Hanwell to the Bishop of London and his successors for ever. In 1529 Boston Manor was sold to Sir Thomas GRESHAM, the founder of the Royal Exchange.

It was Queen Elizabeth who ordered that her subjects once a year, accompanied by the curate and principal inhabitants, walk round the boundaries of the parish, or “beat the bounds” as it came to be called. This usually happened on Ascension Day and it was customary at certain convenient places to stop and read the Gospel for the day, hence the name, Gospel Oak (*see map*). In 1777, one of these oaks stood on the boundary between Ealing and Hanwell, near the present Boston Manor Tube Station, until the late 1920s.

It is thought that SHAKESPEARE was an occasional visitor to a Brentford Inn which was kept by one of his actors.

### **The Stuart Period**

James I, in 1617, published a *Book of Sports* by which certain recreations were allowed on the Lord’s Day, and the clergy were ordered to read this book in their churches. In 1620, the poor rates were in great part raised by the profits made on these public games. Later the rates were increased by the provision of land for recreation and Hanwell has had experience of both methods of raising revenue. The new recreation ground, from its proximity to the church, may well have served this purpose. Whitsun appears to have been the season of the year when these sports assumed their greatest popularity.

The building of the Boston Manor House began in 1622. In 1670 the estate was purchased by James CLITHEROW, who completed the building of the house in 1670, and whose descendants still held it at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In all probability the portion of King’s Farm in the Boston Road, which was in this parish, had been in the possession of one family longer than any other land in Hanwell.

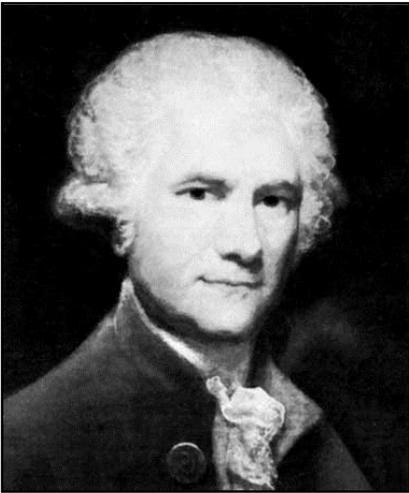


*Boston Manor House*

## Hanwell in the Eighteenth Century

The first year of the century saw the Parliamentary elections for the county, which had hitherto been held on Hampstead Heath but had been transferred to Brentford. An un-named writer at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century wrote, "It is impossible for any but those who have witnessed a Middlesex election to conceive the picture it exhibited; it was a continued scene of riot, disorder and tumult". How many heated discussions must have been heard in the inns of Hanwell during the famous contests of 1768 and 1769, when John WILKES attacked George III and his Prime Minister in the radical paper *North Briton*.

The Rector of Hanwell enjoyed the Brentford tithes from the time of their separation from Boston Manor until 1723, when under the scheme of Queen Anne's Bounty, a portion of them were allotted to St. Lawrence. In 1744 the small tithes were also appropriated to the new living and St. Lawrence became a vicarage and the Parish Church of New Brentford.



*John Horne Tooke*

In the middle of the century a widely-known personage was intimately connected with the village in the person of the eccentric John Horne TOOKE, the author of *The Diversions of Purley*, a book of etymology. In 1760, at the age of 24, he was ordained priest of the Church of England, and served as assistant minister under the Rector of Hanwell, the Rev. BURNABY, for nine years. He studied medicine, the better to enable him to assist the sick poor. He resigned his clerical office in 1773, and after repeated disappointments entered Parliament as member for Old Sarum, a seat he held until the Act disqualifying those in holy orders was passed. His mortal remains lie in the old churchyard at Ealing.

Robbery and murder were by no means infrequent in the neighbourhood at this period. A broadsheet dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 1747, is still extant giving a full account of the murder of a farmer of Oxendon (Horsendon) Hill, and the subsequent examination and commitment of the perpetrators before the Right Hon. The Worshipful Justice CLITHERO.

In 1777 the portion of Hanwell south of the Uxbridge Road was called South Common Field, that to the north, North Common Field. Hanwell Park was then the property of H. BANNS, Esq.

## The Nineteenth Century and First Half of the Twentieth Century

The main road through the parish was the Uxbridge Road, carrying the traffic from London to Oxford and beyond. In the opening years of the nineteenth century it was in such a state that it was a day's work for three horses to take a load of hay to London, the roadway frequently having to be mended with the aid of branches of trees, and the carters sometimes considered themselves fortunate if they got to their journey's end at all. It was turnpiked in 1714. The Boston Road ran north-south through the parish, down to Brentford.

Two great transport links connect with the parish: the Grand Union Canal, built in 1798, joins the River Brent just below Uxbridge Road. BRUNEL's Great Western Railway was built through the parish in 1838, and crossed the parish north of the Oxford Road (the line that is now the Piccadilly Tube line, just crept along the southern edge). The viaduct BRUNEL built across the valley of the Brent is a magnificent sight from the parish, though not actually in it. The main inn, on the Uxbridge Road, then called the Coach and Horses, was renamed the Viaduct Inn in its honour.

The novelist, poet, playwright and politician Edward BULWER-LYTTON, while a schoolboy in Ealing, fell in love and was wont to meet his 'inamorata' in the "green sequestered meadows through which the humble Brent crept along its snake-like way", to quote his own words. The Hanwell parish road from Perivale to Greenford must often have been the route of these rambles. [BULWER-LYTTON coined the phrase, "the pen is mightier than the sword."]

In 1831 the volunteer movement stirred the air and Hanwell then, as now [1898] contributed its quota of nation's defenders. The elite of its society would, at the same period, be visitors to Ealing Park, to admire Mrs. LAWRENCE's beautiful gardens, then in the zenith of their fame.

There was some building after the railway opened in 1838, but one of the greatest changes in the parish was the building of the London District School for pauper children in 1856.

There has been a church at Hanwell from at least the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The present building, in a curve of the Brent in the north of the parish, was opened in 1842. There had been at least two previous churches on the site. The medieval one was



*Edward Bulwer-Lytton*



*Hanwell Church*

found to be too small and was pulled down in 1781. The replacement was then again found to be too small and in 1841 a new church in the same place was erected, one of the earliest designed by George Gilbert SCOTT [designer of St. Pancras Station] though not his first. The wall painting in the chancel was originally done by William YEAMES, famous for that classic of Victorian painting, “When was the last time you saw your father?”

New churches appeared in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as the population expanded. St. Mark’s was the first church, built in 1879 but it was not given a separate parish until 1919. St. Mellitus was a parish in 1908; also St. Thomas in 1934 and St. Christopher 1937. In 1869 Ealing and Acton were separated from the Hammersmith Wesleyan Circuit and

became the united head of a new circuit, which included Hanwell.

In 1845 *Kelly’s Directory* commented that Hanwell had of late become more known and visited through the number of inmates in the Lunatic Asylum. The County Asylum had been built just across the border in Norwood parish in 1831, but the nearest railway station was at Hanwell. 20 labourers from Hanwell were used in the building. Two cemeteries were opened either side of the Uxbridge Road: one for Kensington in 1855 and the other for Westminster in 1856. The sale of the Westminster cemetery for 5p. towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century caused an outcry and the position of the sale was still being debated in 1998.

Large scale building of closely packed, terraced and semi-detached housing, after the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, filled the area west of the cemeteries and south of the railway. North of the railway was filled with larger detached houses. South of the Uxbridge Road, the main gaps were filled in after the trams came along the Uxbridge Road in 1901, and up the Boston Road in 1906. From the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, Hanwell was to become a dormitory town, the omnibuses running into London had been the main means of transport but now the railway became the main commuter route. Most of the south of the parish was covered by housing by 1932. The final building in the north was that over the site of the London District School, built in the 1930s. There has been little development since the war, as no sites have become available.

**Images:** mapio.net wikipedia Hugh Thomson in *Highways and Byways of Middlesex*

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## LETTER FROM THE FRONT, 1900

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*Mavis Sibley has given me several cuttings from local newspapers covering the northern part of our district. They mostly date from around 1900. This is exactly as it was printed in the paper.*

The following letter has been received by Mr. F. HARGREAVES, 4 Aubery-villas, York-road, Southall, from No.827 Lance-Corporal B. McCAYE, F Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Middx. Regt., Field Force, South Africa.

Newcastle, October 4<sup>th</sup> 1900.

Dear Friends, - I received your most kind and welcome letter and was very sorry to hear that you and Ellen have both been ill, but I hope by the time you get this letter you will both be quite well again as I am pleased to say it leaves me at present. I am also pleased to hear that you enjoyed your "beano." I only wish I could have been there also for I can tell you that we get some fine "beans" out here, but it won't be much longer I hope. They have started to send some of the troops home and there is a great talk in our regiment about us coming home next month, which I hope is true for then I shall be home for Christmas. If we do not start for home next month I shall not be home until next year.

Now a bit about the war, but I cannot tell you much for we are not doing anything, but I can tell you that there are a few Boers that keep all on [sic] harassing our lines of communication, therefore we have to keep a sharp eye on the railway we are guarding, but we are not a bit frightened because they keep coming in and giving themselves up as they have not got any food. I think that is all I can tell you about the war this time. I have sent you a few verses which one of our men in the regiment composed so by the time I come home I hope that you will have learned them. I am trying to get another recitation to send you but the sergeant has not got any ready yet, but as soon as I can get them I will send you one. Give my best respects to Steve RICHMOND, the Barber, Mrs. SALTER, Mr. and Mrs. STACEY, Mr. and Mrs. OSBORNE and all enquiring friends. Dear Frank, let me know if you can how Southall Football club is going on this year. I see by the papers that football has started. I now must close with my best wishes to all, - I remain, yours etc.,

H. McCAYE

P.S. - I have written this while I am watching the Boers from off a hill.

Tune: "The Men of Harlech."

I will sing you a song on Kruger,  
He cracks a lay he's bit of a bruiser,  
But take it from me, he'll find he's a loser,  
When the war is o'er;

When Ladysmith he lost her, his eyes stuck out like saucers,  
His hair stood up, and the Boers they run,  
When they found our gallant boys a-charging after 'em,  
Every Burgher without warning,  
Shunted off to the land he was born in,  
If you don't believe me bring a quart in,  
While I change my socks.

Now we'll have a verse on Cronje,  
He was brave, but he had to throw the sponge in,  
For when he found Lord Roberts marching round him,  
He said, "What about a blow?"  
Bob said, "It can't be done, sir,  
Chuck in or go to kingdom come sir.  
Majuba day is here again,  
And I'm the boy who's going to avenge it!"  
Then Bob said unto the Navy, "Come on lads, we'll give 'em gravy  
A couple of lyddites and some bayonets!"  
Oh, "God save the Queen."

Now we'll have a verse on Spion Kop,  
A ticklish place I found was no cop,  
For when I got right on the tip-top, I began to sniff;  
There was shots and shells, in all directions  
Their pom-pom made it's introduction.  
"Hallo," says I, "I'll have to do a guy.  
Or I'll be flying in bits in all directions!"  
Then I turned round, and saw a decent rock,  
Down behind I quickly dropped, -  
Saw some Boers with nasty plots,  
Says I, "It's time for tea."

Now I'll sing a verse on camp life,  
Take it from me it ain't half alright,  
Scratching yourself until broad daylight – What about a bath?  
In Natal, there's some comical places,  
I've marched through rivers up to my waist,  
Believe me or believe me not.  
A-chasing Boers, I've been and broke my braces.  
Hark, I hear the orders sounding,  
Digging trenches! Oh, confound it!  
On fifteen pence I wish I'd drowned,  
Oh, can this be love?

Written and composed by J. HUGHES, 2<sup>nd</sup> Middlesex Regiment (One of the Ladysmith Relieving Force).

*Paul Pry and Bo-Peep were 'journalists' who printed scurrilous articles in the Harlington local paper in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century about their neighbours. Wendy Mott passed these extracts to me and in 2012 I printed some of them in the Journal. Here are some more delightful, pre-LEVESON snippets. Do you recognise any of your ancestors? (NB illustrations added by the Editor).*



Why does Saville walk from Hillingdon on Sundays with the Miss Smiths? Because he is a kind considerate old man and wishes to set an example to the young ones. Is it true that Mrs. Smith's five daughters are walking constantly out on Sunday in search of beaux; but oh what shame! Not one is found sufficiently gallant to offer his arm to those pretty females.

Paul is happy to hear that he has been the instigator of such speedy reformation of appearance of your evitable self. Paul has his eye on you put the sucker in the pump or we will give you such a poke you will not easily forget. Who was behind the pump? Ask R. Whittington. Who in the parish of Hayes has the greatest aversion to the ladies? Ask of D. Wilson. Who is the greatest fop? Ask J. Lane.

We advise Mr. Smithers to open his concert room. The following ladies and gentlemen will supply him with the following songs viz:

Fat, fair and forty-three	Mrs. Smith
I am not a ladies man	F. Barnsgrave
The fine old English Gentleman	Mr. Saville
Why don't the men propose	Miss Burns
Tom Moody	Mr. Oldaker

We advise Ben Dodd of the Carpenter's Arms, not to let the sawyer's visits to his house be so long, but rather like angels, "few and far between". If he did not ill-use his wife it would be better.

If W. Chuter, the bricklayer would give us his head and ears, we would not give up the name of our correspondent. You had better stick to the company of your hot-house associates, than discuss matters of Church and State, of which you know nothing.

**Image:** [theimaginativeconservative.org](http://theimaginativeconservative.org)

We advise that little conceited midshipman, alias Spring-heeled Jack not to frequent the Uxbridge Road so regularly (of an) evening, especially as he has behaved so cruelly to Mary; also not to walk up and down Bag Lane so often, or he may meet with something he does not [sic]; also when he goes into the White Hart for a joey's worth of gin and water to tip, and not let the doctor of Harlington drop for him. Take warning my young spark in time.



We are glad to see the light-haired gent has cut his acquaintance. Bye the bye Mother Smith will not take warning, we must still chastise her, unless she leaves off her tricks, how about the eighteen pence for mending socks. Oh fie, fie! take care.

The Angel Inn, kept by Thomas Corly, great bounce in his way; but we would advise him to look out sharp, or else the ship and shore will suffer for his country establishment. He cuts it pretty fat.

Stephen Woodruff, the bakerswelling about his property, and the hay ricks, he wanted to rogue Johnny Baldwin; but justice will gain the day. He ought to see a little more after the weight of his bread, and not let Tommy Hall, alias Tee-total Tom, deliver to his customers daily short weight.

The next parlour guest is old Pigram, commonly called the fat-guzzled poacher, who sits and guzzles gin and brandy and water, pitching a good yarn; a Mr. Know-all sort of blade and a very dishonest personage.



Paul wishes to ascertain why young Henry Clarke runs about the parish with the P.P. on Sundays and informing James Dyer that he is in it. Why Harry you are a bigger ass than I thought you were. Pay more attention to your wife, and be not so fond of kissing the girls at church, in the organ loft.

Why Tommy Mills is always annoying a certain young lady. You are aware you are no use there, besides what would the girls of Westminster say if they knew all your goings on.

Paul never did say that Edward Maynard loves a pretty girl, or that Saville loves a pretty widow, but we know it to be true.

Paul never did say that Miss Smith was ugly, or that Chuter did not like to see them insulted. Who went to lawyer Riches about it: you had better look out my flower.

**Images:** commons.wikimedia.org cartoonstock.com

The grave of John and Ellen Rose MINCHIN in Shepperton Cemetery is marked by a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in John's memory and a kerb in memory of Ellen Rose. The Commission records that John MINCHIN was a Senior Reserve Attendant who served in the Royal Naval Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve, that he died on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1916, when he was 46 years old and that he was the husband of Ellen Rose MINCHIN of 17 Gibson Street, Greenwich.

The marriage, after banns, of John MINCHIN and Ellen Rose GOUGH, was recorded on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 1900, in the parish register of Christ Church, Greenwich. John was a 30 year old bachelor and Ellen a 35 year old spinster. John was employed as a tram conductor.

His continuous Record of Service (The National Archives ADM 188/1037/9706) records that he was born at Wanborough in Wiltshire on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1869, and that he died from natural causes at Chatham on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1916. He was awarded the British War Medal. (TNA ADM 171/106). Ellen GOUGH's birth was registered in the Staines Registration District during the December 1863 quarter and she was recorded in the 1871 census living at Shepperton Green with her father George, her mother Ellen, her sister Emily and her brother Frederick W. She had been born in Shepperton.

John MINCHIN had been admitted to Clyffe Pypard, Wiltshire, Church of England School on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1874 and he left on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 1874 [sic]. He has not been located in the 1871 census. The 1881 census records Edmund MINCHIN, his wife Emma and children: John E.C, Emma, Mary J, Alfred J. and Charles J. living at Shepperton Green. Edmund, Emma, John and Alfred had been born in Wiltshire and Mary and Charles in Shepperton.

John MINCHIN was already serving in the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment when he was attested on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1886 at Guildford. He was employed as a farm labourer and agreed to serve for 12 years. Although he was 17 years old he gave his age as 18. He was transferred to the Reserve in the 8<sup>th</sup> March 1894, and discharged in the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1898. (TNA WO 97/3475 106). His service of four years 270 days in the Reserve did not count for a pension.

The 1891 census records Ellen GOUGH at London Road in Croydon. She was employed as a housemaid. John MINCHIN has not been located in this census. In the 1901 census John and his wife were recorded as visitors (probably lodgers) at 17 Gibson Street, Greenwich. John was employed as a tram conductor.

John MINCHIN was recorded in the 1911 census with his wife Ellen Rose and sons John, George, Reginald and William at 17 Gibson Street, Greenwich. John,

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as stated, had been born at Wanborough in Wiltshire and his wife Ellen at Shepperton. John was employed as a gas stoker at the South Metropolitan Gas Works at East Greenwich. He is remembered by name on the Company's war memorial, which was moved to John Harrison Way when the Millennium Dome was built.

The Probate Calendar records that Ellen MINCHIN died at St. Alfege's Hospital, Greenwich on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1937 and that probate was granted to William Gough MINCHIN. Ellen MINCHIN may have asked for her husband to be buried at Shepperton because she had been born there and it had been her family home.

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## FAMILY HISTORY NEWS

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### Who Do You Think You Are? Live

The organisation that has run this event for the past ten years has announced that the 2017 Fair was the last. It has run at a loss for the past few years and is no longer financially viable.

**Family Search and The National Archives** have issued the following press release:

"1. WE ARE NOT CLOSED! Many have come to The [National] Archives and are surprised that we are still here. We are here, and will be until at least March of 2019. New missionaries have been assigned to replace those that are scheduled to go home. We still have all the computers and all the subscription websites. Well over half of our old microfilms, plus more English films are online and viewable at our centre. We miss you and hope you will return.

"2. MICROFILM ORDERING WILL END 31 AUGUST 2017. FamilySearch announced that film circulation will end after 31 August."

"We hope soon to have a list of the films that are online and viewable at the centre. We will send more information in the future about the online films. If you have a question about a specific film, please contact us by email at:

**UK\_London@LDSmail.net** or by telephone at 020 7859 8561 during our opening hours. The complete announcement can be seen at: [media.familysearchy.org/familysearch-digital-records-access-replacing-microfilm/](http://media.familysearchy.org/familysearch-digital-records-access-replacing-microfilm/)."

### Society of Genealogists and The Jewish Genealogical Society

As well as housing the vast collection of microfilms belonging to the UK FamilySearch Centre, the SoG has provided space for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain. The JGSGB material can be viewed at a cost of £5 (free

to SoG members). The FamilySearch data is subject to the usual visitor charge for non-members.

### **The National Army Museum**

Following a £27m. redevelopment, the National Army Museum has reopened. Located on the Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, it covers almost 400 years of Army history, spread over five galleries on four floors and houses over 2.500 objects.

**[nam.ac.uk](http://nam.ac.uk)**

### **The Postal Museum and Mail Rail**

Opened in July in a new, purpose built facility in Farringdon, the former British Postal Museum and Archive also allows you to travel on the underground Mail Rail, below the Mount Pleasant sorting office. This is 6.5 miles long, criss-crosses the Tube Lines and connects six sorting offices between Liverpool Street and Paddington Stations.

**[postalmuseum.org](http://postalmuseum.org)**

### **Derbyshire Record Office**

The opening hours have been changed and now are:

Mondays, closed

Tuesday-Friday, 9.30-5.00

Last Saturday in the month, 9.30-4.00

Closed on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

**[derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/record\\_office](http://derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/record_office)**

### **Battle of Jutland**

Do you have a family member who was killed in this battle in 1916? The University of Portsmouth has a database of over 6,000 Royal Navy sailors who died. Where possible it includes name, rank, service number and many other details but they would like to hear more about these men. If you can help, please email them at: **[ptuc@port.ac.uk](mailto:ptuc@port.ac.uk)**

**[porttowns.port.ac.uk/source-information/jutland-casualty-database/](http://porttowns.port.ac.uk/source-information/jutland-casualty-database/)**



I am sure you will all be interested to see how our Secretary/Webmaster undertakes his massive task of collecting Memorial Inscriptions in various graveyards around our area. This photo was taken by Yvonne Masson during their latest foray to All Saints, Fulham, and is printed here with the permission of Roland himself.

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## NEW MEMBERS

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The Society welcomes all new members. The list below comprises those from whom surname interest forms had been received at the time this issue of the Journal was prepared. The interests themselves are listed below.

P163 Mr. G. Pearce, 29 St. David's Way, Wickford, Essex, SS11 8EX  
**geoff.pearce100@gmail.com**

W259 Mr. M. Ward, PO Box 275, Orford, Tasmania, Australia, 7190  
**miningadvisor@bigpond.com**

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## SURNAME INTERESTS

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Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
AYRES	1700-1850	Shropham area	NFK	W259
BATES	1700-1850	Fulham area	MDX	W259
BLAKE	1700-1850	Great Bedwyn	WIL	W259
BUNNETT	1700-1850	Rockland All Saints	NFK	W259
BUTLER	1700-1850	Fulham area	MDX	W259
HAWKINS	1750-1850	Great Bedwyn area	WLT	W259
HOULTON	1600-1850	Wokingham	BKS	W259
JONES	1750-1850	Shoreditch	MDX	W259
KENNEDY	1750-1850	Wokingham area	BKS	W259
PEARCE	Pre.1820	Hanworth area	MDX	P163
SEABROOK	1600-1850	Barnardiston area	SFK	W259
SHAKESPEARE	1600-1850	Dudley area	WOR	W259
SMITH	1700-1850	Wickham Brook area	SFK	W259
THORNE	1700-1850	Spaxton	SOM	W259
WARD	1700-1850	Fulham area	MDX	W259
WHITEWAY	1700-1850	Highworth	WIL	W259

It is with great sadness that we announce the deaths of  
founder member **Vic GALE**

and former Membership Secretary, **June WATKINS.**

We offer our condolences to their families

Brookwood Hospital, *Alison Craze*. April

Alison's evening with us in April was an evening of firsts: her first talk to a family history society and her first visit to Hounslow. Speaking to us about Brookwood Hospital, she began by giving us the timeline of the hospital, which was founded in 1867, as Surrey's second lunatic asylum. It was renamed 'Brookwood Hospital' in 1919 and continued until the early 1990s as a mental hospital, when changes in the care of the patients took place.



*Brookwood Hospital, Surrey*

Turning the clock back several centuries, many people with mental illnesses would have been looked after (and indeed, restrained) at home. During the eighteenth century, a number of people (entrepreneurs) set up private houses to care for those with mental health issues. There were no regulations. There were no visits from doctors. They cared, in whatever way appropriate, for their paying guests. When looking at the frontages of asylums, many are quite grand with Georgian, Grecian and Gothic features. One wonders why our forebears decided to put people with mental health issues in grand buildings?

Following the 1845 (and later 1853) County Asylums Act, counties had to provide a provision for asylums for the 'pauper lunatics'. Wandsworth was the first Surrey Asylum and Brookwood was the second, with the site chosen due to good rail links in Woking. The hospital was built to house 650 'pauper lunatics' on 150 acres of land and was a self-contained village with its own farm, cobblers, printing works and fire brigade.

The first Physician Superintendent at Brookwood was Doctor Thomas BRUSHFIELD, who moved from Chester County Lunatic Asylum to Surrey in 1865. The buildings at Brookwood were planned in accordance with his suggestions and later, he helped to design the Cottage Hospital there. BRUSHFIELD was a pioneer of the 'non-restraint' treatment of lunatics. He sought to lighten the patients' life in asylums by making the wards cheerful and by organising entertainments and timetabling periods of recreation.

Logbooks were kept from day one with 60 patients being admitted on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 1867, when the doors opened. The staff at Brookwood were trained in Dr

BRUSHFIELD's way and he specifically did not want employees who had already worked in the mental health field. The staff were expected to be able to turn their hand to some form of entertainment or extra-curricular activity such as acting, music, sport etc. so as to entertain the patients. There was even an asylum band and events were held in the Assembly Hall, which was added in the 1870s. The local community used the Assembly Hall and patients and staff would put on events which local residents attended.

The whole premise of Brookwood Asylum was that it should not be too institutional. Artwork, pot plants and mirrors were evident in the pictures which Alison shared. The staff did have a uniform of a blue suit, white tie and a whistle. When Alison interviewed a nurse who worked there in 1947, she asked why they had whistles. The nurse replied, "I don't know. I never used it!"

Men and women were separated in the asylum. Whilst there were 'padded cells', no physical restraints were used at Brookwood unless absolutely necessary. Restraint logs were kept and inspectors would check the logs regularly. At Brookwood, restraints were used twice a year, if that....

Alison went on to say that sadly, only 20% of the patients recovered fully. The 100-year closure rule applies to the patient records, though there are many and various records available for consultation at the Surrey History Centre (see: [exploringsurreypast.org.uk/themes/subjects/mental\\_hospital\\_records/Brookwood\\_hospital\\_woking/](http://exploringsurreypast.org.uk/themes/subjects/mental_hospital_records/Brookwood_hospital_woking/) ).

Institutions always attracted staff from far away locations. In the 1920s, Brookwood Hospital (as it was then known) attracted staff from Wales, County Durham and even the West Indies, with the 1960s and 1970s seeing an influx of Irish and Filipino nurses. The 1960s also saw the use of electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) in which, under general anaesthesia, small electric currents were passed through the brain, intentionally triggering a brief seizure. ECT was believed to cause changes in the brain's chemistry that could swiftly reverse symptoms of certain mental illnesses, including schizophrenia. During the research for her book, *From Asylum to Community Care*, Alison interviewed many people who had ECT whilst in Brookwood, with some commenting that it was "wonderful" and others stating that it caused memory loss and/or that it was carried out without anaesthetic.

Brookwood Asylum/Hospital was an important part of Surrey's history and played a central part in the lives of many people. Alison said "I have been delighted by the interest in my book. I hope that it will give a greater understanding of some of the difficulties people experience with their mental health".

KG

*From Asylum to Community Care* is on sale for £9.95 from [alisoncraze@gmail.com](mailto:alisoncraze@gmail.com). Profits are being donated to mental health charities in Guildford and Woking.

## Newspapers for Family History, *Celia Heritage*. May



Celia Heritage is a professional genealogist and author. Her web site can be found at [www.chfh.co.uk](http://www.chfh.co.uk). She publishes a free online newsletter, which you can obtain via email.

Celia guarantees that none of your details will ever be passed on to anyone else.

Newspapers are one of the most fascinating and useful tools for family history. They can tell us about the events in our ancestors' lives – the crimes, the gallantry medal, even the advertisements for their businesses and they can also set the historical scene. Family history is much more than pedigrees, names and dates of births, marriages and deaths. To get a true feel for their lives, we need to read the newspapers of their times. They provide a picture of the social and political climate and local newspapers also give a feel of the local area. Until quite recently they were an untapped source: they could be accessed only via local Record Offices or the British Library and in hard copy or on microfilm. Digitisation is changing that.

There are two kinds of newspapers – national and provincial/local.

### **National Newspapers**

The newspapers that are loosely described as 'national' are those that were published in London. They first appeared in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. *The London Gazette* was the first to be published and still survives today. Originally entitled *The Oxford Gazette* and published in Oxford it was first printed in 1665. Along with its sister papers, *The Belfast Gazette* and *The Edinburgh Gazette*, it was very much the voice of government and official matters, publishing details of bankruptcies and gallantry awards.

Other newspapers began to appear in the 18<sup>th</sup> century: *The Public Advertiser* (1758), *The Morning Post* (1772) and *The Times*, originally entitled *The Daily and Universal Register* (1785). Do not ignore the national newspapers thinking that your ancestor was not important enough to appear in them. If they were involved in a major trial or a disaster, or were unlucky enough to go bankrupt, they will show up.

### **Provincial Newspapers**

The provincial or local newspaper had evolved differently. When they first appeared in the early eighteenth century, they were provincial by virtue only of being published outside of London. They reprinted the news covered in the London papers and did not concentrate on local items. The earliest titles were *The Stamford Mercury* and *The Norwich Post*.

The truly local paper did not arrive until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. There were several reasons for this. Stamp duty on printed material had been abolished, making it cheaper to print papers; literacy among working people was increasing, thanks to the 1870 Education Act; local news was now fashionable. Britain's railway network was also now established, meaning that the London papers could now reach the provinces within a day and there was no profit in reprinting the same news locally.

What might you find in local papers? They report a much wider range of items than you might expect:

- Items of national interest
- Notorious scandals and interesting murder cases. Anything gossip-worthy would be included regardless of where it happened in the country.
- Accounts of inquests held on sudden or unexpected deaths, these are particularly useful. Relatively few coroners' records survive, but newspaper accounts have survived and provide considerable detail. The habits of the deceased person, their circumstances, how they died, their mood before they died
- Obituaries. Treat with caution – details may not always be accurate.
- Advertisements for shops and local business.

The example of Annie CLEMENTS of Hythe, Kent is a good one. Searching the British Newspaper Archive on Findmypast for Annie CLEMENTS gives us several hits. Here are three selected items:

In 1892 she fell through the ice while skating and was prevented from drowning by a member of the skating party, who held her head above water until a rope could be procured to rescue her. This item of news was published in no less than three papers, (*The Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald; The Thanet Advertiser; The Canterbury Journal, Kentish Times and Farmers Gazette*). In 1916 she was mentioned as sending a wreath to the funeral of Mrs. HARDCASTLE (*Kent and Sussex Courier*). In 1929 she was a witness at an inquest. Each of the items provided information on Annie CLEMENTS.

From the above, it is clear that newspapers, whether daily or weekly, local or national, report on a wide range of subjects, so it is always worth doing a 'fishing trip' when looking for your ancestors. They may not have been wealthy or well-known, but they could still have featured in the newspapers. Involvement in social events, attendance at weddings or funerals, writing letters about a particular concern – all these can get your ancestor into the papers. It is also important not to neglect the wider family group in favour of searching the direct line. Your direct ancestor may not be there, but the appearance of a cousin or more distant relative can still enhance your family tree.

**How can you access newspapers?**

Hard copy and microfilms of national newspapers are held at the four libraries that are places of legal deposit: The British Library, Trinity College Dublin, the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and the University Library, Cambridge. A reader's ticket for the British Library is free and easy to obtain. A notice period of 48 hours may be required for access to newspapers that are held at the Boston Spa site.

Digitised archives all require a subscription for access; the main ones are:

- *The London, Belfast and Edinburgh Gazettes* appear on the website, [www.thegazette.co.uk](http://www.thegazette.co.uk)
- *The Times* has its own digital archive, [www.gale.cengage.co.uk](http://www.gale.cengage.co.uk)
- The British Newspaper Archives (BNA) [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk). This is by no means complete as yet, although the partnership between the BNA and Findmypast is committed to digitising 40 million pages in ten years. A subscription to Findmypast gives access to the British Newspaper Archives, but it may be worth taking out a subscription to the BNA itself as the search engine is better.

**Free access:** the BNA can be accessed free at the Society of Genealogists and some library authorities may have a subscription that their members can use.

- Some of the commercial genealogy sites have access to digitised newspapers and periodicals. Ancestry offers access to *The Times* from 1788-1833 and *The Gentleman's Magazine* from 1731-1868. The Genealogist offers access to papers such as *The Illustrated London News*, *The Sphere*, *The Great War*, *The War Illustrated*, *The Jewish Chronicle*.

The British Library has also been archiving digital and online media since 2015. As more and more local papers are publishing online editions alongside the printed paper, this may be of use to family historians of the future.

How do you know what local newspapers existed and where they can be found?

The locality you are interested in may well have had more than one newspaper. From the 1850's, newspaper titles were increasing and some were short-lived. The following resources will point you in the right direction:

- British Library Catalogue. The easiest way to check is to go to [www.explore.bl.uk](http://www.explore.bl.uk). Select *Advance Search* and refine your search by the material type *Newspapers Newsplan* – this project was never finished but is still a useful resource.
- *Local Newspapers* by Jeremy GIBSON. Books such as the *Gibson Guides* are excellent finding aids, even in a digital age.
- Check with the local archives for your area of interest.
- Genuki. [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk)

A useful section on newspapers can be found in Celia HERITAGE's book, *Tracing Your Ancestors Through Death Records*.

AG

## Tracing a House History, *Gill Blanchard*, June

Gill Blanchard started conducting family, house, and local history research in 1992, setting up her own research company, Past Search, in 1997. She specialises in research in the east of England, particularly Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex. She has written three books corresponding to her areas of expertise, *Tracing your House History*, *Writing your Family History*, and *Tracing your East Anglian Ancestors*.

The first point that she stressed was the considerable overlap in resources used between doing family history and tracing a house history. As she emphasized several times in her talk, sometimes tracing a house history would be led by knowing the address, and then looking for the inhabitants at a point in time, while at other times the names of the inhabitants would be the necessary link to finding out more about the house where they lived.

Gill stressed the importance of using large scale historical maps in the early stages of house research to ensure that you follow the correct house, and do not inadvertently start researching the house next door. This is the 'house' equivalent of basing your family history on the wrong family.

To do a house history well needs a mix of several skills. You certainly need to be familiar with the types of record that exist, and where to find them, but it also calls for a certain amount of architectural knowledge to understand the finer points found in the building itself. Imitation has always been an option for builders.

Gill showed us an image of a house and asked for estimates as to its age. The smarter ones in the audience could see the Georgian style porch and hence estimated about 200 years, but the smarter still took note of the brickwork round a fireplace from the building, and it was this that told Gill that at least that part of the building dated back to Elizabethan times. As to the Georgian porch, that was just imitation and was less than a century old. Her message was to be observant of all the clues given and recognise that houses are subject to continual change over long periods of time.

Gill showed some examples of outside brickwork that indicated alterations in gabling, doors and windows. These offered good clues as to how the house would have appeared before the alterations were made. One thing was clear, Gill was not much in favour of rendered brick: all the clues get covered by a layer of cement.

The two key questions to which most people wanted to know the answers were: 'Who used to own this house?' and 'What did the house used to look like?' As with tracing family history, tracing a house history gets harder the further back you attempt to go. Gill did touch on the Domesday Book of 1086 but indicated

that you would be unlikely to find a building today that was also mentioned in 1086, unless perhaps it was a mill. Mills have stood the test of time.

The central registration of births, marriages and deaths started in England in 1837, but the Land Registry did not start until 1862, although registration in England and Wales was not compulsory until 1990. Locating deeds for houses is not easy and not all Records Offices have indexed their collection of deeds, but once in hand, determining the parties to a deed is generally quite easy. The deeds will likely have the parties thereto named on the back of the deed, or often in the left margin of the deed, so going through a bundle of documents can be done quite quickly.

The census records are an obvious source for tracing who was living at a given address at the time of the census but census detail is very variable. All too often places are only identified by road, or the name of the area. Gill did advise us to use the 'enumerator's return' filed at the start of each enumerator's contribution to the census. This can be quite detailed, identifying the path taken by the enumerator, street by street, to complete their return.

Other sources highlighted by Gill were: local authority records, which document many disputes relating to slum clearances; local newspapers for their advertisements of houses for sale; trade directories for general descriptions of an area; tithe maps and estate maps for property boundaries; Railway Plans, for proposed changes affecting property; and Tax Records.

Gill ended by citing the usefulness of Manorial Court Rolls.\* These records were in use from about 1741 to 1848, and contain entries relating to rents, holdings, deaths and succession of tenancies for the area of the manor. RB

\*This had me wondering again what is contained in our very own Harmondsworth Manorial Roll. The more observant may have noticed that we list this Roll as an asset in our balance sheet, as we have done since December 1996.

The story of our acquisition of the Roll is given in our Journal of June quarter 1996. It came about after society member, Peter LEE, while researching his own ancestry, tracked down the Roll, which is dated 1717-1728, as in the possession of one, Aaron JANES, of Whitstable, Kent. The Roll is actually eleven pages of parchment, about 12" by 28", closely written on both sides in Latin. A West Middlesex Family History Society member then purchased the roll from Aaron JANES for £348, and gave it to the Society. We then passed it on for safekeeping, and on perpetual loan, to the London Metropolitan Archives, as befits such an historical document.

**Images:** [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)    [oxford-royale.co.uk](http://oxford-royale.co.uk)

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## FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS

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Bristol & Avon Family History Society, Family History Fair  
Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> September. BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol,  
BS34 7RG. 10.00-4.00. Free parking  
[bafhs.org.uk](http://bafhs.org.uk)

The Family History Show\*  
Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> September. Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher,  
KT10 9AJ. Admission £4.80  
[thefamilyhistoryshow.com](http://thefamilyhistoryshow.com)

Richmond Full of Life Fair\*  
Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> October, Twickenham Stadium, (RFU), Whitton Road, Twickenham,  
TW2 7BA. 10.00-4.00 Free admission to Borough residents.  
[richmond.gov.uk/full\\_of\\_life](http://richmond.gov.uk/full_of_life)

Oxfordshire Family History Society Family History Fair  
Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> October. The Marlborough School, Shipton Road, Woodstock,  
OX20 1LP. 10.00-4.00. Free admission and parking.  
[ofhs.org.uk](http://ofhs.org.uk)

Hampshire Genealogical Society Family History Open Day\*  
Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> October. Everest Community Academy, Oxford Way, Basingstoke,  
RG24 9FP. 10.00-4.00. Free admission and parking  
[hgs-familyhistory.com](http://hgs-familyhistory.com)

Doncaster & District Family History Society, Local and Family History Fair.  
Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> October. Doncaster School for the Deaf, Leger Way, Doncaster,  
DN2 6AY. 10.00-4.00. Admission £1, free parking.  
[Doncasterfhs.co.uk](http://Doncasterfhs.co.uk)

West Surrey Family History Society Family History Fair\*  
Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> November. Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking, GU22  
9BA. 10.00-4.30.  
[wsfhs.co.uk](http://wsfhs.co.uk)

**\*West Middlesex FHS will be attending these Fairs**

To find a family history fair near you, go to: [geneva.weald.org.uk](http://geneva.weald.org.uk)

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## WEST LONDON LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE, Part 1

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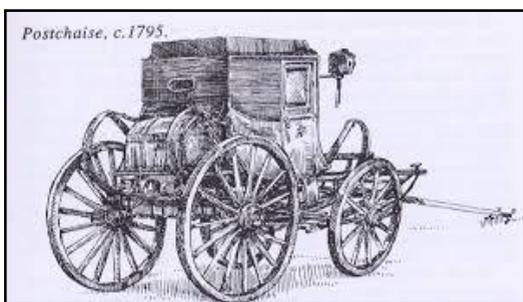
*This year's Conference was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Talks relevant to the West Middlesex area have been reported by Yvonne MASSON.*

### **On the Road: before and after turnpiking: waggons, packhorses and stagecoaches. *Dorian Gerhold, Wandsworth Historical Society.***

Waggons, packhorses and stagecoaches were all scheduled services which ran to timetables but the roads were also full of unscheduled traffic, such as horse riders, carts and people carrying goods and chattels. Travel was all about horses and the main cost was their feed: thus a fast vehicle cost more to run than a slow one as more horses were needed.

Before the 15<sup>th</sup> century, to send goods meant loading up a cart but after that time a network of carriers arose and a carrier could take your goods as part of a load. Lists of carriers survive from 1537 and by 1681 there were a number of carriers within 30 miles of London, by 1690 they were covering the whole country. Some information on road transport can also be gleaned from Chancery records of disputes and from probate, etc. As many as nine horses might pull a waggon, being harnessed one behind the other in a line, with a postilion riding on one horse. In the 1700s at Trowbridge in Wiltshire, one business had over 40 horses and six waggons.

Packhorses made up about half of the services available. These consisted of 'gangs' of horses, although they were not harnessed together. They were faster than waggons but a waggon could carry three times as much. Many towns had both types of services. Although the roads were not good the services were



*Post chaise*

reliable and waggons could cover some 25 miles a day, using inns along the route to change horses. From central London they would stop, e.g. at Egham or Staines, but not at Hounslow. In the late 1700s local firms might have a couple of horses drawing a waggon weighing one ton or less.

From the 1720s, despite some violent opposition, various roads

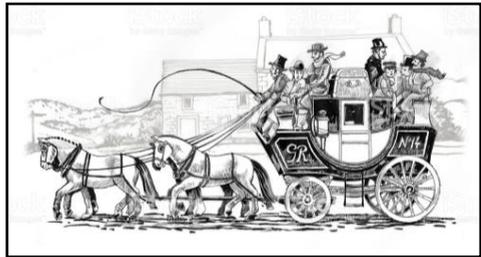
out of London became turnpikes, and tollgates were pulled down. However the turnpike system improved the roads as there was more money for maintenance,

especially needed in the winter. Gradients were reduced and horses could do more work for less feed.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century large waggons could carry 4-5 tons and they had 9" wide wooden wheels, which were supposed to flatten the road as they went. The horses were now harnessed in pairs. 'Flying' waggons changed teams several times between, say, London and Exeter. Some businesses might own several hundred horses and lists of the firms can be found in local trade directories.

Stagecoaches also changed their teams on the road: they covered more miles but were more expensive. In 1653 the first coach to York ran all the year round, and had four-horse teams, harnessed in pairs. A 'flying' coach could take you up to 80 miles and by using four teams it got you there in one day. They were typically used by the gentry, merchants, clergymen and teachers. By 1730 you could go into London in the morning and return in the evening.

The early 1760s saw the arrival of the steel spring for suspension, invented by a London blacksmith, and this was a big improvement on the former leather straps and better suspension needed fewer horses. In 1810 a stagecoach averaged 6 miles an hour but by 1836 this had increased to 9 miles an hour. Smaller post chaises and diligences, which were pulled by two horses, could be hired at inns. Mail coaches began as small two-horse vehicles carrying four passengers but later became more robust with four horses. They were a success being reliable and having an armed guard. The War with France meant that feed was more expensive, which led to slower services but the roads were better, especially with the Macadam method of repair, which used chalk and flint carried by canal from Kent.



*Stagecoach*

There were a number of horse-keepers, etc., in Hounslow and Brentford and by 1836 you could travel from the suburbs into London. From Richmond there were several coaches daily, calling at inns in different parts of the City. Later came 'long' coaches which were easier for getting in and out of. George SHILLIBEER (1797-1866) of London adapted these into omnibuses. The first omnibus service was from Paddington to central London in 1829. The last horse-drawn bus disappeared in 1914.

**Dorian Gerhold**, *Carriers and Coach Masters*, pub.2005.

**Images:** [historicalhussies.blogspot.com](http://historicalhussies.blogspot.com)      [istockphoto.com](http://istockphoto.com)

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## WORLD WIDE WEB

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A survey of new records that have recently been published on the web.

**Ancestry** has announced the following new datasets: Wiltshire parish records; electoral registers for Bedfordshire, Gloucestershire, the Swansea area; British phone books 1880-1894; Poor Law Union records for Dorset, Gower, Neath, Pontardawe and Swansea; gaol records for Glamorgan, Carmarthenshire and Breconshire; London Transport staff registers; Metropolitan Police pension records with details of men who resigned or retired between 1852 and 1932; UK military discharge records for those born before 1901 and discharges between 1920-1971; burials for the City of London and Tower Hamlets.

[ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk)

**British Film Institute's National Archive** has added more than 600 films, dating back to 1898, to a new Coast and Sea collection. Searches, 97% of which are free, can be made using an interactive map.

[bfi.org.uk/britain-on-film](http://bfi.org.uk/britain-on-film)

**British History** has listed over 4,000 English and Welsh officers who led the Parliamentary forces in the Civil War, mainly 1642-1644. It can include date of birth, rank and date of death. If you have information on men not included, do let them know. This is a free site.

[british-history.ac.uk/no-series/cromwell-army-officers](http://british-history.ac.uk/no-series/cromwell-army-officers)

**British Newspaper Archive** now covers 20million pages.

[britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

**Casus Belli** has a register of men who served in the Second Anglo-Boer War, which can be viewed for free. This Register is also on FindMyPast.

[casus-belli-co.uk](http://casus-belli-co.uk)

### **Charles Harper (1863-1943)**

Charles Harper published over forty travel books describing his cycling tours of England. More than 1,000 original drawings, offering a snapshot into a lost England before World War Two, have been digitised and can be seen on:

[historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/new/harper-collection](http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/new/harper-collection)

**Deceased Online.** New records include the Highgate Cemetery, 1839-2010.

[deceasedonline.com](http://deceasedonline.com)

**Family Search** has put online marriage bonds and allegations from the Diocese of Durham.

[familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)

**FindMyPast** has added: parish registers for Derbyshire, Devon, Kent, North-West Kent, Nottinghamshire, Wiltshire and Yorkshire; Archdeacon and Bishops Transcripts for Norfolk; Burials and MIs for Sussex and the Essex Burial Index; Wiltshire Wills and Probate, 1530-1881; London Marriage Licences 1521-1869; Surrey Institutional records; Marriage Bonds, Poor Law Union Records and non-conformist records for Norfolk; miscellaneous documents for the City of York including trade directories and National School Admissions Registers; Scottish records from the Catholic Heritage Archive from the 18C; Canadian Census returns for 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891. They have linked up with the Ontario Genealogical Society and will eventually publish 6m. Ontario records.

[findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk)

**The Genealogist** has announced the following: parish records for Cumbria, Durham, Essex, Hampshire, Norfolk, Rochdale and Worcestershire; poll books for Wakefield and areas of Hampshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset and New Westminster in Canada; digitised books and directories of Army personnel and Civil Servants in British India, including births, marriages and deaths; MIs from the Boer War and World War One; 4.5m people in passenger lists 1920-1929; issues of *The Sphere*, 1914-1918, an illustrated newspaper which includes images of soldiers on the Western Front. They have also uploaded hundreds of new photos to their Image Archive facility.

[thegenealogist.co.uk](http://thegenealogist.co.uk)

### Welsh place names

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales has a list of 300,000 historic place names in Wales.

[historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk](http://historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk)

**Women's Voluntary Service** (now the Royal Voluntary Service) diaries, written by members during the Second World War, are available to view. They comprise of more than 30,000 pages of monthly reports for 1938-1942. They represent 1,300 different cities, towns and villages.

[catalogue.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/calmview](http://catalogue.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/calmview)

### PASSWORD UPDATE

To access the search facilities in the Members' area of our website, the following passwords must be used:

July-September: SEVEN  
October-December: YEAST

Latest date for submission of articles for printing in the subsequent Journal:

7<sup>th</sup> January: 7<sup>th</sup> April:  
7<sup>th</sup> July: 7<sup>th</sup> October

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## INDEXES HELD BY MEMBERS

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These indexes are intended as aids to research in the West Middlesex area. For Society members look-ups are free (please quote membership number), unless otherwise stated. For non-members there is a fee of £5. Please note that all enquirers must supply a SAE if a reply is required by post. If an email address is given, holders of the Index are happy to receive enquiries by email. Unless stated otherwise, cheques should be made payable to the holder of the index, not the WMFHS.

### WEST MIDDLESEX FHS INDEXES

*Roland Bostock, bostocr@blueyonder.co.uk*

**West Middlesex Monumental Inscriptions.** Acton, Ashford, Cranford, Chiswick, Ealing, Feltham, Fulham (recorded 100 years ago), Hampton, Harlington, Hayes, Heston, Hillingdon, Hounslow (United Reformed), Norwood Green, Perivale, Staines, Teddington, Twickenham and Uxbridge.

**West Middlesex Settlement Records.** Chelsea, Ealing, Friern Barnet, Fulham, Hammersmith, New Brentford, Shepperton, Staines, Stanwell, Uxbridge.

*Richard Chapman, Golden Manor, Darby Gardens, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 5JW  
chapmanrg@btinternet.com* . Cheques to West Middlesex FHS.

**Marriage Index.** Pre 1837 marriages in West Middlesex with partial coverage elsewhere in the county. Please supply places/dates/surname variants if known.

*Mrs. Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP. wendymott@btinternet.com*

**West Middlesex Strays.** People from or born in our area, found in another area.

*Mrs. Bridget Purr, 8 Sandleford Lane, Greenham, Thatcham, RG19 8XW  
bridgetspurr@waitrose.com*

**West Middlesex War Memorials.** Substantial name-list material, consisting of public, churches', schools' and companies' memorials, etc. for WWI, WWII and earlier wars where they exist; list not yet complete; information on any other memorials you know of would be welcome. When making an enquiry please include any information on village or town where you might expect a name to be mentioned.

### PARISH RECORDS

*Mrs. Margaret Cunnew, 25 Selkirk Road, Twickenham, TW2 6PS*

**Chiswick Parish Registers, St. Nicholas.** Baptisms marriages burials 1813-1901.

**Chiswick, 1801 Census**

**Ealing Parish Registers, St. Mary.** Baptisms 1779-1868, marriages 1797-1857, burials 1813-1868.

**Hanwell Parish Registers, St. Mary.** Baptisms marriages burials, 1813-1855.

**New Brentford Parish Registers, St. Lawrence.** Baptisms marriages burials 1802-1837.

**Old Brentford Parish Registers, St. George.** Baptisms 1828-1881, marriages 1837-1881, burials 1828-1852.

*Mrs. Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP. wendymott@btinternet.com*

**Harmodsworth Parish Registers.** Baptisms marriages burials 1670-1837.

*Mr. P. Sherwood, 5 Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middlesex, UB3 5EW  
psherwood@waitrose.com*

**Harlington Parish Registers.** Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1540-1850.

*Mrs. M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 9HF.*

*mavikensib@aol.com* For more than 3 names, please write for an estimate of charge.

**Hayes Parish Registers, St. Mary.** Baptisms marriages burials 1557-1840

**Hillingdon Parish Registers.** Baptisms 1559-1909, marriages 1559-1910, burials 1559-1948 (churchyard) and 1867-1903 (cemetery).

**Isleworth Parish Registers, All Saints.** Baptisms 1566-1919, marriages 1566-1927, burials 1566-1942.

**Isleworth Register of Baptisms: Brentford Union Workhouse, Mission Church, Wesleyan Methodist Church,** extracts from Register of Baptisms.

*Ms. Carol Sweetland, 36 Diamedes Avenue, Stanwell, Staines, TW19 7JB.*

*carol.sweetland@btinternet.com*

**Stanwell Parish Registers.** Baptisms 1632-1906, marriages 1632-1926, burials 1632-1906. Also available on FreeREG. Name database 1632-1906.

#### MISCELLANEOUS INDEXES

*Mr. A. Rice, 46 Park Way, Feltham, TW14 9DJ. secretary@feltham-history.org.uk*

**Feltham Index.** An expanding collection of transcripts and indexes relating to the parish of Feltham. Donations welcome, payable to Feltham History Group.

*Mr. Paul Barnfield, 258 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, TW3 3TY*

*paulbarnfield@hotmail.co.uk*

**Hampton Wick.** Records of this village collected over 40 years of research.

*Mrs. M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex, UB7 9HF*

*mavikensib@aol.com*

**Newspaper Index.** Births, marriages and deaths, court cases, accidents, etc. taken from local newspapers 1894-1925.

*Mr. Brian Page, 121 Shenley Avenue, Ruislip, HA4 6BU. brian729@blueyonder.co.uk*

**1641-2 Protestation Returns of Middlesex.** This has been indexed. You will secure a printout, which includes variants. Cheques made payable to West Middlesex FHS.

*Miss Valerie Walker, 32 Cunnington Street, Chiswick, London, W4 5EN*

**G.R.O. Certificates.** A number of original GRO birth, marriage and death certificates have been kindly donated to the Society by members and are available for purchase at a cost of £1 per certificate. Please check on Society website for current list. Cheques should be made payable to West Middlesex FHS and please include an a/c.

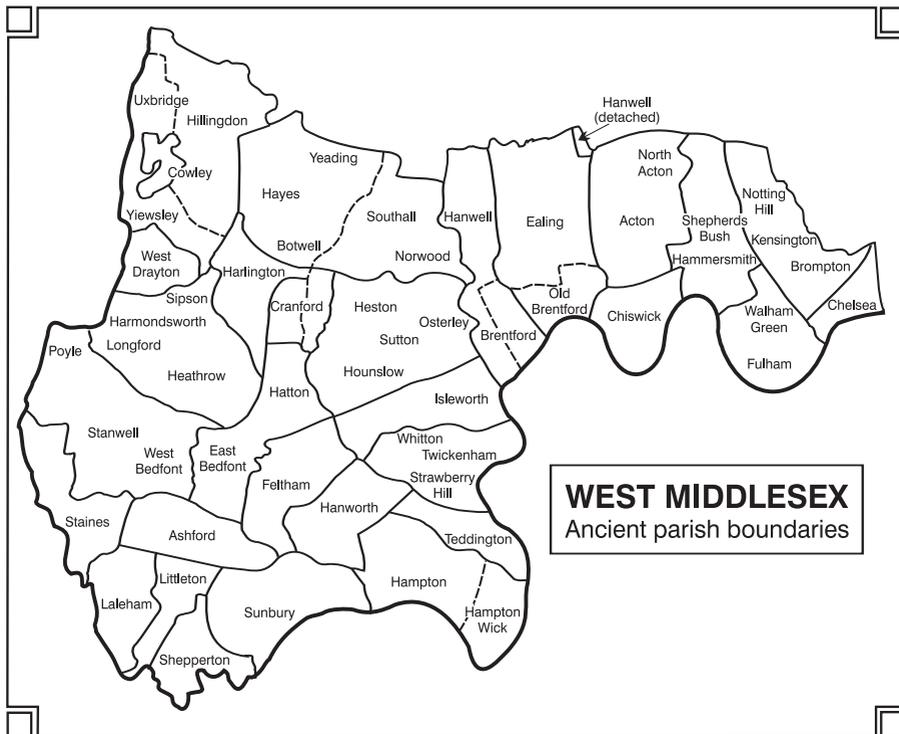
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### Front Cover

The Normansfield Training Institution for Imbeciles was opened in Kingston Road, Teddington, in 1868 by John Langdon DOWN as a private asylum for children from 'upper class families' who suffered with a mental or physical handicap. DOWN realised that these children who were born into families of a 'good social position' were hidden away from Society and often were given no stimulation or instruction. He intended that his patients should be educated according to their abilities and as well as being taught life skills, they attended classes in academic subjects, music and sport and the older patients could learn a trade. Plays and pantomimes were performed in the purpose built theatre, which is now Grade II\* listed. Previously labelled as "mongols", these mentally handicapped children are now spoken of as having "Down's Syndrome" after Dr. Down.

**Images:** en.wikipedia keyword-suggestions.com basilwyatt.co.uk

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## West Middlesex Family History Society

### Area of Interest

Acton, Ashford, East Bedfont, Chelsea, Chiswick, Cowley, Cranford, West Drayton, Ealing with Old Brentford, Feltham, Fulham, Hampton, Hanwell with New Brentford, Hanworth, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Hayes with Norwood, Hammersmith, Heston, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Isleworth, Kensington, Laleham, Littleton, Shepperton, Staines, Stanwell, Sunbury, Teddington, Twickenham and Uxbridge

If undelivered, please return to:

West Middlesex FHS  
c/o Pat Candler, 57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0JZ