



HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



The George Inn



Fassnidge Park Bandstand



The Regal Cinema



Fairey Swordfish

Syd Wilson Remembers (See page number 4)

About Our Society

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 3rd 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 welcome at the monthly meetings (entrance £1.00) and may attend twice before being required to join. 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 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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Visit our website at: **www.hfhs.co.uk**

Contact us by e-mail at: **hillingdonfhs@onetel.com**

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

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

✎ CHAIRMAN'S NOTES ✎

At the time of writing the run of hot dry weather continues and the Easter, Royal Wedding and May Day bank holidays have just passed. Given this combination of weather and public holidays I suspect that for most of our membership the garden or getting away have taken precedence over genealogy. If so, I can't say I blame them!

The general consensus on the Royal wedding was that it was a grand British spectacle. Everyone looked resplendent (including the wonderful Cosmati pavement in the Abbey) and it all went off without a hitch. Apart from a few curmudgeons, everyone I have spoken to felt that it lifted the mood of the nation in these economically straitened times.

Newspapers around the world have made much of the family background of the Middletons and I saw more than once their relatively 'modest' family tree juxtaposed to Prince William's more resplendent one. This set me thinking along two lines of thought.

I have no idea if the Middletons are members of the Berkshire FHS - but whether they are or not, I wonder what it feels like to wake up one day and find that somebody - presumably a professional genealogist - has produced for you a complete family tree? We all know how much effort it takes to do this work and then 'hey presto' here it is. I am not sure whether I would be delighted or a little deflated. Moreover, if I hadn't done the work myself I am not sure I would really understand it.

For example, John may be the son of William but if you haven't established the fact yourself, perhaps by going through several censuses and in the process discovered a lot about where they were living and who their neighbours were, etc then it is a bit of an empty fact. Family history is more than just about generating a family tree.

As for Prince William's sprawling royal and ancient family tree - researched and reproduced for centuries - it struck me that just because it is constantly repeated is it really true? Obviously the main royal line is accurate, running all the way back to William the Conqueror. But what about all the side branches that journalists seem to get so excited about?

(contd.)

I recall that on ‘WDYTYA?’ it was recently disclosed that the Mayor of London is ‘unexpectedly’ linked to one of these branches. How can you get surprises over one of the most scrutinised family trees in history?

Current research very often relies on previous research rather than going back to original documents and as a consequence errors or omissions can be perpetuated. The press made much of Prince William's family tree but I suspect that even with such a scrutinised Royal edifice there are outer branches that could be looked at more closely and may prove to be not what they seem.

Just a couple of thoughts on the Big Day; by the time you read this it will all be a distant memory and being high summer it will probably be raining. At least I hope so. Sitting here in early May my garden needs it!

Ian Harvey

EDITORS’ JOTTINGS

Your committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members that sent donations to the society. We have received (so far) a total of £247.00 and this will be a great help in maintaining the services we provide. Thank you all once again.

We now understand that car parking at the National Archives at Kew is STILL free. The scheme to introduce a charge and booking has been dropped until further notice.

We have to advise the following corrections to the March edition:

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Change of Address,

L22 Mrs. J Lazou — *should read:* Gratwicke Road.

T26 Mr. G Taylor — Email: gerald.taylor6@virginmedia.com

Please see the March 2011 journal for dates of the Thursday evening meetings of Hillingdon Family History Society. Hope to see you there!

SYD WILSON REMEMBERS (PART 3)

In this edition we conclude our serialisation of Syd's memories of life in Uxbridge between the wars and would like to take this opportunity to thank him for submitting his interesting memories especially as they are of a local nature.

We did, of course, get up to many pranks such as tying five or six door knockers together with a long length of string, knock one of them and when the door opened it knocked all the others. By then we had hidden to watch the fun.

Another prank was the moving parcel. A long length of black cotton was tied to something of reasonable value which was then laid on the pavement at a point where we could hide behind a wall or fence. As someone would go to pick it up the cotton was pulled. You hoped the person would not be too irate; most saw the funny side. Another prank which often shocked people was the Nail & Key gun. These were made by using a hollow key and a nail that would just slide into the hole of the key. The point of the nail was rubbed flat on a piece of sand-stone, we did not have files. The key was tied to a length of string about twelve inches long and the nail was tied to the other end. The key was partially filled with match heads and the nail was inserted in the hole. The whole thing was swung round by the string to make the nail hit hard against a wall. The resultant bang was as loud as a rifle being fired. We used to fire these just off the High Street up one or other of the yards, at busy periods. It was guaranteed to bring a crowd running to find some very innocent looking children smiling. People were more tolerant then.

The High Street held a number of attractions for boys. The three garages, Proctor's, Gregory's and Wilkinson's, all served cars with petrol across the pavement on long swing arm pipes. The petrol being dispensed by hand operated pumps. One could see the latest cars stop at these garages. Then there was Percy's sweet shop at the bottom of Bell Yard where we bought Tiger nuts and Locust beans. Another good shop was Davy's toy shop. It usually had a Meccano model working in the window. Meccano was a very popular toy in those days, there was no other construction toy to compete with it. My set was gradually built up with pieces bought from Davy's and later from Percy's when it had moved up near the Regal Cinema. I used to watch the building of the Regal, then go home and try to duplicate the cranes in Meccano.

(contd.)

Whilst still talking about the High Street, among other school friends were the two Reynold brothers. They were sons of the Publican of the George Inn. They had a wonderful train set with lines that would run from just behind the building almost up to York Road. We often went up there to help them run the trains after putting all the lines together. There were always plenty of spectators.

There were blacksmiths at the bottom of Belmont Road and in George Street where we used to spend some time watching horses being shod.

I must have spent hours in the Laundry yard watching the steam engine in the laundry through the open door. The engine was used to drive the washing and ironing machines.

On the subject of steam, we could frequently be found in Whitehall Road watching goods trains being made up by shunting. It was also great fun to stand on the footbridge to Manor Way while trains passed below us in a great cloud of steam.

On dark evenings we used to play 'Dick, Dick, show a light'. Our locality was split into two sections, the Big Cave and the Small Cave. The Big Cave was the area within New Windsor Street, Chapel Street, The Lynch and Frays Place. The Small Cave was the area within The Lynch, Cross Street and Lawn Road. The idea was that one boy would go off with a torch and hide in whichever cave was agreed. The others would go around occasionally shouting Dick, Dick show a light. The person hiding would shine his torch and ultimately be found. This took place several times in an evening and the winner was the boy who took longest to be found.

At the bottom of Chequers Yard on the left-hand side was the building firm Graingers' yard. This was not properly fenced and so we used to roam around it. The unusual thing was that in an open building were several tea chests full of rolls of old 35mm cine film. Why these were there we had no idea, but it was of course Nitrate film and we found a length of it would burn furiously. We used to take lengths of it and build bonfires with a few feet of film sticking out, so we could light the fire by remote control from a safe distance. If only that film was available now for the archives!

I often did small shopping trips for my mother, usually receiving a penny for going. My favourite shops were the various bakers, each being best for a particular item.

(contd.)

Bath and Chelsea Buns were best from Pond's in Windsor Street, while for Lardy cakes (in those days they were flaky, not as now like bread fried in lard) I went to Moss in Cowley Road, but for Jam Puffs and Bambury's it had to be Cooper's at the top of Laundry Yard.

Although we lived in a residential area we did have a number of local shops (all of which have long gone). Going up New Windsor Street from the Frays on the right hand-side was the Bon-Bon confectionary and tobacconist. Just in Howes Road was Mr. Ferris's large shed where he used to restring tennis racquets and sharpen shears and lawn mowers. At the top of the street, on that side, at number 3, was Nicholls, the butcher.



They had their own slaughter house behind the shop and it was always a wonderful sight at Christmas when they had rows of turkeys and chickens hanging up outside the shop. On the other side of the street going up were the Methodist Church, Theobalds second-hand furniture shop and then Tommy Rose's cycle shop. Next was Miss Perret's penny library where many local people borrowed books at a penny per week per book. She had plenty of Western Yarns and Edgar Wallace thrillers to keep my father happy. The last shop in the street was Maud's the grocer on the corner with Chapel Street. Opposite the top of New Windsor Street in Chapel Street was Leno the coal merchant, next to him was Hercies Farm dairy office and shop, then Randalls second-hand furniture shop on the corner with Windsor Street.

(contd.)

Going round the Lynch was Hopkins confectionary and tobacco shop, further along was Mr. West's Taxidermist shop and next to that Judds Dairy. The last shop in the Lynch was Adams the grocer. On the corner of the Lynch and Lawn Road was Hercies Farm dairy.

At the age of ten and ready for the move from Whitehall School to the Greenway School, most of our parents gave us cycles. An exciting part of our lives was following fire engines to fires, particularly after we had bicycles. Uxbridge had a Volunteer Fire Brigade and the firemen were summoned by a very loud hooter which was situated above the water works in Waterloo Road. They would all rush by cycle to the Fire Station, which in the early days of my life was situated in Cricket Field Road. Later it moved to Vine Street where the old Empire cinema had been converted. This always caused great excitement.

Another interesting and fun thing was helping Len Fountain with the harvest at Hillingdon House Farm each summer. I used to go up each year with Les Marsh and his family.

One week, I can't remember in which year, there was an unusual coincidence involving a couple of steam driven lorries. In the first a Foden steam lorry (*see below*) crossed Rockingham Bridge and turned up Lawn Road, he could not straighten his steering and so went through the rails and



into the river, landing on its side and trapping the driver's mate beneath part of the cabin.

I rushed in for my father and together with other men they quickly arrived at the scene. My father held the man's head above the water and eventually the others

managed to lever the cab up sufficiently to pull the man out. Some time after he had recovered he came back to thank everyone.

(contd.)



Later the same week a Sentinel steam lorry (*see left*) came down Chandlers Hill. It failed to negotiate the bend at the bottom of the hill and went straight through the railings into the stream. I believe that one man was killed in that accident. Before it was straightened, this bend at the bottom of the hill was very sharp indeed.

Once we had cycles we were able to go further afield sometimes cycling to Windsor for fishing, or to Burnham Beeches but for excitement and interest we often went to the aerodrome at Heston.

Here one could see unusual aircraft, such as the Flying Flea (*below left*), the Luton Minor (*below right*) as well as many others.



The unusual Cierva Autogiro was also parked here (*right*)

Another aerodrome we visited was the Fairey 'drome which occupied part of where Heathrow now is. To see the latest fighter planes a visit to Northolt was undertaken.



We made great use of Uxbridge Common where much cricket was played. Making and flying kites was also a great pastime. Later I joined a model air-craft club which met in a builder's yard in Ellington Road.

(*contd.*)

Again the common was just the place for flying the rubber powered models. We did not use the recreation grounds much for games, except when we were small for the swings, see-saw etc. The long winding pond was ideal for model boats.

The great attraction in the Fassnidge Memorial ground was on Sunday and Tuesday evenings when the Uxbridge and Hillingdon Prize Band would be in the bandstand. On Sundays they played light music and hymns; on Tuesdays it was dance music and the grown-ups would dance inside the circular fence.

Although we had cycles we still went for walks, for instance, up Chandlers Hill, across the cornfields to Bangors Road, along that road to the Iver Heath-Denham Road, down Coppice Hill to the water splash, then across the Nine Stiles walk to New Denham and eventually, home.

My main hobby as a boy was wireless. When I was eight our Crystal set went wrong but nothing was done about it as nobody knew anything about that sort of thing. One day, a friend of my mother, Minnie Jarnett, paid a visit and she encouraged me to take the bottom of the set off to have look. I saw a loose wire which when touched onto a certain terminal caused the set to work. I was hooked on wireless from that early age.



At that time there was an article in 'Modern Boy' magazine with instructions on making a simple crystal set. Having scrounged a supply of wire and other odds and ends I made my first set. Later I got more ambitious, and with the help of material one could find at the industrial tip, I was able to make bigger and better sets. It was fascinating that one could receive speech and music without the need of a power supply. We had our first valve set when I was eleven but as we had no electricity in New Windsor Street (or Rockingham Parade where we moved to later); my weekly job was to take the accumulator (*see left*) up to Tommy Rose's, the cycle shop, for charging. The main power for the wireless was supplied by a 120 volt high tension battery.

(*contd.*)

I was given an electricity experimenter's kit when I was 12 or 13. This contained, among other things, an induction coil, normally used to give people electric shocks. I knew that similar equipment to this was used originally to transmit Morse code. Guy Pearce was also very interested in radio so it was agreed that I would try to transmit Morse and he would try to receive it at his home in Windsor Street. I did not realise that it was spoiling everyone's radio reception locally. The first I knew was when the Post Office detector van pulled up outside and I was severely reprimanded.

Here endeth my school days. I left school at Christmas 1934, longing to get a job some way connected with wireless but none were available, so I became an errand boy at King & Hutchings for seven shillings and sixpence per week. At least I could still follow the fire engine on the trade cycle.

Syd Wilson

MAKE YOUR MARK!

There was nothing particularly unusual about one Friday morning session in the Research Room. I was helping a researcher get started on, hopefully, her long trail of discovery and we happened to look at a London Parish marriage certificate. As was not unusual for the late 19th century one of the people involved was unable or unwilling to write their name and instead made their mark using the letter 'X', all very correct and something that many of us have come across in our own researches.

'X' has been used in place of a full signature probably since the general populace was first required to complete official forms and indeed it may well have been the practice in earlier times. There was certainly a distinction made between adding their signature and making their mark which is the form we always see. In an idle moment, when the mind seems to wander off on its own, I wondered why 'X' should have been selected for our ancestors to make their mark.

(contd.)

Assuming that the reason they did not add a normal signature was because they could not write, at some point somebody must have taught them to use the 'X'. It is also more than likely that whoever this was, probably a parent, they were also untutored in the art of writing.

So, why was 'X' used as the preferred mark? Was it perhaps a corrupted graphic for the Christian emblem the cross i.e. '†'? In a time when the church had a much stronger hold on communities was it the original intention that the mark, '†', would stand for the person's Christian or given name acquired when they were baptized? If so then over a long period of time it is possible to imagine that '†' could corrupt into 'X' by repeated use, particularly if the person saw many examples of X used in notices, signs etc.

However, given that a parent had to teach a child the mark to use in place of a signature surely the actual initial letter of the child's name would have been better. Even if the parent was also unable to write, the difference between the sound of X and the start of the child's name would have been recognisable particularly if at baptism the vicar, curate *et alia* presented the parents with some form of certificate showing the child's name. If 'X' did not derive from '†' and a free choice of mark was available why was the most basic shape of all 'O' not chosen? After all X usually denotes the unknown and even the illiterate would know their name.

Was this practice something that only occurred in Great Britain or did other cultures in other countries have other methods of signing for those who could not write?

Does anyone know of any research that may have been done into this or indeed why this practice grew up? Please let us know so that we can pass it on to the membership or if you have any other thoughts on the subject please get in contact.

I shall carry on searching for anything that might throw a little more light on this subject — watch this space!

'X' a.k.a. (Alan Rowland)

THE WESLEY BROTHERS AND THE HAYES CONNECTION

Most people will heard of John Wesley who founded the Methodist Movement, later to become the Methodist Church, and possibly also his brother Charles who was also an evangelist as well as a composer of many hymns. What may be less well known is that both brothers preached within the Anglican Church of which they were both ministers. The separate Methodist Church was not founded until after the death of John Wesley in 1791. The brothers travelled the country on horseback to spread their message and John is said to have preached 40,000 sermons. One of the many churches where they preached was St. Mary's in Hayes having been invited by the Reverend Charles Manning who was vicar at the church from 1738 to 1756.

Reverend Manning faithfully recorded the occasions on which the Wesley brothers preached between 1748 and 1754, even citing the texts from the Bible that they used as the basis of their preaching. Unusually though, he used the burial registers of the church for this purpose.

One unintended consequence of this which he could never have imagined is that when Ancestry indexed the burials to the church as part of their project undertaken in association with the London Metropolitan Archives, they included the Wesley preaching dates as though they were burials. In consequence if you search for "Wesley" under burials for this church, it apparently shows that the brothers were buried there on no less than eleven occasions.

I have to report that neither brother was buried there, not even once. At the risk of stating the obvious this again proves that if reliable indexes and transcripts are required, it is always best to consult those compiled by family history societies or family historians. In this particular case the West Middlesex Family History Society transcribed and indexed the registers for the period in question some years ago and this will prove a more reliable source of information. Credit is at least due to Ancestry for making the images widely available and browsing the images is highly recommended as another way of making an informed assessment of their contents.

John Symons

CAN ANYBODY HELP, PLEASE?

One of our members recently contacted us to see if we could help in identifying an item of regalia that belonged to one of her ancestors.

He apparently was employed as a 'wool washer' and we thought that the collar might have been connected in some way with the wool trade. Below we show the collar and details of the motifs. The ground colour is Royal Blue; the crown has Rose Red panels; the anchor, the cross and the heart are in Gold Braid and the whole collar has Gold Braid edging.

If you can identify the collar please let us know and we will pass it on to the member.



Editor

WWII – WAR DAMAGE COMPENSATION

The days of the last war are now thankfully well and truly in the past but how quickly memories can be aroused by the sight of a single document. Looking through a bundle of old papers I came across an interesting demand for money. It related to my parents' house in Swansea where I grew up during the war years and was a demand for a compulsory payment into the Government's War Damage Insurance Fund, established to pay compensation for war damaged properties.

The War Damage Commission was set up by the British Government under the War Damage Act 1941 to pay compensation for war damage to land and buildings throughout the United Kingdom. It was not responsible itself for undertaking the repairs which were carried out either by the local authority or private contractors. The country was split into twelve regions, the one covering our area being Region No.8 — Wales (Cardiff) and the local authority being Swansea County Borough Council.

Municipal Councils were required to collect the compulsory contributions from all property owners where the fixed property valuation (for Rates) was £50 or over. The amount payable was based on four shillings for each £100 of valuation. This money was then handed over to the Government which paid the authority a reimbursement of one shilling and three pence for each property. Official instructions were issued by the Insurance and Companies Department, Board of Trade dated May 1941 and the formal document was given to every person affected. For a householder the important paragraph was the opening section giving instructions and general information on submission of claims. Additional sections of the instructions dealt with, (a) The Business Scheme, (b) Special Business Scheme for Farmers and finally (c) Private Chattels Scheme. The copy I found was a brown with age and on the point of crumbling; with it were two demands for payment (*see below*). The sums demanded had to be paid in addition to the normal local authority Rates. With the above was a rate demand for an earlier period and which, it appeared, was a Final Demand! I can only suggest that we had moved to this address only shortly before and that Swansea Corporation was hot on collection!

No-one knew if a call on the Fund would materialise and sincerely hoped it would not be necessary.

(*contd.*)

(N.B.—This notice should be studied and carefully preserved so that it may be available for ready reference if required.)

BOARD OF TRADE
WAR DAMAGE ACT, 1941 (Part II)
NOTICE TO POLICY HOLDERS

NOTIFICATION OF CLAIMS FOR DESTRUCTION OF OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY INSURED UNDER (A) THE BUSINESS SCHEME, OR (B) THE SPECIAL BUSINESS SCHEME FOR FARMERS, OR (C) THE PRIVATE CHATTELS SCHEME.

Under the prescribed standard policies which are printed in full in the War Damage (Business Scheme) Order, 1941 (Statutory Rules and Orders, 1941, No. 450), and the War Damage (Private Chattels Scheme) Order, 1941 (Statutory Rules and Orders, 1941, No. 451) the Insured is required to notify any loss in writing to the Board without delay and at his own expense to deliver to the Board a claim in writing containing as particular an account as may be reasonably practicable of the property insured which is affected, having regard to its value at the time of its destruction or damage.

In the event of a person sustaining loss through the destruction of or damage to property insurable under any of the above Schemes and in respect of which such person is holding a Policy of Insurance issued on behalf of the Board of Trade by one of the Board's Agents, the claimant should proceed with the least possible delay as follows :—

1. He should take or cause to be taken immediately all reasonable steps necessary to prevent further loss of or damage to the property that might arise from exposure or other causes. If difficulty is experienced in obtaining materials for this purpose (e.g. Tarpaulin Sheets) he should at once apply to the Local Authority (Clerk of the Town or Urban District or County Council).
2. If the loss or damage is sustained to property insured under :—

WAR DAMAGE CONTRIBUTION.
INSTALMENT DUE AND PAYABLE
ON 1 JULY, 1941.

To: Mr. J. D. Bridge,
17, Glenmore Rd,
Uplands,
Swansea

An assessment of the instalment of War Damage Contribution, due on 1 July, 1941, has been made in respect of the property described herein; particulars of the assessment are shown below.

Special attention is directed to the Notes enclosed herewith.

If any further explanation in regard to the assessment is desired, application may be made to me.

The instalment of Contribution should be paid to the Collector of Taxes whose address is given on the enclosed economy label.

J. J. BARRY,
 SWANSEA 2nd DISTRICT,
 ROOM 206, 2nd FLOOR,
 63, WIND STREET, SWANSEA.

14/7/41 Date.

Reference Numbers	*Description and Situation of Property (if not as above)	Contributory Value		INSTALMENT PAYABLE
		Amount on which Inst. payable at 2% in the £	Amount on which Inst. payable at 6d. in the £	
4/W.D. 31184		52	—	5 4
Total amount payable on 1 July, 1941				5 4

*Where the instalment applied for relates to more than one property, see details appended.
 For further directions as to payment, see overleaf.
 W.D.5. 21018 Wt. 11748/9, 6487/8, 5/41. M93 & Co. Ltd., Ltd. (TS)-338.



Anderson Shelters (see above) were used to offer protection from bomb blast and shrapnel fragments and the A.R.P advisory staff told everyone, including my father, that the safest location for the shelter would be away from the house

(contd.)

This was all very well, cut and dried and everyone knew what to do etc., but if my father had sited the shelter as instructed I would not be here to write this article.



The previous autumn I had been taken very seriously ill with pneumonia. In those days there were no antibiotics and the only medication available was 'M & B' tablets.

It was also 'standard practice' at the time to wrap the upper body in 'Thermogene' wadding to keep the patient warm

but these actions did little to speed recovery which was painfully slow.

As many of you will probably remember, because these shelters were half buried in the ground, they very often became flooded. So you can see my father's predicament; he was not going to allow me to be taken to a cold and damp shelter in the garden because of my frail health but he had to find a safe location for the shelter. He decided my health was more important and that a direct hit on the house was unlikely. A solution had to be found quickly we could no longer huddle in the space under the stairs as a temporary shelter.

Much to the disquiet of the A.R.P advisory staff father decided to place the shelter indoors. Since the house was built on steeply sloping ground it was possible to excavate the ground under the dining room and put the shelter there.

This was done and an entry/escape door was built into the external wall, but this still meant that we would have to go outside in order to enter the shelter. A little thought brought the answer – a trap door was cut into the dining room floor with a ladder enabling us to climb down. No need now to even go outside when the sirens went, just open the trap door and scuttle down the ladder!

(contd.)

A wise decision, as it happened, because on the night of 16th February 1943, a 50lb high explosive bomb fell on the exact spot where the shelter would have been had the A.R.P. direction been followed. There it demolished the garage as can be seen below.



That night we were in the shelter, there was an almighty thud, the blast blew the escape door open leaving an avalanche of mud and boulders of clay. It was this clay subsoil, we were told and that had absorbed most of the blast that saved us from greater damage. The house suffered blast damage – the roof having been lifted and dislodged.

Time moved on and whilst the damage claim was submitted immediately it was quite a long time before house repairs were started and perhaps three years or more before the garage was rebuilt, the bomb crater filled in and the garden re-laid. However, the financial side of matters seems to have been a little obscure since my father was able to negotiate an extension to the rebuilt garage as a trade-off with the builder for using salvaged materials!

For anyone interested in the subject of War Damage, Hansard makes fascinating reading and War Damage related matters were being raised in Parliament during the war and for many years after it ended.

John Bridger

Thanks to the many improvements made to the A40 Western Avenue over the years, and especially since it was connected to the M40 motorway, it is often forgotten that the main trunk road from London to Oxford was the Uxbridge Road (now the A4020) and all the traffic passed through town centres en route. As a young child living in Southall in the early 1950s I frequently had to cross the dual carriageway section running between the Iron Bridge at Greenford and Southall High Street and I do not recall any serious congestion. In fact, the traffic flowed so smoothly and quickly that my mother often sent me to Hanwell on the trolley bus to buy fish and chips for a family meal. The bus service was reliable and efficient enough for me to return home with the food still hot – imagine trying to do that today!

Of course, the road to Uxbridge and beyond was not always that good, and in the early days of the motor car it was considered to be sufficiently difficult as to provide a stern test for the newfangled machines, being described in one 1899 report as ‘...acknowledged by automobilists who know the trunk roads out of London to be one of the, if not the, most trying roads for autocars...’. The Autocar magazine of May 20th 1899 published the following news for owners of cars weighing less than one and a half tons:

‘The starting point will be the Red Lion Hotel at Southall, threequarters of



a mile on the London side of the tenth milestone from Marble Arch, and the turn a quarter of a mile beyond the thirty-fourth milestone on the top of Dashwood Hill, the ascent of which, to quote the C.T.C. road book is very steep and loose.’

(Dashwood Hill is West of High Wycombe and is now known as Old Dashwood Hill. Sometime in the 1930s the road

Dashwood Hill c1901

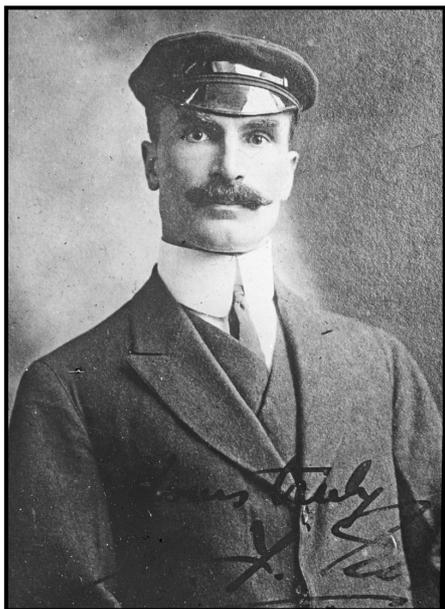
was by- passed by the A40).

(contd.)

The article went on to describe the road conditions that participants could expect to encounter *‘The surface of the road is somewhat indifferent macadam as far as Uxbridge, when it becomes flint and better in quality.*

Red Hill, two and a quarter miles from Uxbridge, is a long and fairly stiff ascent, the surface being loose in dry weather.....'

Intrigued by the description of Red Hill as 'a long and fairly stiff ascent' with which I was unfamiliar, I decided to drive out to Denham in order to investigate. I discovered Red Hill itself is now just a narrow service road running parallel to the main A40 (just west of the junction with the A412) and is nothing more than a gentle slope which modern motorists traverse with ease, most probably not even aware that they are climbing any sort of hill at all.



The famous pioneering motorist Selwyn Francis Edge gives the most graphic description of the Uxbridge Road in those days. Published in the October 14th 1899 issue of *The Autocar*, this is the relevant extract:

'.....after crossing the Brent the road surface improved, save that it was fairly lumpy right into Uxbridge. The car made nothing of the long steady climb from Hanwell to Hillingdon – indeed, no grade was met with that even made the second speed a necessity until Red Hill was reached.'

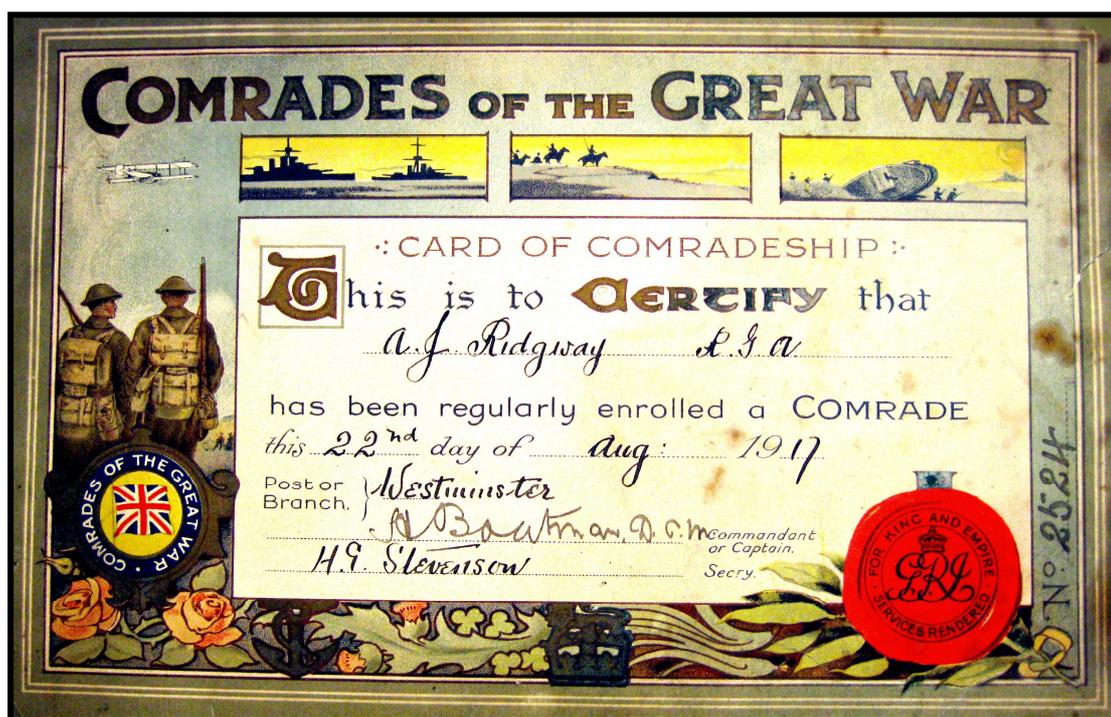
The magazine report then outlines the differing gradients on Red Hill in precise detail, giving the total rise as 100 feet in 1,075 yards. Edge was timed as averaging 11.5mph for the climb.

So the next time you drive serenely along the Western Avenue and zoom through Hillingdon at 70mph, spare a thought for pioneering motorists like S.F. Edge. Imagine the challenges of an engine prone to overheating, deeply rutted muddy roads and struggling to get up hills – all on a one hundred mile journey along a major trunk route that took an afternoon to complete – this is surely something few drivers will experience in the 21st century.

Tony Beadle

FIT FOR HEROES?

A cousin of Pat Reynolds, our membership secretary, recently died leaving the estate to charity. The executors informed Pat and other family members of their cousin's death and Pat asked to have any papers, photographs and in particular an embroidered cushion made by her great grandfather in 1899. Among the papers delivered by the executors was her uncle's enrolment certificate for 'Comrades of the Great War' (*see below*). He was Arthur Jordon Ridgeway and he had had lost a hand in the First World War.



Towards the end of 1917 discharged servicemen gathered together to form non political 'clubs' one of which was 'Comrades of the Great War' with these aims:

To perpetuate the memory of glorious deeds; to bind man to man, above all to cheer the lonely; to comfort the sorrowful, to help the widow and the orphan of the heroic dead. The blind men, the maimed men, the isolated ones, the neglected ones — these are the sailors and soldiers, whether officers or men, whom "Comrades of the Great War" will seek out and assist as their own brothers. (contd.)

The other organizations formed by ex-service men at the time were the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers, The Silver Badge Party (National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers), The National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers and

the Officer's Association. The amalgamation of these organisations in 1922 formed the nucleus of the British Legion as we know it today.

Alan Rowland

REMARKABLE RUISLIP FAMILY

One of our members sent in an extract from the Middlesex & Buckinghamshire Advertiser dated March 1907 which we précis below:

'Mrs. Mary Bray of Ruislip Common was buried on 23rd February.... Mary was the daughter of Mr. William Lavender who died 1874.... At his death he left behind 176 lineal descendants (143 were alive?) and one of his grandsons was a grandfather!'

Eight of his ten children married with the following results;

James: 13 children – 14 grandchildren and 8 great grand children.

Sarah: 7 children – 21 grandchildren.

William: 10 children – 17 grandchildren.

Fanny: 9 children – 7 grandchildren.

Mary: 11 children – 18 grandchildren.

Henry: 8 children – 8 grandchildren.

George: 8 children – 1 grandchild.

Charles: (still living) has 6 children.

Editor

SHOW AND TELL

Those who took part in the 'Show and Tell' session, following our AGM in March, brought some interesting items for us to see which perhaps will have reminded us that we may also have similar treasures around our homes. It certainly reminded me of many things I am lucky enough to have inherited, not necessarily of monetary value but priceless to me.

(contd.)

One such treasure is a battered and worn book of scraps which came from my maternal grandmother, Sarah. There are many handwritten recipes, some costed, some dated and some remedies, among them for Rheumatism, Neuralgia and coughs. There are loose pages taken from editions of the regular publication 'Home Notes' dated 1894-96 with all kinds of

household hints. There is also from Marks and Spencers Penny Bazaar a 'Giant Packet of Games' envelope, unfortunately now containing only one game – a list of Forfeits

Another item slipped in is a Valentine Writer booklet. This has no cover, but it does have an illustration of a Valentine Card, the title page and the inscription of the owner (*see below*). The inscription reads 'Mr. J. Howes, His Valentine Book Feby. 18 1837', but is the initial a J or a T? John Howes was born in 1812 and Thomas Howes in 1817; they were younger brothers of my 2 x great grandmother Lucy Howes, who was born in 1807.

The verses were not always sentimental - for example this one is for a Butcher:

*'To a Butcher
Pert and greasy, rude and sly,
Stands the Butcher, buy-you-buy,
Ah! buy indeed, to buy and rue,
Would be to buy a calf like you,
No, no, Sir-, e'er you look on betters,
Mend your manners, learn your letters
And, if of love your tongue must prattle
Bleat your lays among the cattle'.*

On leafing through the manuscript pages carefully I have found various clues to the original ownership of the book. Some of these have fallen into place, but as often happens some have given rise to more puzzles to solve. The original owner appears to have been a grocer as there are accounts beginning in July, 1840. I have traced some of these customers in the 1841 census, but unfortunately not the grocer. He noted that he '*left Lindfield Feby 16 1841*' and I do not know his name, or where he went!
Ah well!

However, should anyone want or need a recipe for Macassar Oil or Tooth Powder I can probably help.

Barbara Nield.



Mr J Howes
His Valentine
Book Feb 70
1837
W.C.C.

THE
LADIES & GENTLEMEN'S
 GENERAL
VALENTINE WRITER,
 BEING A CHOICE COLLECTION OF
AMATORY EPISTLES, ADDRESSES,
ANSWERS, &c. &c.
Suited to all Ranks and Conditions of Lovers,
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London:
ORLANDO HODGSON,

PRICE SIXPENCE.

A TALK – GREGORY KING’S HAREFIELD

On Thursday 20th January 2011 we were pleased to welcome back Eileen Bowlt who gave an illustrated talk on Gregory King’s Harefield. She explained that Gregory King was a statistician and surveyor, born in 1648 and died in 1712. He had connections with the manorial Newdigate family of Harefield and in 1699 was engaged as a surveyor. In this role he made extensive notes of the parish of Harefield which are now deposited at the National Archives at Kew with some at the London Metropolitan Archives.

In these documents you can find most of the residents of Harefield in that year which is most valuable if you are looking for family members from this era. At the time of his survey there were 563 people living in Harefield in 122 families with an average 4.81 people per household. This was larger than the UK average. Only 10% were single person households.

N.B. To aid readers perception of the relative locations of the buildings, farms and places mentioned by Eileen we have produced a map of Harefield with a key and table, see below. We have also included the key letters in the text.

The Newdigates owned Harefield Place (A) which is now the site of the Australian War Cemetery. In 1699 the owner was Sir Richard Newdigate. He proposed to build a new Harefield House but this did not happen. In fact Sir Richard spent little of his time in Harefield, residing instead in Warwickshire.

Brackenbury Farm (B) on Breakspear Road South - one of the large farms that belonged to the Newdigate estate. In 1699 this was occupied by Ralph Wingfield, a tenant of Brackenbury Farm and the Newdigate bailiff.

Langleys Farm (C) is on Breakspear Road North and Coneys Farm (D) on Mill Lane. At the end of Mill Lane in the valley runs the River Colne. Here were two mills, one of grinding corn the other for making paper.

(contd.)

Breakspear House (E) was occupied by the Ashbys, an old Harefield family dating back to the 15th century. In 1699 the occupier was Francis Ashby with his wife Judith and family. Judith was expecting another child at the time.

Within the Ashby estate was Bourne Farm (F) occupied by John Living, his wife Ann, three children and two servants.

By this time a few practising Quakers were living in Harefield. Noteworthy amongst them was Thomas Lovett who lived at Little Breakspears, now demolished. In 1691 he subscribed fifteen shillings towards the provision of a Meeting House in Uxbridge.

Harefield Grove (G), formerly Guttersdean, was occupied in 1699 by James Starkey who was then married to his third wife, Sarah with a collection of children from all his marriages. The property was owned by Daniel Coggs of Denham.

Brackenbury was the centre of an estate retained by the Newdigates after the disposal of much of their other Harefield properties.

Copthall (H) was occupied by Henry Baldwin, a husbandman and shepherd.

Moorhall (I) in Moorhall Road was a farm occupied by John Jeffreys. The house itself was large but has since been destroyed. Next to this was an ancient stone barn or chapel destroyed in more recent times by order of the local authority, its fate decided by a casting vote in 1960.

Crows Nest Farm (J), now opposite the Breakspear Arms, was then owned by the Weedon family. The farmhouse was also large and John Weedon had dug a pond around some common land nearby with a fence to stop children falling in.

Town Farm (K) on Church Hill leading from Harefield Heath to the church was occupied in 1699 by one John Hill, a tenant of Sir John Newdigate who was on very bad terms with John Hill and attempted to remove him as a tenant. This did not happen however and it was only the death of John Hill a few years later that resolved the situation.

(contd.)

Further up Church Hill was a building, which still exists as 140 High Street (L). In 1699 it was occupied by John Bailey, a blacksmith. John had an extensive family, then having living with them ten children, his wife Katherine and her unmarried sister.

Nearby was Bird Lane (M) where several poorer families lived. Amongst these was a young couple, Thomas and Mary Watson. Thomas contracted smallpox and was sent to London in search of a cure at parish expense, but to no avail. Another resident was Edward Sparks, a failed farmer. His son was amongst those who had their names taken for throwing stones at and verbal abuse of Martha Hill, the schoolmistress.

On the other side of Church Hill stood Marlowes (N) nowadays called Manor Court. This farm house was occupied by the Mossendew family. Robert Mossendew, another tenant of Sir Richard Newdigate, was much involved in parish affairs as Overseer, Constable and Churchwarden in addition of course to his farming work. Robert died in 1698 and the farm was then run by his widow Frances and her two sons, John and Robert. This latter son, Robert junior, has a memorial in his honour with verse inside Harefield Church, placed there by William Ashby who then employed him as a gamekeeper.

Harefield House (O) which was later to become one of the major properties in the parish was then known as Dobbins House on account of a previous occupant of that name. Richard Dobbins served in the Royalist force and was able to become a Poor Knight of Windsor after he ran into financial difficulties which led to him having to sell the house. In 1699 it was occupied by Thomas Topping and his family.

At Hill End (P) were a number of cottages. One was occupied by Thomas Bugberd "a lame man". Another was occupied by Edmund Priest, his wife and four children. He had many parish functions such as recording tithes and keeping the accounts for the Overseers of the Poor. Opposite Long Croft (Q) where Thomas Bugberd lived was a farm called Chownes (R) occupied by John Wheeler and his son who were both Quakers.

New Years Green (S) is the site of a hamlet. The origin of the name "New Years" is "Newes" with a farm of that name. There was also a property then known as Marlwards (T) and later as St. Leonards Farm where a churchwarden named Simon Pratt lived.

(contd.)

REF	LOCATION	PRESENT
A	Harefield Place	Site Of
B	BrackenburyFarm	Still There
C	Langley's Farm	
D	Coney's Farm	
E	Breakspear House	Under Development
F	Bourne Farm	Still There
G	Harefield Grove	
H	Copthall Farm	Still There
I	Moor Hall and Chapel	Site Of
J	Crows Nest Farm	Still There
K	Town Farm	
L	140 High Street	Still There
M	Bird Lane	
N	Manor Court (Earlier Marlowes and Conduit Farm)	
O	Harefield House (Dobbins House)	Redeveloped
P	Hill End	
Q	Long Croft	
R	Chownes Farm	
S	New Years Green	Still There
T	Malwards/St. Leonards Farm	

In the course of her comprehensive talk Eileen referred to many other places in Harefield which it is not possible here to cover in any detail. There is however a book "Gregory King's Harefield: An English Village in the 1690s" by Elona Cuthbertson which also covers the subject thoroughly and for those who were not present at the talk and would like to learn more about the records amassed by Gregory King it is worth obtaining. It is available from the Society bookstall price £4.90.

John Symons

N.B. This report should have appeared in the March edition but unfortunately we ran out of space.

A TALK –THEY'RE CHANGING MORE THAN THE GUARD AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

On 17th February 2011 we welcomed back Barry Twigg for another of his informative talks about Buckingham Palace.

The lights dimmed and the projector illuminated the darkened room with an aerial view of the Palace. All however was not what it seemed as we were told of the false front which hid a crumbling building. The Queens Gallery, visited by the society last year, is currently closed for refurbishment and work elsewhere is to be done. The Palace building is changing.

Security is, perhaps not surprisingly, a major concern. The Queen's car is always followed by a minimum of four armed guards as well as one in her car. Security is always being improved and changing.

August and September each year see the summer opening of the spectacular State Rooms. We were shown a photo of the White Drawing Room where the Queen, entering by a secret door behind a mirror, meets guests before dinner. Investitures take place in the Ballroom which is the biggest room in the Palace and the summer opening has a changing exhibition, most recently showing the Queen's Year. It is also possible these days to visit the Palace Gardens and have tea there (another change). The Queen's art collection is open all year round and the exhibitions will change more frequently.

The garden is of course the venue for garden parties attended by 10,000 people. This means that many won't even see the Queen and there are long queues to gain entry. Guests are selected to speak to her and one year Barry had this privilege. Two changes soon to be implemented, will mean that the investitures and the garden parties will take place in Windsor Castle.

The Palace is a working building employing some 500 people including two who wind up the clocks. The Queen holds regular receptions for charities, has audiences with individuals, lunches attended by about a dozen people, state visits and state banquets. The garden is also used for concerts and children's parties (disadvantaged children). Of the 775 rooms only 19 are staterooms, 52 are bedrooms but most are offices.

(contd.)

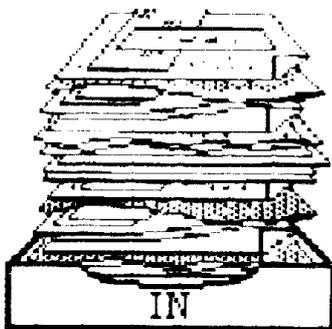
Cars are kept in the Royal Mews and the royal horses are housed at the Royal Household Calvary stables. In front of the Palace the Victoria Monument has changed and it no longer forms a roundabout for traffic.

Indeed, the many offices are required as the Palace is the administrative HQ of the Monarchy. The Press Office is open 24 hours. There is a Celebrations and Anniversaries office which each year sends about 2000 cards to those reaching their 100th birthday and those celebrating Diamond or Blue Platinum wedding anniversaries. The Queen has red boxes to deal with and is Queen to 16 countries. Windsor is regarded by the Queen as her main home and generally she is only at the Palace from Tuesday to Thursday.

So we were entertained with some colourful photographs, some insider information, many informative and interesting facts and we were urged to visit the changing Palace as well as to look at the excellent website www.royal.gov.uk Our members and visitors enjoyed another great evening. The Society thanks Barry Twigg for making it so.

Charles Hampshire

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



Membership of the society is about the same as this time last year. To keep our subscriptions down we must keep our membership up so we ask you to encourage anyone that you know with an interest in family history to join us at the society.

You can still return your member's interests form so that we can keep our lists updated and you can add to it at anytime. At present few people use our journal Helpline: this is a good facility that you can use to hear from other members who may just have the information you are seeking.

Hope everyone enjoyed the lovely Easter and that you all have a good and fruitful summer.

Patricia Reynolds

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS

G51 Mrs. Patricia Gilks Email: gilks7@btinternet.com	17 The Avenue, Ickenham, Middlesex. UB10 8NR
G52 Mr. Geoffrey Gilks Email: gilks7@btinternet.com	17 The Avenue, Ickenham, Middlesex. UB10 8NR

MEMBERS RE-JOINED

B49 Mrs. Maureen Buck Email: thealamo@blueyonder.co.uk	31 Leybourne Road, Hillingdon Middlesex. UB10 9HD
H31 Mrs. Rita Myra Hill	47 Briarwood Drive, Northwood Hills, Middlesex. HA6 1PN

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

L38 Mr. Malcolm Lewins, c/o 25 Pegasus Way, Hilton,
Derbyshire. DE65 5HW
Email: gillbaith@btinternet.com

W27 Mr. David John Wilson, 22 Harmar Close, Wokingham. RG40 1SG
Email: dwilson01@btinternet.com

RESIGNATIONS FROM THE SOCIETY

C62 Mr. George Connides, 47 Manor Way, Ruislip,
Middlesex. HA4 8HE
Email: george@gconnides.wanadoo.co.uk

L43 Mr. Leslie Lorage, 3 Pinner Road, Northwood,
Middlesex. HA6 1QR
Email: lorage@btinternet.com

M73 Mr. Robert McNabb, 21 Oakfield Avenue, Slough. SL1 5AE

M74 Mrs. Angela McNabb, 21 Oakfield Avenue, Slough. SL1 5AE

S38 Mrs. Monica Smith, 48 Loughton Road, Northolt,
Middlesex. UBS 5LN

(contd.)

W73 Mr. Jack Henry West, 22 Oak Avenue, Ickenham,
Middlesex. UB10 8LP

W78 Mrs. Betty West, 22 Oak Avenue, Ickenham,
Middlesex. UB10 8LP

HEDGERLY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings take place at 8.00 p.m. in Hedgerly Memorial Hall, Kiln Lane,
Hedgerly, Bucks. SL2 3UZ unless otherwise stated.

2011 — 2012 PROGRAMME

2011		
6 th July	Head gardener Andrew Mudge	* Evening walk at Cliveden
21 st September	Claire Forrest	Famous people and places in the Chilterns
1 st October (Saturday 10am to 4pm)	Professor William Prescott	** Hedgerly Study Day: The History of Poster Art
19 th October	Sally Botwright	London Olympics 2012
29 th October (Sat. 12 noon)	Tony Eaton	*** Autumn Lunch & The curious disappearance of Major Glenn Miller
16 th November	Gary Marshall	National Trust Archaeology
7 th December	Alan French	A year as Master of the Worshipful Company of Fruiterers
2012		
18 th January	Lucinda Lambton	Queen Mary's Dolls' House at Windsor Castle
15 th February	Julian Hunt	The Gerrards Cross Conservation Area
21 st March	Professor Peter Edwards	The Harry Kirby Memorial Lecture Cultural Icons or Beasts of Burden – Horses in Early Modern England

(contd.)

* N.T. members free, non-members £7.65. Meet at the Visitor Centre.

** Registration 9.45 a.m. £20.00. Booking required.

*** Tickets £12.00. Booking required.

Contact:

John Lovelock, tel: **01753 647187**, email: **jdlovelock@btinternet.com**

RESEARCH BY HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



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 searches can be extended by using the London Metropolitan Archives, 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.

(contd.)

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 give a negative answer or even no answer at all. In either case a charge will still have to be made

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

HELP LINE — BRICK WALLS DEMOLISHED?

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.

HELP WANTED

Henry James PULLIN married Martha Rhoda MYFORD 9th June 1924 at St. Mary Magdalen, Paddington. They had 3 daughters born in Paddington and 2 sons born in Uxbridge.

Martha Rhoda died in 1996 aged 91 in Hillingdon. I would love to hear from anyone who has knowledge of this family. Many thanks.

Helen Butler
28 Andorra Court, 151 Widmore Road, Bromley, Kent. BRI 3AE

HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 17th MARCH 2011

Good evening. I must first welcome our President, Michael Gandy, and thank him for his support and interest in the society over the past year. I am pleased to report that it has once again been a very successful year for the Society. We have enjoyed some really excellent speakers on a wide range of topics and I should like to thank Judith for organising these events. As you are all aware, the very nature of family history is changing, due in large part to the opportunities presented by the internet and I trust that these changes are and continue to be reflected in the topics covered once a month by our speakers and in our journal.

Speaking of the journal, I should like to thank John, Alan, Tom and all those involved in its production or who have contributed to it. As you will see from the bulletin, we need more articles! So if anyone has the urge to rip off their hand and write with the stump, or alternatively just bleed all over a keyboard, I would encourage you to do so. For those that are less energetic, crayons can also be provided! But we need more articles please.

The bookstall has once again attended a number of local family history fairs and other events – such as the Ickenham Festival – and I should like to thank Gill, Pat and Joy for making this happen. This year they have an exciting and colourful banner to accompany them, ensuring that your Society will not go unnoticed at these events.

Over the past year Valerie has worked hard in the library and I should like to thank her for her work. The library and the research room are two really wonderful resources that your Society has for family history research and I would both encourage you to use them and also provide feedback to the Committee on anything that we can do to improve the service these resources provide.

At last year's AGM we discussed the need to increase our subscription rate from £10 to £12 to reflect our increasing overheads and it was agreed that this increase would take place in 2011. I am delighted to report that this increase in the rate has not deterred members from renewing their subscriptions and that as a consequence I am optimistic that during the course of this year the Society's finances will reach equilibrium.

(contd.)

Charles, our Treasurer, has looked after our finances and I would like to thank him for his work. He will report shortly on the Society's financial situation but I think it will be apparent why the increase in the subscription was necessary.

Joy and her cherished volunteers continue with their transcription activities and I should like to thank them for their efforts. I should also like to thank Doug for his work on our website – another valuable Society resource that I would encourage you to explore. And I should like to thank Peter Collins for his contribution – he has decided to stand down from the Committee this year.

This means that we have a vacancy – actually we have quite a few, so I would once again appeal to anyone who is interested and willing to help with the running of the Society to please see me or a member of the Committee. It is not a big time commitment but new faces and particularly IDEAS would be very welcome.

In conclusion, it has been a good year and I hope I have thanked everyone who made it so. If I haven't then my apologies – please accept this blanket “thank you” as covering you. I am confident that we will have another successful year as a Family History Society in 2011/2012 and I look forward to seeing you at our meetings during the rest of the year.

Thank you.

Ian Harvey – Chairman

* * * * *	
<u>JOURNAL DEADLINE DATES for articles etc.</u>	
<u>JOURNAL</u>	<u>DATE</u>
SEPTEMBER 2011.....	1 st August
DECEMBER 2011.....	3 rd October

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Minutes of the 23rd A.G.M. held on Thursday 17th March 2011
at The Baptist Church, Hercies Road, Hillingdon Circus, Middlesex

1. Apologies for absence from Valerie Dicks, John Lovelock & Sue Mahoney
2. Minutes of the 22nd A.G.M. held at The Baptist Church, Hercies Road, Hillingdon on Thursday 18th March 2010 were approved by Joy Higgs and approved.
3. There were no matters arising.
4. The Chairman's report was read and accepted.
5. The Hon. Treasurer presented the Annual Accounts. Charles was thanked for his production of the accounts and they were accepted by John Symons and seconded by Jean Gorman.
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

A vote of thanks was expressed to Michael Gandy for continuing to be our President. All officers were unanimously proposed by Douglas Adams and seconded by Alan Rowland.

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 Joy Higgs and seconded by John Symons.

(contd.)

8. Appointment of Auditor, Joe Ross.
Proposed by Joy Higgs and seconded by Arthur Dark.
9. Any other business.
There being no other business the meeting was closed.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/2010

I have presented the accounts to you for several years now and the message is much the same. In 2010 Expenditure before Depreciation exceeded Income by £907. This means that the Society needs to increase its annual Income (or reduce Expenditure) by some 25%. Whilst the Society has reserves, these are diminishing and the current position is unsustainable in the longer term.

As always, the Society is dependent on a few who do most of the work and I would like to thank our Secretary Gill May whose bookstall and work at Fairs (particularly with Pat and Joy) provides a generous annual donation.

Those who man the Research Room on a weekly basis are also income generators as are the volunteers who sell and print our programmes. May I thank on your behalf all those individuals who give so much to us all.

Our Balance Sheet portrays our ageing assets and declining reserves which are matters which will again require thought from your Committee. We welcome ideas from Members and I open the meeting for any questions on the accounts.

Charles Hampshire, BA, MBA, CPFA, Hon Treasurer.

AUDITED ACCOUNTS

HFHS accounts for year ending 31 December 2010

Income and Expenditure

	£	£
	2010	2009
<u>Income</u>		
Memberships	2,561	2,458
Research Room Fees	245	273
Raffle	307	345
Printouts	80	0
Donations	338	849
Palace teip	0	1,632
Other Income	81	348
Visitors	19	29
Journal Sales	7	5
	<u>3,637</u>	<u>5,939</u>

	£	£
	2010	2009
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Rent	1,835	1,772
Insurance	137	138
Journal	1,000	1,000
Palace Trip	0	1,515
Other Expenses	57	100
Computer	117	70
Publicity	73	85
Subscription to FFHS	115	105
Speakers	384	300
Postage, Printing & Stationery	<u>825</u>	<u>668</u>
	<u>4,543</u>	<u>5,753</u>

Excess of Expenditure over
Income before Depreciation

907

Excess of Income over
Expenditure before Depreciation
Depreciation

187

70 excl Palace Trip £117 profit

2,346 3,009

Excess of Expenditure over
Income for Year

3,253 2,777

**HFHS BALANCE SHEET
for year ending 31 December 2010**

	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	Depn
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
<u>Fixed Assets</u>								
Microfiche Readers		0			300			300
Projectors, Trolleys and stands		507			676			169
Computer Equipment		1,378			2,068			690
Library Resources		2,368		4,253	3,556			1,188
								2,346
<u>Current Assets</u>								
New Books	0			500				
Society Publications	0			0				
Prepayment				0				
Cash at Bank	2,856			3,986				
Cash in hand	47			0				
FIXED ASSETS		2,903			4,486			
<u>less Current Liabilities</u>								
Creditors	45		45		45			
NET CURRENT ASSETS			2,858				4,441	
			<u>7,111</u>				<u>11,041</u>	
<u>Represented By</u>								
Net Accumulated Funds			7,111				11,041	
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			<u>7,111</u>				<u>11,041</u>	

Report of Account Examiner

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2009 and certify that they are in accordance with the records presented to me

 (J K. Ross)

J K Ross BA MSc CPFA

**BOOKSTALL FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT
RECEIPTS & EXPENSES FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010**

	2010		2009		2010	2009
Receipts				Expenses		
Publications	£967.68		£901.48	Pubs bought	£434.52	£374.43
				F H Fairs	£120.00	£100.00
				Stock written down	£ 60.00	£ 55.00
				Surplus	£614.52	£539.43
					£353.16	£372.05
	£967.68		£901.48		£967.68	£901.48

BALANCE SHEET

	2010	2009
Cash in hand	£ 60.00	£ 60.00
Balance at Bank	£1,124.67	£374.46
Closing Stock	£ 479.85	£539.85
Total Assets	£1,664.52	£974.31

ACCUMULATED FUND

	2010	2009
Represented by:		
Balance brought forward	£ 974.31	£ 939.31
Surplus	£ 353.16	£ 372.05
Transfer to No 1 A/C 2009 re-credited		£1,311.36
Cheque not presented	£ 337.05	£ 337.05 (Transfer to No 1 A/C)
	£1,664.52	£ 974.31

Mrs G May, Bookstall Fundraising Account

Mr C Hampshire, Hon. Treasurer

REPORT OF THE ACCOUNT EXAMINER

The closing stock has been valued at cost by a Member of the Committee. I have examined the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2010 and certify that they are in accordance with the books and vouchers presented to me.

 (M.P. J.K. Ross)

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Holy Trinity Church, Northwood, Middx. Monumental Inscriptions.	5.50
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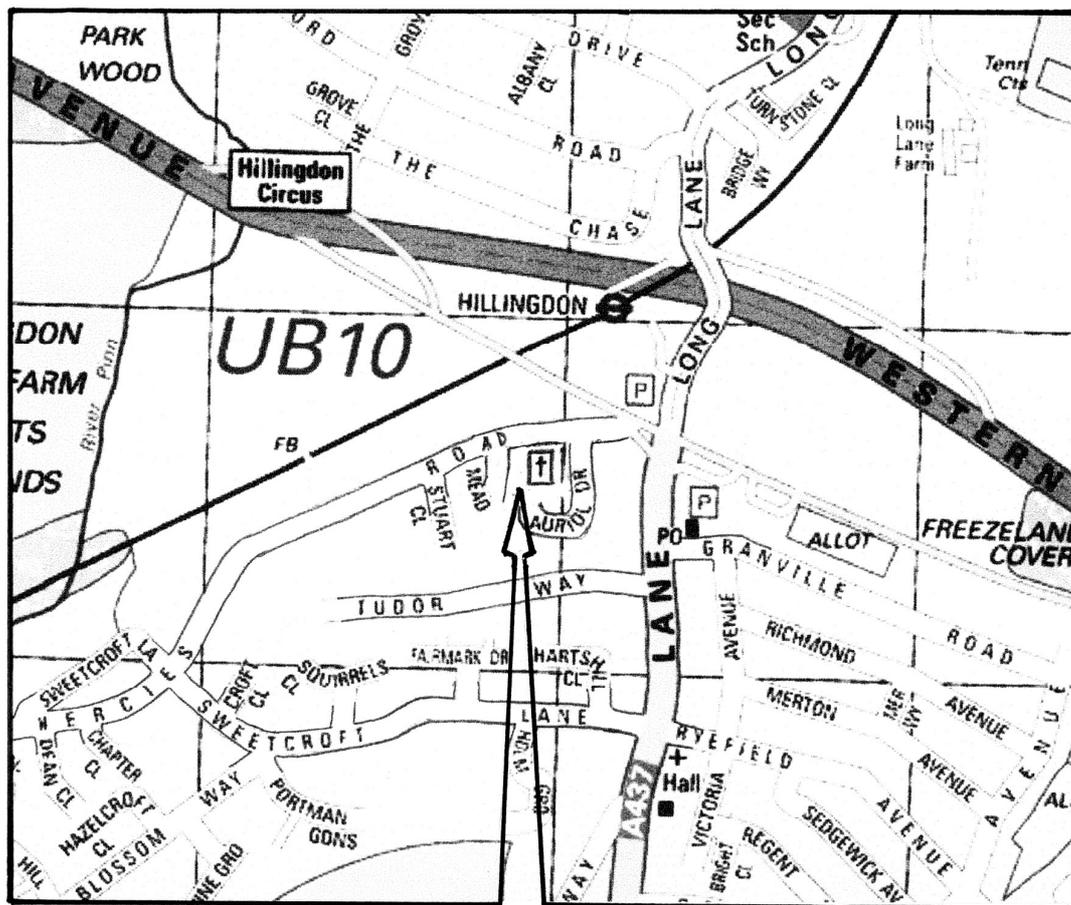
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The publications can be obtained from the Publications Officer:

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

or alternatively visit these on-line bookshops:

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WE ARE HERE
 (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 1st 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.

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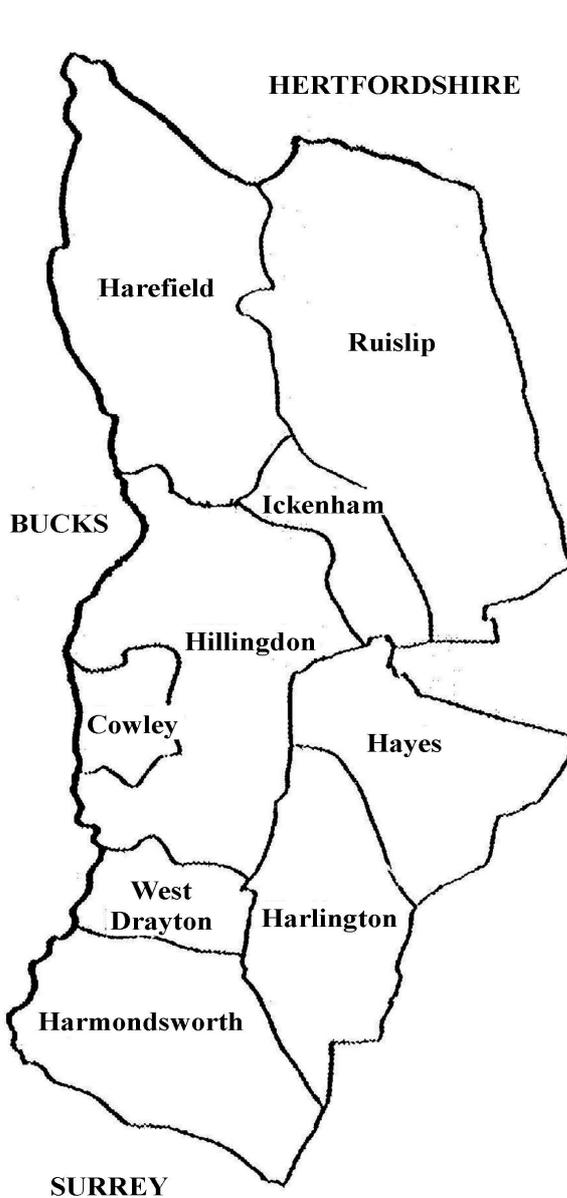
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London Borough of Hillingdon (Middlesex)

Greater London



The nine ancient Middlesex parishes incorporated into the modern London Borough of Hillingdon are listed below.

Their original parish records and registers are now at:
London Metropolitan Archives
40 Northampton Road, London
EC1 OAB.

Hillingdon today embraces a mixture of ancient and modern, large & small Greater London suburbs, each with a distinctive identity. Heathrow Airport lies at its southern end.

Hillingdon suburbs: Colham Green, Cowley, Eastcote, Harefield, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Hayes, Hillingdon, Ickenham, Longford, Northwood, Ruislip, Ruislip Manor, Sipson, South Ruislip, Uxbridge, West Drayton, Yeading, Yiewsley