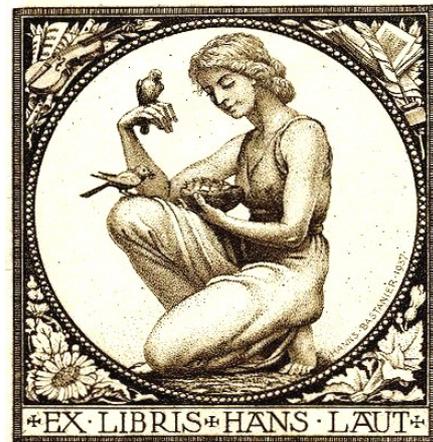
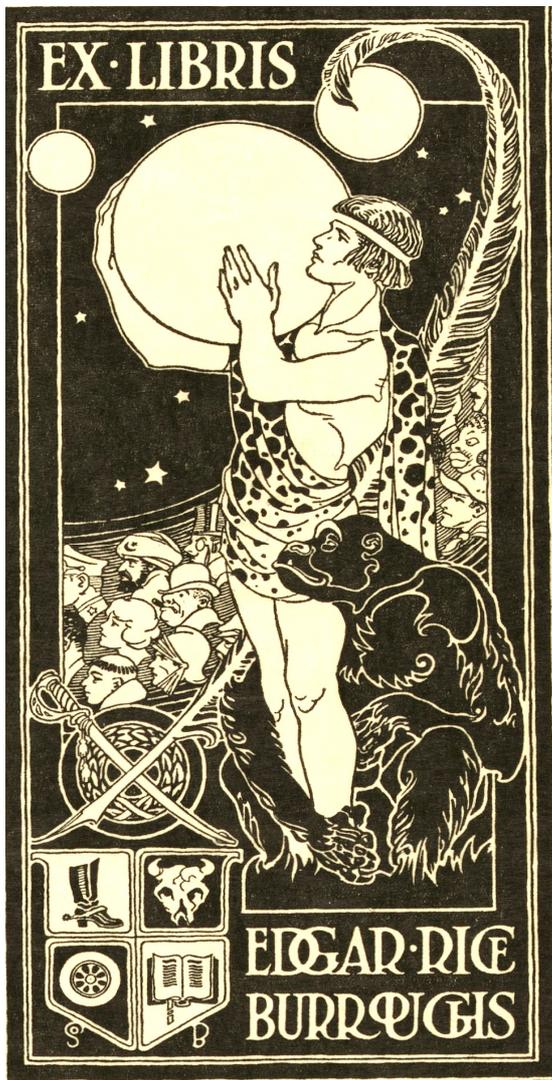




# HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



*Book plates see Chairman's Notes (page 2)*

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**Journal No. 120**

**December 2017**

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## 2017/18 PROGRAMME OF OUR MEETINGS

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

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>
<i>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September</i>	<i>Ian Harvey</i>	<i>'Into the Sideboard: Family History and Silverware'</i>
<i>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>Jenny Mundy</i>	<i>'Bagging the Bagshaws'</i>
<i>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November</i> <i>Joint Meeting with U3A</i> <i>Starts at 2.00 p.m.</i>	<i>Dr. Maurice Gleeson</i>	<i>'Genetic Genealogy – What DNA can do for you'</i>
<b>DECEMBER 2017</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2018</b>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2018 Joint meeting with U3A Starts at 2.00 pm	Dave Annal	'Lost in London'
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Jenny Mallin	'A Grandmother's Legacy; a memoir of 5 generations in the days of the Raj'
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	A.G.M.	
April, May, June, July	T.B.A.	T.B.A.
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Nick Barratt	'Researching and Writing Your Family History'

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

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**Contents**

Chairman's Notes.....	2
Editors' Jottings.....	5
The Life and Times of Amy Pearce.....	6
Where Were They Born.....	9
Good News for Researchers .....	13
Beware of False Information .....	14
A Correction .....	17
A Genealogical Benefactor.....	18
A G.R.O. Result.....	20
A Resurrection .....	21
A Talk – Into the Sideboard, Family History & Silverware .....	21

**News and Information**

From the Membership Secretary .....	23
Research by H.F.H.S. ....	24
Help Line .....	25
P.B.N. Publications.....	26
H.F.H.S. ....	27
Where to Find Us.....	28

Visit our website at: [www.hfhs.co.uk](http://www.hfhs.co.uk)  
 Contact us by e-mail at: [hillingtonfhs@onetel.com](mailto:hillingtonfhs@onetel.com)

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

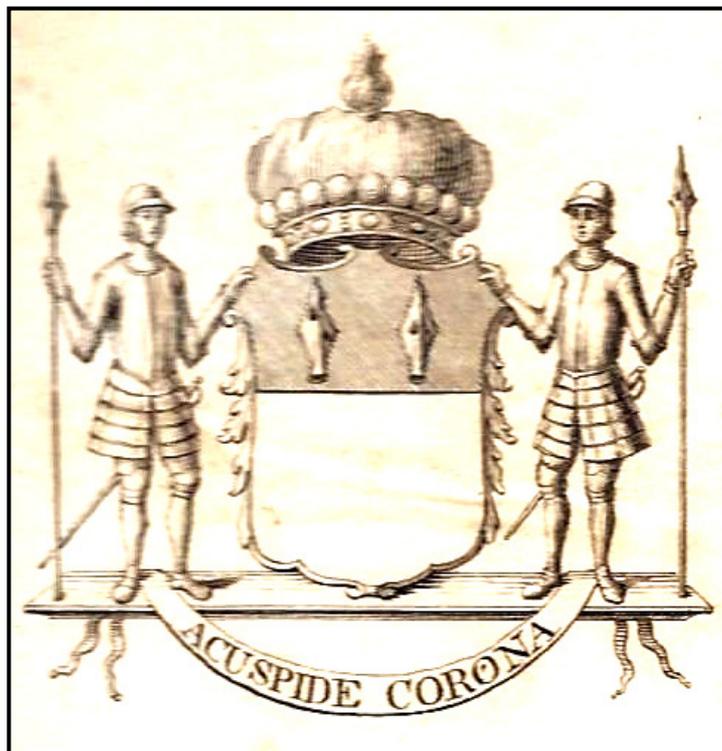
**A LARGE PRINT VERSION IS AVAILABLE ON  
 REQUEST TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.**

## ✎ CHAIRMAN'S NOTES ✎

When you receive your journal it will be December and no doubt you will be snugly curled up in a winged armchair, chewing on a mince pie, all in front of a blazing log fire.

Being Hillingdon I doubt there will be snow deep and crisp and even but given this year's weather I wouldn't count on it! When you have become bored with the TV schedules for Christmas/New Year you will no doubt have reached for a good book. Leafing through, it is more than likely that you will miss the inside of the boards and in doing so you might miss an interesting source for family history.

Many of our ancestors (and maybe some of our current membership) had elaborate book plates engraved, printed and usually pasted on the inside board of their books. Their purpose was to show who owned the book: I wonder how many of our members have lent someone a book and not had it returned? Some plates were quite simple ('Ex Libris Ian Harvey'), others were in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries were quite elaborate often with coats of arms and the names of individuals (*see below*).



(contd.)

If the book belonged to an ancestor then the plate might offer up a clue for further research. If the book was not from within the family perhaps it might have come from a second hand book shop and whilst it will not help family research it might be the spring board for an entertaining bit of sleuthing to discover the identity of the individual. Apparently there are people who collect books just for their book plates and not the contents of the books themselves!

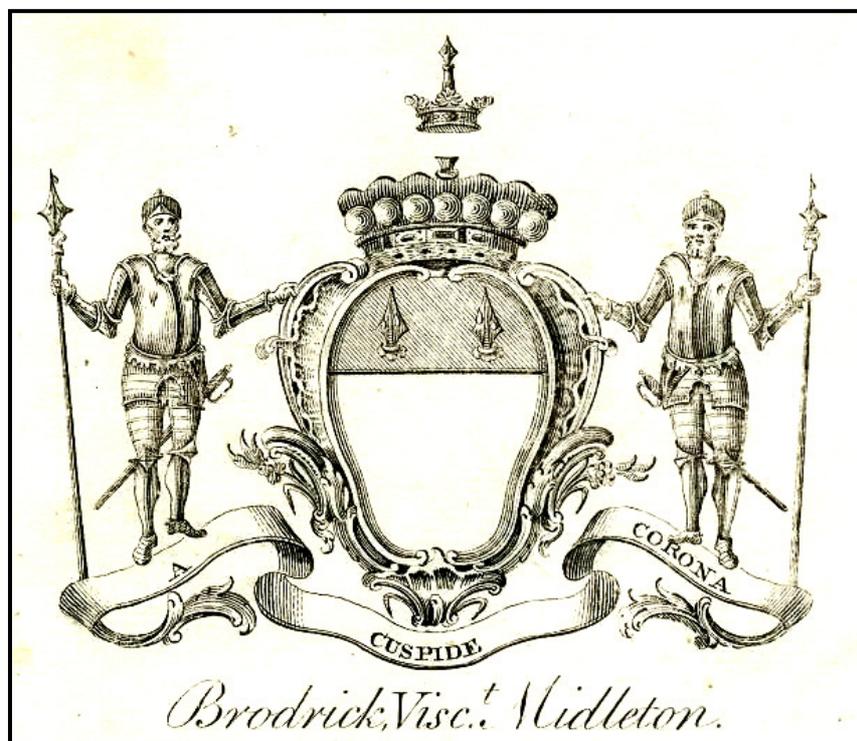
We all think of family bibles with the names of children written on the front board. The example below is from an unspeakably dull 18<sup>th</sup> century novel. The book plate however may well tell a more interesting story.

So the moral of this story is that there is more to a book than its covers.

Happy Christmas and New Year

*Ian Harvey*

*N.B. Acting on Ian's suggestion to 'do a bit of sleuthing' I carried out the usual Google search. I found that this is the coat of Arms of Viscount Brodrick a family with the hereditary title of Viscount as well as Baron of England and Baron Brodrick of Middleton Co. Cork, Ireland. I also found another version of the Arms which separates the 'A' from ACUSPIDE.*



*'A Cuspide Corona' (From the Spear a Crown).*

# Season's Greetings



*From*

*John Symons, Alan Rowland*

*and the*

*Committee*

EDITORS' JOTTINGS



Once again we have to make an appeal to all our members

***WE NEED YOUR HELP!***

Those who have been members for some time must have noticed most of the articles that appear in our journal carry the names of the same small group of authors. This is not the result of favouritism it is because we have not received any material from different authors. In order to maintain a broad range of subject matter we do need other members to 'take the plunge' and submit stories from their researches. Ideally articles should be submitted in electronic form but if you do not have a computer please feel free to send hand written versions. If you are concerned about how to present your stories we will sort all of that out and produce your work in the format that we use for printing.

As you will know we always try to include pictures and photographs that make particular points within the articles. If you submit an article in electronic format please include pictures as jpegs. If you are sending a hand or type written piece and you have pictures relevant to the story by all means include them and we will return them to you. Please ensure that if you do send photographs they are contained in a stiff envelope with preferably with a hard cardboard insert.

Finally if you have discovered something unusual in your researching or a way of getting information that was new to you or you think might not be known to other members please let us know so that we can pass it on.

It does not require a lot of effort (the first tap on the keyboard or stroke of the pen is the hardest) but a greater variety of writers will enliven and brighten our journal.

**2018 JOURNAL DEADLINE DATES**

<b>JOURNAL</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> MAY</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST</b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER</b>

## THE LIFE AND TIMES OF AMY PEARCE

*By John Symons*

What do you really know about the people in your family tree that lived over a hundred years ago? I am sure you know their names, when they were born, who they married and likely when they died. You may well also know what they did for a living. What though of their thoughts, their aspirations, the challenges they faced each day? These won't be recorded in any official documents so we are usually left to guess at what might be, often using very imperfect methods.

Just once in a while you may be lucky enough to find a little gem that opens the door to this closed world. This one was in the form of a diary which a young lady named Amy PEARCE kept. I am still not sure which is more remarkable; the fact that she kept one and that it has survived, or the manner of its discovery. You can be the judge of that.

Amy was born in 1853 in Rodborough, Gloucestershire although she was registered as Annie. Her father was Hugh PEARCE, a cloth manufacturer and her mother Caroline HEYWOOD. Her father's family came from a long line of customs and excise officers from Devon and Cornwall as well as from smugglers in the role of 'poachers turned gamekeepers'. The family was entirely respectable in a way that the Victorians knew best and the social mores of the time were something that preoccupied Amy much of the time.

Amy was the second eldest daughter in a family of two boys and six girls. Although the family led a comfortable middle class life they were never really rich. Generally young women were not expected to seek employment but a position as governess or teacher was acceptable and this was the choice for some of the family. With six daughters to maintain there was clearly an expectation for Amy to marry well, to a man with a disposable income.

This then was the backdrop to Amy's life. She wrote of the dresses she had made and in 1873 writes *'my best dress is a soft drabby grey trimmed with satin to match, a long plain skirt and pretty polonaise. Then I have a circular cape trimmed with black silk and yarn lace and a straw bonnet trimmed with black velvet white ribbon and a tip of ostrich feathers...'*

*(contd.)*

She visited her friends for tea, admired the flowers in the gardens and played croquet through the summer. What might have been an idyllic existence was soon overshadowed by looming dark clouds.

The first of these concerned her older brother, Hugh. He had moved to London, apparently to escape a broken engagement. There he had run up debts, perhaps from gambling or drinking, which he was unable to repay. He had run away to sea as a crew member and reports of his whereabouts became increasingly patchy. Amy worried about him *'he is a good deal in debt and Papa says he cannot and will not pay his bills. They are not anything very dreadful. I think 100 or 150 pounds would certainly cover them'*. Amy subsequently said he had been to Canada, China and Australia but during my researches I had lost track of him.

An even bigger worry for Amy was that her cousin William Henry REAN (known as Henry) was being set up as a potential husband. He was 26 years older than her, descended from the same West Country family and another cousin of mine. With inherited wealth and a good profession as a surgeon he had all the attributes necessary for a sound financial match which must have appealed greatly to Amy's father. The trouble was that she considered Mr. PARK, the new minister of the Independent Chapel to be far more desirable (the family were all non-conformists). She was devout but *'I only pray that we may not think more of the messenger than of the message'*. Events then took a bad turn for Amy when, without telling the congregation, Mr. PARK married. Amy was distraught *'..feeling wretched and could not help crying..'*

In 1874 during a visit to cousin Henry's home in Kingsbridge, Devon he proposed to her and they were engaged. Soon afterwards though she had second thoughts, broke off the engagement and Henry decided to leave for India to take up a position as Surgeon Major of Her Majesty's Madras Army. Initially she was happier but her father's death in 1877 put the spotlight back on the family's rather precarious finances. Amy moved to Lambeth in London with her widowed mother and along with her sister Emily became kindergarten teachers.

Amy had kept in touch with Henry during this period and when Henry returned from India in 1885, she relented and agreed to marry him. They were married on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1886 at All Saints Church, Clapham. They had two children, Henry and Amy born in 1887 and 1889 and lived in Oxford Gardens, Kensington. *(contd.)*

Her daughter Amy later wrote that her mother had never really loved her father but he had provided financially for them and, of course, provided respectability. Henry died in 1908 whilst Amy lived until 1932.

So we know far more about Amy's life than we might reasonably expect to do through her diary, but how did I happen upon this discovery?

I am a member of the Bucks Genealogical Society and as I read through an edition of their journal (editor Eve McLaughlin) one morning last year when I found a review of a book 'Victorian Diaries – The Daily Lives of Victorian Men and Women' edited by Heather Creton. The book was out of print but Eve had come across a copy and decided to feature it as an insight into Victorian life. One of the eleven diary extracts featured my cousin, Amy PEARCE and Eve had chosen Amy as one of those to focus on. To find myself reading about my family members, then living in Gloucestershire, in a Buckinghamshire journal was quite a surprise.

That was not the end of the story. Naturally I had to obtain my own copy of the book and this was easily achieved by an online purchase of a used copy. Through this I discovered many of the facts related here and there was a note on sources which referred to copies of the REAN papers held by the London Metropolitan Archives with an accession number.

This strongly hints that there may be other papers besides Amy's diary. I looked up the reference on the LMA catalogue and drew a blank. Subsequently I have been told that they are available but LMA will require a little notice to produce them. This now appears on my 'to do' list and maybe when I get to see them there might be more to tell.

Watch this space!

## **STOP PRESS!**

As you probably already realise this edition contains a greatly reduced number of pages. For this we apologise but the reason can be found under Editor's Jottings (page 5).

## WHERE WERE THEY BORN?

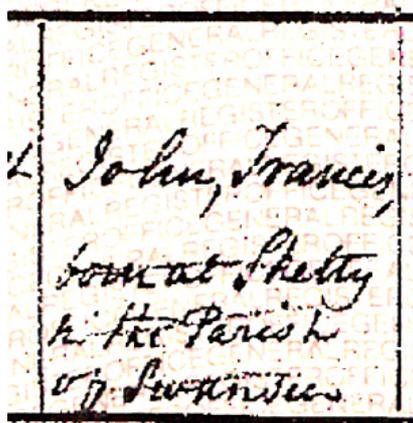
*By John Bridger*

It is normally the case that when a copy birth certificate arrives from the General Register Office we learn of the place and address of the birth. All very useful information which is used when a family tree is constructed but recently as I researched the children of my 3 x grandfather, Francis BRIDGER, a problem manifested itself.

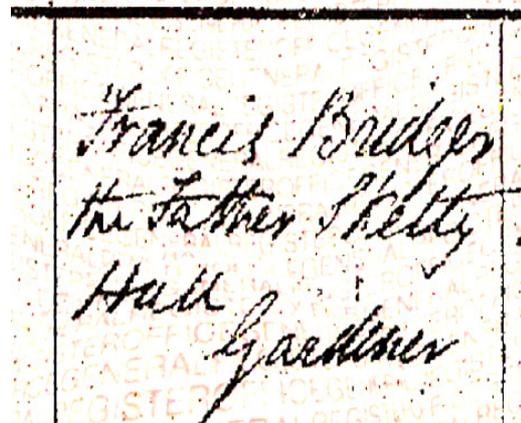
This concerned the birth address given on each of their birth certificates and the address given for each baptism entered in the parish records. They did not match!

Francis, like his father, was a gardener who moved to Swansea from Paghham, Sussex during the 1830s. He followed this occupation for some years both in Swansea and Abergwili (near Carmarthen) before he returned to Swansea where he set up a gardening maintenance business. As I looked deeper into the records of his first two sons, John Francis and David Morgan, the discrepancies and unknowns began to appear.

Francis had married in 1836 and the address given on the certificate for his first born, John Francis 31<sup>st</sup> July 1838, was simply Sketty. His father's occupation was given as 'gardener at Sketty Hall' a large estate on the west side of Swansea and I assumed that he lived either in an estate cottage or in the village. However John was baptised 29 days later at St. John's in Glamorgan and the family address recorded as Swansea.



John, Francis,  
born at Sketty  
in the Parish  
of Swansea



Francis Bridger  
the Father Sketty  
Hall  
Gardener

*Detail from the birth certificate of John*

*(contd.)*

*The parish record of John's baptism.*

Aug. <sup>o</sup> 27 <sup>th</sup> No. 668.	John Francis Smith	Francis and Mary	Bridger	Swansea	Gwendra	By J. Williams
---------------------------------------------------	-----------------------	------------------------	---------	---------	---------	-------------------

Sketty is in the parish of St. Mary many miles away. St John's nearest boundary was in the most northerly tip of Swansea town and at that time located at top of the High Street near the railway station.

Did the family do a quick relocation from Sketty in the very short time between the birth and the baptism? Or was the birth entry true?

I hoped that the details of the birth of the second son would provide the answer. David Morgan's birth certificate states he was born 24<sup>th</sup> September 1839 at Back Lane, Swansea. The address on his baptism record shows the family address as 'Ireland or near St. John's' which is in St. John's parish.

49.3	Twenty fourth September 1839 Back Lane 20 minutes to 11 O'Clock P.M.	David Morgan
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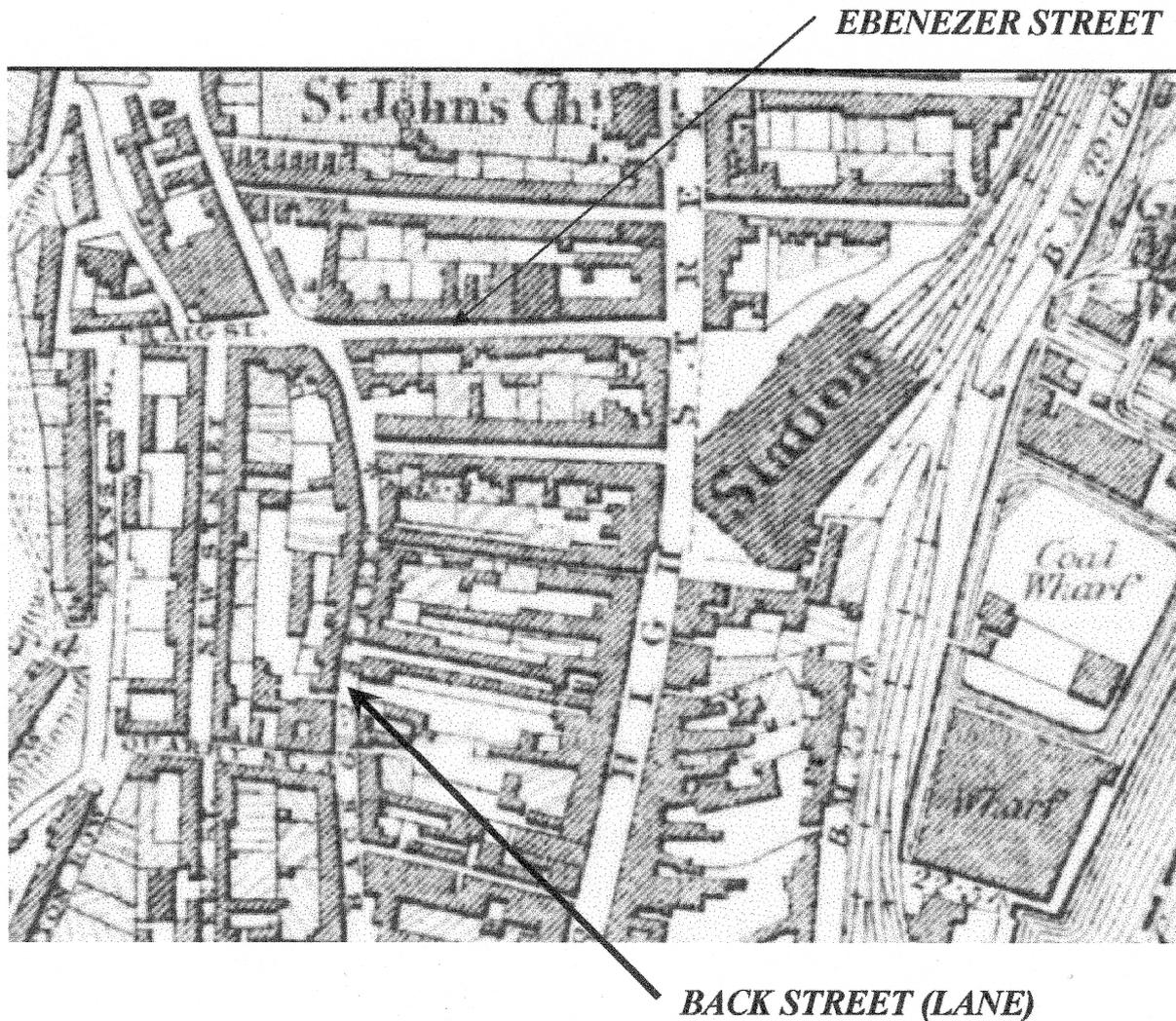
Ireland G. or near St. John's
----------------------------------------

*Details of David Morgan records.*

I don't know what the reference to 'Ireland' means unless Francis went there very briefly looking for work! However by the 1841 census the family had moved to Abergwili, Near Carmarthen. (contd.)

This left unsolved the question ‘where was Back Lane?’

Back lane is mentioned in the 1841 census but it is missing from the 1851 census. However there is mention of a Back Street. I searched old maps of Swansea and eventually found it on the O.S. map of 1884. Was this the location?



*Ordnance Survey map for 1884.*

I next turned to Google and found the 1823 Guide to Swansea available to view in their ‘digital books on line’ facility. The guide described a walk through the town of Swansea and on page 58 it reaches the environs of St. John's church.

*(contd.)*

The guide quotes:

*'At the upper end is the almost dilapidated church of St. John's, a curacy, held by the Rev. Mr. Williams,.....a little below St. John's church, is Ebenezer-street..... In returning you pass through the Back-lane'.*

A map of the town in the '1851 Guide to Swansea' shows Ebenezer Street and Back Street leading to Orchard Street. After 1900 Back Street was renamed Orchard Street thereby adding to the length of the original Orchard Street.



*The houses in Back Street.*

The Back Street area was inhabited mostly by poor families, sailors, labourers, copper smelters and the like so Francis 'the gardener' would have been conspicuous.

*(contd.)*

It was not the best of places to live. At that time the only supply of water was from springs and wells and there was no proper sewage system until 1857. Cholera broke out in 1832 and 1849 and this may well have prompted Francis to move.

By 1841 he had taken up a gardening job in Abergwili, Carmarthenshire and his recorded dwelling place is given as adjacent to the Bishop's Palace. Maybe he had work in the adjacent grounds which would be more in keeping with his background as a gardener.

I was unable to discover house numbers in Back Lane/Street so it was impossible to be sure where the births took place but I am satisfied to have found the location of Back Lane.

## GOOD NEWS FOR RESEARCHERS

- 1)
  - a) Ancestry has increased their coverage of London Records. As part of their ongoing partnership with London Metropolitan Archives they have added thousands of new London records.  
Births and Baptisms collection now extend from 1906 to 1914 and  
and Marriages and Banns go right up to 1930 (previously 1926).
  - b) Derbyshire County parish records of birth, death and marriage covering 1754 to 1991 have been added.
  - c) They have also extended their Non-conformist Registers by ten years
  
- 2) The G.R.O. has reinstated a new longer trial (at least 3 months) from the 12<sup>th</sup> October enabling researchers to call up and purchase PDF copies of birth and death certificates for £6.00 (instead of £9.25 for a certified copy) for births from 1837 to 1916 and deaths from 1837 to 1957.

## BEWARE OF FALSE INFORMATION

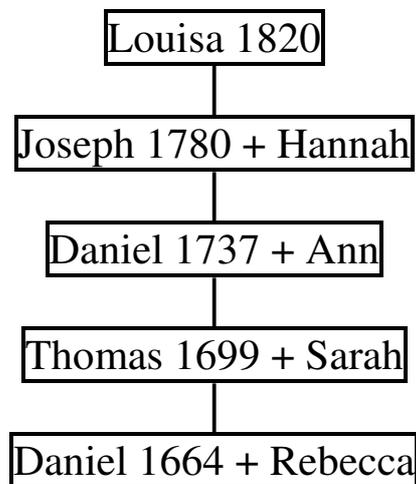
*By Alan Rowland*

When we begin to research our family's history we are usually given at least two pieces of advice; question your elder relatives (while there is still time) and where possible check everything that you find.

Recently, I re-visited my early researches into my paternal family in order to fill some gaps in my 2 x great grandmother's details. Her name was Louisa CHALLIS born c1820 in Essex and in 1843 she married George ROWLAND my 2 x great grandfather.

On a whim I decided to look for her on the Ancestry 'Public Member Trees' facility with the hope that more information would be found there. I found a large tree which included Louisa and George as well as what looked like good research along the CHALLIS line back to 1664!

According to this tree Louisa was born in 1820 and her paternal line was:



From this it would appear that each son was born when the father was about forty years old which struck me as a little strange.

Using these Public Member Trees for research can often point a way forward but as we constantly tell people in the research room, always obtain confirmation from another source before taking any information found in these trees as gospel.

*(contd.)*

The particular tree that I examined also had attached documents (censuses, parish records and Louisa's marriage certificate). There was also a parish burial index dated 1859 for Louisa, now under her married name ROWLAND, which gives her birth date as 1816.

### England, Select Essex Parish Registers 1538-1900

<b>Name</b>	<b>Louisa ROWLAND</b>
Birth Date	abt 1816
Death Date	abt 1859
Death Age	43
Burial Date	17 Mar 1859
Burial Place	Great Baddow, Essex, England
FHL Film Number	001471808

I examined the marriage certificate for George and Louisa in more detail. The name of his father is recorded as James (which I know to be correct from my own researches) but the father of Louisa is also clearly recorded as James. Its only similarity to Joseph is the capital J! (*See below*)

There are fifteen trees on the Ancestry site. Of these, nine state that Louisa's parents are Joseph and Hannah whilst the remainder state 'parents unknown'. All fifteen give the birth of Louisa as either 1819 or 1820.

Most of those trees that declare the names of her parents to be unknown have also attached the marriage certificate and the parish burial index so there is no excuse for not knowing that James was Louisa's father and that Louisa was more than likely to have been born around 1816.

So what does all this mean?

It proves that the so called facts included within the various Member Public Trees on Ancestry must always be carefully studied, checked and rejected if their veracity cannot be confirmed. This particularly applies when even the attached documents provide proof that an incorrect individual has been entered in the tree. Once the error has been made then all the preceding generations based on that name must be false. (*contd.*)

1864. Marriage solemnized at Methodist Church in the Parish of St. Peter in the County of Madison

No.	When Married	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
70	July 25	George Rowland	Full	Bachelor	Taylor	St. Peter	James Rowland	Taylor
		Louisa Chellis	Full	Spinster	-	St. Peter	James Chellis	Labourer

Married in the Methodist Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by James by me, J. Francis

This Marriage was solemnized between us,  
George Rowland in the Presence of James Emery  
Louisa Chellis Stephen Emery  
of us.

(contd.)

The fact that there are fifteen family trees all with the same names and dates also proves that the tree owners are copying one from another thus perpetuating the errors to the point that the trees become of limited or even no use.

However there is another possibility that could explain the difference in the name of Louisa's father.

Before the marriage, when giving her details to the person making out the marriage certificate, she may have said her father was James (unlikely if Joseph was really her father as his death is given in the tree as 1864) or the clerk could have made a mistake.

If it was a mistake then it went unnoticed at the time and subsequently when the register was signed by the couple and the witnesses. If it had been noticed there would probably have been a correction to the register entry authorised and signed by the responsible official.

In conclusion we have to take the official records as being correct otherwise the whole system of research and consequently family history becomes mere hearsay and rumour. The officials who record the births, marriages and deaths can only enter what they are told or think they hear.

We must rely on the documents they are the only things we have – so carry on researching and querying all records and especially Public Member Trees.

### A CORRECTION

The June edition of our journal (No. 118) carried a report of the talk given by Melanie Winterbotham (page 24). Due to a mis-understanding we said that the story had appeared in the April edition of 'Family Tree Magazine'.

Melanie has asked us to say that whilst the subject is the same, the 'Family Tree Magazine' article was not the same.

## A GENEALOGICAL BENEFACTOR

*By John Symons*

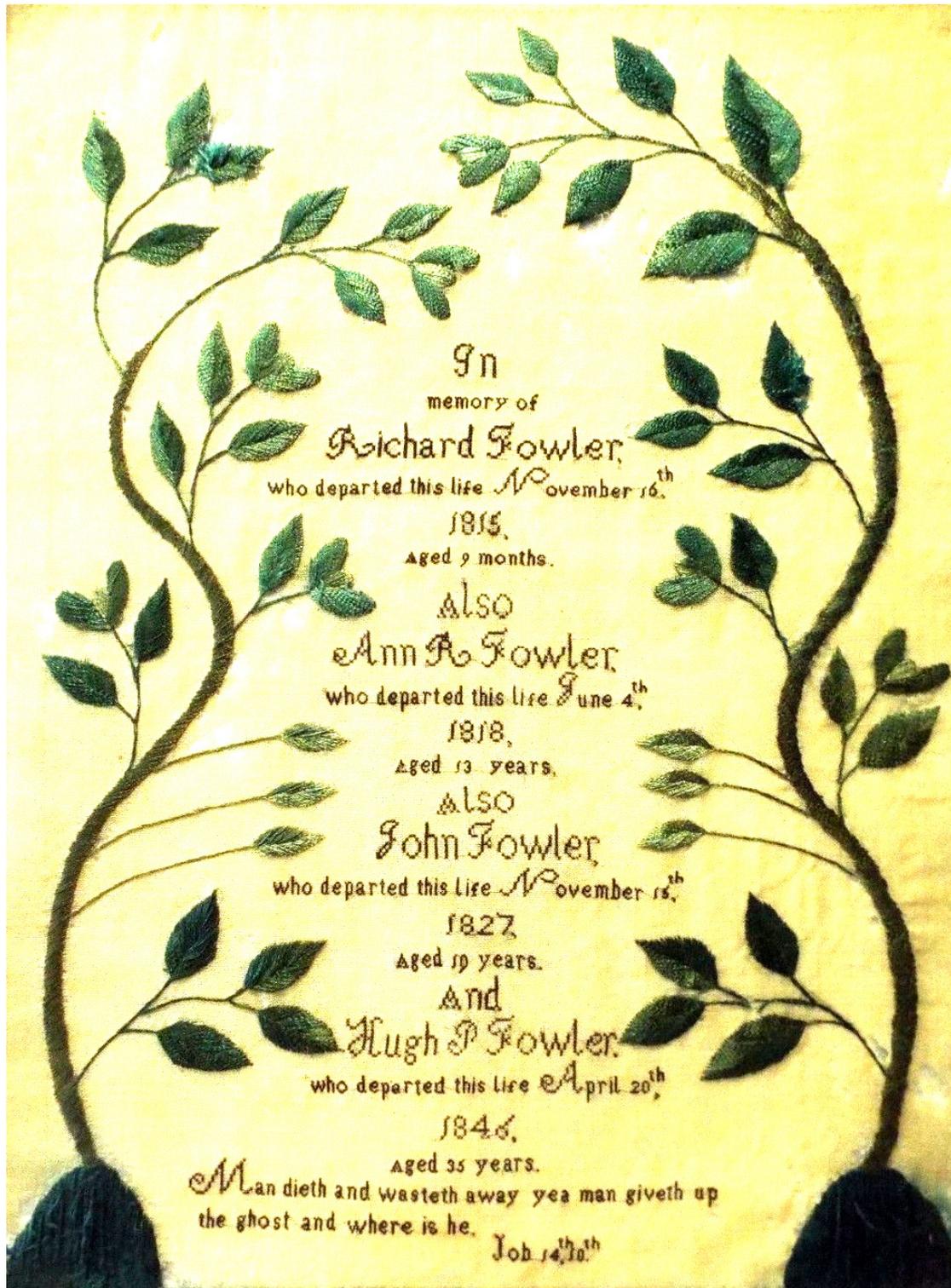
Like many people nowadays I keep a public tree on Ancestry. Although I thought long and hard before making it available, I concluded that the benefits of making my research freely available and the DNA linking opportunities it offered outweighed privacy and other concerns.

Recently I discovered another benefit I had never imagined. Out of the blue I received a communication from a lady who makes it her mission to trawl through items on sale through online auction retailers such as Ebay to look for items with a family history connection. She then compares any names shown with those on the public trees and notifies the tree owner that an item with possible relevance to that family is for sale and stresses that she has no connection with the seller. In this case the item she found for auction was a 19<sup>th</sup> century sampler created as a memorial to the loss of four children in the FOWLER family from Polperro, Cornwall. She contacted me because she noticed the family name in my Ancestry tree and the connection to Cornwall.

The family commemorated by the memorial contained cousins of mine but not on a direct ancestral line. I believe that it was probably made by the mother of the children, Ann Rean FOWLER (nee POLGREAN) and if so this would date it after 1846 when Hugh died and before 1863 when Ann herself died.

Had the family connection been closer I might well have made a bid for the sampler which is pictured below. I knew of all four children from baptismal records but there was no record of a burial for John FOWLER. At the time of writing I am still none the wiser but there is one possible explanation. The family had close links with the fishing industry and the father, John, was a fish merchant who also owned at least one fishing vessel so it is more than likely that his son would have been a crew member. Fishing then was a particularly dangerous occupation and to a degree still is. Was the son involved in an accident and lost at sea? This would explain the lack of a burial record and an event previously encountered in my family. I looked through the local newspapers online with the hope of finding a mention of his fate or the loss of a fishing vessel but drew a blank. So this must remain a mystery for the time being.  
*(contd.)*

Nevertheless through a very generous gesture from an unknown person I know that it was probably a mother who went to a lot of trouble to create a lasting memorial to her lost children. It was good to see that it had survived to the present day and maybe someone with a closer family connection will come to own it. That would be a great outcome.



## A G.R.O. RESULT

*By Alan Rowland*

The General Register Office facility which enables us to search birth and death indexes is proving to be a very valuable asset.

In particular the ability to find a mother's maiden name for births from 1837 to 1911 is a great bonus. Prior to the introduction of this service researchers would have to purchase a copy certificate (current cost £9.25) to establish the mother's name and then to look for the marriage of the individual's parents. If the various given and or family names of a child happened to be unusual the risk of a wasted £9.25 was reduced but when there were a number of possible correct hits identified from the normal indexes what could be done? So the new facility is a great help.

It can also solve problems of illegitimacy sometimes thrown up by census records. I recently had a case concerning one of my maternal ancestors Serena AMBROSE. She was born around 1818 in Caversham, Oxfordshire/Berkshire and married Stephen FOWLER in 1840 in Henley, Oxfordshire. They had four children one of which was Sophia who was my great grandmother (born 1846). Stephen unfortunately died in 1847 so times must have been hard for Serena for on the 1851 census all the children are found in the Wallingford, Berkshire workhouse. However on that same census Serena is housekeeper for a William POCOCK in Reading, Berkshire and with her she has a son, George FOWLER, age shown as 1 year. Obviously something did not tie up there as Stephen Fowler had been dead since 1847!

Serena remarried in 1856 for on the next census 1861 she is now wife to a Thomas WHIPP living in Southwark, Surrey. George is 11 but recorded as George WHIPP as are three other children all apparently the result of the 1856 marriage.

With the aid of the new G.R.O. service I then checked for a George FOWLER/POCOCK/AMBROSE born around 1850 in or near Reading. The only one to surface was a George POCOCK born to a mother with the maiden name of AMBROSE born 1850 and registered in Reading. This then enabled me to continue researching George but now with any one of three surnames FOWLER/POCOCK/WHIPP.

## **A RESURRECTION**

*By Alan Rowland*

Some time ago we ran a small feature highlighting unusual given names. At the time we asked for members to search their research notes and submit any strange names for inclusion in the journal. We had very little response and the feature petered out.

A recent visitor to our research room who was just starting her research wanted to find out about her grandfather. This we did and when we eventually arrived at her great grandparents we found the given names of her great grandmother were Zebiah Belvideria.

Zebiah is certainly a biblical name but what of Belvideria?

Is there anybody out there who can help?

## **A TALK – INTO THE SIDEBOARD, FAMILY HISTORY AND SILVERWARE.**

*By Ian Harvey*

At our September meeting Ian Harvey gave a talk about how items of silver sitting in our sideboards could give some clues to family history.

Ian's main hypothesis was that our ancestors purchased items only when they could afford to do so. It was also his contention that the bought item would tend to reflect their social aspirations at that time. It was, Ian thought, most likely that the purchased item would have been of recent manufacture.

Having established his hypothesis Ian continued by saying that each piece of English silver is uniquely helpful in providing information contained in its hall marks.

The system of hall marks, to denote conformity to Royal Ordinances and Acts of Parliament, began at the end of the twelfth century.

*(contd.)*

The marks show the name of the manufacturer; the quality of the silver; the place it was made (or assayed) and the year of manufacture. These are the main marks that usually appear on every piece of home produced silver. There are other marks that could be added to mark various events e.g. Queen Elizabeth 1 coronation and jubilees (25 and 50 years).

Most items were made in London, Birmingham or Sheffield but there were also regional assay offices in Chester, Dublin, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Norwich and York.

If the item hiding in the sideboard came from one of these regional cities then it begs the question how did it come into the family's possession? Did an ancestor at some time visit the 'marked' city or its surrounding areas? Alternatively, was it purchased locally in which case the item might have been owned before and brought to the area by its original owner and then sold on?



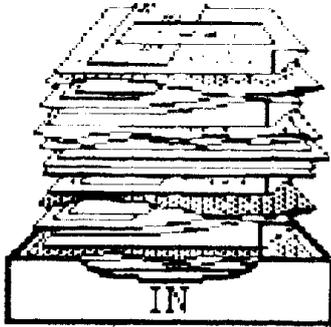
This is a typical hall mark which denotes:

- |                    |                                                                 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>LAO</b>         | The mark of the maker i.e. usually his initials.                |
| <b>The Lion</b>    | Indicates the quality of the silver, in this case Sterling.     |
| <b>925</b>         | Shows the purity of the silver content.                         |
| <b>The Leopard</b> | Denotes the item was assayed in London.                         |
| <b>r</b>           | The Date Letter, in this case the item was hall marked in 2016. |

Finally Ian asked for those who had a sideboard to raise their hands. Most of the audience seemed to respond so it is likely that there will be much rummaging taking place over the subsequent days.

## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

*By Patricia Reynolds*



Once again it is the time of year when we invite you to renew your membership for the coming year 2018.

This edition (No. 120) is the last for the current subscription year. We hope you have enjoyed reading the journals and that you will wish to renew your membership.

Renewal subscriptions are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 irrespective of the date on which you joined.

A subscription form is included in this journal. So that I can keep track of the renewals please return the completed form with your remittance. If you prefer to pay with cash at one of our meetings it would be most helpful if you would put both cash and the completed form in an envelope with your name (and membership number if possible) on the front of the envelope.

Please make cheques payable to HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY and not to me. Your new membership card will be your receipt and this will either be given to you at the March meeting or included with the March 2018 journal.

The benefits of membership of a family history society are many and include the four journals each year as well as access to so much transcribed family history records and information.

Thank you to all who have written to me throughout the year or chatted on the 'phone. It is lovely to hear from you and indeed to meet many of you at our bookstall at the many fairs we attend.

A Happy Christmas to you all and the best of luck for 2018.



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

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

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

*(contd.)*

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

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

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

## **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,  
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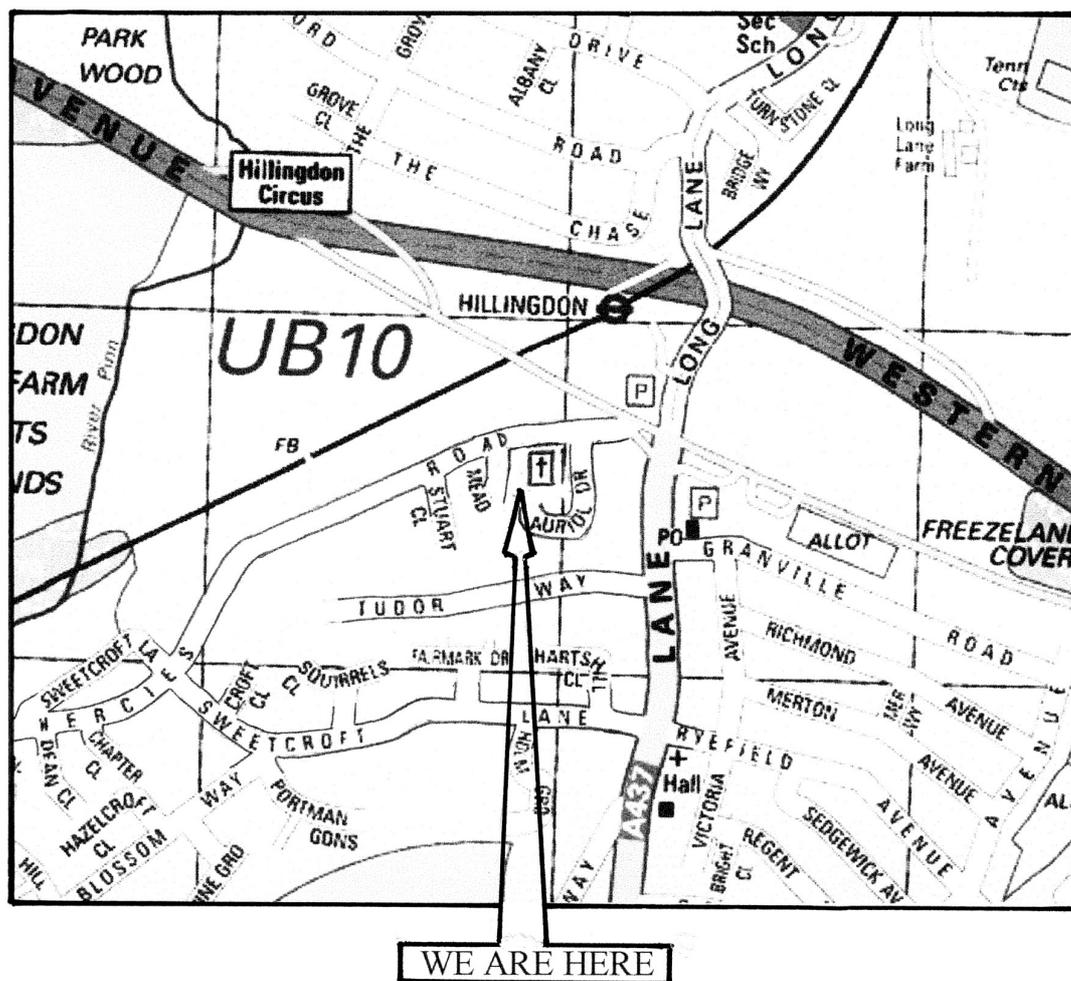
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(The geographical centre of Hillingdon)

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 Church is on the side of the Church. Our Research Room is on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

It is open one morning each week (Friday) and at our monthly meetings. On the first Saturday of each month our research session is held in Uxbridge Library (6<sup>th</sup> floor). 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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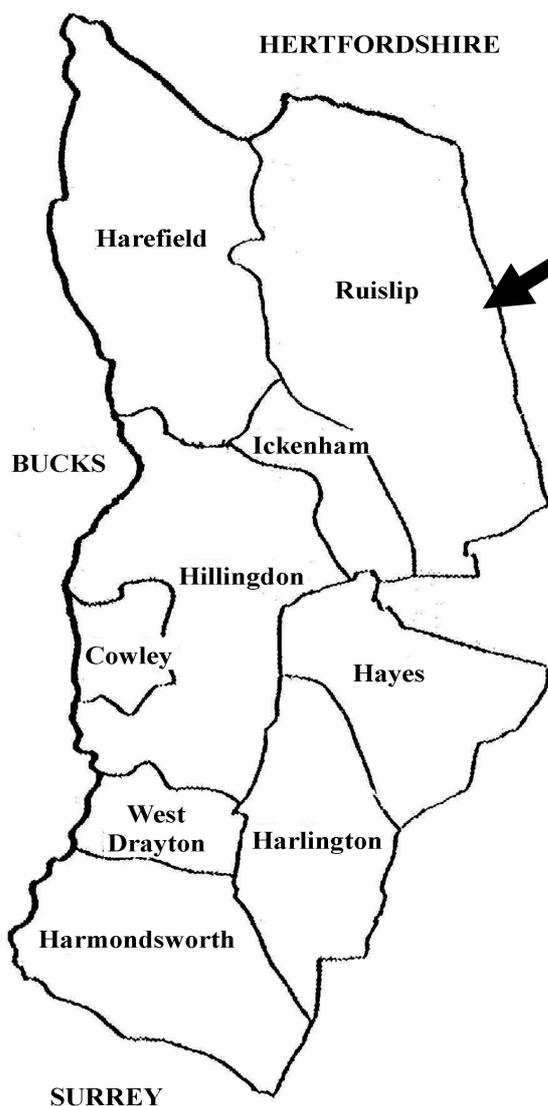
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## London Borough of Hillingdon

## GREATER LONDON



Nine ancient Middlesex parishes were incorporated into the new London Borough of Hillingdon :  
Cowley, Harefield, Harlington,  
Harmondsworth, Hayes, Hillingdon,  
Ickenham, Ruislip and West Drayton

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

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

**IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO:**  
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