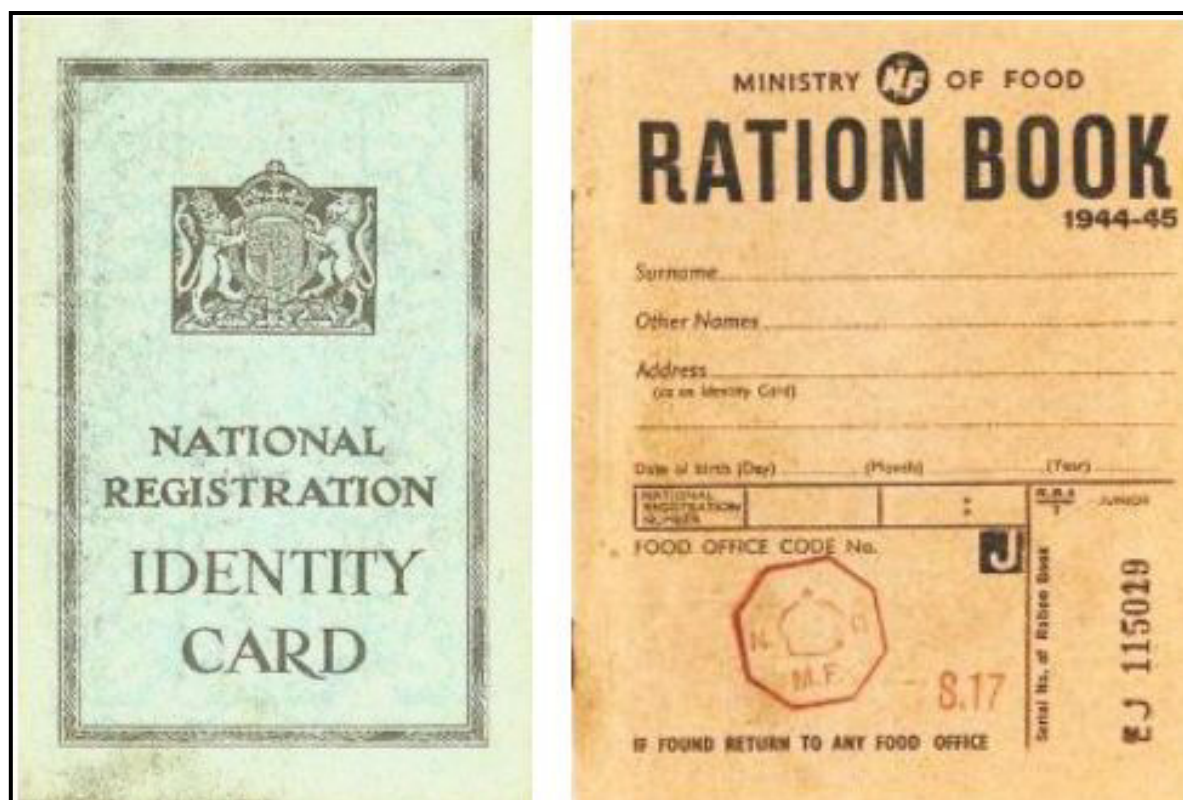




HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



Part of life after 1939 (See page 17)

2019 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
Tuesday 22nd January Joint U3A 2.00/4.00p.m.		Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Thursday 21st February 2.00/4.00 p.m.	Tony Kemp	'The Day the Bomb Dropped on E.M.I'
Thursday 21 st March	A.G.M.	A.G.M.
Thursday 11 th April	Michael Gandy	'Ancestors in the King's Service – Army, Navy and others'
Thursday 16 th May	Dr. Samantha Philo-Gill	'The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in France 1917 – 21'
Thursday 20 th June	TBA	TBA
Thursday 18 th July	David Burnell	'The Underground at War'
AUGUST	NO MEETING	NO MEETING
Thursday 19 th September	Ian Waller	'What Happened to Lucy? – Adoptions'
<u>Thursday 17th October 2.00/4.00 p.m.</u>		MEMBERS' MEETING
<u>Tuesday 12th November Joint U3A 2.00/4.00 p.m.</u>	Else Churchill	'Finding Women'
Thursday 5 th December 7.30 p.m.		SOCIAL/QUIZ NIGHT

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

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Visit our website at: www.hfhs.org.uk
 Contact us by e-mail at: enquiries@hfhs.org.uk

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 ⚡

By Ian Harvey

In the last journal I touched upon clocks in family history. I am going to round off the year with one last clock story. It raises some unexpected questions and provides a curious insight into Georgian and Victorian society which, I must confess, had never occurred to me.

One of my former work colleagues in the City had two grandfather clocks, which he had inherited, and two daughters. He kept the clocks, not just because he liked them but also so that he could give one to each daughter. Towards the end of last year he decided to downsize (he is in his mid-70s) and offered one of the clocks to the girls, as his new house didn't have room for two. Both girls promptly replied "no thanks Dad – they are the wrong colour!" (i.e. mahogany and oak). So he was perplexed and turned to me, as he knows I am a keen clock man. I made enquiries in auction houses and in the trade only to find that the market for grandfather clocks is dead.



The sisters were not alone in thinking that these leviathans are the wrong colour and too big for modern homes.

Not wanting the municipal dump to benefit from some Georgian flame mahogany, I purchased it from him and embarked upon a voyage of discovery.

The name on the dial is 'Nathan Isaacs, Abergavenny' and inside I found a label which said 'This Grandfather clock was presented to Donald Cooke by his kind father & mother April 12th 1907'.

(contd.)

I called my friend and asked him about his family history. The family is from the area around Lake Bala, North Wales. They were Methodists, C of E or Catholics (he has a recusant Saint up his family tree) and his aunt, on his mother's side, married a Donald Cooke. His father's family were Welsh Jews who lived in Blaenavon, Monmouthshire, South Wales. Blaenavon is but a short distance from Abergavenny the origin of the clock.

I don't know about you, but I don't associate the Heads of the Valleys in South Wales in the Georgian/Victorian era as being a place where you would expect to find a Jewish community. You sort of think of the East End of London and places like Manchester and Liverpool, particularly in the latter part of the 19th century, when the Russians were having their pogroms and refugees fled through Britain to the US. South Wales (which was fundamentally rural) circa 1800 seems a bit odd and out of the way.

A brief summary of the history of the Jews in England is as follows. In 1290 Edward I expelled them all; in 1655 Cromwell turned a blind eye and allowed them back; in 1690 there were 400 Jewish families in England (William III favoured them as they were useful financiers in his Netherlands); in 1701 the Bevis Marks Synagogue was established in London; in 1753 the 'Jew Bill' granted toleration of religion; in 1798 Nathan Mayer Rothschild established his first bank in Manchester. In the 19th century Jewish communities were found in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds. So what was going on in South Wales in the 18th century?

Well nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition! Apparently, in the mid 18th century the Spanish Inquisition had a real crack down on Jewish families in Spain and Portugal and many of them fled to England. Most settled in London but there were other destinations that attracted them as a result of the industrial revolution. Around the same time the iron industry had just started in the Valleys of Southern Wales and Jewish tradesmen moved West to what I suppose was a sort of 'Iron Klondike'.

They traded Welsh cloth in the borders and the Valleys and in the case of Nathan Isaacs, became a cabinetmaker & upholsterer, pawnbroker, silversmith and jeweller (from the Abergavenny trade directories).

(contd.)

Nathan Isaacs & Co. operated from 70 Frogmore Street, Abergavenny from at least 1822 to 1851 – and at the latter date the firm employed 22 men.

The 1841 Census shows that Nathan was foreign born (c. 1777) – so he and his family were almost certainly refugees from the Iberian Peninsula. When he died in Islington in 1849 aged 69, as a ‘Gent’, his pretty long will left the estate to his sons Isaac Isaacs and Henry. Isaac Isaacs carried on the Abergavenny business until at least the 1880s.

I don’t know how the clock made its way from the Isaacs’ to the Cooke family but speculate that it might have been the shop clock. Do you remember that Randall’s had a grandfather clock in the store, which on the dial said Randall’s Uxbidge? Perhaps when Isaac Isaacs (born 1810) retired c1880 they sold the clock.

Anyway, this is a long-winded way of saying (again) that objects can shed light on family history and in unusual ways. A Jewish community in South Wales in the early 19th century? Is it as likely as Welsh sheep farmers in Patagonia?

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

EDITORS’ JOTTINGS

Books are rarely borrowed from our large library. We need to reduce numbers so books will be offered to members for a small donation. Available titles will eventually appear on our new web site.

Thanks go to Jenny Moorish and Elaine Symons for their proof reading.

We must thank all who have submitted articles since our reduced edition earlier in the year; it really has helped us enormously. Unfortunately this journal is four pages short of our norm for which we apologise, we just ran out of material! So at the risk of boring you, please send us anything you can so that we can continue to produce full editions in the future. Perhaps others will be encouraged to join our source team and have a go!



*SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL
OUR MEMBERS AND
READERS WITH BEST
WISHES FOR A PEACEFUL
and HAPPY NEW YEAR.*

FROM JOHN AND ALAN



OUR LATEST PROJECT – ALMOST THERE!

The Society has undertaken many projects over the years. One of these was the recording and transcription of memorials at some of the churchyards in our area. These were published on microfiche and subsequently on CDs.

Times move on and with dwindling sales a decision was taken to publish them online on FindMyPast through an arrangement set up the Federation of Family History Societies. In so doing we were encouraged by the West Middlesex Family History Society who had already gone down this road with FindMyPast and published many of their own memorial lists, including some within the Borough of Hillingdon.

Our original records were the result of hours/days spent (sometimes in painful bending positions) in the church yards and burial grounds of four of the parishes that go to make up Hillingdon. A small army of society volunteers under the direction of Joy Higgs and others gathered and prepared the lists so that they could be transcribed as text documents for computer use, again by our volunteers. Eventually these lists were published and presented to the churches for their libraries. We also keep a set in the research room.

The latest sub-project involved restructuring the data into a tabular form so that it was searchable within an agreed format. This was done by the small team of Roger Howe, Arthur Rooks, Alan Rowland and John Symons. Soon it will be possible to view the records on Findmypast, either under subscription or pay per view, which in turn means that the Society will receive royalties for each and every viewing. Whilst it will not generate large sums, the royalties will add to our coffers which will be to the benefit of us all.

The four parish churches that will soon be available on Findmypast are:

St. Martin's Church, West Drayton
St. Laurence's Church, Cowley
St. Mary's Church, Harefield
Holy Trinity Church, Northwood

TROVE: SEARCHING AND TRICKS

By Colyn Storer

Colyn in Australia sent this article as a research help for anyone looking for family connections in newspapers.

The Problem: to find a family with the surname of HOCKEY and some known Christian names, some possible places of birth or residence, some time periods but no clear identification of the whole family.

Begin with any clues that may be in the known information. In this case the record did give some birthplaces all in New South Wales Australia, Taree, around Grafton, near Lismore and much later in Sydney NSW as well as Perth, West Australia.

First names commonly used in the family should be kept in mind (it is better not to use female names at this time).

Visit **TROVE** on; <https://trove.nla.gov.au/> or the British news paper archive.

It is helpful to have the websites open at the same time in order to cross check/confirm information found in the newspapers and to give clues to suggest a time period to be search:

In Australia: Birth Deaths and Marriages Index (NSW BDMs). In Australia there are strict rules for privacy; no records of births less than 100 years ago, in NSW marriages less than fifty years and deaths less than thirty years. Different time periods apply in other states and New Zealand.

In the U.K.: Free BMD and the new GRO Website for Births to 1917 and Deaths to 1957, excellent extra information such as ages at death from 1837 and mother's maiden name after c1911.

The RYERSON Index: Australian volunteer website of Deaths, Funeral etc notices in newspapers across Australia. Fewer entries now than in previous years as people do not advertise deaths, funerals and 'In Memoriam' notices in newspapers as in previous years.

<http://ryersonindex.org/>

(contd.)

ANCESTRY Australia: for Australian Electoral Rolls up to 1980.

Findmypast Australia: various other records.

In England: DECEASED ONLINE.

Also look for addresses in Phone lists online White Pages (Australia & in NZ)

BEGIN YOUR SEARCHES.

I did not try Sydney/city news papers; you are always likely to find more 'tit bits' of family stories and information in smaller communities. So I decided to try Lismore.

I entered the word HOCKEY in 'Digitised newspapers and more' and I was presented with 535,076 results Australia wide. I decided it was time to refine the results (from here on British Newspapers are quite similar).

Refine to PLACE: New South Wales still produced 200,000 plus references. British news papers allow you select England, Scotland etc., and then areas i.e. South East, East Midlands and finally actual counties. It is advisable to avoid the latter since news papers regularly copied articles from other areas, especially the more interesting stories.

If you know where someone comes from and you enter say 'Phipps, Harefield' then any articles containing the name/title/street/place etc in the same article, will be shown as Harefield.

I could have chosen to enter HOCKEY, Lismore, but as this would pick up all the references to the game and not just the family, I used a different technique. I found the local newspaper Northern Star (Lismore, NSW: 1876 - 1954) which still had still gave more than 11,000 references.

There are two other main ways to search for the word Hockey in the Lismore paper: 'What Category' gave articles (8,014), 'advertising' (1,814), 'detailed lists, results, guides' (1,538), 'family notices' (27) and you can even chose if an article is illustrated or not.

(contd.)

‘Dates’: you can choose by decade (Australia) or by 50 year periods and then by decade for British Newspapers. It is then possible to select the actual year and then by ‘weeks’.

‘Sort your results’: don’t use the default relevance, instead use either earliest first, or latest first.

For ‘HOCKEY’, I chose decades at a time, ignored advertisements, detailed lists etc. and elected to search separately ‘Articles’ together with ‘Family Notices’.

RESULTS

‘Family Notices’: produced 27 notices, but only a few of these referred to members of HOCKEY family. Many of the others were members of hockey teams etc. However here is an example; one was for a young child, Margaret Hockey. It was quite usual for families to insert ‘In Memoriam’ notices for many years after the death, sometimes for up to ten or more years, and these usually named other family members as well;

‘HOCKEY - In loving memory of my little daughter, Margaret, who died 15th July, aged 4 years, 15 days.’

Article: *‘The death occurred in the Lismore Base Hospital yesterday of Margaret Ann Hockey (4), a daughter of Mrs Kathleen Byrel Hockey, of Conway street, Lismore.’* At this time every patient in the local area hospital were listed each week! (Definitely none of today’s privacy rules and regulations!).

When searching **Articles** look at the same time period as the Family Notice search and add one or other of the known first names. If a male name try the pre-fix Mr. as well. Married females sometimes used the husband’s first name e.g. Mrs. Richard Jones etc. It was rare for a married woman to use her own first name e.g. Mrs. Jenny Jones.

To look up death records in the 1920s for the surname Hockey you need to reduce the number of articles by removing references to the sport (e.g. -playing, -girl, -sport, -fixture, -defeated, etc). When you have found an article of particular interest ALWAYS make a copy that also shows the full news paper name, date etc.

SOMETHING HIDDEN IN THE ATTIC!

By John Bridger

The chances of finding something in the attic are pretty remote for most of us but it recently happened to my sister when clearing her loft. I should explain that after our parents died their house was cleared and my sister had some sundry bits and pieces as well as a box, all of which she put in her loft only to be forgotten.

Spread over the bottom of the box were papers most of them referred to my father's electrical business back in the 1930s; stocktaking lists, accounts, a balance sheet for 1936/7, a bank paying-in book, photos of cars etc. and a miscellany of bits and pieces. Also amongst the items there was a crocodile skin wallet which was probably a wedding present from my mother back in 1929.

The items were sent to me and I found these:

1922 Letter from Cambrian Dry Docks, Swansea confirming completion of apprenticeship by my father.

1955 Notice from Metropolitan Police, Hayes Station, that your car stolen in Swansea has been found.

Sundry items of business stationery, visiting cards etc.

A newspaper cutting (not dated but probably c.1963) of an article entitled 'Swansea thieves busy' which related to recent burglaries in Swansea. One report of theft mentioned 12 transistor radios and a tape recorder taken from our shop.

1959/60 cheque book stubs for business and personal items.

1960s Business bank pay-in books.

Various Christmas and birthday cards dated around 1910 to Mary, my father's Aunt.

Photographs of pre-war cars and large car engine being repaired.

1979 – Receipt for the purchase of a Simca car.

1948 – Legal agreement re. Purchase of business workshop premises.

1972 – Letter about the redemption of mortgage on business shop.

(contd.)

1950 – Statement setting out final distribution of my father's mother's estate, including sale of property and realization of assets.

1959 – Certificate of incorporation of my father's business.

1976 – Companies House formal notice of winding up my father's business.

Each of these was interesting and though I had known about some of them others were new to me. Every item had potential to open up another piece of family history and some had more than others. These two were particularly interesting:

1) A letter which confirmed the completion of my father's apprenticeship told me that my father left school at 14 yrs 11 months (some 9 months after his father died as a war casualty) to commence the apprenticeship which was completed two and a half years later. His employers were engaged in offering dry dock facilities, maintenance and marine re-fitting and repairs etc.

His home address was different to what I had expected which meant the family had moved between the 1911 census and the apprenticeship dates. Even at that age he demonstrated a practical turn of mind for, after further employment in all things electric, he went on to make cat's whisker (crystal) radios and later he opened a small electrical business.

2) I never knew his father John Francis BRIDGER. He had died in Belgium in 1919 as a war casualty but I did have a posed wedding photograph of him and my grandmother taken in 1903.

I was thrilled therefore to find amongst the attic find a typical, formal, sepia photograph of a WW1 serviceman in uniform. As there was no name written on it I had to put certain facts together to eventually conclude that it was my grandfather around the time he commenced service in the RASC in 1914.

The picture (see below) was a missing link which, together with other records of his service and death, means I can complete this episode of his life.

There is so much more detail to look into and it will take some time to go through all the remaining attic items.

(contd.)

After that my next task will be to scan everything into my computer!



John Francis Bridger c.1914

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE!

We have noticed that the numbers attending our monthly meetings have declined. We think this may be because you are less inclined to come out in the dark for an evening meeting. In addition therefore to our successful afternoon joint meetings with U.3.A., the February and October 2019 meetings will be in the afternoon starting at 2.00 p.m.

IT LED ME UP THE GARDEN PATH! & THE MILLER

By Melanie Winterbotham

Two stories from Melanie as she returns to our cautionary theme of errors in public family trees and the dangers of not asking older family members before taking as gospel *facts* that come to light from other sources.

IT LED ME UP THE GARDEN PATH!

The MICKLEM family had been thoroughly researched in the 1950s and I have copies of correspondence regarding the research. The compilers had read all the PCC & Berkshire wills and as I had plenty else to do, I decided not to spend precious time re-examining the wills.

The 'Pedigree Tree' records that Mary MICKLEM's will of 1780 shows she is a joint heir to some property with Mr. Deodatus STAVERTON. Her husband Thomas's will of 1759 mentions a settlement that includes his wife's sister 'Elizabeth WISE then Elizabeth STAVERTON'. Ergo, the maiden name of his wife, Mary, was STAVERTON. But I knew that Thomas had married Mary COTTERELL in 1724. Conclusion, she must have died and Thomas married again to another Mary.

I was then faced with a baffling quest. Records for this family in Hurley, Berkshire are generally excellent, yet there was no death of a first wife or marriage to a second. There was no obvious gap in children, who were born at regular intervals. Enquiries of STAVERTON genealogists drew a blank. When I had finished my other tasks I finally got back to basics and decided to read the wills myself. All was revealed!

Elizabeth WISE had previously been married to Edward STAVERTON, but was born Elizabeth COTTERELL. The will did not describe her as *née* or formerly Elizabeth STAVERTON, it used 'then'.

A more careful examination of the will made it clear that the inheritance came via Mary COTTERELL's deceased brother John COTTERELL. Why would an unrelated STAVERTON family inherit from him?

(contd.)

The penny dropped. I quickly found the marriage of Elizabeth COTTERELL to Edward STAVERTON in 1729 and that of Elizabeth STAVERTON to Edward WISE in 1739. Deodatus was her son!

In saving myself time by glossing over the wills, I wasted far more in searching for a non-existent person and marriage.

THE MILLER

My mother-in-law's great grandmother was Harriet HINDS. Her family had run the windmill at Rolvenden, Kent which is where Harriet was born around 1845.

From information handed down within the family it appeared that her little brother Zachariah had been tragically killed by the sails of Rolvenden mill. It was easy for the family genealogist to find Harriet with her family in the 1851 and 1861 censuses. These showed that she was born 1847/8, her parents were Joseph and Eliza and they lived at a farm in Rolvenden. There was no sign of a Zachariah but Joseph's family could be traced back to the early 18th century in Rolvenden.

It was only when a cousin contacted our researcher that alarm bells rang! The Harriet in Rolvenden had remained a spinster and had no children so it was back to the drawing board to take all the proper steps.

It emerged that our Harriet was born at Chartham, Kent in 1846. Her parents were John HINDS and Ann née WINTON who ran mills at Wincheap, Chartham and St Martin's Hill, Canterbury. There was still no sign of Zachariah!

This mystery set us on a complex search which eventually put everything in place.

John HINDS had died in 1848, and his widow, Ann, had an illegitimate son Zachariah around 1850. She later married Francis RICHARDSON, another miller, with whom she had a daughter Flora. On 16th July 1854 Zachariah HINDS and Flora RICHARDSSON were both baptised at St. Martin, Canterbury.

(contd.)

Zachariah died at the age of seven and was buried not as HINDS, but as RICHARDSON. There is nothing in the register or in online newspapers to suggest a traumatic death.

However, the Kentish Gazette of Tuesday 28th April 1846 reported an inquest the previous Wednesday:

'on the body of John Hinds, aged two years and six months, son of Mr. Hinds, miller, who had died the previous day from the effects of a blow on the head, received by the sweeps of the wind mill at Saint Martin's-hill. It was stated by Mr. Richardson, miller, that the child was in the habit of getting near the mill to pick up the wheat that might have been shattered in conveying the sacks into the mill, and he was so engaged on Tuesday last as a witness had seen him in the yard a short time previous to finding him extended on the ground near the sweeps, which were working at the time. Deceased was quite senseless and exhibited a severe contusion on the forehead "Verdict Accidental Death".'

Wednesday morning an inquest was held by the above coroner at the Princess Charlotte, Saint Martin's Hill, in this city, on the body of John Hinds, aged two years and six months, son of Mr. Hinds, miller, who had died the previous day from the effects of a blow on the head, received by the sweeps of the wind mill at Saint Martin's-hill. It was stated by Mr. Richardson, miller, that the child was in the habit of getting near the mill to pick up the wheat that might have been shattered in conveying the sacks into the mill, and he was so engaged on Tuesday last as a witness had seen him in the yard a short time previous to finding him extended on the ground near the sweeps, which were working at the time. Deceased was quite senseless, and exhibited a severe contusion on the forehead. Medical aid was immediately procured, but death shortly put a period to the poor child's sufferings.—Verdict "Accidental Death."

<http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

Kentish Gazette - Tuesday 28 April 1846

Image © The British Library Board. All rights reserved.

(contd.)

Harriet was just a few months old and poor Ann was probably attending to her while John was unsupervised. So there were many grains of truth in the family folklore, but they had shifted a fair bit over just three generations.

Harriet would not have remembered her elder brother's terrible accident, but it would not have been forgotten by the family. She must have been told stories of her little brother and playmate Zachariah who died as a child and the two tales became conflated by subsequent generations.

The millers moved around the area but there is no evidence that Harriet ever lived in Rolvenden. She may have stayed with her Winton grandparents after her mother died in 1855 but she is totally missing from the 1861 census.

However, several generations of the HINDS and WINTONS are commemorated in Rolvenden churchyard, including Harriet's mother.

The Rolvenden post mill is quite a landmark. After it had decayed over the first half of the twentieth century it has now had its exterior restored complete with sails.



The families of the two Harriets did meet up, a generation adrift, with a couple who married in Rolvenden in 1750.

It is still the first rule of genealogy to consult the older members of your family.

The second is to take their information with a pinch of salt – or in this case a grain of wheat.

Rolvenden Post Mill
(Picture from flickr.com)

THE 1939 REGISTER

By Alan Rowland

Ancestry recently caught up with Findmypast by offering access to the 1939 Register on their web site. I have used the Findmypast version and the entry of Ancestry into the same research area made me wonder how the register came about.

During December 1938 it was announced to the House of Commons that, should there be a war, a National Register would be taken to record the personal details of every civilian in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

War was declared on 3rd September 1939 and on 5th September the National Registration Act received royal assent. The Registrar General, Sir Sylvanus Vivian, announced that National Registration Day would be 29th September.

This Register proved to be an invaluable aid to the co-ordination of the war effort at home. It was also used to issue identity cards, organise rationing and more.

Forms were issued to more than 41 million people requesting names, addresses, marital statuses and other key details of every civilian in the country. The enumerators had to visit every household in Great Britain and Northern Ireland to collect the completed forms and issue identity cards on the spot. These cards were essential from that point onwards to 1952 when the legal requirement to carry them ceased. Cards had to be shown if requested by an official or taken to a police station within 48 hours.

The reasons for identity cards were numerous. It was essential to know who everyone was, to track their movements as they moved house (particularly relevant in view of the destruction caused by bombing raids). As babies were born and people passed away the cards enabled the population to be monitored.

Service personnel were not meant to be on the register except for members of the armed forces on leave and civilians on military bases.

(contd.)

An example of one of the differences between the register and a normal census was that although an unmarried woman would appear under her maiden name in both records if she subsequently changed her surname as a result of getting married this was recorded against her original entry in the register. This can be a useful aid to overcome a problem in your researches.

The 1939 Register represents one of the most important documents in 20th century Britain. Having achieved its raison d'être by helping the war effort, it went on to form the basis of the National Health Service central register.

As the result of an air raid on London during WW2, the 1931 census was destroyed. The war prevented the 1941 census from being taken so the 1939 register is the only survey of the civilian population in England and Wales that spans the period 1921-1951. It is therefore a very valuable resource that can fill in some gaps in your ancestors/relations history for that period.

Whether you search on Ancestry or Findmypast the register can be a very useful aid to tracing your family and where they were in 1939.

LIFES' LITTLE PROBLEMS!

Last year we had to clear our research storeroom (see also page 4) to allow for some church heating work to proceed. Amongst many items which had not seen the light of day for some while was a set of bound volumes of the parish magazines for St. Martin's Ruislip dating from around 1900. In them are a number of items which may inform or amuse you and we hope to reproduce a number of these over the coming issues.

The first, from the March 1902 issue, is transcribed below:

NOTICE OF BAPTISM – The Vicar wishes again to draw attention to the following rubric in the Ministration of Holy Baptism:-“When there are children to be baptised, the parents shall give knowledge thereof overnight, or in the morning before the beginning of Morning Prayer to the Curate”.

(contd.)

In order to prevent mistakes, and in the interest of the parents and children themselves, the names of the child and parents must be written out on a piece of paper. Forms for this purpose can be obtained either from the Vicar or the Sexton. This may be thought an unnecessary precaution, but during the last year two children have been given names by the Godparents, which the parents did not intend them to bear besides, it is at times very difficult when there are three or four children all crying to hear what is said. The Vicar relies on the good sense and good feeling of the parishioners to co-operate with him giving effect to this rule.

Most of us have seen cases of records on baptisms and other events with incorrect spelling or wrongly recorded in other ways. Perhaps this may have prevented us from finding the records at all so here are some good reasons why this could happen. The vicar's measure to ensure the names of the children were written down beforehand seems a very sensible precaution but what if the parents could not write which was not uncommon in the 19th century?

At the turn of the 20th century this was became less of a problem but it should always be remembered that if you are unable to find a record, think laterally about how it might appear and, who knows, it may be there after all.

WE'RE FAMOUS!

During the summer we were asked by the production team of 'FAMILY TREE' magazine to write an article about our society. It was their intention to include it in their October 2018 edition as their Spotlight Feature.

John Symons undertook this task. He wrote a very detailed account of just why we were formed and explained how we operate i.e. the research help we provide via the research room and the journal. We are pleased to say John's effort duly appeared in the magazine and it makes for a good read.

As a result we have already received considerable numbers of enquiries from their readers as well as requests for research help. Hopefully all of this interest will result in some new members.

A LOOK AT MY FOREFATHERS

By John Bridger

My direct BRIDGER forefathers all seem to have been Sussex men and I thought it would be interesting to find out the areas where they were reared. I had been able to trace back many generations and if my calculations were anywhere near the mark they took me back to a possible ancestor circa 1535. There is always a big question mark when you get back this far particularly as every village in West Sussex seemed to have a BRIDGER family!

So taking 1535 as given, I wanted to find out where they were baptised and hopefully this would establish my true Sussex line. The following table best explains my findings.

NAME	Bapt. Date	PLACE
Francis son of	1807	Pagham
John son of	1784	Pagham
John son of	1747	Pagham
Thomas son of	1693	Pagham
Thomas son of	1665	Funtington
? John son of	1631	Wool Bedding
William son of	1600	Wool Bedding
William son of	1562	Adlingborne
Roger	1530	?

Francis Bridger eventually moved to Swansea around 1827.

I could not find a Roger BRIDGER, with a son William, around the correct date – but all was not lost!

In the 1530s, as far as I could see, there were few BRIDGERS in West Sussex. I decided to look for a Bridger in that area and at that date on Family Search. There was just one possibility; a Rogeri BRIDGER who was probably born around that date. From parish records I knew that William's father was shown as Roger. I also knew that about this time an 'i' at the end of a name was frequently omitted so I felt that Rogeri and Roger were probably one and the same.

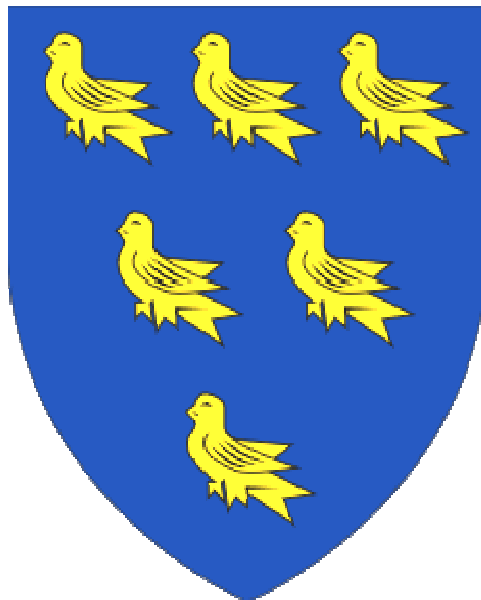
(contd.)

Now I also knew that Rogeri had a daughter, Elizabeth baptised in 1559 and according to Family Search her father was a Roger. This re-enforced my conclusion that Rogeri and Roger were one and the same. Unfortunately Rogeri's record showed no details of where he was baptised, born or any indication of his parents names. Another pointer to Sussex being where the BRIDGERS came from is that all the wives of those above were Sussex born.

When it comes to more recent grandparents; after Francis BRIDGER settled in South Wales he married a girl from a Swansea family. One of their children born in Abergwili, Carmarthenshire was my 2 x grandfather, Harry William. He also married in Swansea but his wife, although born in Wales, had a clear Scottish heritage and their son John Francis BRIDGER was my grandfather. He was born in Swansea and married a Swansea girl whose maiden name suggests a distant French connection. The continuous direct male line is completed with my father, John R.D. BRIDGER, the son of John Francis and finally me, John V.

So although I have proved that there is Sussex blood in my veins it might be diluted a little by those non Sussex wives of more recent times!

I feel very fortunate therefore to have found the ancestral lineage detailed above and to me it all points to the veracity of my Sussex credentials.



SUSSEX

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS WEB SITE

By Alan Rowland

A very interesting web site has come to light, <https://archive.org/>, and it is well worth a visit.

Importantly it is free to use and when it opens you are presented with innumerable, large icons. They are all titled with the content that you will find when you left click on an icon. A lot of the items are orientated towards American viewers but there are also many that have U.K. information.

There are books, newspapers, library collections – even old television programmes and much more.

It is also possible to listen to old 78 rpm records, view sheet music and all manner of other material that may spark an interest.

Have a look and tell us what you find of interest.

ARE YOU AWARE?

By Alan Rowland

With the prevalence of on-line research and the continual appearance of new records on existing sites as well as new web sites, it can be useful to know of other researchers finds.

For example most of us have probably made use of the FreeBMD site to gather G.R.O. information but this site has expanded their FreeREG (Parish Registers) facility. In earlier times this was a very patchy collection of transcribed parish records and to be honest whenever I searched I never found the individual sought.

At their main page left click on FreeREG (Parish Registers) which will take you to the search boxes complete with a number of parameters to aid your search.

(contd.)

Images of the records are not available but transcriptions have been provided by a large army of volunteers who continue to add to the store of information. Consequently there are still large gaps in these records but there are many more than earlier.

Layout and style has also been updated making a search much easier. Any results found are presented as a table that includes the name of the transcriber, the source and other information.

If you have searched in all the usual places and have been unable to find what you want take a look at FreeREG, you may be lucky.

A SMALL PART OF THE MUSIC HISTORY OF HILLINGDON

By Gill Hammond

Gill sent us this story about the E.M.I. orchestra and it includes an article from the Advertiser and Gazette which carried the picture.

'Our picture dug up by 73 year old John Neighbour, of West Drayton Road, Hillingdon, recalls a critical moment in the life of the wartime E.M.I. Orchestra, in which he was a violinist.

For the picture was taken at a lunchtime session in the corrugated canteen in 1943 – and an hour after the band left, a doodle-bug fell on the building and destroyed it.

The canteen was later rebuilt but the band had a less fortunate future. It disbanded at the end of the war after a life of less than seven years.

Mr. Neighbour, who still plays occasionally with the Ickenham Strings, was a toolmaker at E.M.I. but moved to another firm when the orchestra disbanded.

He remembers cycling to the factory with the other musicians for their night shift session, laden down with instruments, tin hats and gas masks, and getting caught in air raids.

(contd.)

“Many a time we had to get off our bikes and go under Dawley Wall in Harlington Road because the shrapnel was dropping,” he recalls.

Mr. Neighbour, who is sitting immediately to the left of bandmaster Fred Jarvis, partly hidden by sheets of music, does not know who took the picture.

But he could tell the Gazette that Mr. Jarvis, a security officer, helped to form the orchestra to keep up the spirits of the workers with classical and light entertainment, and was one of the few surviving members of the original R.A.F. Central Band based at Uxbridge. He died in 1969.

During its brief career the E.M.I. Orchestra broadcast twice on the radio for the Works Wonders programme, which some readers may recall’.



Gill continues:

The Fred JARVIS mentioned in the article was my grandfather. He played oboe and saxophone in the Royal Air Force Central Band for many years. His family lived in married quarters in Uxbridge R.A.F. Camp, the band's headquarters.

(contd.)

I remember him as the conductor of the orchestra at E.M.I. (then known as His Master's Voice). I went with the family to a concert by the orchestra at the Queen's Hall, Hayes. I also remember hearing the broadcasts. He used to keep the contents of the programme secret from the family – they had to listen to the radio. He did whisper to me once that they would close a programme with a selection from Ivor Novello's 'The Dancing Years'.

We had a gramophone record at home of the Royal Air Force Central Band playing 'In a Persian Market Place' in which grandfather was featured as one of the three players in a solo passage.

N.B. We apologise for the poor quality of the picture. It is a copy of a copy, of a copy ...ad infinitum!

A FOLLOW UP TO 'FLEET MARRIAGES'

Following the 'Fleet Marriages' article in the September journal, we have received the following suggestion from our President Michael Gandy. Having studied the image he says a better reading is as follows:

'12 John Jackson of St Olaves Southwark Mariner B Mary Sherman do W Lillys'

Michael says that the 'B' denotes bachelor; 'do' is ditto i.e. St Olaves Southwark; 'W' denotes widow and Lillys is where the marriage took place.

Michael also says that there is no indication that they married in October. It is true that the image does not specify the month and year, but the information was gathered from the source web site.

Many thanks, Michael, for pointing out what the various wordings and single letters represent.

IT WAS EVER THUS!

By Alan Rowland

The trite saying ‘what goes around comes around’ is sometimes apt. Another extract from the St. Martin’s Church parish magazine (see also page 18) for January 1896 brings to mind the ongoing battles over HS2.

The Vicar, Thomas Marsh Everett, wrote:-

The Parish is threatened with two new Railway Bills, for which approval will be asked in the next session of Parliament—one is called “The London and South Wales Railway,” beginning at Cardiff, and running direct to Oxford and Beaconsfield, enters our Parish near Fine Bush Lane, and after crossing the Little Manor main road skirts Southcote Farm and the Vicarage—and continues its course along the Moors—then crosses the Eastcote Road beyond Half-Mile Gate, and running through High Grove Estate crosses the Northolt Road south of Mr. Woodland’s Farm, in the direction of Pinner, Harrow Weald, and Hendon.

The other railway is called “The South Ealing and Harrow Extension,” and runs in a westerly direction from Harrow past the Rifle Butts, then crosses the Eastcote Road to Northolt, and on through the Common fields over the West End Road towards Ickenham.

The Parish Council have appointed a Committee in conjunction with the Highway Surveyor to examine and advise on the Plans as affecting the Roads, Bridges, and Footpaths.

However unlike the modern reincarnation of the ‘railway’ problem in the very next edition of the parish magazine (February 1896) the vicar makes a one line statement as follows;

The proposed London and South Wales Railway Bill has been withdrawn.

There was no explanation as to why it was withdrawn but I doubt that it was as the result of protests and demonstrations by the ordinary people or even planning objections. Was it perhaps the local big wig or lord of the manor who would not allow the proposed line to cross his land? Of course the line would have been built and owned by private companies with share holders. Therefore the railway was not controlled by the government and presumably compulsory purchase orders etc. were out of the question.

(contd.)

On the other hand perhaps the people the share issue was aimed at felt the whole thing to be a risky business with little prospects of profits and dividends. It follows that with not enough applications for shares the resultant lack of support and finance would not raise sufficient finance and thus the proposal was withdrawn.

Who knows; it is probably recorded somewhere but although our railway system is again privately owned it seems we (i.e. parliament) have no compunction in the compulsory purchase of land and to financing the whole HS2 railway out of the public purse.

For the rest of 1896 there is no mention in the parish magazine of the other proposed railway line. We have bound editions of the parish magazine for other years so the fate of the 'The South Ealing and Harrow Extension' may be covered – if and when we find it we will let you know.

CORRECTIONS AND AN APOLOGY

By Alan Rowland

We have received from Bob Trease a criticism of how I edited his piece 'Researching a 'Dreadful Business' in the September journal (page 24). It seems I changed the impression that Bob wanted to achieve with his opening.

In order to rectify this we present here the original opening:

Many lessons can be learnt from my research into the fascinating but sad lives of my father's grandparents. When I began, family legend was: -

- *my father's aunts would say no more than "dreadful business", if asked about their mother, name unknown.*
- *my father's mother received letter(s?) from his grandmother in Australia saying she'd been "with child" (ie pregnant) when she emigrated, and promising to send a ring (which never arrived).*
- *my father's grandfather, name unknown, worked for a brewery.*

(contd.)

This correction affects on the first three paragraphs on the following page (25) which should be disregarded and the following original inserted:

Over a period of 25 years, I uncovered tragic events which I eventually realised must be somehow connected.

I got my father's grandfather's name from his own father's birth certificate. Then careful examination of civil registration, trade directory and 1881 census data enabled me to construct an outline family tree. Grandfather, Henry, a brewer's agent, had married Ann, the daughter of William Bartholomew SALISBURY, a widowed saddler living in Rugeley. No sign of Ann in the 1881 census but daughters Nelly, Florrie, and Ethel were at boarding school in Birmingham and Edith, aged only 3, was being cared for by a family in Rugeley. Son Will, 5, was living with his father in the Burton Brewery Company premises in Castle Street, Dudley. In 1897 Henry died in Derby aged only 53.

On page 26 the penultimate paragraph should be omitted and the following original inserted:-

He and the Earl of Lichfield had laid foundation stones for Rugeley Town Hall which had since been demolished. I wrote to the Rugeley local history society, asking where I could get a picture of the foundation stone laid by Ann's father. Their secretary told me the stone was in her front garden after being rescued by her husband! In addition to a photo, she supplied much information about the Salisburys who were a prominent family in Victorian Rugeley.

Finally on page 28 the text from 'I began' to Ann 'TREASE' should be omitted and the original as below inserted:

I began researching Henry and Ann's daughters and visited my only living uncle, the son of Florrie (the centre child in the photo) taking with me photos of persons and places I hoped he could identify. He was a mine of family information. He said "The sisters never mentioned their mother. I did not know of her at all until around 1957 when Nelly (the daughter on the far right of the photo) let the cat out the bag! I was told then that she went to Melbourne and married a man named CLARKE.

(contd.)

*When I subsequently mentioned this to my mother, she was cross that Nelly had mentioned it at all and did not wish to hear mention of **that woman** (ie Ann) again.”*

I showed him a photo of an elderly lady sitting on a deck chair captioned “Mrs CLARKE aged 80 years”. He immediately recognised her likeness to his aunt Ethel and said that, without doubt, that would be his grandmother Ann TREASE.

As the person responsible for the changes, I together with the editorial team can only offer an apology to Bob and hope that this clears up any confusion the changes may have caused.

A TALK – THE LIFE AND TIMES OF CHARLES BOOTH

By John Symons

On 19th July 2018 the Reverend Paul Hullyer gave a talk about the life and times of Charles Booth.

Many of us will have heard about Booth's Poverty Maps, a series of intricately drawn and coloured maps which clearly indicate relative levels of social affluence and deprivation within London at the end of the 19th century. How they came about and why is less well known and this was the theme of the discourse by Paul who was a previous incumbent of All Saints Church Hillingdon but who now is the vicar of St. John's Church, Pinner.

Paul studied social conditions in London as part of his theology thesis. Having been brought up in the East End of London he knew it as one of the poorest parts of the capital. Whilst he notes that conditions have improved markedly across all of London the relative areas of affluence and deprivation remain largely unchanged.

Over a century ago this social inequality was very noticeable and it was this that inspired Charles Booth to undertake a comprehensive study into the cause and effect of social conditions in the capital.

(contd.)

Charles Booth, shown below in old age, was born in 1840 in Liverpool to a wealthy family of merchants and ship owners. After the death of his father he had several business ventures including the setting up of a steamship service to Brazil.



He could never distance himself however from the poverty he encountered and argued that to counter its effects it was first necessary to understand and analyse the problems.

Earlier he had criticised previous studies on the subject so Charles resolved to undertake his own detailed study into the causes and extent of poverty in London which by now he had fully encountered. Fortunately he was wealthy enough to provide the wherewithal to fund such a study.

Booth formed a team of investigators under his control and published a series of works under the title 'Life and Labour of the People of London' over a period up to 1903.

His researchers were largely drawn from Oxford and Cambridge scholars but the study was sponsored by the London School of Economics. The area to be covered was broadly that of the old County of London and so it constituted a considerable area.

As a result of the survey and to support his work, a series of maps were drawn which show, through the use of various colours, the relative social status of each street.

The status colour varied from 'Upper Class and Wealthy' (Gold) down to 'Lowest Class, Vicious and Semi-Criminal' (Black) and all points between.

(contd.)

In addition some of the survey notebooks exist which contain written descriptions of streets visited. The colours used on the maps give an immediate indication of the distribution of the various classes.

These publications provide unmatched resources for family and social historians alike. The maps and notebooks are available on the London School of Economics web site **booth.lse.ac.uk** where they can be viewed free of charge.

Some of the 1889 maps are available for inspection at any time during opening hours at our research room at Hillingdon.

Charles Booth also conducted further studies into work and education in Liverpool and even undertook some forays into politics.

He died 23rd November 1916 in Thringstone, Leicestershire. He will be remembered as a great Victorian philanthropist whose work remains an enduring legacy over a century later.

Paul Hullyer's interesting talk was a timely reminder of this.

A TALK – RESEARCH & WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

By Jenny Mundy and John Symons

On Tuesday 4th September at a meeting shared with the U3A Hillingdon Family History Group the speaker was Dr Nick Barratt, historian and author of many books. His theme was how to present your family history for which, he said, you needed to search out stories from their lives which would grab the interest of the readers.

He illustrated this by giving the example of his great uncle, Ernest Holloway Oldham. Ernest's early life was influenced by a relative who worked for the Foreign Office.

When the relative came home on leave from a posting abroad he whisked Ernest out of a local school and placed him in a private school which had been set up in a former monastery in Laleham, Surrey.

(contd.)

There he would receive a better education which it was hoped would fit him potentially for a civil service career. Nick noted from Ernest's reports that he did not speak French.

Nick's investigations at The National Archives into Ernest's background brought about the speedy realisation that he worked for the Foreign Office following Army service in World War One and despite his lack of foreign languages, a notation on the records showed that he actually worked for the secret service. Using his knowledge of these records Nick uncovered a tale of mystery and intrigue in the inter war period involving Russia, agents and double agents.

Now we will not all have such interesting characters in our family trees or the wherewithal to uncover such a wealth of detail about them. Nevertheless there are many stories out there waiting to be told and many of these are interesting enough to merit a page or two firstly to demonstrate that your research has paid off and secondly so that their history is remembered and can be passed on to others.

Nick's own story of Ernest Oldham is now the subject of a book 'The Forgotten Spy' published by Blink Publishing. If you want to fully discover this curious tale the book has the whole story. In any event the talk was well received and appreciated by a large audience.

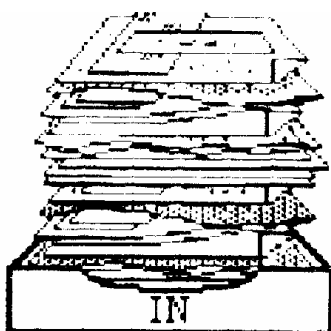
WE WERE AT THE RUISLIP FAIR – DID YOU SEE US?



*Holding the fort! –
Val Fitch and Pat
Reynolds*

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

By Patricia Reynolds



This is the last issue (No.124) of the journal for the current subscription year. We hope you have enjoyed reading the journal and that you will wish to continue your membership. Renewal becomes due on 1st January 2019 irrespective of the date on which you joined.

A subscription renewal form is included with this journal. In order to help me keep track of renewals and the membership please return the completed form with your remittance.

If you wish to make your payment in cash at one of our meetings it would be most helpful if you would put it in an envelope together with the completed form and add your name and membership number (if known) on the front.

If you intend to make your renewal payment by cheque, please make it payable to HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY and not to me. Your new membership card will be your receipt which will be given to at one of our meetings or included with the next journal.

My thanks to all members who have written to me, or chatted on the telephone, over the last year. It is lovely to hear from you all and to meet many of you over our 'Bookstall' at the various fairs we attended throughout the year.

A very Happy Christmas to you all and Very Best Wishes for 2019.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Membership Number	Name
M100	Mrs. Susan Malick
M101	Dr. Giz Marriner
S89	Mr. John Stark

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 31st Annual General Meeting to be held at 7.30 p.m. on
Thursday 21st March 2019 at Hillingdon Park Baptist Church,
Hercies Road, Hillingdon Circus, Middlesex

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 15th March 2018 at Hillingdon Park Baptist Church, Hercies Road
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers:
 - a. President
 - b. Chairman
 - c. Vice-Chairman (joint)
 - d. Administrative Secretary
 - e. Treasurer
7. Executive Committee (maximum 15 members)
The following are proposed:
Patricia Reynolds, Alan Rowland, Valerie Fitch, Douglas Adams and Anne Moss
8. Appointment of Auditor
9. Any other business

Nominations for the above should be with the Administrative Secretary,
Gill May by 20th February 2019.

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Hillingdon Family History Society

Minutes of the 30th A.G.M. held on Thursday 15th March 2018
at Hillingdon Park Baptist Church, Hercies Road, Hillingdon Circus,
Middlesex

1. Apologies for absence from Cath. Anderson and Florence Barnes.
2. Minutes of the 29th A.G.M. held at Hillingdon Park Baptist Church, Hercies Road, Hillingdon on Thursday 16th March 2017. Accepted and proposed by John Symons and seconded by.
3. There were no matters arising.
4. The Chairman's report (printed in the September 2018 issue of the journal) was read and accepted.
5. The Hon. Treasurer presented the Annual Accounts. These will be printed in the September journal. Charles was thanked for his production of the accounts and acceptance was proposed by John Symons and seconded by Jenny Mundy.
6. The following Officers were elected:

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

All the above were proposed and seconded by Roger Howe.

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

(contd.)

7. The following, together with the above, were elected to the Executive committee:

Patricia Reynolds: Alan Rowland: Valerie Fitch: Douglas Adams

All the committee were unanimously proposed by Roger Howe and seconded by Jenny Mundy

8. Appointment of Auditor, Julie Ross-Smith.
Julie Ross-Smith carried out the audit for this year. It was agreed that she will be appointed Auditor going forward.
9. Any other business.
None.

RESEARCH BY HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



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

(contd.)

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

In addition we can extend searches using the London Metropolitan Archives and the National Archives at Kew and other London record offices.

We can also carry out national investigations embracing the whole of the U.K. as well as other countries worldwide.

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

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

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

HELP LINE

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,
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Telephone: **01753 885602** Email: **gillmay20@btinternet.com**

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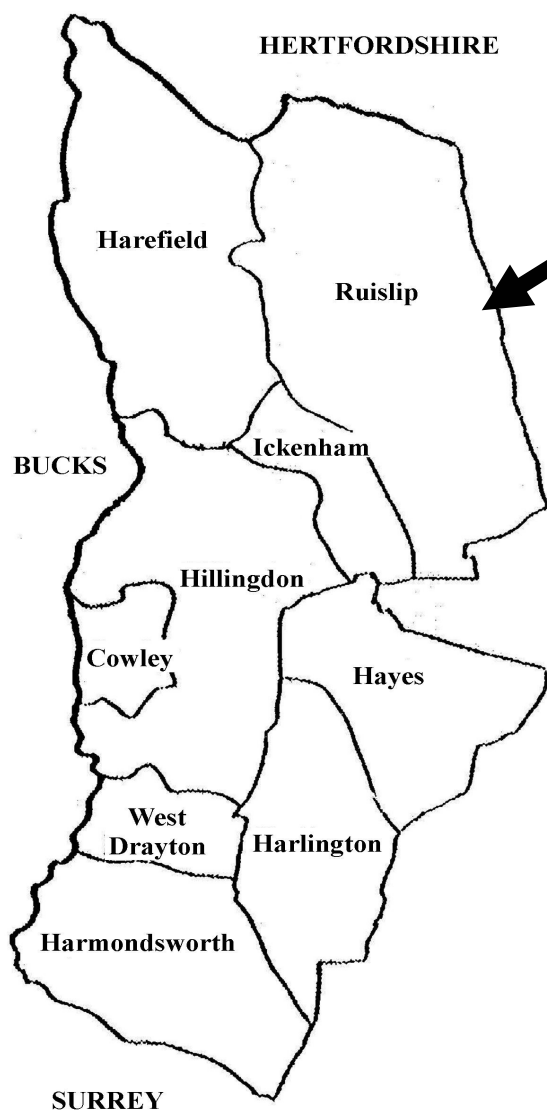
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London Borough of Hillingdon

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:
Patricia Reynolds, 20 Lilac Place, Yiewsley, West Drayton, Middlesex. UB7 8LR
U.K.