



# HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



*The Grainge family on holiday in Liskeard.  
(see page No. 18)*

## **2014 PROGRAMME OF OUR MEETINGS**

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

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
<i>TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> January</i> <i>Joint meeting with U3A</i> <i>starts at 2.00 p.m.</i>	<i>Sharon Hintze</i> <i>(L. D. Saints)</i>	<i>‘What’s New at Family Search?’ A</i> <i>look at the LDS new website for</i> <i>family history.</i>
<i>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February</i>	<i>Janet Dineen</i>	<i>‘High Days and Holidays:</i> <i>the Spring months’, From New Year</i> <i>to Midsummer – Traditions and</i> <i>folklore.</i>
<i>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>A.G.M.</i>	<i>Followed by a short talk from</i> <i>Jenny Mundy</i> <i>‘Behind the Electoral Registers’</i>
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Colin Oakes</b>	<b>‘The Forgotten County:</b> <b>Middlesex and its History’</b>
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Michael Gandy</b>	<b>‘Problems in London Ancestry’</b>
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Barry Twigg</b>	<b>‘You wouldn’t believe what</b> <b>happens at the Register Office’</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Philip Sherwood</b>	<b>‘Sipson: A village under threat’</b>
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Ian Harvey and</b> <b>John Symons</b>	<b>Researching Your World War 1</b> <b>Ancestors</b>
<b>TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> November</b> <b>Joint meeting with U3A</b> <b>starts at 2.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Audrey Collins</b>	<b>‘The making of the GRO indexes’</b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>

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

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

Contact us by e-mail at: **[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.**

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

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I don't know how many of our members have dogs. Over the years I have come to the conclusion that people are either dog people or cat people. They are rarely both!

Currently I don't know ANYONE with a budgerigar. When I was growing up they seemed to be in every house I visited, sitting on their perch with the cuttle fish poking through the cage. My grandparents had one that was called Whisky, which might explain why it seemed a bit listless at times!

Anyway, one of the key things as family historians we need to do is to make up a birth brief. John Symons mentioned this in the autumn. Use of a simple (usually) five generation chart of direct line ancestors with blank spaces for unknown ancestors, will highlight the extent of further research needed to complete the picture.

You will be reading this in March (although I am typing it in January) but a New Year resolution should be for all of us to pull our facts together, get organised and put our birth briefs together. Apart from summarising your research, it is a tremendous aide-mémoire when you are in a library and need to cross-check an individual or ancestor.

As we all know, family history can become addictive and I don't want to encourage a mania, but did you know that animals also have birth briefs?

The layout is the same as that we use to construct our own birth briefs and as an example the birth brief of my grandparent's dog from the 1970s is shown below.

As you can see other details can be added including the results of the animal's ancestors show appearances.

Human birth briefs are a useful next step if you haven't already done it, but animal/pet briefs might be a step too far! It can be exhausting, witness the picture of the dog!

*(contd.)*





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## EDITORS' JOTTINGS

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World War One began one hundred years ago this year. Members have sent articles about their ancestors who were involved in the War and we will publish these as the year progresses.

If you have a story to tell concerning an ancestor who served in the War please send it in plus any photographs as soon as possible (see the deadline dates below).

### DEADLINE DATES FOR 2014

JOURNAL EDITION	DEADLINE DATE
JUNE	2 <sup>nd</sup> MAY
SEPTEMBER	1 <sup>st</sup> AUGUST
DECEMBER	26 <sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

We have received the following observation from David Wilson of Wokingham, with reference to the Hillingdon Local Studies Service (H.L.S.S.) article in the December 2013 issue (p. 11);

*The final history of Provident Congregational Church was a little more complex than the article suggests. The church actually closed in 1962 when the congregation merged with that of Old Meeting Congregational Church to form Uxbridge Congregational Church. The Old Meeting church was much older dating from 1662. The amalgamated church met in the Old Meeting House leaving the Providence Church empty until it was demolished in the 1970s to make way for the bypass. It was Uxbridge Congregational Church, by then a United Reformed Church, that merged with the Methodists to form Christ Church.*

Paul Davidson, the Assistant Archivist H.L.S.S., who produced the item in question, has commented on David's observation as follows;

*Yes, I was familiar with the full history of Providence. Unfortunately, there was no room to do it justice in the article - hence the brief summary.*

*But do thank David for me anyway.*

We will Paul!

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## IS THIS THE ANSWER?

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In our December 2013 edition 'Chairman's Notes' Ian posed the question; 'Does anyone know what a Docheman was?' Kindly he asked for answers to be sent to the editor. To date we have had just one response – from Barbara Nield – and a footnote from the editor.

'I thought that *Docheman* sounded like *Dutchman*. An extract from a book called 'The History of Gauged Brickwork' speaks of the introduction of high-quality work and foreign craftsmen relating to brickwork. It states that one can identify these as 'Flemynges' or 'Dochemen' (Dutchmen or Deutchmen) by their names. Several names and trades are mentioned, among them being one Anthony Yzebronde also referred to elsewhere in the accounts as Anthony Docheman.

The article continues.....The different terms of address of craftsmen is of interest as the 'cleric' (clerk) recording them was likely to alter spelling in the records, anglicise their names, or write them phonetically. They would also have recorded the craftsman's native country, as in 'Anthony Docheman'.

Among the list of names in the subsidy rolls I noticed Jone Frenche (another foreigner?), wedowe who paid 3s in londes but what is a londes? Only one other inhabitant paid in londes. John Colyn who paid 5s in londes. Sounds like land, does it mean crops, but how is that different from goodes?' One question answered, another posed!

*Barbara Nield.*

*N.B. On <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=51587> is 'The Chronicle of the Grey Friars: Henry VIII', Chronicle of the Grey Friars of London: Camden Society old series, volume 53 (1852), 29-53. which reports; 'And the xxix. of November was burnyd in Smythfelde John Mattessey a Docheman, Peter Franke and hys wyffe, for erryse'.*

*So it seems people were being burned for 'erryse' (heresy) in Smithfield at least one of whom was a 'Docheman'.*

*(contd.)*

Footnote.

Also the following can be found on;

[http://www.tapestriescalledsheldon.info/p16\\_creating\\_image.htm](http://www.tapestriescalledsheldon.info/p16_creating_image.htm)

*THE SHELTON TAPESTRIES FOUND IN CHASTLETON HOUSE near Stow-on-the-Wold (Barcheston is near Shipston-on-Stour about 8 miles from Chastleton House) Few weavers could be found working at Barcheston in the forty years of its existence, 1570-1611. Much was made of Peter the Docheman, buried there in 1590/1. He was assumed to be a weaver, even though nothing was known of him.*

*So was a DOCHEMAN something to do with the weaving industry and in particular that associated with tapestries?*

*Since tapestry weaving was centred in the Low Countries was DOCHEMAN a corrupted form of DUTCHMAN? This may be why the word is in italics and follows a comma in the scanned list. The word is also preceded by both the definite and indefinite article: a Docheman and the Docheman. Referring back to the burned 'errytic' John Mattessey, if Docheman means Dutchman he may have practised one of the Continental dissenting religions. This would probably have exposed him to a charge of heresy by the ruling Roman Catholic church in England under Henry VIII.*

*Alan Rowland*

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## HAVE YOU HEARD?

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We have heard a rumour that COSTCO (the cash and carry warehouse company) offer a poster printing service up to A3 size.

Has anybody any knowledge of this? If so please let us have details so that we can pass the information on to all members.

Whilst our interest isn't necessarily in posters we thought that it might be possible to print large family trees, instead of having to collate several A4 sheets or worse sticking them together with the dreaded 'Sellotape'!

Please let us know if you can help.

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## OBITUARY

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Sadly we have to report the passing of a stalwart of our society for many years, TOM MORGAN. Tom died aged 93 on 6<sup>th</sup> January leaving Lorna, his wife of more than 70 years, daughter and family.

Tom was born in Swansea but moved to London after serving with the R.A.F. in the Second World War. He held a number of posts including trade union official, councillor with Uxbridge Borough and then as Labour chief whip with The London Borough of Hillingdon, chairman of the Middlesex/Hillingdon Show Committee and magistrate. Until recently Tom was a regular at both our monthly meetings and the research room. He was also a former editor of the journal and continued in recent years as a member of the editorial team.

Tom's interest in family history was long standing and naturally his speciality was in Welsh research. He encouraged many others to follow and freely offered advice to all. He will be missed by many in the Society and the wider community.

We send our sincere condolences to Lorna and all the family.



# CAN YOU HELP ?

*You probably know that the society is always looking for ways to keep costs down. If you have a computer you can help us by having your journal sent as a 'pdf' document attached to an email. Not only will you receive your journal swiftly but colour pictures will be seen – in colour! We offer a reduced subscription if you take this option.*

**SO COME ON HELP YOUR  
SOCIETY TO SURVIVE!**

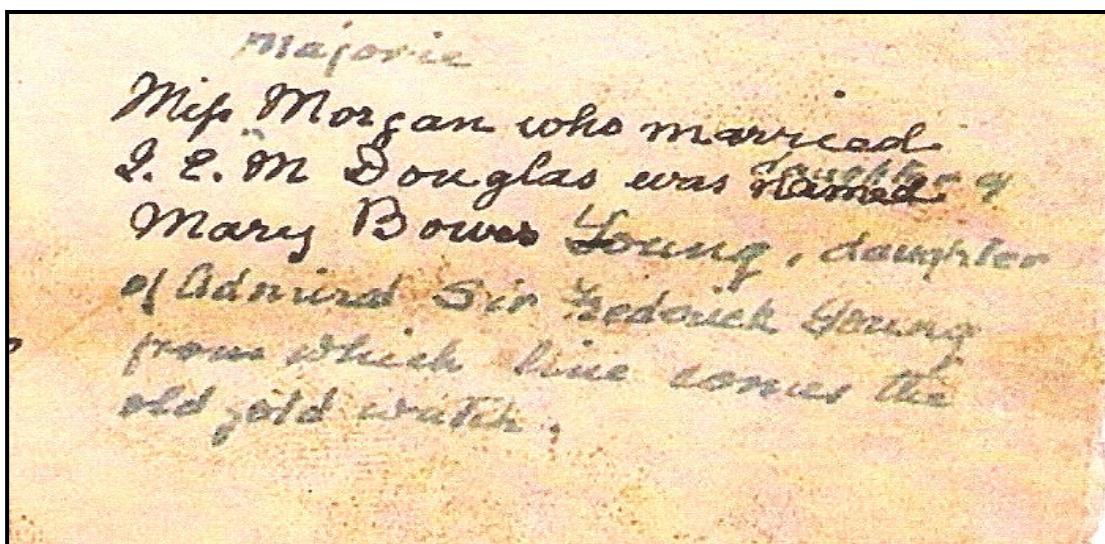
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## A FOLLOW UP

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My piece entitled 'Another Family Story', which appeared in the December 2013 journal, made use of letters written from Scotland by 'Aunt Gertie' to her relatives in Australia. Her description of the family's history contained an unproved claim that the name of Bowes had been given to the family because of a friendship between Sir George Bowes and a Captain Frederick Young.

However as the result of finding a handwritten note on the reverse of a portrait on paper of my 4 x great grandfather James Edward Morton Douglas I embarked on another voyage of discovery. The note said;



*'Miss Morgan who married J. E. M. Douglas was daughter of Mary Bowes Young daughter of Admiral Sir James Young from which line comes the old gold watch'*

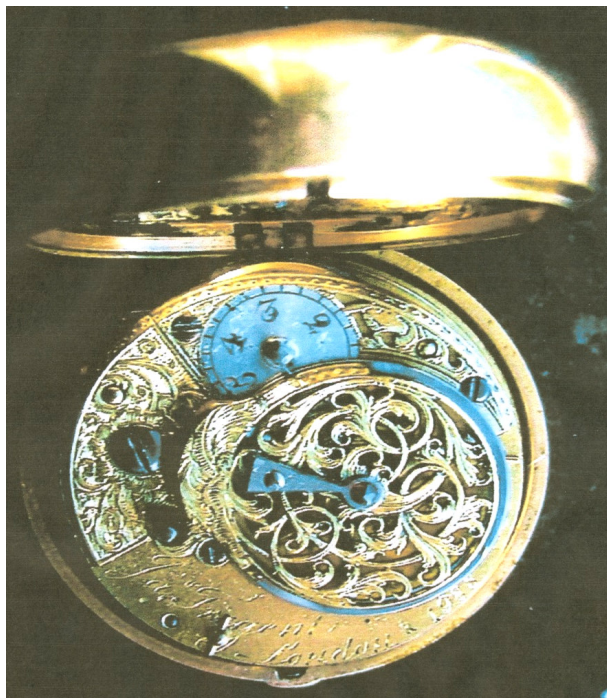
It is likely that this note was written around 1901 as there is a reference in the body of the letter 'leaving in 1901' and mentioning names of family members who remained in Scotland.

'Miss' uses the long's' which by 1901 seems a little unusual as its use fell dramatically between 1800 and 1850 before finally falling out of use by 1900. However if the note was written by Aunt Gertie, who was born in 1849, she may well have been schooled in the older script where the long's' was used.

(contd.)



I had some luck when I found that a distant relative in Australia had a watch which it was believed was the watch referred to in the note. The inscriptions were difficult to read, but was it possible that they could answer the questions?



Certainly the case is inscribed 'Capt. J. E. M. D. which seems to prove that he owned the watch at sometime.

As I couldn't read the inscriptions I sought the help of Tony Harrington-Smith of 'Clocks and Watches.com'.

He concluded that the indistinct inscription was in fact the name of the maker, James Tregent of London. There was no date of manufacture but he felt that the numbers were the serial

number. He suggested that the likely date of manufacture was late 1770s to early 1780s. This ruled out the idea that it was given to J.E.M.D. (born 1794) as a new item. In 1815 he retired from the Hussars as a Lieutenant but he continued in the Militia service until 1826. He then retired having made the rank of Captain and it must be at that time that he acquired or was presented with the watch. There is however no mention on the watch of the names Young and Bowes!

So once again there is no proof of the family story but the suggested date of manufacture ties in with the life of Frederick Young. He could have purchased it new and on his death left it to his daughter. She married Rev. Morgan who could have handed it on to J.E.M.D. who might have had it inscribed. All this is pure guesswork but the original note does say *'from which line comes the old gold watch.'*

Have I missed something somewhere that would confirm the claim of a connection between Admiral Sir Frederick Young and the Bowes Family?

*John Bridger*

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## WW1 REMEMBERED – UNCLE HARRY (PART 1)

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Our former book reviewer, Arthur Dark, gets our World War One commemoration started with this article which we have decided to serialise. Our December 2014 issue will give 'Notes on Sources' that Arthur used in tracing Uncle Harry's service record even though the records themselves are missing.

Uncle Harry was one of the 12 children of my grandparents George and Emma BLAKE and was born in Devonport in 1890. George had been a driver in the Army Service Corps and after he left the army drove the horse-drawn fire engine of the Devonport Fire Brigade. Harry followed his father's example and joined the Royal Engineers on February 11<sup>th</sup> 1909, aged 18 and was given army number 18517. By 1911 (see Census of Overseas Military Establishments) he was serving in Jamaica as a bricklayer, with the rank of Sapper (Pte.) in No. 44 (Fortress) Company, Royal Engineers. Basic pay was 1s - 2d per day (plus an addition for skilled trades) and the terms of service were then 6 years with the colours and 6 years with the reserve army. Fortress companies were responsible for building and maintaining coastal defence fortifications for the Royal Garrison Artillery and comprised a wide range of soldiers skilled in building and other trades. As an example the Sergeant-Major of No. 44 Company was a blacksmith.

They were probably called upon to assist with reconstruction work in Kingston following the earthquake of 1907. The British garrison in Jamaica was mainly stationed at Port Royal, at the tip of the sand spit which protected Kingston harbour and increasingly at Up Park in what was then the northern outskirts of Kingston.

Periodically, units would be sent to Newcastle, about 50 miles north of Kingston and about 4,500 feet up in the mountains, to give them relief from the tropical heat. Harry returned to England (Southampton) on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1914 (Dorothy BLAKE's diary), but No. 44 Company remained behind in Jamaica as did most of the Fortress companies in British colonies during the war.

Following a period of home leave Harry probably returned to the Regimental Depot at Chatham for reposting and retraining before being sent to another R.E. Company. *(contd.)*

Five months later war was declared on 4<sup>th</sup> August. My mother's diary reports Harry as having sailed 'for the front', from Southampton, on October 7<sup>th</sup> 1914. This date reappears on his medal index card as the date of his first entry into a theatre of war.

This also records the award of the three First World War campaign medals commonly known as 'Pip, Squeak and Wilfred' after three popular newspaper cartoon characters; more correctly they are 1914 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He also received the Silver War Badge, given to those honourably discharged by reason of age, illness or injury. The latter was worn on civilian clothes and was partly intended to protect the wearer from any enquiries as to why he wasn't in uniform. The 1914 Star (instituted in 1917) was only awarded to those soldiers who had seen active service in France and Flanders between the 5<sup>th</sup> August and midnight on the 22<sup>nd</sup> /23<sup>rd</sup> November 1914 and provides unequivocal evidence that Harry was a member of the 'Old Contemptibles'.

This was the small army (by continental standards) sent with great promptitude to the continent following the German invasion of Belgium and France. Known as the British Expeditionary Force it was a wholly professional regular army but because of its small size is supposed to have been described by the Kaiser as 'this contemptible little army'. Germany mobilised an army of 3 million in 1914. Modern research suggests that the Kaiser never actually uttered these words and that this was a successful invention of British propaganda.

Four infantry (the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>) and 2 cavalry (the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>) divisions of the B.E.F. were landed in France early in August and first engaged the enemy at Mons (Belgium) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Forced to retreat from Mons because they were outflanked they were then joined by the 4<sup>th</sup> infantry Division and fought the defensive battle of Le Cateau on the 26<sup>th</sup> August. This was successful in stopping the Germans from harrying the retreat. The sixth infantry Division then joined them and took part in the advance on the Aisne (12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> September).

Uncle Harry's date of entry strongly indicates that he was a member of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division which was assembled from scratch, during late September and early October 1914, at Lyndhurst in the New Forest under Major-General T. Capper.

*(contd.)*

On the 5<sup>th</sup> October they sailed from Southampton in two groups of transports and began disembarking at Zeebrugge (Belgium) on the 6<sup>th</sup> completing the disembarkation on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The Seventh infantry division and the Third cavalry division were the final elements making up the B.E.F.

The original intention was that they were to help defend Antwerp, but that had already fallen by the time they arrived, so the Seventh Division covered the landing of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division at Ostend (involving a 13 mile march) on the 8<sup>th</sup>. On the 9<sup>th</sup> they held various defensive positions in and around Ghent to enable the safe passage of the retreating Belgian army, before following in its wake in a 40 mile retreat towards Ypres.



This photograph of Harry in his army uniform shows him wearing the blue and white brassards of a member of the army signal service, where he was a despatch rider. There was no Royal Corps of Signals in the First World War and the Engineers then performed many functions later taken over by other corps. Spurs and a riding crop show that he was a horse soldier and that his despatches were carried on horseback. For many years after the war had ended he carried about with him a piece of the mane of the horse he rode during the war. Two long service and good conduct chevrons on Harry's left arm indicate a minimum of 6 years service. A vertical 2 inch stripe (instituted by the Army Council on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 1916) indicates that he must have been wounded in action and that the photo must have been taken after that date. The cap on his knee was known as a 'Gor Blimey' and replaced the rigid 1914 pattern service cap, with its internal springs.

*(contd.)*

Soft, pliable, warm and with ear flaps, its informality and functionality was welcomed by the other ranks, if not the staff officers. When not in use the ear flaps folded across the top of the cap.

His tunic is of post 1914 pattern in which the breast pockets are larger but without box pleats and the rifle patches on the shoulders have disappeared. Crossed rifles indicate that he was a marksman. The most characteristic feature of this informative photograph is the cigarette between his fingers.

All his life Harry was a relentless chain-smoker who readily agreed that he had smoked his way through a fortune. The photo was, incidentally, taken in The Novelty Studio, 184, Union Street, Plymouth, so must have been taken during one of Harry's periods of home leave.

Three Royal Engineer companies accompanied the 7<sup>th</sup> Division to Belgium in October; the 54<sup>th</sup> (from Chatham) and 55<sup>th</sup> (from South Africa) Field Companies and the Divisional Signals Company. The two Field Companies built and repaired bridges and roads, built fortifications and gave general engineering support. Each Field Company had an establishment of 6 officers and 212 other ranks and all 3 Engineer companies were under the overall command of a Lieutenant-Colonel.

The Signals Company comprised 162 other ranks, one major or captain and 4 lieutenants or second lieutenants. It was heavily dependent upon horse transport and its equipment included 33 riding horses, 47 heavy and 4 packhorses, as well as 33 bicycles and 9 motorcycles. It provided despatch riders, visual signalling if required (flags, heliographs, signal lamps) and laid cables for telegraph and telephonic communication. Increasingly, the field telephone, with its own magneto, came to dominate telephonic communication. Later in the war Divisional H.Q. was equipped with a mobile pigeon loft and the signallers used carrier pigeons as another means of communication. The heavy horses provided the unit's own transport, towed telegraph poles and the heavy cable drums required in laying cables over long distances etc. The unit was organised into a company H.Q. and 4 sections. Section 1 was responsible for communications with Divisional H.Q. and sections 2, 3 and 4 with the H.Q. of the 3 infantry Brigades (4 battalions each) into which the Division was then organised.

*(contd.)*

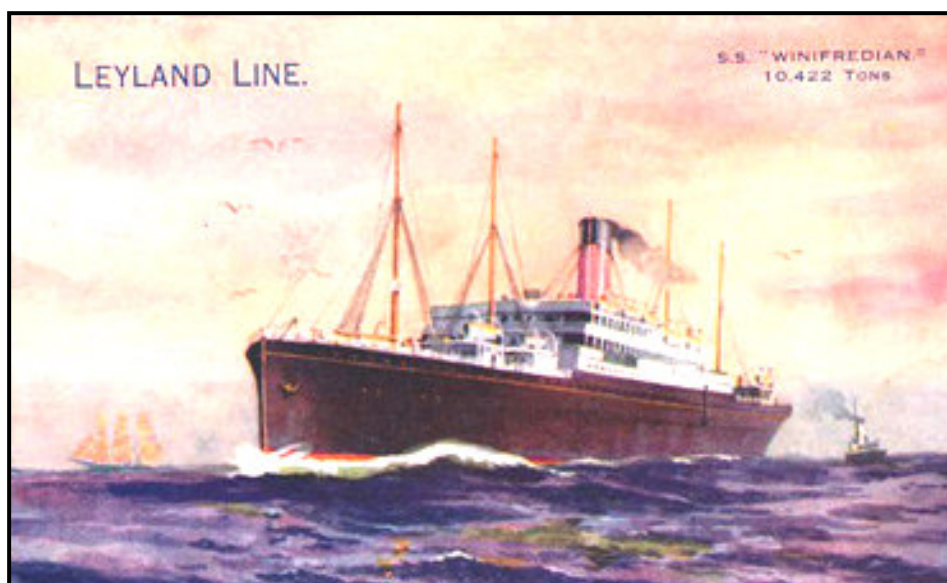
In general the engineers did not operate below Brigade H.Q. level. At the front line the trenches were occupied by infantry battalions and artillery spotters belonging to the Divisional artillery batteries further back who had their own signallers and means of communication. Turf wars were commonplace and it took time for the two systems (engineers and front-line) to become integrated. The Signals Company and the 54th Field Company remained with the 7th Division for the duration of the war although the 55<sup>th</sup> Field Company was replaced by the 95<sup>th</sup> in August 1915. A third Field Company (2<sup>nd</sup> Highland) had been added in January of the same year. Divisions were the basic fighting units of the army, fully independent and numbered about 18,000 men.

Signalling in the First World War was severely limited because of the absence of efficient radios. This is critical in explaining the desperate cost of the war because the moment troops left their trenches to attack, all communication with Brigade or Divisional H.Q. ceased. It could be hours before sketchy news reached Divisional or Army H.Q. of the outcome. Similarly, if the Germans attacked, their preliminary bombardment cut cable communication; even if cables were six feet deep. The Generals tried to compensate for the fog of war by extraordinarily detailed orders before the attack; often depriving regimental and company commanders of all initiative and therefore flexibility. Contrast this with Wellington, surrounded by his staff officers, often able to survey the entire field of battle from some commanding viewpoint, his reserves behind him; able to identify a threat or an opportunity and deploy his reserves accordingly. In the long lulls between battles in WW1 the cable networks were extensive and efficient, extending laterally as well as forward and back. By 1918 the telephone Directory of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division Signals Company listed some 80 different lines, giving telephone operators plenty of work.

The war diary (Nat. Archives ref. WO 95/1646/1) of the 7th Division Signals Company begins on the 4th October 1914. It records that they marched to Southampton from Lyndhurst leaving at 6.50p.m. They were part of a 12 miles long column and were cheered all the way. They arrived in Southampton at 11.00 p.m. and boarded a transatlantic liner of the Leyland Line, S.S. Winifredian (see below), which was to be part of the 2nd group of transports. The whole company, along with the 2nd battalion the Bedfordshire regiment, was embarked by 1 a.m. on the 5th and the liner was off Dungeness by 7.30 p.m. that evening.

*(contd.)*





*TO BE CONTINUED*

*Arthur Dark*

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### **HE WAS AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL**

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Our member Marcia Dancer has sent us the following piece about one of her husband's relatives who fought in WWI.

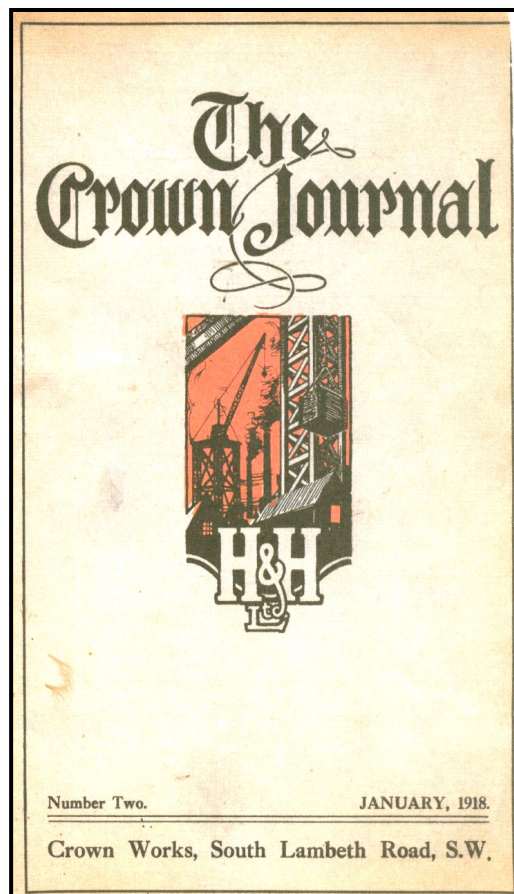


Albert Edward DANCER was born in the summer of 1895 in West Drayton, Middlesex. He worked as a machine operator and at the age of 20 he completed an attestation form and was sworn in on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1917. He was posted to the Royal West Surrey, 4<sup>th</sup> Corps and served in France. On 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1918 he was awarded the Military Medal for 'carrying a wounded officer'. This was recorded in the 2nd Supplement to The London Gazette of Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1918.

*(contd.)*



His name was also recorded in the Roll of Honour in the January 1918 edition of the 'Crown Journal' (the company journal of the building contractor Higgs and Hill).



## Our Roll of Honour.

Sharman, F.	Loosemore, W.
Marshall, F. G.	Tysoe, G.
Pridie, A. E.	Isom, E.
Montgomery, P. A.	Dann, A.
Ward, E. J.	Kisby, A.
Dancer, A. E.	Best, A.

Higgs and Hill appear to have been a very patriotic and caring company. The in house 1918 journal has a report from their 'Employee's Patriotic Fund' committee, formed in 1915, to give monetary help to dependants of over 200 employees serving in the war.

When he was demobilised on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1919 Albert Edward was placed on the class 'Z' Army Reserve. He survived until late 1960 and died in Middlesex.

*Marcia Dancer*

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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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We believe that the London Probate search facility has moved from High Holborn to Court 38, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL. Opening hours will be 9am to 4pm but the search facility will be unavailable from 1-2pm. Contact number for enquiries 020 7947 6043.

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## AN OUTSTANDING DONATION

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We have to report that one of our members has been extremely generous in donating to the society a new lap top computer. This will be a valuable addition to the research room and we offer to the member our sincere thanks. It will be well used!

*(contd.)*

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## HILLINGDON LOCAL STUDIES SERVICE

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Hillingdon Local Studies will be back in the new Uxbridge Library from 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 but during our stay in the Uxbridge Civic Centre, we received more donations of material than usual. One was a box of papers relating to the GRAINGE family of Uxbridge that arrived in September 2013. Leslie Edwards, one of our volunteers, is listing the contents of the box and the following is taken from her research.

The GRAINGE family were ironmongers with premises in Uxbridge High Street which in 1851 under Henry GRAINGE employed 30 people. We already hold some items on the family business, including articles of partnership, bills, correspondence, a wages schedule and a scattering of information on the family gleaned from census returns. But this box, mostly of personal papers, gives us the chance to complete the jigsaw on this important Uxbridge family.

Like many boxes of family history material, there are as many questions as answers raised by the items. There is a catalogue of household furniture belonging to Thomas Wapshott of Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire in 1825 but no clue as yet to its link with the GRAINGEs. There is a witness statement by Henry GRAINGE in 1853 about some impounded Buckinghamshire sheep! There are several early family trees whose connection to the later GRAINGE family is unclear.

Of more practical use are the many title deeds which tell the story of the ownership of GRAINGE properties in Uxbridge. Some include plans of yards and houses. Others are summarised in 'abstracts' which recite the ownership of a single property over several generations.

Although the male members of the GRAINGE family ran the ironmongers business, responsibility for household matters seems to have fallen on Elizabeth GRAINGE, possibly wife of Henry GRAINGE. In 1886 and 1887, despite suffering for a time from an undisclosed illness, her name appears on invoices for decoration work on 56, High Street; for wines and spirits from Murray & Son; drapes from Bonnor (both Uxbridge firms) and on a rent collection book for an unnamed property. Doubtless there are more stories, and queries, yet to emerge from this fascinating collection.

*Paul Davidson*

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## HAPPY FAMILIES? (PART 5): THE HOSE FAMILY

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Mr Hose the Fireman wore a uniform for his employment. The uniform with its dark blue jacket, matching trousers, brass buttons, braid trimming, leather belt and a protective metal helmet was probably based on contemporary military dress. In one hand he carries a hand axe to chop down doors to get inside burning property to rescue the inhabitants or to cut a fire break to prevent the fire spreading. In the other hand is a simple trumpet shaped megaphone which enabled him to shout for a clear passage for the fire 'engine' to get to the fire or to

give instructions to his colleagues or those seeking rescue. At first the 'engine' was a hand drawn (later horse drawn) cart with a water tank on top.



His wife, Mrs Hose is wearing a neat patterned dress with her hair drawn back in a bun covered neatly with a net; her lack of head wear indicates that she is at home. She is supporting her husband in his role by polishing his helmet. She has donned a half apron instead of a full bibbed apron which suggests that what she is doing will not cause too much mess. On the table beside her is a saucer holding a yellowish paste and a feather. Rottenstone, a fine abrasive powder made from soft decomposed limestone, mixed to a paste with rapeseed oil, vinegar or water.

*(contd.)*



Given the yellowish colour of the saucer's contents she has probably used the oil possibly from the bottle beside her. The feather was to apply the mixture to the brass helmet prior to burnishing it to a glossy shine with a soft cloth.

Master Hose, the fireman's son wears dark coloured short trousers,



a contrasting light blue jacket with a white collar, calf length socks and light shoes which suggests he is of relatively young school age. The boy has set fire to his sister's dolls house with its 'occupants', her doll and soft toys, inside. In imitation of his father's work he is watching and waiting for the flames to gain sufficient hold to warrant extinguishing them using the water from the watering can. Perhaps he hopes it will be before the smoke draws attention to his mischief.



His sister, Miss Hose, is clad in a long sleeved red dress with narrow black stripes and a broad pale coloured sash at the waist tied in a large decorative bow. Her long hair worn loose under a straw boater with its black and white striped band suggests she is young. She is reaching for a fire alarm and her hand grasping the metal fencing suggests that she is on tiptoe in order to reach the alarm. To avoid misuse of the alarm particularly by children it may well have been set at a height that they would not normally reach.

*Jenny Mundy*

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## TROUBLE AND STRIFE

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Divorce, or at least judicial separation, is not something we expect to find much prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. So as I researched my great uncle William Jarvis GROVE, I was more than a little surprised to find that his name appeared as a respondent in the divorce court records of 1893 (National Archive records available through Ancestry).

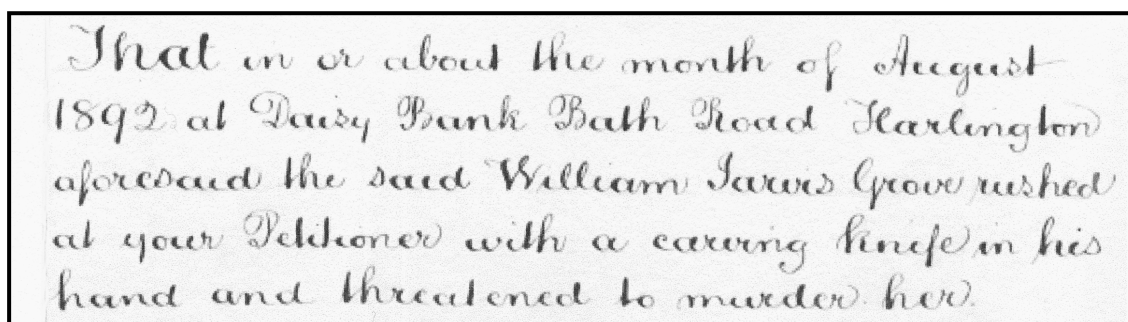
William GROVE was a market gardener in Harlington. On 25<sup>th</sup> April 1892 he married Florence BARNES of Princes Risborough, Buckingham at Marylebone Register Office. They lived together at Daisy Bank, Bath Road, Harlington where he continued his business of market gardening.

The records show however that on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1893 his wife applied to the courts for a judicial separation citing grounds of threatening behaviour with a knife and a gun, as well as violent assault. The husband counter alleged that she was often drunk, hysterical and on more than one occasion 'came at him with a knife'.

What seems undeniable was that because of these altercations she was left with injuries and this factor must have counted when the judge granted the petition in her favour.

On 19<sup>th</sup> February 1894 William GROVE was ordered to pay alimony at the rate of six shillings per week to his wife who, by this time, had moved out and was living in Amersham.

Below is a selection of original images from the sworn affidavit given by Florence and presented to the court which can be viewed on Ancestry:



*That in or about the month of August 1892 at Daisy Bank Bath Road Harlington aforesaid the said William Jarvis Grove rushed at your Petitioner with a carving knife in his hand and threatened to murder her.*

*(contd.)*

look up his gun which was lying in a corner of the room opened the breach thereof and finding it was not loaded ran to a drawer in the same room where he was accustomed to keep his cartridges by

said William Jarvis (prove violently assaulted your Petitioner by seizing her by the throat and throwing her to the ground inflicting serious injuries to her back from which she is still suffering.

The image of William's sworn reply to this affidavit is not as easily read as Florence's but as expected he refutes all of her accusations and adds his own version transcribed here;

*'About the middle of the month of August 1893 on the Respondents return from a journey to London on business the Petitioner rushed at him with a knife as he entered the house and attempted to stab him in the chest .....*

On 17<sup>th</sup> February 1894 William is ordered to pay the petitioner's costs (£27-14s-9d). He is also ordered to lodge the sum of £30.00 to cover further possible costs or to give a bond 'in the penal sum of £60.00'.

Possibly the strangest aspect of these events was the aftermath. A couple of years later, in 1896, it appears that Florence made no attempt to support the continued payment of alimony in the courts. According to the 1901 census the two were living together again in Hendon and William is a farm foreman. They are still together in 1911, by then living in Nutley, Surrey and as far as I know they ended their days together but with no children. Perhaps it was a case of 'better the devil you know'!

*John Symons*

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## A REQUEST FOR HELP

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Last August we received a request for help from Helen Robinson a member of the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society. At this point I must accept responsibility for not presenting the request in either the September and December journals – I mislaid the email and have only just found it again, honest!

Helen offered to help Josie Liebelt, one of her friends, who wanted to trace her bridesmaid with whom she had lost contact. Josephine (Josie) Linda Liebelt (née MAYCOCK) lived at 24 Ryefield Avenue, Hillingdon, Middlesex before she emigrated to Australia. Her bridesmaid's name was Rosemary ISAAC. She was born in 1949 and lived in Lynhurst Avenue (or it could have been Lynhurst Crescent), Hillingdon. Both girls attended Swakeleys Secondary School, Long Lane, Ickenham, Middlesex.

Josie is unsure but thinks that Rosemary married an Arthur Barney\* (possibly).

Josie visited England in 1984 and remembers that Rosemary may have been living in the Beaconsfield; High Wycombe; Chalfont St. Giles or Knotty Green area all in Buckinghamshire. Josie met with Rosemary and another former school friend Jennifer GREEN during this visit. She hopes that Rosemary may have kept in touch with two other girls Carol EDEN and Jennifer HOPKINS (these are their maiden names).

Unfortunately as Josie's parents both passed away some years ago and she was an only child, she has no family in the U.K. who she can ask for help.

Given this situation Helen thought that our society, or anyone reading this edition, might just be able to help. Any help will be greatly appreciated – so does anybody know of these people and where they are now?

*Alan Rowland*

*\*N.B. As a starter I have found the marriage registration of Rosemary Isaac and an Arthur BAMEY in Hillingdon in 1976.*

*Please send any information to the society by one of the methods as listed elsewhere in this journal.*

*Editor*



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## HELP WANTED PLEASE!

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Does anyone know anything of the events that took place in the final months of 1943 concerning the GEEN family who lived in a flat above a butcher's shop in Ryefield Avenue, Hillingdon?

The family comprised the mother, Susannah Maud GEEN (née Phillips) born in Cwmaman, South Wales; her husband, Charles Edmund GEEN who was a serving soldier in H.M. Forces and five children.

I have a newspaper report from that time listing a number of people in contact with the family and trying to help the family in what was a very difficult situation. These people are listed below and my hope is that their relatives will see this and that they may be able to throw more light on what happened:

Dr. Margaret Paul; Mrs Shepherd (who worked as an inspector with the NSPCC); Rosa Hill, from Sweetcroft Lane, (chairman of the Hillingdon Welfare Centre); Mrs Hilda Whelan of Lyndhurst Crescent, (employed at the butcher's shop); Reginald White, who kept the general store and post office in Ryefield Avenue.

The older GEEN children probably attended Oak Farm Infants School during the first three years of the war, so does anyone know or know of Cynthia, Patricia or Angela?

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

*Beth Neilly (N23)*

*N.B. Please send any information to the society by one of the methods listed elsewhere in this journal.*

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## FINDING A NAME

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We make extensive use of the census images available on Ancestry and Find My Past as we carry out our research. We are usually able to trace a family member of the male line without too much trouble (always assuming the surname isn't Smith, Brown, Allen etc or in the case of a Welsh family the Jones, Evans, Jenkins, Davies etc.). *(contd.)*

When it comes to the female line we encounter a problem which is caused by the change of surname when a woman marries.

If the marriage registration can be determined with certainty, then the wife's maiden name opens the way for more research. If there is doubt or there are a number of candidates, then how can we find her maiden name?

If her surname is one of those in the 'common' sets (as mentioned above) and if there are several entries in the indexes with the same combination of given and family names – we have a problem! It is complicated further if the husband's given name and surname are the same as other candidates. If the researcher has no corroborating evidence a decision has to be made as to which one is likely to be correct. Having decided it is time to 'take a chance', spend £9.25 to send for a copy marriage certificate and sit back with fingers crossed!

If the given name of the bride's father is known then with luck the copy certificate will be the correct one. But what if the father's given name is also a 'common' or fashionable one i.e. John, Albert, Edward?

The census sheets can sometimes solve this problem for us. It is sometimes possible to find an aged widowed mother living with a married daughter. They are usually recorded as 'Mother-in-Law' to the male head and therefore his wife will be a daughter of the widow and have the same surname i.e. her maiden name (of course this assumes that the widow has not re-married). Problem solved!

Another possibility is if the married couple you are researching are living with the wife's family and he is recorded as 'Son-in-Law' then obviously the wife's maiden name will match that of the 'Head' of the household. This can also work when you find a female recorded as 'Sister' or 'Sister-in-Law'.

So the message is;

When uncertain of a wife's maiden name don't give up, look at all the census sheets; you might get lucky!

*Alan Rowland*

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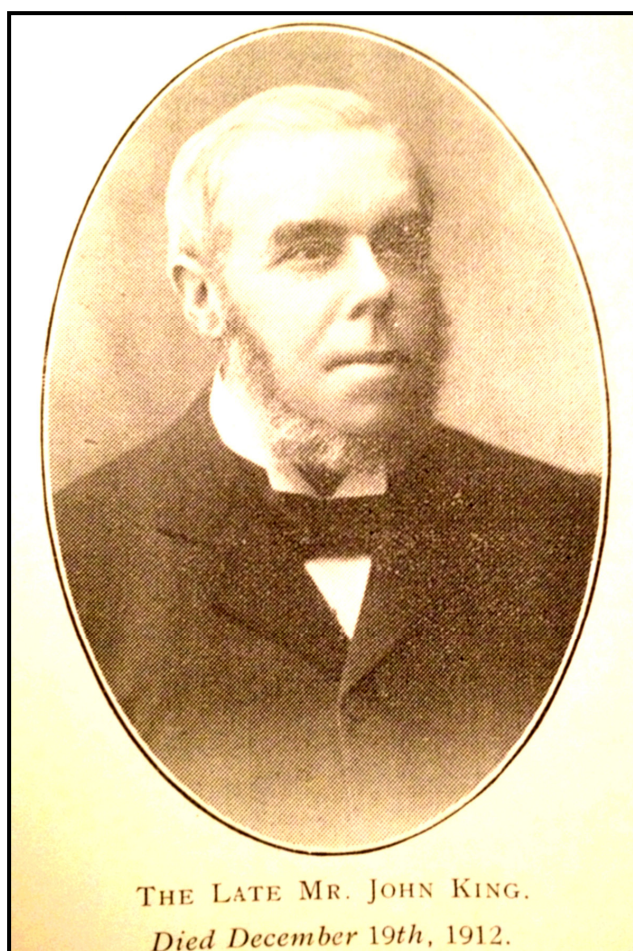
## 100 YEARS AGO

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To tie in with the centenary of the outbreak of WWI Barbara Nield sent us the following extract from a local directory dated 1913. It is a retrospect of the events from the previous year and was the closest to 1914 that she was able to locate.

Barbara also included the two pictures (below), one of John King and the other an advertisement for Randalls' store.

### *EXTRACT FROM KING'S DIRECTORY 1913 RETROSPECT FOR DECEMBER*



*The founder of this directory and retrospect, Mr. John King, of 37 High Street, Uxbridge, passed away at the age of 73 years. It was at this residence where, as a boy, he learnt the trade of printing. In later life the thought matured in him of venturing into the ranks of newspaper publishing and in July, 1880 he launched the 'Uxbridge Gazette and Middlesex and Bucks Observer'.*

*This publication was followed by several other local papers. As well as his business Mr. King took great interest in various public causes, the Ancient Order of Foresters taking a large measure of his time and labour. He was a*

*Freemason and was elected to the Uxbridge Urban District Council.*

*(contd.)*

*He was a Choirboy and Sunday school teacher. He was appointed Parish Clerk in the 1880s and from 1905 a People's Churchwarden, and member of Uxbridge Burial Board till this year. He was also an ardent supporter of the Conservative and Unionist cause.*

*The funeral of the late Mr. John King took place on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1912 in Uxbridge Parish Church, the Service conducted by Revd. G. C. Battiscombe.*

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BEDDING.  
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**Vine Street, UXBRIDGE.**

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*Barbara Nield*



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## **A TALK – WATERMEN, ROYAL WATERMEN, DOGETT and OTHER COAT & BADGE RACES**

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Pat Hilbert gave our talk on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013 and chose as her subject the watermen of the river Thames. Pat was invited to speak as a result of a couple of mistakes in our journal No. 97 both of which involved an incorrect caption to the cover picture. Pat wrote to us pointing out the mistakes for which we duly apologised in journal No. 99. It also seemed a good opportunity to learn more about the watermen as Pat gives lectures about them and how her family history was bound up with the River Thames. So here is our report of her talk:

The state of the roads throughout Britain was terrible so it was natural wherever possible that the waterways became the main trade and travel thoroughfares. This was particularly true in and around London and Pat began by outlining the history of the men who worked the boats. With just the one bridge across the river i.e. London Bridge the only other way to get to the opposite bank was by one of the multitudinous ferry boats. Goods were rowed up, down and across the river in barges. These were also used to get imported goods from ocean going vessels moored in the centre of the river to the bank side warehouses. All of this activity was uncontrolled until an Act of Parliament regulating watermen, wherryman and bargemen received Royal Assent from King Henry VIII in 1514. The Watermen's Company, formed in 1555, introduced 7 year apprenticeships for those wishing to learn the skills of the Watermen and in 1700 the Lightermen (carriers of goods/cargo) joined. The Company of Watermen and Lightermen, which although a Company of the City of London was founded without Livery, is a working guild and is still actively involved with the life of the River and those that work on it.

Royalty has long been associated with the River Thames as it was often the most convenient and safest means of transportation between royal palaces and other venues. Accredited Royal Watermen were selected from members of the Company of Watermen to ferry the Sovereign and they received a Royal Warrant.

The Royal Watermen continue today but they are now entirely ceremonial. In 1952 Pat's father was appointed a Royal Waterman. Watermen were also associated with competitive rowing races, the oldest of which is the Doggett Coat and Badge. *(contd.)*

The course length is 4 miles 5 furlongs between London Bridge and Cadogan Pier, Chelsea. This carries a prize awarded to the winner of a sculling race between six men in their first year out of their apprenticeship. It was set up by Thomas Doggett, an Irish comedian, in 1715 and he endowed it with enough money for it to continue in perpetuity. The race is now organised by the Fishmongers' Company and is no longer restricted to men in the first year out of their apprenticeship.

Pat's own family were involved as far back as 1761 when John Green, her 6 x great grandfather, was a Royal Waterman.



*The boathouse at Barnes occupied by Pat's great grandfather  
Thomas George Green (contd.)*



*Thomas George Green in a sculling boat.*

Pat produced a summary sheet giving all the details of her family and their connections with the Thames:

Sixty seven of her ancestors were Thames Watermen: twelve were Royal Watermen (this figure includes four members of the Phelps family who had connections to the Greens).

Twenty eight were Watermen, ten were Lightermen or Carriers (who were watermen with a barge), eight were boat builders, one was a Boatman and eight women worked on the water. Two of these women were described as a Waterman's Master after their husband's death, three worked on the water whilst their husbands were alive (one as a Waterman, the other two as a 'carriers'), one as a waterman carrying on her husband's business and one worked on the river during WW2. Members of the Green family also won Doggett Coat & Badge races in 1872, 1889, 1926 and 1952. In addition two descendants of the Green family, the Phelps, also won the Doggett on two occasions. Eight Greens were Royal Watermen serving between them ten monarchs, from George II to Elizabeth II, over a total of 270 years.

*(contd.)*



There are many sources for researching watermen but a primary source is the Guildhall Library and the London Metropolitan Archives which hold apprenticeship records, licences and other documentation relating to watermen. The National Archives hold details of royal appointments and warrants for watermen.

Pat's very interesting talk was illustrated by a great number of photographs and images of important documents relating to Royal Watermen, Watermen, Doggett Coat and Badge winners and in particular her own family.

*Alan Rowland and John Symons*

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## **A TALK – RATCATCHERS**

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On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013 David Cufley gave a talk entitled 'Rat Catchers', a summary of which we give below;

David began by telling how, when he started researching his family history, he discovered that in the 1851 census a John and a James CUFLEY were described as rat catchers. He assumed that they were the local exterminators akin to the modern day council pest control officer.

The 'Oxford English Dictionary on Historic Principles' refers to the Black Rat and the Brown Rat, also known as the Norwegian rat. 'Rat' means to catch or hunt rats (1815) whilst Rat Catcher is defined as a person whose business is to catch rats (1592). Neither meaning really gives a feeling of or an understanding of the profession.

However a 'Dictionary of Occupational Terms' (Based on the classification of occupations used in the Census of Population 1921) is now available as a CD-ROM ref CDROO88 from the Open University, explains that a 'Rat Catcher, Vermin Destroyer, exterminates rats by trapping, poisoning, with ferrets and dogs, or by other methods'.

David made a breakthrough in understanding his rat catchers when he discovered Henry Mayhew's 'London Labour and the London Poor'.

*(contd.)*

This book comprises a series of articles by Henry Mayhew 1812-1887, assisted by Mr. Henry Wood and Mr. Richard Knight, about the Social Conditions in London.

One of the characters described was a Jimmy Shaw who was the proprietor of a large sporting public house in London. Shaw told of his public house and the rat matches he ran for his gaming clientele. So a rat catcher was not just an exterminator but was also the source of rats for 'sport' in London.

A Sunday newspaper in October 1848 carried an advertisement for 'ratting matches'; *'A Grand show will take place this evening. The club for these beautiful and useful little animals hold their weekly meetings at Mr. J. Shaw's Blue Anchor, Bunhill Row, and St. Luke's'*, see illustration below.

It was possible for a 'good' terrier to kill 200 rats in under an hour. The rats were often supplied by the *'labouring poor'* who after the harvest would hunt for rats in the ditches and hedges.

Farmers would give 2d per rat nailed to a wall, but in London a live rat would fetch 3d. They were put into the pit and a dog would be introduced into the pit with the rats. The object of the 'sport' was to see how long it took the dog to kill the rats.

Pits were either square or circular and there was a 'second' in the pit to start the contest, ensure there was no interference with either the dog or the rats and to announce the result. Hefty wagers up to £100 were placed against a dog killing a set number of rats in a set number of minutes.

Dogs it seems were not the only destroyers of rats. The Times, in February 1824, tells of a boy aged 12 who was celebrated as a rat killer at the Green Dragon Yard, Holborn. In a ring 10ft. square he destroyed 17 rats with his teeth in two minutes.

Jimmy Shaw said that sewer rats live in filth and their bite can injure both the catcher and his dog; barn rats lived off the best of everything and were plumper! These latter were often caught in London warehouses where the owners and the pit operators each paid the catchers.

(contd.)



*Rat Catching at the Blue Anchor Tavern, Bunhill Rowc.1850-52*

David then said that John CUFLEY's death certificate gives the cause as '*Chronic disease of the liver and ulceration of the mucus membrane of the bowels*' which we now know as Weil's disease. The organism that causes Weil's disease is found in rat urine so John died as a result of carrying out his 'profession'.

Volume 1 of Mayhew's work gives a contemporary description of a rat catcher's garb as follows;

*'they usually dressed in velveteen jacket and corduroy trousers and laced boots'*. See the illustration below.

In 1851 the average earnings of an agricultural labourer was 9 shillings per week. To match this figure he would only have to catch 36 rats and sell them at 3d each for the ratting pit.

*(contd.)*



The rat pit match organisers only wanted undamaged rats so the method of trapping them had to ensure that the vermin were unharmed. To this end pits, well traps and barrel traps were the preferred method.

A rat destroyer on the other hand was out to kill rats and he would employ a variety of poisons to achieve this end. One of the problems associated with this solution was that the dead carcass could be left beneath floorboards and in other nooks and crannies to become the source of obnoxious odours.

It was suggested that Chlorine of Zinc, mixed with a perfume or pinewood oil, would be an effective deodoriser. Carbon monoxide gas was also employed as late as 1935 with the warning that care should be used as the gas was harmful to the operatives and domestic animals.

The Cruelty to Animals Act 1835 which made bull, bear and badger baiting illegal did not cover wild animals i.e. rats etc. therefore rat pits continued as entertainment. The last rat match took place in 1912 in Lancaster.

For our day and age the subject matter of David's talk might well be repulsive but for all that, his talk gave us some idea of 'life' in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was an extremely interesting and enjoyable evening.

*Alan Rowland*

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### **WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR YOUR HELP!**

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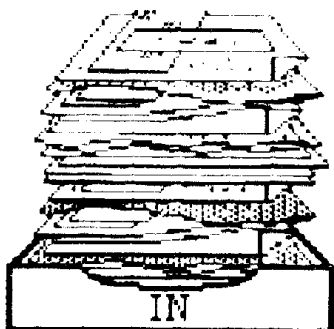
Don't forget we still need your articles/pictures for inclusion in the journals. Any tips to aid research would be most welcome. It is only with you participation that we can fill each edition. Many thanks

*Editor*

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## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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This is the first journal of the New Year so many thanks to all members who paid their subscription early although some were still without their renewal forms!

I must also give a special thank you to all the members who included, with their subscription, a donation to the society.

Each donation is greatly appreciated.

The membership total for 2013 was roughly the same as the preceding year; but we need to do the same or better this year. So once again I have to ask you all to encourage your friends and neighbours to join the society this year.

Thank you for all the lovely Christmas cards and letters sent both to me and the committee.

Best wishes to all members for 2014.

*Patricia Reynolds*

## WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS

A38 Mr. Brian Allum	8 Cowley Crescent, Cowley, Middlesex. UB8 2HE
A39 Ms. Catherine Alderson Email: calderson58@hotmail.co.uk	58 The Green, West Drayton, Middlesex. UB7 7PQ
C72 Mrs. Beverly Clements	22 Woodhurst Drive, Denham Green, Bucks. UB9 5LL
C73 Mr. Martin Christie Email: sueechristie@btinternet.com	13 North Common Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex. UB8 1PD



C74 Mrs. Susan Christie Email: sueechristie@btinternet.com	13 North Common Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex. UB8 1PD
H88 Mrs. Jen Hutchinson Email: jen29hutch@gmail.com	119 Little Oxhey Lane, Watford, Herts. W19 5HJ
J15 Mrs. Audrey Jones	15 Orchard Close, Ruislip, Middlesex. HA4 7LR
M93 Mrs. Pauline Maynard Email: paulinemaynard23@yahoo.com	8 Cowley Crescent, Cowley, Middlesex. UB8 2HE
M94 Mr. John Howard Adams-Murphy Email: j.h.252@btinternet.com	37 Bedford Road, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex. HA4 6LX
N23 Mrs. Elizabeth Neilly Email: beth.neilly40@gmail.com	149 Islwyn Road, Wattsville, Crosskeys, Nr. Newport. NP11 7QL
S84 Miss Cora Southall Email: corasouthall@mypostoffice.co.uk	27 Newcourt, Uxbridge, Middlesex. UB8 2LN

### **MEMBER REJOINED**

V7 Mrs. Margaret Susane Varley	54 Elthorne Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex. UB8 2PS
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### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

D14 Mrs. Sheila Dell	26 Sherleys Court, Wood Lane, Ruislip, Middlesex. HA4 6DH
M35 Mrs. Janet McRobbie Email: janetmcrobbie@hotmail.com	41 Fraser Road, RD1 Pokeno, 2471 New Zealand.
W33 Mr. Roger Weston	1 Sherleys Court, Wood Lane, Ruislip, Middlesex. HA4 6DH

## **RESIGNATIONS FROM THE SOCIETY**

J14 Ms. Linda Jamieson Email: jamieson43@btinternet.com	2 Vicarage Close, Ruislip, Middlesex. HA4 7TD
P69 Mr. Colin Portsmouth Email: colin@omnis4plus.com	Cymal Gwichlyd, Y Ffordd Fawr, Penparc, Aberteifi, Ceredigion. SA43 1RD
T16 Mr. Robin Tillyer Email: robintillyer@ hotmail.com	7 Dudley Hill Close, Welwyn, Herts. AL6 0QQ

## **EMAIL CORRECTION**

C70 Mr. Chris Clark	Email: chris@famclark.co.uk
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## **WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

Please note that parking in the adjacent car park on Montague Road is free after 6.30 pm.

## **PROGRAMME for 2014**

17 <sup>th</sup> April	Suicide	Kathy Chater
15 <sup>th</sup> May	Lord Ranelagh - Rake and Volunteer	Keith Whitehouse
19 <sup>th</sup> June	How to Research Criminals and Their Victims	Jonathan Oates

17 <sup>th</sup> July	Members' Evening	
21 <sup>st</sup> August	British Red Cross Human Archives WW1 and its Resources	Jane High
18 <sup>th</sup> September	POW Camps in Britain in the 1914-18 War	Colin Chapman
16 <sup>th</sup> October	One Name Study - Sillifant; One Place Study - Tetcott	Kirsty Gray
20 <sup>th</sup> November	Heraldry and the College of Arms	William Hunt, <i>Windsor Herald</i>
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Social, plus Behind the Scenes of Who Do You Think You Are?	Nick Barratt

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### ESSEX SOCIETY for FAMILY HISTORY

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We have advance notice of a conference to be held to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of both this society and the Federation of Family History Societies. The society has entitled the conference 'Dig for the Past, Look to the Future' and it will take place from 29<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2014 at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Basildon, Essex.

Further details can be found on their web site at: [www.esfh.org.uk](http://www.esfh.org.uk)

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### HAMPSHIRE GENEALOGY SOCIETY

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We also have advance notice of an Open Day 2014 to held by the Hampshire Genealogy Society on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2014 from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm at the Everest Community Academy, Oxford Road, BASINGSTOKE, Hampshire RG24 9FP. Further information can be found on: [www.hgs-familyhistory.com](http://www.hgs-familyhistory.com)

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## OBITUARY

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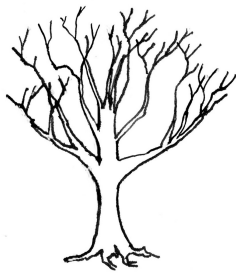
Members will be sorry to hear of the death of Michael (Mick) Mason who died on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013 aged 65 years. Although no longer a member, he will be remembered for running our book stall with his friend Tom, while both served on our committee.

Our sympathy goes out to Tom and his friends.

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## RESEARCH BY HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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

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

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

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

*(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 it may result in a negative answer, in these cases a charge will still have to be made.

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

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### **HELP LINE – BRICK WALLS DEMOLISHED?**

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In this part of the journal we advertise pleas, from members and non-members, for information and assistance.

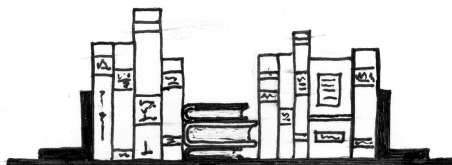
If you have become “stuck” on some part of your family tree but believe that the answer may lie here in our corner of Middlesex, our local knowledge may be able to help.

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

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



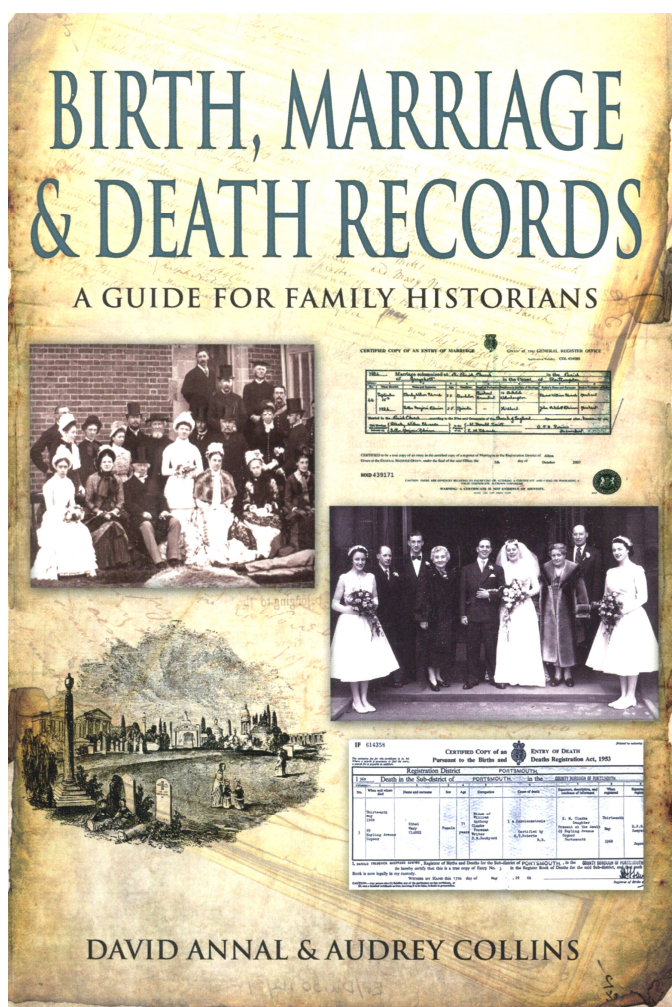
# BOOK REVIEWS



**Birth, Marriage & Death Records:  
A Guide for Family Historians**  
by David Annal & Audrey Collins

**ISBN184884572-3**

Pen & Sword Books £12.99



Births, marriages and deaths are one of the fundamentals of family history research; they are building blocks upon which everything else rests.

This book looks at the subject in some detail, from parish registers through to civil registration and more.

The authors are both well known to us at the Hillingdon FHS; David Annal has given talks to our meetings on a couple of occasions recently and in November Audrey Collins is due to speak again, on civil registration.

*(contd.)*

It behoves me therefore to look kindly on this publication but there is absolutely no need to offer faint praise; this is a genuinely well written guide to the nuances of the recording of life events in the British Isles.

Most of us know that the earliest records of ordinary citizens commenced with an order by Thomas Cromwell in 1538 for all parishes to keep records of baptisms, marriages and burials. Putting aside for a moment the question of the civil war with its attendant gap in record keeping, finding and accessing these records, even in this connected world, is far from straightforward. The changing rules over the years relating to these records are explained, so that the reader should know what to expect in any given period.

Civil registration from 1837 should have simplified matters and in many respects it did. The good intentions of the legislators at the time however did not always translate into practice and once again the changes that have occurred over the years are described. Then there is the question of locally held registrar records and those kept by the General Register Office. So once again there are complexities which we need to understand and take into consideration.

Non-conformist registers may often be overlooked, but they are dealt with here, along with overseas events involving British nationals including those at sea. There are also chapters dealing with the arrangements in Scotland and Ireland which will be valuable for those researching in those countries.

Finally there are chapters on adoption registers as well as divorces; as an example, see my article elsewhere in this issue about a judicial separation.

So if you want to know the ‘how, why and when’ about the recording of major life events in the British Isles – and as a family historian you should – you will find this volume provides the answers. A recommended purchase then; although for those able to get to the research room there is a copy available in the Society’s library available for all members to consult.

*John Symons*

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## HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

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

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

Please add postage and packaging as follows:

For each set of fiche..... 45p

For each CD-ROM to UK address..... 65p

For airmail to overseas addresses.....Email Mrs. G. May for costs.

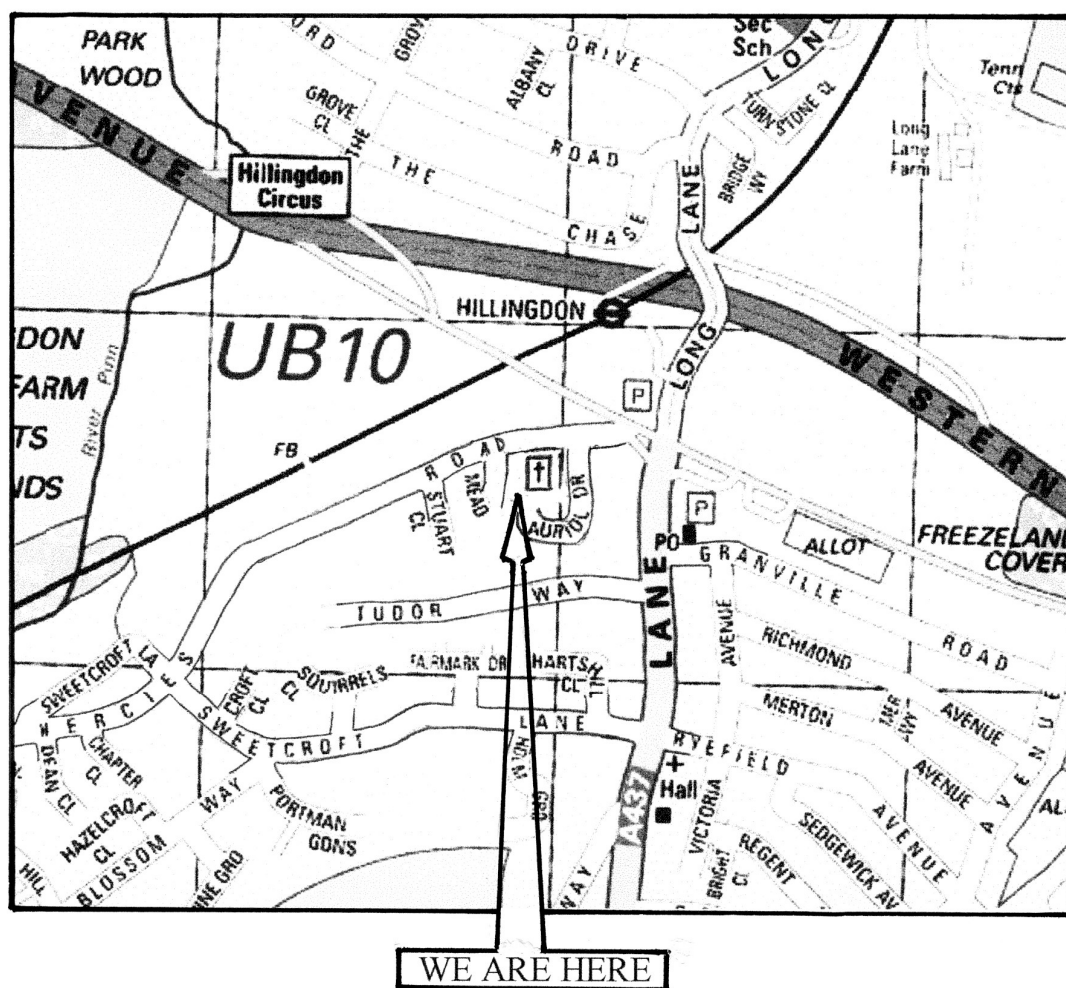
Cheques should be in pounds STERLING, crossed A/C payee and made payable to Hillingdon Family History Society.

The publications can be obtained from the Publications Officer:

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

or alternatively visit these on-line bookshops:

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



(The geographical centre of Hillingdon)

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

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

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

### **Officers**

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

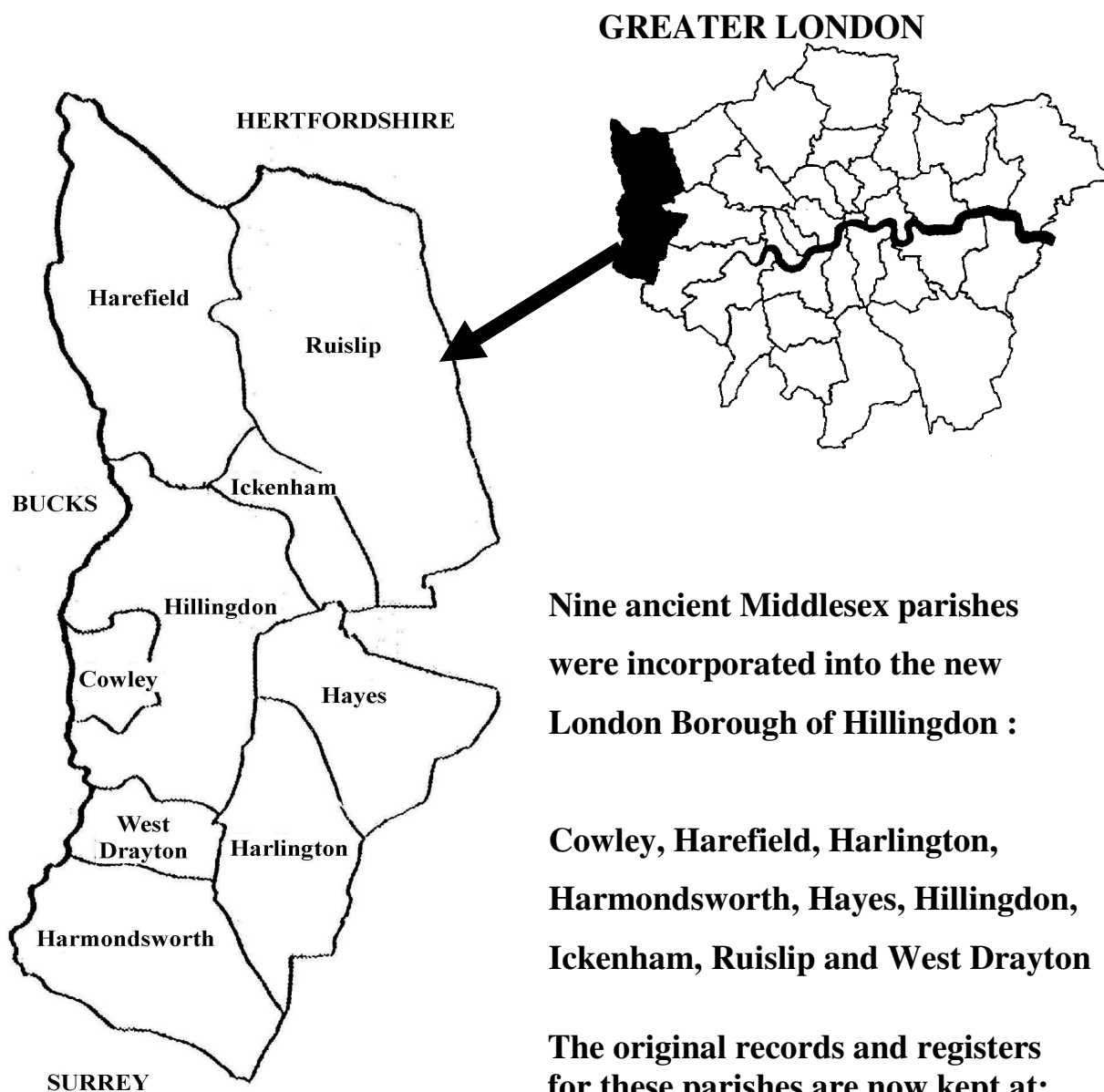
### **Executive Committee**

Librarian	Valerie Fitch 43 Doncaster Drive, Northolt, Middlesex. UB5 4AT	0208 864 4980
Membership	Patricia Reynolds 20 Lilac Place, Yiewsley, W. Drayton, Middx. UB7 8LR	01895 444442
Programme	Judith Baker 14 Appledore Avenue, South Ruislip, Middx. HA4 OUU	0208 5822705
Projects	Joy Higgs 16 Hyacinth Drive, Uxbridge, Middx. UB10 9QW	01895 272745
Publicity	Charles Hampshire 4 Barrington Drive, Harefield, Uxbridge, Middx UB9 6RL	01895 821351
Magazine Editors.	John Symons, Alan Rowland.	
Webmaster.	Doug Adams	

Website: **[www.hfhs.co.uk](http://www.hfhs.co.uk)**

E-mail: [hillingtonfhs@onetel.com](mailto:hillingtonfhs@onetel.com)





**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.**