



# HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



*The Old Magpie: one of the casualties of the early development of Heathrow (see page 32)*

## 2014/15 PROGRAMME OF OUR MEETINGS

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

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
<i>AUGUST</i>	<i>CLOSED</i>	<i>CLOSED</i>
<i>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September</i>	<i>Philip Sherwood</i>	<i>'Sipson: A Village Under Threat'</i>
<i>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>Ian Harvey &amp; John Symons</i>	<i>'Researching Your World War One Ancestors'</i>
<i>TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> November</i> <i>Joint meeting with U3A</i> <i>Starts at 2.00 p.m.</i>	<i>Audrey Collins</i>	<i>'The Making of the GRO Indexes'</i>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January</b> Joint Meeting with U3A Starts at 2.00 p.m.	<b>David Annal</b>	<b>'Legislation for Family Historians'</b>
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Film Evening</b>	<b>'Middlesex Past and Present'</b>
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>7.30 p.m.</b>	<b>A.G.M.</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting, followed by: TBA</b>
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Ken Pearce</b>	<b>'Our Local Canal: Uxbridge Union Canal'</b>
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>John Symons</b>	<b>'Family History Sources on the Internet' May 2015 Update</b>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Cath. Alderson</b>	<b>'The Salvation Army in Yiewsley'</b>
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Ian Waller</b>	<b>'The Suffragettes, the Census &amp; The Sidney Street Siege' Early 1900 Social Change</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Simon Fowler</b>	<b>'Researching Publican &amp; Brewery Ancestors'</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: [hillingdonfhs@onetel.com](mailto:hillingdonfhs@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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In March I was in Nicaragua, which for those of you who can't place it is just above Costa Rica and Panama. It is a fascinating country with a long chain of volcanoes along the Pacific coast (many of them active); dense tropical rain forests in the North and along the Caribbean coast and two vast fresh-water lakes. After more than a century of dictators, revolutions, civil war (remember the Sandinistas and the Contras?) and natural disasters (hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions) it is one of the poorest countries in Central or South America.

Perhaps as a consequence of all this disruption the people of Nicaragua have very little interest in their own history. Their National Museum had more exhibition space devoted to the late Hugo Chavez from Venezuela than it did to the country's own past. The idea of a family history society in Managua would be hopeless: history in Nicaragua only dates from the last upheaval.

I should imagine that the sort of written records we take for granted – birth/marriage/death certificates; Census; Electoral records; etc – are all hard to come by in Nicaragua, if they exist at all. The Catholic Church probably has the most complete records but war and natural disaster has probably winnowed even these away. Doing family history in this country would be a herculean task.

This set me to thinking how lucky we are in the United Kingdom in having such a vast range of resources to explore. Yes, there are gaps but these can often be bridged and as every day goes by more records are becoming available, usually online.

One of the latest set of records to be released on Ancestry is the Marshalsea Prison Commitment and Discharge Books, 1811-1842. Until changes in the law in the 1860s it was quite common for people who got into debt to be imprisoned until that debt had been paid. As they also had to pay for their upkeep while in prison they could 'upgrade' their conditions and whole families often spent long periods living in what were somewhat self-contained communities.

*(contd.)*

The Marshalsea was one of the most famous of the debtors prisons until it closed in 1842. The daily commitment books record the name of the debtor brought into custody; the names of the creditor and the attorney; and the amounts owed. The books also show the debtors discharged each day.

The Marshalsea had many famous inmates over the years, one of which was Charles Dickens' father, John Dickens. He had run up considerable debts and eventually his baker, James Kerr (to whom he owed £40 10s), took action and had him sentenced to the Marshalsea on 20 February 1824. His wife and children joined him in April (although young Charles boarded elsewhere) and it was only through an unforeseen inheritance that he was able to petition for his release on 28 May 1824.

This experience of a debtors prison left a strong imprint on Charles and among other novels it formed a central part of *Little Dorrit*. The depiction of the prison in that novel is meant to be an accurate representation of what it was like. Here are the commitment and discharge records for John Dickens (Dickins).

### Commitment Record

**A List of Prisoners** brought into Custody and discharged on *Friday 20 Feb. 1824.*

Attorney.	Names.	At whose Suit.	Damages.	Sums Sworn.
W <sup>r</sup>	John Dickins	at James Kerr	110	10 Supra. &
W <sup>r</sup>	George Giles	at Robert Battenger	50	18 0 0
Anders	Francis Turner	at William Browne	100	37 Supra. &
W <sup>r</sup>	William Cockburn	at Thomas Spratley	—	26 Supra. &
summed in dis of his Bail by R E. W. B.				

(contd.)

By whom disch.	Names.	How discharged.	E. T.	E. M.	D. F.	By whom received.
36	John Gunn	James Monte	of Indol' Col.		1/10	JHS
37	John Dickens	James Kave			1/10	JK
38	Edward Whitehead	Richard Hall			1/10	JHS

### Discharge Record

Covering the period 1811-1842 these records potentially provide one of the bridges that are missing from the census records. Locating someone in the Marshalsea may explain an absence from other records and a comparison with the 1841 census would be particularly interesting because it might be possible to see who was in these communities and then trace individuals through later censuses. Were friendships made while in prison that continued afterwards? Were relationships developed?

Not all our ancestors were poor but in the Marshalsea records we can identify the ones that were. And you can access these records from the Research Room. You couldn't do that in Nicaragua!

Finally, I wish all our members a Happy Christmas and New Year.

*Ian Harvey*

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### DEADLINE DATES FOR 2015

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JOURNAL	DEADLINE DATE
MARCH	31 <sup>st</sup> JANUARY
JUNE	2 <sup>nd</sup> MAY
SEPTEMBER	1 <sup>st</sup> AUGUST
DECEMBER	3 <sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER

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## EDITORS' JOTTINGS

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We send our thanks to those who sent us articles about World War One. Whilst this year marked the start of that conflagration nobody seems to have mentioned that the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of WW2. Following the WW2 diary of Daisy Buckingham that we featured last year it occurred to us that some of our members will have memories and/or family histories that were affected by this war so please put pen to paper and let us hear from you.

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We have to report that Arthur Dark has decided that he can no longer review books for us. Arthur always produced in depth reviews which helped our readers decide whether or not to purchase a copy. So once again we express our thanks to Arthur for all his help. This leaves us with a vacancy so is there anyone who would like to have a go at reviewing new publications? Please contact the editors via any of the methods listed in this journal.

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We have just become aware of a website that gives free access to WW1 allied personnel who were prisoners of war.

The site is: [grandeguerre.icrc.org](http://grandeguerre.icrc.org) (you do not need the ubiquitous www.)

On the opening page enter the surname in the box and click 'SEARCH' use the drop down menus to refine the search (not vital) and click 'VALIDATE'. Next page on the left will be a list of all the names (use scroll wheel to search) that you want, left click on it and the records will be displayed to the right. Hover over the images and click on the instruction 'More information about this personal', this will enable you to view all the information that is available.

There are many searches to be made on this site including photos of the camps etc. So if you have a WW1 P.O.W. in your family give it a go and let us know what you find!

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## THE LETTERS PAGE

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As a result of our call to members for feedback in the September Journal we are pleased to have received an immediate response from member April Ashton née Wood:

I see from the September 2014 Journal that you are endeavouring to include a *Letters Page*. May I start the ball rolling with the following?

*I grew up in the Hillingdon area in 1950's, and, on more than one occasion since commencing research of my own family's involvement in the area, being a member of the Hillingdon FHS has proved more than useful.*

*Many of us who are members probably grew up in the area, west of London, in the old county of Middlesex. Although there are Official Records available at the LMA and more locally at Uxbridge, we as individuals can provide a personal slant on life in Hillingdon.*

*I am no journalist, but in response to The Editors Jottings I am going to give it a try..... how many others are also willing to draw upon their memories and jot them down for the benefit of us all and the generations to come?*

Please edit as you consider appropriate.

Kind regards,

April (Member No. A2)

N.B. Thank you April for getting the ball on the move. We look forward to receiving any articles that give a personal slant as well as interesting items from your researches. Don't forget also that we are interested in any research tips or discoveries that you have found useful.

So now that we are under way come on everyone let's make this a regular feature!

**\*April was as good as her word – see page 15 for her article.**



# Seasons Greetings



*To all our members and readers we send our best wishes for a happy festive period and hopes for a peaceful New Year.*

*Our thanks go to Jenny for another year of weeding out our mistakes by proof reading and to all our contributors and helpers.*

*John Symons and Alan Rowland*



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## WW1 REMEMBERED – UNCLE HARRY (FINAL)

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With the conclusion of this series of articles in the last journal, we now give the sources used in their preparation as promised.

### Note on Sources

Like the majority of First World War soldiers' records, as well as a vast amount of other material relating to the Great War, Harry's army details went up in flames in the bombing of Anside Street, Southwark, in 1940. Fortunately, my late mother's diary provided two invaluable clues; the date of Harry BLAKE's enlistment and the date of his departure 'for the front' on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 1914. These were confirmed by his medal roll index card, the medal rolls themselves and the Silver War Badge list RE /4188.

A recent search at the National Archives found the war diary of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division signals company (**WO 95/1646/1**) and confirmed that it had landed at Zeebrugge from Southampton on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 1914. In Harry's case the identification of his unit therefore depends upon a chain of circumstantial evidence.

The readers of this chapter must make up their own minds as to the degree of probability attaching to the unit I have identified. War diaries very rarely mention other ranks by name although officers are often mentioned. The first 22 pages of the war diary of the Seventh Division Signal Company have been read and Harry's name is absent. A complete reading of this diary would be necessary in order to be completely certain that Harry's name did not appear in it.

The National Archives reference to the Signal Company's Italian War Diary (1<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1917 - 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1919) is **WO95/4222**; this has also been examined, again with negative results. During January and February 1919 it records small parties of men being sent home for demobilisation and on the 31<sup>st</sup> January notes, 'The troops are very eager to go home and jealously watch the orders on this subject.'

The Telephone Directory (slightly incomplete) referred to on page 101 is part of this diary.

*(contd.)*

**‘More Sources of World War I Army Ancestry’** (Norman Holding, Federation of Family History Societies, 1986) explained the insignia on Harry's uniform (including the highly significant overseas chevrons reported on his discharge certificate). A definitive history of the Seventh Division, by C.T. Atkinson, was published in 1926 by John Murray under the title **‘The Seventh Division 1914-1918’**. This was recently reprinted by the Naval and Military Press (ISBN: 9781843421191). It provides ample evidence that the Seventh Division must have experienced the First World War at its worst and often makes for disturbing reading.

Take, for example, the account of the last action the Division was engaged in during the Third Battle of Ypres. The failed attempt to take the village of Ghelevult ‘or rather the knoll on which Ghelevult once stood,’ is described by Atkinson as ‘one where many had suspected before they started that what they were being asked to do was impossible: no survivor of the attempt could harbour any doubts on this point.’ Between the Division and its objective was a sea of mud. Atkinson describes it as follows: ‘The Seventh Division had met plenty of mud in its time: those who had endured the winter of 1916-1917 on the Beaumont-Hamel spur had not much to learn about the ‘fifth element’, but the Ypres salient in October 1917 opened even their eyes. There a slimy chalk had become something like a mixture of treacle and glue; here the lighter soil, if not so glutinous, became a morass in which men sank to their waists and might even be swallowed completely, a fate which undoubtedly befell some of the ‘wounded and missing.’ When a few of the troops reached the outskirts of the village they found themselves in the absurd position that their rifles and Lewis guns had been rendered useless by the mud. The cost was 30 officers and 149 men killed, 40 officers and 1,252 men wounded and no less than 21 officers and 709 men missing. Few of those posted as missing were later reported as prisoners of war.

Atkinson's history is a meticulous chronicle of an endless series of actions like this, some successful, others not. But in almost every case the objective: a line of trenches, a farmhouse, a village, a wood, a hill, or simply a ‘straightening of the line’ results in totally disproportionate casualties. It is often made worse for the reader when the Divisional Commander issues a letter, as at Ghelevult, admitting that the action was locally unsuccessful but had caused the Germans to keep back a ‘railway reserve’ near Menin. (contd.)

So that the Seventh Division 'had not fought in vain', but had contributed to the 'success' achieved further north. The 68,000 casualties sustained by the Seventh Division in the course of the war is actually 3.7 times the size of the Division (18,000). None of the troops were safe, whether infantry or one of the supporting arms; certainly not the Engineers. German artillery guaranteed that.

Holders of the 1914 Star, like Harry, who had been within range of mobile artillery fire in 1914, were entitled to a bronze clasp on the medal and a tiny silver rosette to be worn on the ribbon bar. This certainly helped to distinguish it from the 1914-15 Star with which it was continually confused. The clasp was inscribed with the words 5<sup>th</sup> August-22<sup>nd</sup> Nov, 1914. All the units entitled to the clasp are listed in the Order of October 1919 establishing the award and includes the Seventh Division Signal Company. Those still in the army in 1920 received it automatically but those who had left the army and the relatives of those who had died or were killed had to make written application. It is known that a very large number of awards were consequently unclaimed; possibly because the claimants were dead, wanted to forget the war or were simply preoccupied with other things. Harry's nephew Brian BLAKE possesses his medals but a 'Rose and Clasp,' as it was usually called, is not among them. Many soldiers no doubt felt that the 1914 Star was enough.

Soldiers could not wear a wound stripe unless their name appeared in an official War Office casualty list. These were usually published by the Times newspaper. So I cling to the hope that I may one day find Harry's name in a casualty list as a member of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division Royal Engineers; the only remaining piece of documentary evidence that might identify his unit. I was able to get a copy of Harry's pension card from the Western Front Association ([www.westernfrontassociation.com](http://www.westernfrontassociation.com)). They have all the W.W.1 pension cards in store somewhere in England and are prepared to search for the one you want for a substantial fee. If they find it they send a copy to you by e-mail. In my case, of course, I knew his name, rank, regiment and number, so searching was relatively easy.

*Arthur Dark*

N.B. So as you can see although the service and pension records for a WW1 soldier may have been lost it is still possible to find some information using War Diaries of regiments, the National Archives and the Western Front Association.

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## MISCELLANEOUS RESEARCH

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From time to time I have had requests to carry out research on items not connected with the enquirers' personal family history. One such request recently concerned a coat-hanger!

The coat-hanger had been discovered among items in a house clearance and was interesting because it carried a name, telephone number and address;

S. DIAMOND GENTLEMAN'S TAILOR  
40 MILE END RD., E.1. PHONE EAST 1985



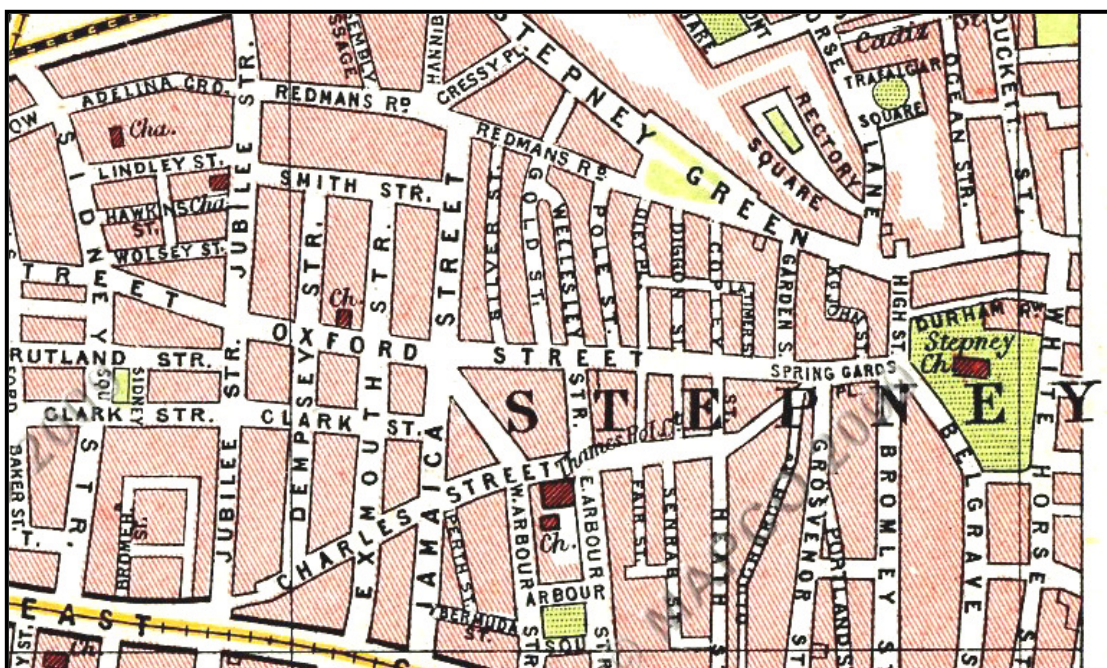
The enquirer asked if I could find out its history.

The coat-hanger was of a sturdy wooden construction possibly of 1930s vintage and therefore made before the current metal types came into use.

But who was S. DIAMOND? I searched various sources for a tailor/outfitter named DIAMOND based in the Mile End Road and found only one who fitted these criteria in the 1930s.

*(contd.)*

I next called up the 1911 census and found a Samuel DIAMOND aged 29, born in Poland, married to a Bessie born in Austria in 1883. Both their children however were born in Stepney, East London. Their address was given as 137 Jamaica Street, Stepney. (*Runs N/S just to the left of the S in Stepney*)



The conditions in this area could never have been described as salubrious. Times were extremely hard with mass over crowding and extreme poverty. However, to the new immigrants it must have been a better prospect than that which they had faced back in Poland which at the time was under Russian rule.

The 1901 census recorded him as a 20 year old lodger with the COHEN family (also tailors) at 47, Varden Street, Mile End Old Town, London, single and employed as a tailor. He did not appear in the 1891 census so it would seem that he arrived here after early 1891 and before 1901. His parents, with Samuel and any other children, probably left Poland to escape the persecution of the Jews. As a result of the programs initiated by the Tsar large numbers of Jews fled to America and London so Samuel (born c1881) must have arrived here as a child.

The name DIAMOND is not Polish. Many of the immigrants had unpronounceable Polish names so they were offered a choice of names acceptable in England.

*(contd.)*

I next searched for Samuel's death and found a likely candidate who died in 1949 in Stepney, London aged 67. This was reinforced with an entry in the Probate Register for 1950;

*Mr. S. DIAMOND of 320 Perth Rd. Ilford and of 40 Mile End Rd. Stepney died in November 1949 at the London Hospital, Stepney.*

The question still to be answered was; what was the connection between the coat hanger and this Samuel DIAMOND? Two sources were likely to yield the answer Electoral Rolls and Old Telephone Directories for London. In the 1932 and 1933 Rolls I found a Samuel and Bessie DIAMOND at 40 Mile End Road and their abode at 3 Newark St. Clapton E8. The 1938 Roll showed that their abode had changed to 320 Perth Road, Ilford. So this provided the connection between the person, the tailoring premises address and that on the coat hanger!

But I also needed to find more about the coat hanger since that was the purpose of the research. A clue lay in the telephone number exchange EAST. The London telephone exchanges had undergone several modernisations since the early days of the 1900s resulting in alterations to the dialling codes. The earliest entry I could find was in 1926 when the entry was for DIAMOND & Son and the number EAST 1985. EAST continued until 1936 when it was changed to STEPNEY Green and this continued in use until 1985 when all figure codes were introduced.

This gives a time span for the coat hanger which suggests it was used or made between 1926 (or earlier) and 1935. It could of course have been used after that date but the telephone number would have been obsolete. Its age therefore was about 79 to 88 years old. Who can say what happened to it in those intervening years? All that is certain is that it started life at 40 Mile End Road London in the 1920/30s and ended up in 2014 in Bridgend South Wales where it is still in use!

Another source showed that Mr. DIAMOND was in business in 1945 at 40 Mile End Road when the register for business owners entitled to vote for County Councillors was drawn up in October 1945.

Although this search did take some time it was satisfying to have found the provenance of the coat hanger and trace the history of the business and its owner.

*(contd.)*

I must conclude by saying I have gone no further in trying to trace any of Mr. DIAMOND's descendants as I had concentrated on the coat hanger but I can put anyone interested in touch with the person who has the item.

Finally out of pure interest you may like to know that the invention of the forerunner of the wooden coat hanger has been attributed to the American President Thomas Jefferson and the wire hanger in use today is said to have been inspired by a coat hook invented in 1869 by O.A. North of Connecticut – but there are others who claim that it was their idea!

*John Bridger*

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## THE RUISLIP MEDIEVAL FAIR

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Once again we were represented at this attraction which was held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August. The bookstall and general information point was housed in our new 'pop up' gazebo and the research room was in the library where we were able to offer our normal research facility. The bookstall had its usual number of enquirers with some resultant sales.

Unfortunately the same cannot be said for the library based option possibly due to our location i.e. hidden away from the public gaze.

*Alan Rowland*

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## A NEW SERVICE

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The Probate Service for England and Wales has added a searchable database online for post-1996 wills and grants of probate, to complement its soldiers' wills which are already available. The database is at <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>.

There is a basic search facility (surname and year of death) and an advanced search capability (surname, first name, year, month and date of death, year, month and date of probate). If an entry is found from the search a full copy will cost £10 to access.



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## MEMORIES OF A HILLINGDON CHILDHOOD 1942-1954

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I was born in 1942, a much loved first daughter of Monthem Frank WOOD and his wife Georgina. Before moving we lived in the small and rather pleasant country town of Southall just 3 miles eastwards along the Uxbridge Road from Hillingdon. Having left Southall for Hillingdon we moved into a large detached bungalow with an equally large overgrown garden at the top of Polehill Road. The top of Polehill Road is one of the highest points in Middlesex and as a mere toddler I clearly remember towards the end of WW2, seeing the night sky lit up as London was being bombed. What an impression it must have made on me!

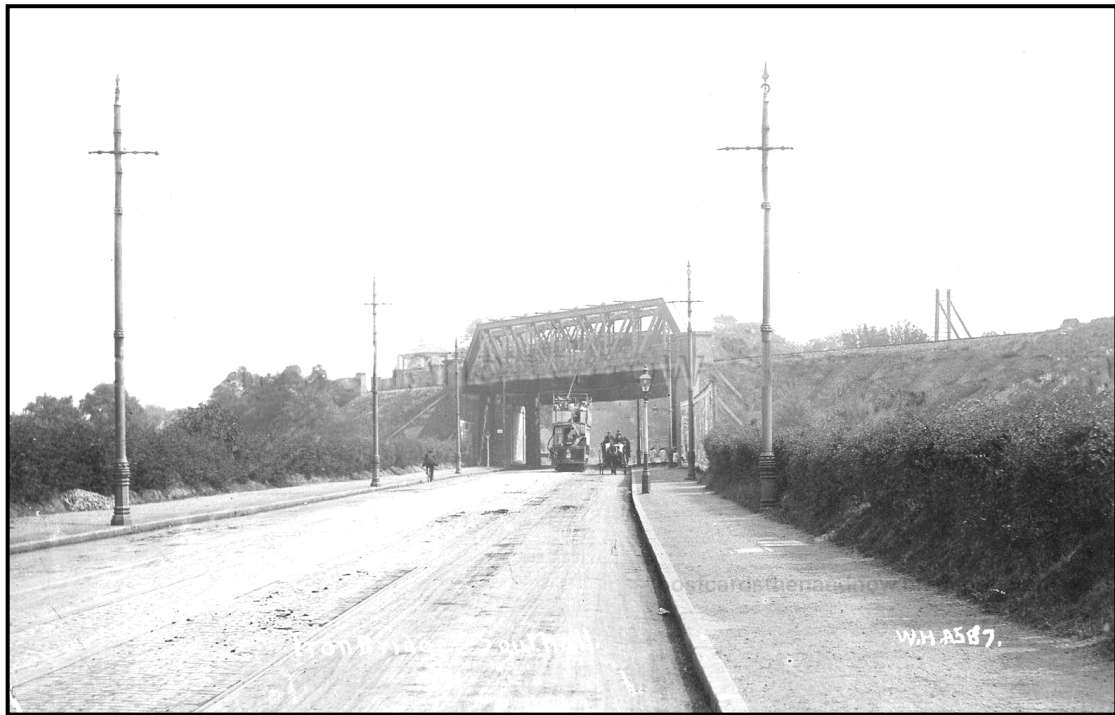
During this time when food was strictly rationed and sweets for children were a rare treat, the summer months, when the sugar rich fruit ripened on the mature trees, their laden boughs bent under the weight, were eagerly awaited. In addition to a surfeit of fresh fruit consumed straight off the trees, my mother, like many women of her generation bottled nature's bounty for our enjoyment during the winter months.

With additions to the family of a younger sister and brother, it was time to move on to a larger family home in Vine Lane, Hillingdon Village. Here life appeared to be idyllic.



*(contd.)*

My hard working father was a little further away from his business in Southall, but those were the days of petrol rationing and there was very little traffic on the Uxbridge Road to impede his journey. As a child I could happily cross the Uxbridge Road, by standing on the kerb and looking to the right, then proceeding to the central reservation, where I looked to the left before safely proceeding to the other side; an unbelievable practice in this day and age! Our busy dual carriageways are full of speeding traffic with fencing on the central reservations to prevent such practices.



This photo (from: [postcardsthenandnow.blogspot.com](http://postcardsthenandnow.blogspot.com)) shows not only the 'Iron Bridge' east of Southall, which was constructed in 1912 to carry the Great Western Railway across the Uxbridge Road, but also clearly demonstrates a near traffic free zone!

The parade of shops at the junction of Vine Lane and the Uxbridge Road hosted a sweet shop which sold my favourite barley sugar sticks; a small grocer's where loose leaf tea was sold out of a large wooden chest and Hovis loaves which cost 4 1/4d (four pence farthing!).

Black and white television was in its infancy. A new programme, The Railway Children, was being shown as a weekly serial which was keenly watched on Tuesday afternoons after school. What a treat that was!

*(contd.)*

In the 1950s Hillingdon Village was a peaceful place. There were fields behind our house accessed by a gate from the garden where on winter Saturday afternoons, on a pitch carved out from the surrounding fields, rugby matches were played.

There was also a large pond beside which were mature oak trees under which gypsies were often found sheltering with their horses tethered nearby. There were acres of grassy fields where we were able to roam safely and freely, accompanied by our dogs. Sadly all these fields are now built upon.

Across the road from our home, was Hillingdon golf course with the River Pinn running through it at its lowest level which emptied into the River Colne; here we played at being explorers. We never seemed to be inhibited by flying golf balls and I do not remember ever being reprimanded, perhaps the golf course was less busy then.

More fun was to be had, when on some Sunday mornings, we took out our bicycles for the short journey to Uxbridge Lido. An early arrival meant that the pool was nearly empty and I remember how the café sold delicious mugs of steaming hot 'Horlicks' after we had finished our swim.

However idyllic life may have been we had to work hard too as there was the 11 plus examination to prepare for and hopefully pass. At that time for me though games and sports were always held greater interest.

Sometimes we were able to cycle to school along Vine Lane and then take a short cut via a public footpath just before Court Drive. As we scuttled hastily along the footpath I remember that there was what seemed to be a ferocious barking dog which raced up and down the garden behind a fence, frightening all of us.

So sometimes instead of taking the short cut we would ride more sedately past the lovely houses in their lovely grounds fronting onto Court Drive. In one of the gardens there was a 'monkey puzzle' tree which I always found fascinating. I am delighted to see from Google Maps that it appears to have survived the ravages of time.

*(contd.)*



Cycling across Hillingdon Court Park we arrived at school where on sunny days we had lessons in the park under the trees; on the much colder days of winter we created ice slides in the playground. Discipline was firm but kindly; shirts were required to be tucked in, shoes polished and there was an orderly beginning to the day when we were required to line up in the playground before assembly in the main hall.

For the very young children there was a raised indoor sand pit for creative play, an inspirational thought for the 1950s! At mid morning break there were bottles of milk for each of us and lunch was provided when we were expected to eat everything put in front of us even the much hated tapioca pudding, aptly called 'frog spawn' by us children.

Somehow despite all the temptations of sport and the outdoor life, after a spot of swotting I managed to scramble through the 11 plus gaining a place at the local grammar school. Here I was delighted to find that all my academic efforts had been worthwhile as there were extensive grounds for pursuing my love of sport as well as a tuck shop. This was run by the more senior pupils who during break times sold us goodies such as iced buns to fuel our energy. On many an occasion, back in the classroom I was chastised for dreamily gazing out of the windows, whilst waiting for the next games lesson to come around!

*(contd.)*

Sadly this idyllic existence was not to last for my Father's business interests took a sideways move and we went to Devon to live. I took with me however the lessons instilled in me during my early years in Hillingdon; whether in the classroom or on the sports field 'work hard to achieve'! These have stood me in good stead all my life.

*April Ashton*

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### **CHANGE: GOOD OR BAD?**

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It is inevitable that familiar things and services will change over a period of time. For many of us who have spent a number of years researching family histories the days of travelling to view original documents (parish records, civil registrations etc) changed with the advent of the internet.

Gradually it has become possible to locate civil registrations using FreeBMD and order copies of the documents from G.R.O. With increasing speed access became available, at a cost, to view census images via commercial companies; Ancestry and Find My Past being the prime examples. The other major source of records is offered by Family Search (the LDS organisation) which has the advantage of being free.

Both commercial facilities have expanded their range of original documents that can be researched on line and it is now possible to view and more importantly, download images of these records.

Having reached this happy state all three suppliers of the on line sites recently changed the searching operation of their sites for, according to them, 'the better'. Some of the changes may well be for the better but having used the original systems for some time it has become confusing trying to find familiar record sets.

*(contd.)*

We probably all have our favourite site for research and only use the alternatives when unsuccessful. In my case I have used Ancestry more than the other two but recently, in an idle moment, I was surprised to find something for which I had failed to discover on several other occasions.

My paternal grandfather was born in 1883 so at the start of WW1 he was 31 and I thought that it was possible he had been involved. Many times I carried out searches on Ancestry for his service, pension and medal records all without success. This was also the case when I looked on Find My Past but with all the interest generated by the centenary of the outbreak of WW1 and hoping that more records had been added, I re-visited Ancestry only once again to find nothing!

Knowing that our Society would offer a research facility at the WW1 remembrance held on September 20<sup>th</sup> in St. John the Baptist Church, Hillingdon I thought I should return to the Find My Past site in order to find out how to use their newly altered system. I did a general search (from the opening window) and then applied the Military record set filter. BINGO – nine likely candidates were thrown up and of these two were the most likely.

The first dated 6<sup>th</sup> August 1915 was a completed attestation form to join the Royal Flying Corps; it states that he was rejected as ‘unlikely to become an efficient soldier’. The second, dated 11<sup>th</sup> August 1915, was another attestation form this time for the Territorial Force, he was accepted and was assigned to the Middlesex Regiment. In all there was a total 6 pages of images showing his various applications to join and his actual service.

As a check I re-visited Ancestry with the knowledge gleaned from Find My Past but still these sheets ‘didn’t exist’.

So if you meet a similar situation in your researching try looking in all the resources available – you might just get lucky!

*Alan Rowland*

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## HILLINGDON LOCAL STUDIES CENTRE

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In September 2007 the work of the lottery-funded project, 'Heritage Builds Bridges', run by Hillingdon Local Studies Service and Brunel University, went on-line. The object was to catalogue the archive and museum collections of the former, and the special collections of the latter relating to the history of education - namely the British and Foreign School Society, Maria Grey College and Shoreditch College.

The Hillingdon Local Studies photograph collections were also digitised (*see end of article*), archive and museum items were combined in a series of educational resources for children and adults.

The resulting website, **[www.heritagebuildsbridges.org](http://www.heritagebuildsbridges.org)** has two sections of particular interest to the family historian.

### FIRST: 'USING ARCHIVES'.

The aim of this section is to introduce the beginner to the types of archive material available to them. Simply click on the icon for 'Family History' and you will find an introduction on the basic tools of genealogy such as the census and civil registration. There is also information on using business, manorial, military, parish, personal, educational and hospital records, also photographs, in family history. 'Using Archives' is illustrated by items from each partner's collections, and contains a simple guide describing the main types of document, how to use them, where to find them, and how best to locate them on the catalogue.

The catalogue itself is divided between museum objects (including photographs) and archives. Archive collections are arranged hierarchically and can be quite complex, so the best way to start is with the Simple Search option.

Enter a name or subject in the search field and in the results list look for a record with the word 'fonds level' underneath. 'Fonds' simply means 'collection', so just note down the accompanying reference number. Now go to Expert Search and enter the number under 'reference'. The catalogue will now list every item in that collection.

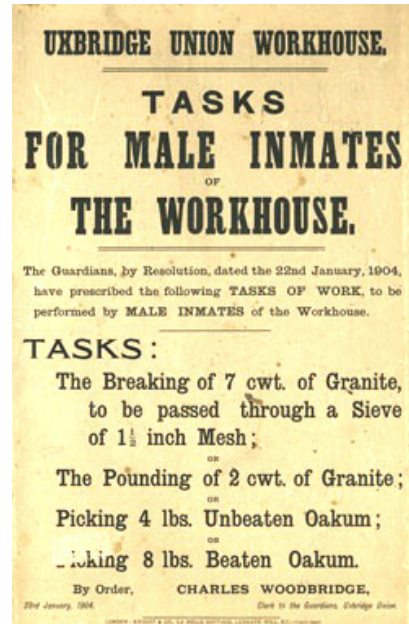
*(contd.)*

Of course, using any catalogue involves practice. But the effort is worth it. After all, there are thousands of treasures waiting to be discovered.

So come on and have a go. You never know where it might lead you.



1933 Boys net making Uxbridge Senior School



Uxbridge workhouse tasks



Uxbridge volunteer Militia



William Brownie Invoice  
St. Johns, Hillingdon





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## DEATH OF A DRUNKARD

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A history of a life spent in and around public houses inevitably involves some unusual incidents. In 1864 such was the case for my great grandmother Lucy Ann BRIDGER (originally Lucy Ann DOUGLAS) who was 18 years old when the event occurred.

Prior to finding an article in the Cambrian Newspaper dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 1864 (which circulated in South Wales) I knew nothing of the events that were raised at the inquest (*edited report below*) on an unfortunate lady who had drunk too much and died suddenly.

Lucy helped her father run the Boars Head public house at 20 Gower Street, Swansea and it was there that the inquest was held. She was called as a witness to give evidence. The newspaper reported the inquest in detail and the tragic event perhaps serves as a warning even today. It would seem that the deceased was a heavy drinker of gin and a regular visitor to the Boar's Head public house.

*'An inquest was held last evening at the house of Mr. E. M. Douglas, the Boars Head, Gower Street, before Edward Strick Esq., and a respectable jury, on view of the body of Mrs. Mary Bevan, aged 59 who died very suddenly the previous evening, and whose melancholy end should prove a warning to all addicted to the awful vice of intemperance. The jury having viewed the body, the following evidence was given:-*

*Lucy Ann Douglas was the first witness. She said, I am the daughter of Mr. Edward Morgan Douglas, of the Boar's Head public house. The deceased was in the habit of coming to my father's house almost every day for gin. I have seen her worse for drink. She came to our house last evening, between seven and eight o'clock and asked for six penny-worth of gin. She would not come into the house, as she said there were men in the bar. Deceased had something to drink in the morning, but I cannot say what, as it was my sister who served her I did not observe anything the matter with her last night when she had six penny-worth of gin.*

*Mr.T.D.Griffiths, M.B., sworn –*

*I was called in to the deceased a little after eight o'clock last night. I saw the deceased lying dead on the bed.*

*(contd.)*

*The husband was in the room.....apparently drunk..... I made a post mortem examination of the body, and found death had resulted from what is known as the 'true fatty heart', or weak heart, which caused sudden cessation of the pulsation, and would lead to sudden death. The life which the deceased apparently led, would accelerate such diseases of the heart, and hasten death.....There was a small superficial bruise on the temple, which might have been produced by the fall immediately before death. I have no hesitation in saying, that disease of the heart was the immediate cause of death.*

*Wm. Bevan, the husband of the deceased sworn -*

*I am a mason, residing at No.9 Bellevue Street. The deceased was my wife – we have been married for 30 years. We have five children living. The deceased was 59 years of age. The last time I saw the deceased alive was between twelve and two o'clock in the morning. I was in the Boar's Head writing for Mr.Bullen, with whom I had some little business when I observed the deceased come into the bar. She asked for 6d worth of gin, which was served to her.....I went home again about half- past 8 o'clock. She was lying on her face. I did not move her because she had been in that state scores of times before.....I went out leaving the deceased in the same position as I found her. I returned to the house again in about 20 minutes. I then found she was getting cold and called for assistance,.....I have done all I could to endeavour to keep her from the accursed drink. I have told her hundreds of times she would have a drunkard's grave. The deceased has followed her intemperate habits ever since we were married and has been drunk scores and scores of times.....This was the whole of the evidence, and the jury immediately returned a verdict of 'Died from natural causes – disease of the heart, accelerated by strong drinks'*

Lucy Ann may not have been surprised by such incidents because her father had kept the 'Stepney Arms' in Llanelli, then the 'Boar's Head' in Swansea and finally the 'Terminus' in Rutland Street, Swansea.

Air raids in WWII demolished Gower Street After the war the area was rebuilt and the street's location is where The Kingsway is today.

*John Bridger*

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## WHO WAS MARRIOTT MORLEY? WERE THERE TWO OF THEM?

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In the Bingham District of Nottinghamshire for the year 1853 there are two Birth Registrations in the name of Marriott MORLEY, one in the June quarter, the other in the December quarter. I was intrigued as there is a Marriott MORLEY in my ancestors and I decided to find out who they were.

The name of Marriott was regularly used as a first name for descendants during the 19th and early 20th Century in England, USA and New Zealand.

The search was complicated when I looked at a number of Public Trees on Ancestry. They had totally mixed up these two people, i.e. listing the children of both of them in the same tree, even though some of the dates actually overlap and two were born in Nottingham and two in Hull.

Both of these Marriott MORLEYs descend from William MARRIOTT 1736-1828 who was first married to Alice NEWBERRY/NEWBRAY 1739-1799 and second to Amy/Amey RICHMOND 1761-1825. They lived at Granby, Scarrington and Whatton Nottinghamshire.

The 'younger' Marriott MORLEY (the son of Henry MORLEY and Mary Allatt nee PAYLING of Aslockton) born in October 1853, was a second cousin once removed to the 'older' Marriott MORLEY (son of William MORLEY and Jane MARRIOTT of Ratcliffe/Radcliffe on Trent) and was also a great great grandson of William MARRIOTT (1736-1828).

### WILLIAM MARRIOTT's FIRST MARRIAGE

The first marriage between William MARRIOTT (1736-1828) and Alice NEWBRAY/NEWBERRY (1739-1779) took place on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1763 at All Saints Granby, Nottingham. They lived at Granby, then Scarrington and Whatton and had ten children of these only Elizabeth and Alice had known descendants.

Elizabeth 1767-1852 married William MORLEY at St John of Beverley Whatton in 1783. William MORLEY 1762-1817 was the older son of George MORLEY and Anne FLOWER. (contd.)

He and Elizabeth had ten children, of whom the oldest surviving one was George MORLEY 1788-1876.

George MORLEY married Charlotte HALL at Whatton in 1813 and had six children, William 1814-1883 (who married Mary MASON and emigrated to New Zealand in 1864), Henry 1817-1893, Sarah, George, Caroline and Mary Ann. All except William lived in the Aslockton and Whatton area for the rest of their lives.

William MORLEY and Mary nee MASON had six surviving children. The second born son was William MORLEY, later Rev. Dr William MORLEY, 1842-1926 who in 1863/64 went to New Zealand as a young trainee Wesleyan Minister. He served the Wesleyan Methodist church in New Zealand at various churches and eventually was the President of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist church. After his first wife's death, he was asked to go to Melbourne Australia in charge of the church's Superannuation Fund. He then married Sister Grace Henderson WEBSTER 1861-1944 born in Nelson New Zealand, who trained as a nurse and served in the Boer War, South Africa 1900-1903. Their only son was Ian MORLEY father of yours truly Colyn STORER (nee MORLEY).

Henry, (like his father a tailor/cottager an interesting co-incidence with the 'other MORLEY' family), married Mary Allat PAYLING in 1841 and lived at Aslockton and Whatton, Nottingham. They had ten children, quite a few of whom died young. Four of their sons lived to adulthood, William, Marriott, Tom Hall and John Henry. Baptismal records have been found for most of the family, firstly at St John of Beverley Whatton, then at the Wesleyan Methodist church but none has been found for Marriott.

Marriott was born 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 1853 at Aslockton Nottingham. By the 1871 census he was living and working as a cashier at Kingston on Hull Yorkshire. He spent the rest of his life working in Hull and married Eliza Henrietta COOK there in 1875. They had two sons, Herbert Henry born 1877 and Wallace Payling born 1879 neither of whom seem to have had any descendants. By 1881 census Marriott was a Butcher in Hull and over the following years he became the Manager of the Hide and Skin Market as well as a highly respected member of the local community.

*(contd.)*

From 1883 onwards there are many references to him in local newspapers, 'Hull Daily Mail' (Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire, England) and 'Hull Packet' (Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire, England). First as Secretary of the 'Hull Butchers Association', then as an Auctioneer and later as Manager of the 'Confederation of Butchers and Hide and Skin Markets'.

In 1906 he was appointed Justice of the Peace and Magistrate and later was Chairman of the bench. There are many reports of his judgments almost to the time of his death in 1932. The Hull Daily Mail carried the following notices of his illness and then his death:

*'Mr. MARRIOTT MORLEY, J.P. Many Hull people will regret to hear of the serious illness of Mr Marriott MORLEY, J.P. He left his bed a fortnight ago to take his seat on the Bench, and subsequently caught chill, which developed into pneumonia. Mr MORLEY is over 70 years of age.'*  
23<sup>rd</sup> January 1932.

#### **HULL J.P. DEAD**

*'Stalwart of the Liberal Party Mr. M. MORLEY. The death took place at 9.15 this morning of Marriott MORLEY, J.P., of 246, Hessle-road. Mr MORLEY had been ill for some time. He left his bed almost six weeks ago to take his seat on the Bench and is presumed to have caught a chill. Bronchial pneumonia supervened.*

*A week ago Mr. MORLEY left Hull and went to stay with friends at Patrington in the hope that a change of air would be beneficial and help him to recuperate.*

*Mr. MORLEY was one of the stalwarts of Liberalism in Hull and a man who stood by his convictions. He was born in Nottingham 76 years ago and came to Hull when a boy, joining the clerical staff of Messrs. Edwin Davies and company...*

*He was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Hull in 1906. .... He leaves a widow and two sons.'* 9<sup>th</sup> March 1932

The article includes a picture of Marriott MORLEY but unfortunately it was not possible to copy the photograph.

#### **WILLIAM MARRIOTT's SECOND MARRIAGE**

William MARRIOTT and his second wife Amy RICHMOND, married in 1784 and had eleven children. (contd.)

All were baptised at St John of Beverley Whatton NTT between 1785 and 1799. Two grandsons were given Marriott as a first name; Marriott GRICE 1820-1906 son of William GRICE and Judith MARRIOTT was born in Nottinghamshire and later emigrated to the U.S.A. with his family in 1871; Marriott MORLEY 1827-1876, son of William MORLEY and Charlotte MARRIOTT.

Charlotte MARRIOTT was born in 1794. She married William MORLEY at Holy Trinity Tythby Nottingham on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1813. Although various MORLEY families were associated with Tythby, the relationship of this William to the other MORLEY families has not been proved. Charlotte and William had eight children, including their youngest son – Marriott MORLEY 1827-1876. This Marriott also had a grandson given the same family name – John Marriott MORLEY 1871-1962.

Another son was George born 1821 who married, firstly, Jane MARRIOTT in 1845. She died in December 1860. George and Jane had at least four children, Adam, William, Marriott and George. William also later named one of his sons Marriott MORLEY born 1874. There are no proven relationships between Jane's Marriott families and William's mother's family.

Their son Marriott MORLEY was born on 20 April 1853 at Radcliffe on Trent and although there are baptismal records for some of his siblings, none has been found for him. Perhaps he was baptised in a non-Conformist church whose records have not been indexed or survived.

In the 1861 census Marriott was recorded as being with his grandfather William MORLEY at Radcliffe (or Ratcliffe on Trent). Also there was Marriott's father and two young brothers.

He married Elizabeth Ann COLLARD at St Luke Sneinton on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1874. They had only two children; Harry born 6<sup>th</sup> March 1876 and Elizabeth born 4<sup>th</sup> November 1877. They were baptised together on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1880 at St. Mary Nottingham, thankfully their dates of birth were also recorded.

They lived out their lives in Nottingham. In the 1911 census when Marriott signed the form, he said they lived in a four roomed house at 1 Lamertine Street Nottingham and that he was employed as a tailor.

*(contd.)*

Their unmarried son Harry was with them, aged 35, working as a Hairdresser and Tobacconist.

Their daughter Elizabeth married Charles Henry EVANS in 1907 and was living at 109 Gregory Boulevard Nottingham in 1934. They had at least two children, Dorothy who died as a child and Cyril. Elizabeth died at Nottingham in 1973 aged 95.

When I was trying to find more about these cousins I was surprised to find in the Nottingham Evening Post (British Newspapers on findmypast) a detailed description of the accident that preceded his death and the inquest report into the death of Marriott MORLEY in 1934.

*Nottingham Evening Post 02 March 1934 page 16 of 16 - (selection only);*

*'Marriott MORLEY was injured after being knocked down by a bicycle about 5.30 pm on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 1934 at Gregory Boulevard Nottingham crossing the road to his home. He was in hospital for 6 days and went home to his daughter Mrs Elizabeth Evans.*

*He was admitted to the Infirmary on 12 February, and Dr Beale said he was restless and confused, probably suffering from cerebral compression due to concussion. He died 26<sup>th</sup> February at 3.5pm from hypostatic pneumonia.*

*His daughter said that he had been an active man for his age and went around the city by himself.*

*INQUEST on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1934, reported Nottingham Evening Post on the same day.*

*The jury brought a verdict of 'accidental death' with no blame attached to the cyclist whatsoever.*

*Mrs Evans thanked the jury for bringing in that verdict. 'I would not like a man's life to be blighted by the feeling that he was responsible for a father's death,' she added.'*

It was amazing to discover that there were newspaper reports about the passing of both Marriotts; one very well known in his local community, his cousin far less known except by his own family/friends and that each report gave the actual time of death. These clearly confirm that there was not one person who kept moving between Nottingham and Hull but two cousins whose first name commemorated the maiden name/s of his maternal line. (contd.)

It is not known if they ever really knew each other or that they and their families would be so confused and mixed up by researchers a century or so later.

*Colyn Storer*

References:

British Newspapers – findmypast

Birth Certificate Marriott MORLEY born April 1853, Jun Qtr 1853, Bingham District, Vol 7b, Page 299

Birth Certificate Marriott MORLEY born Oct 1853 Dec Qtr 1853, Bingham District, Vol 7b, Page 275

Various original Nottinghamshire Parish Registers and Bishops Transcripts read and transcribed by Colyn Storer 1990-2005

Transcripts of Nottinghamshire Baptisms, Marriages and Burials from 1500s to 1900 by Nottinghamshire Family History Society on Cd 2012

Census records 1841-1911

Various wills for the MORLEY, Newberry, Marriott and associated families 1634 to after 1900

Nottingham Marriage Licences - University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections Kings Meadow Campus Lenton.

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**A TALK – YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE  
WHAT HAPPENS AT THE REGISTER OFFICE.**

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Dr. Barry Twigg has visited the Society on several occasions and his talks have covered a number of topics. On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July he chose as his subject 'What takes place in Register Offices'. He made the point that although for many years most people have referred to them as Registry Offices, this has never ever been their correct title! *(contd.)*



Following many years in Education Barry was a Deputy Superintendent Registrar for some time and remains Civil Funeral Celebrant for this area.

He spoke about the aspects of the work which people usually associate with Registration; Births, Marriages and Deaths and gave many examples of how these were often far from straightforward. Very often they are complicated, sometimes contentious and even involve police and prison officers!

He illustrated the contrasts between registering happy events like registering live births or marriage procedures/ceremonies and the sad, often tragic events such as stillbirths, births and subsequent deaths of infants as well as those deaths involving the Coroner and Inquests.

Barry said that being a Registrar is often a very demanding role because they have to be able to relate well to members of the public with compassion and understanding. They also need to have a comprehensive knowledge of the many regulations, procedures and legislation developed over the years to meet changing circumstances e.g. civil partnerships and same-sex marriages.

Barry pointed out that there were several duties regularly performed by Registrars about which the public are less aware. These include conducting ceremonies for those achieving British Citizenship and officiating at civil Baby Naming Ceremonies!

Finally Barry praised the Registration system as being another example of the ongoing strenuous efforts which are made in all British institutions to facilitate, to commemorate, to adequately record, to ensure fairness and equality whilst preventing corruption and illegality.

Given the importance of Registration Records to Family Historians this was an informative and interesting talk delivered in Barry's customary and at times humorous style. It is always a pleasure to have him talk to the society.

*Charles Hampshire*

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## A TALK – SIPSON: A VILLAGE UNDER THREAT

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The talk given on Thursday 18th September by Philip Sherwood was of great interest as it involved a possible threat to local villages. Philip began with an accusation against the aviation industry and went on from there:

If ever a prize is offered for persistence it would surely go to the members of the aviation industry who can aptly be called the mafia. They never ever give up!

The concept of a third runway at Heathrow goes back much further than most people realise. The airport was developed by stealth during the war under the pretext that it was urgently needed by the RAF.

The idea of a third runway was first put forward at an Air Ministry meeting held on 10th August 1943 but was not pursued at the time because it was considered that ‘No government would be prepared to consider a project that involved razing the three old world villages of Harmondsworth, Sipson and Harlington to the ground!’

Nothing daunted, the mafia raised the question again and gained government approval for a third runway in 1946. This scheme was abandoned in 1952 mostly on the grounds of cost but on a number of recent occasions it has again been proposed.

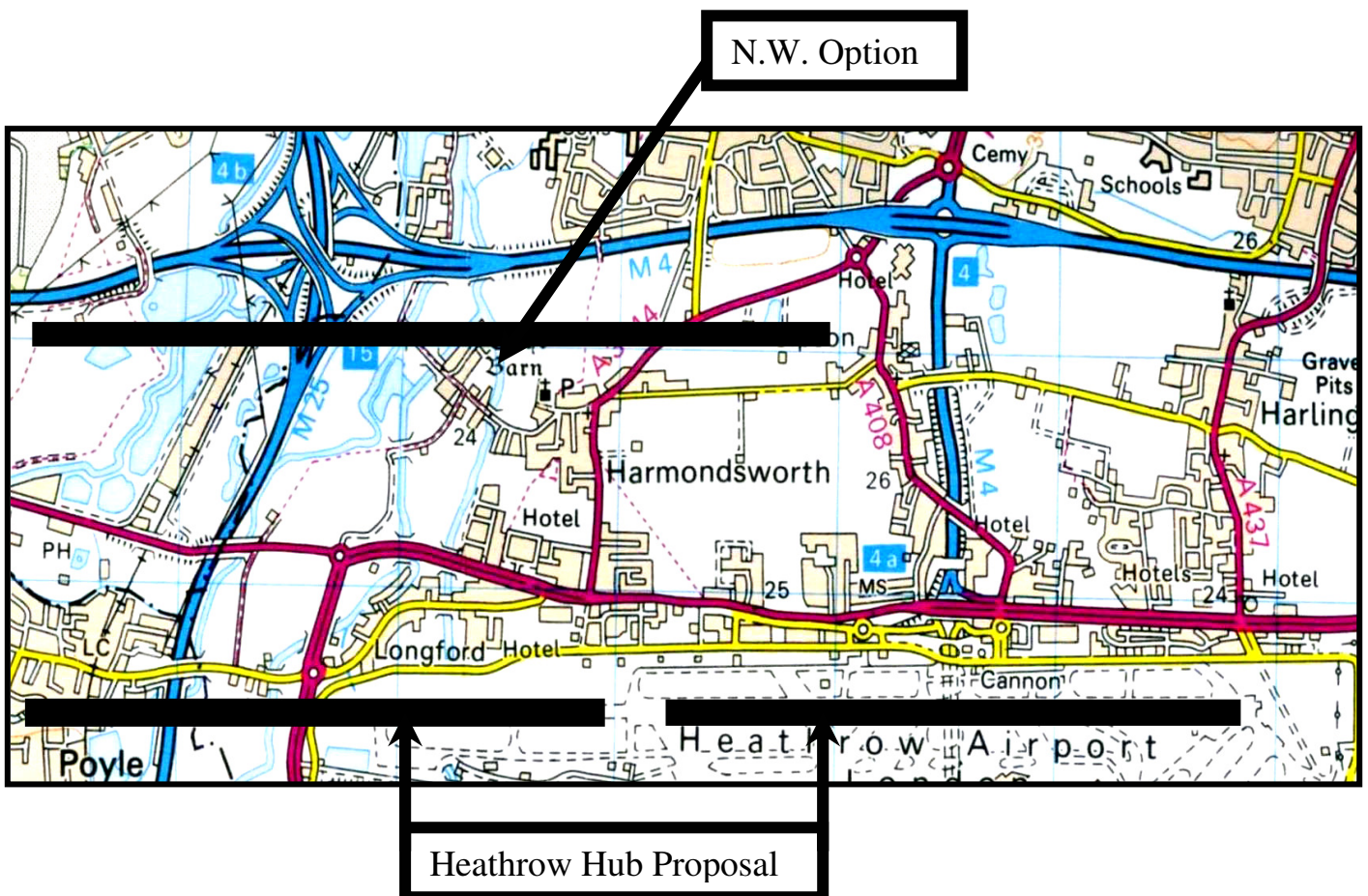
In 2003 a government White Paper put forward a proposal for a third runway that became the then government’s policy to the extent that it was included in its manifesto for the 2010 general election.

The incoming government immediately abandoned the project and that might have been thought to be the end of the matter once and for all. However, this was to ignore the power and persistence of the mafia which lobbied the government to set up an ‘independent’ commission, under the chairmanship of Sir Howard Davis, to re-examine the need for airport runway capacity in South East England.

*(contd.)*

The commission published its interim report in December 2013 which, among other options, put forward for further consideration the so-called North West option that would have involved the total demolition of Harmondsworth and Longford villages and the forcible eviction of nearly 3,000 people from their homes. Typically, in its submission, the airport authorities estimated that the scheme would only involve the demolition of two listed buildings but the fact of the matter was that up to 30 listed buildings would be destroyed including in Harmondsworth village the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Church as well as the finest medieval barn in the country. The graveyard of the church is still used for burials and all of the graves in the churchyard would be desecrated if the plan was adopted. As the mafia have no respect for the living how can they be expected to have any for the dead!

Another option under consideration was the so-called Heathrow Hub. This would entail extending the existing northern runway by 3 km which in effect would create an extra runway thereby allowing simultaneous take-offs and landings on the same runway alignment. *(see map below)*



*(contd.)*

As most locals will know the situation remains unresolved!

Philip's talk was most interesting and it was surprising to learn that all the talk of an extra runway at Heathrow dates back to the 1940s.

Further Reading: 'Heathrow: 2000 Years of History', 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2011 by Philip Sherwood The History Press 2011 (see page 21).

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## **H.F.H.S. – A.G.M. 2015 AGENDA & A.G.M. 2014 MINUTES**

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### **Hillingdon Family History Society**

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting to be held at 7.30 p.m. on  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at Hillingdon Park Baptist Church,  
Hercies Road, Hillingdon Circus, Middlesex

#### **Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014 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:  
Judith Baker, Patricia Reynolds, Alan Rowland, Valerie Fitch & Douglas Adams
8. Appointment of Auditor
9. Any other business

Nominations for the above should be with the Administrative Secretary, Gill May by 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

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### **Hillingdon Family History Society**

Minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> A.G.M. held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014  
at Hillingdon Park Baptist Church, Hercies Road, Hillingdon Circus,  
Middlesex.

1. Apologies for absence from Alan Rowland, Ian Harvey and Susan Mahoney.
2. Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> A.G.M. held at Hillingdon Park Baptist Church, Hercies Road, Hillingdon on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Accepted and proposed by John Symons and seconded by Judith Baker.
3. There were no matters arising. Proposed by Jenny Mundy and seconded by Pat Reynolds.
4. The Chairman's report (printed in the June 2014 issue of the journal) was read and accepted. Proposed by Judith Baker and seconded by Joy Higgs.
5. The Hon. Treasurer presented the Annual Accounts. These will be printed in the June journal. Charles was thanked for his production of the accounts and acceptance was proposed by Jean Gorman and seconded by Valerie Fitch.

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 by Roger Howe and seconded by Jenny Mundy.

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

7. The following, together with the above, were elected to the Executive committee:
- Patricia Reynolds; Judith Baker; Alan Rowland; Valerie Fitch and  
Douglas Adams
- All the committee were unanimously proposed by Joy Higgs and seconded by John Symons.

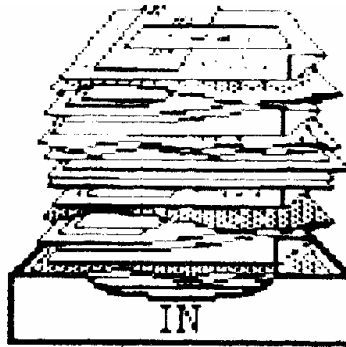
8. Appointment of Auditor, Joe Ross.  
Proposed by Gill May and seconded by John Symons.

9. Any other business.
- Jenny Mundy asked if it was planned to have further joint meetings with the U3A group. We have a joint meeting in November this year and it is hoped we will have 2 each year in the winter months going forward.

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**FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

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I hope that everyone had a good summer although it seemed to fly by much too quickly!

This edition of the Journal (No. 108) is the last for the current subscription year. We do hope that you have enjoyed reading the Journal and will wish to renew your membership which becomes due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015, irrespective of the date of your joining. A subscription form will be found in this Journal. Please complete the form and the standing order instruction (if applicable) and return the form together with your remittance. All of this enables me to keep track of all the renewals, payments etc.

If paying by cheque please make them out to: Hillingdon Family History Society (please use the full title as the banks sometimes will not accept abbreviations or initials). Most importantly please do not make them payable to me, thank you.

If you prefer to pay for your renewal in cash at our meeting it would be most helpful if you could put both the cash and the completed form in an envelope with your name and membership number (if possible) on the front.

Your receipt will be your new membership card which will be given out at the meetings or sent with the March Journal.

Thank you to all the members who wrote to me during this year, it is lovely to hear from you all and indeed to meet you at the fairs we attend.

A happy Christmas to you all and the best of luck for 2015.

*Patricia Reynolds*

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

S85 Mr. Philip Sherwood  
Email: psherwood@waitrose.com

5 Victoria Road, Harlington,  
Middlesex. UB3 5EW

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### HAREFIELD HISTORY SOCIETY

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The Harefield History Society programme of meetings for 2015 is as follows:

(All meetings are 8pm in the Park Lane Village Centre next to Library).

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
26 <sup>th</sup> January	David Wadley	London's Newest Railway
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Ian Smales	Irregulars of the British Army
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Keith Piercy	Putting Harefield on the map
27 <sup>th</sup> April	A.G.M. followed by something interesting	

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### UXBRIDGE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Programme of meetings for 2015

All meetings take place at Christ Church, Uxbridge  
at 7.30 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

January 20 <sup>th</sup>	ROYAL WEDDINGS, PAST AND PRESENT At 2.30p.m.	Barbara Askew
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	WINDSOR STREET	Geoff Wallace
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	THE HISTORY OF UXBRIDGE MOOR	Ken Pearce
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and OLD HOUSES OF UXBRIDGE	Tony Mitchell
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	MEMBERS' SOCIAL EVENING	Details to be announced. (contd.)



## Summer Programme 2015

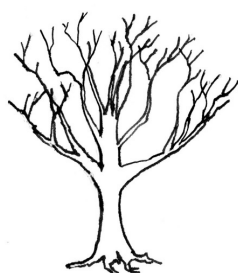
The Society completes its year by arranging visits to places of historical interest in a series of full-day, half-day and evening excursions. Details and a booking form are sent to members towards the end of the winter session.

Visits organiser, Jill Rhodes can be contacted on 01895 234348.

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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.

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

Those who want to make use of this service should be specific as to their requirements and should indicate clearly the upper limit of expenditure they are willing to incur.

It must be appreciated that in some cases an investigation may not produce any results or may produce 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**

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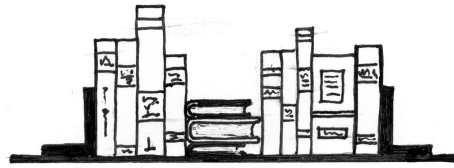
In this part of the journal we advertise pleas, from members and non-members, for information and assistance.

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



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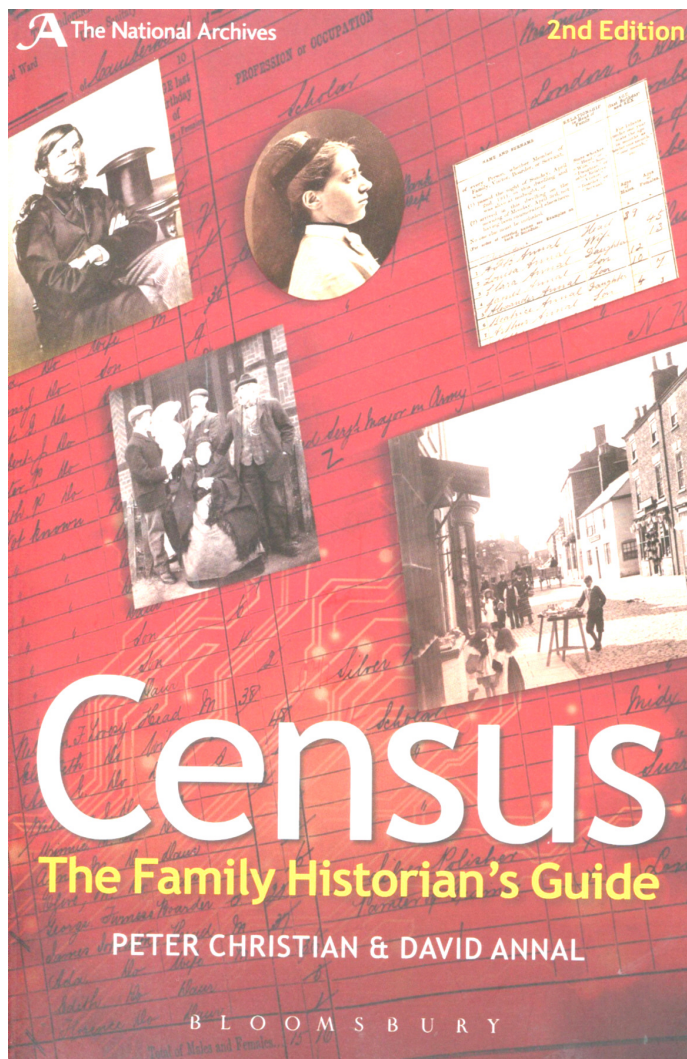
**Census: The Family Historian's Guide,**  
2<sup>nd</sup> edition

ISBN: 978-1-4729-0293-1

by Peter Christian & David Annal

Bloomsbury Publications in association with The National Archives 2014

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One of the most valuable resources that family historians in Britain rely on is the census. Yet so often we take it for granted, often only noticing when, as is the case in Ireland before 1901, it is not available.

This book is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the title first published in 2008.

A quick read through soon establishes why this is necessary. The authors first set out to detail the background to the census in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland and the variances between the years.

*(contd.)*

This is important when researching, and many of the points made are I suspect well known to those familiar with research, for example, the rounding down of ages in 1841 for those over the age of 15. Then there is the plethora of reasons you might not find your people in the census even when you know they were alive. More often than not this is due to poor understanding or transcription of names, either contemporary or from modern indexing. The missing pieces which affects all years but especially 1861 where whole districts have been mislaid are also mentioned. Indeed you begin to wonder if you have any chance of locating your ancestors, but in fact the majority of the population are represented, even if not quite under the exact names you expected.

All this is brought together by four case studies, each designed to show the perils and pitfalls of using the census. The point is well made that as a source it should not be used in isolation, but in conjunction with other sources, civil registration, parish records, wills, service records etc.

What really sets this book apart in my view are the later chapters where online versions of the census sets are examined and compared. These I am pleased to say reflect the current position and include the latest search forms provided by Ancestry and FindmyPast. Recognising that most people now access the census returns by this method, it is important to understand which site, whether commercial or free, such as FamilySearch from the Latter Day Saints, is likely to yield the best results. Only some sites allow you to search by address for example. Scotland and Ireland are not forgotten with the ScotlandsPeople site and the National Archives of Ireland sites given similar treatment.

The problem with tackling these issues in a publication is that the information may become out of date quickly, but it may well be that a period of relative stability is on the cards and if so the comparisons made here will be valid for a few years at least.

Most people will find something valuable in this book, I certainly did, and if any of our members would like to consult it, a copy is available in our library.

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.

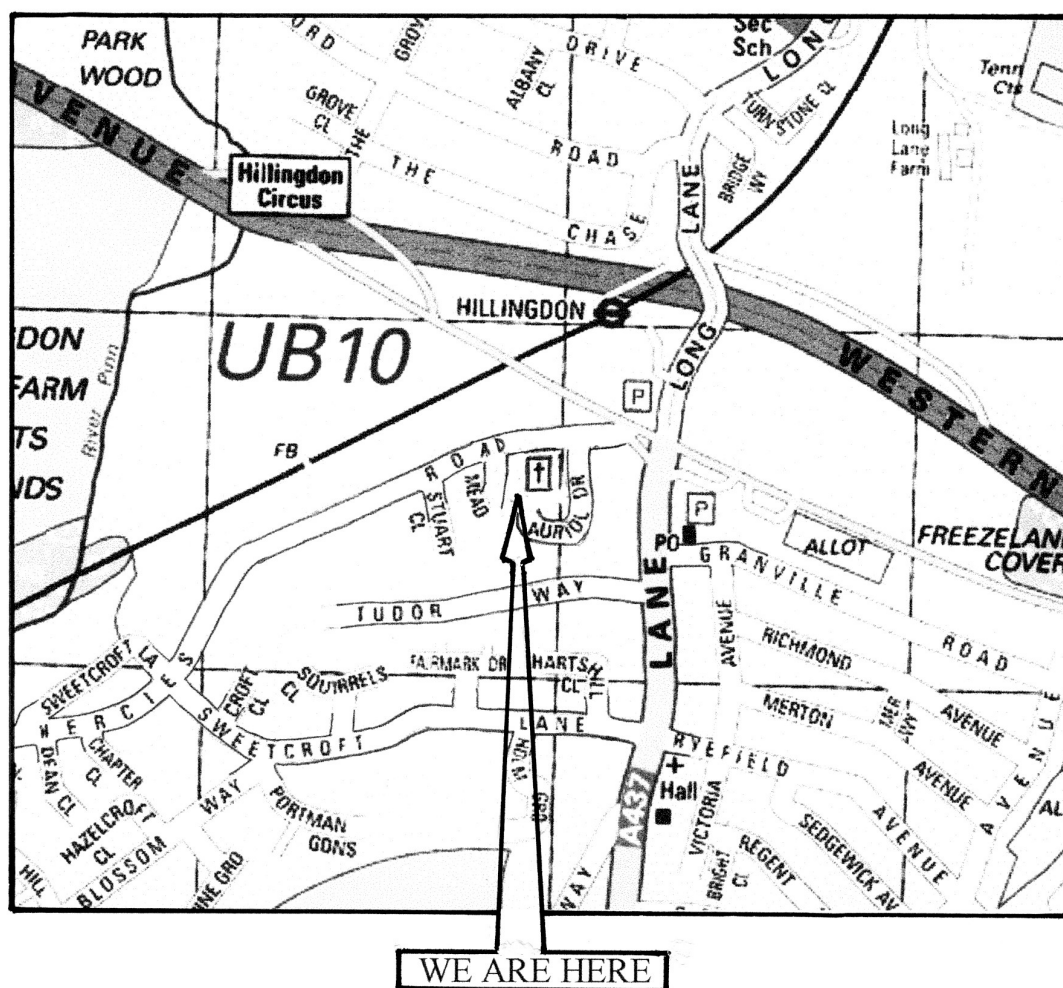
Cheques should be in pounds STERLING, crossed A/C payee and made payable to Hillingdon Family History Society.

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.	
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Vice Chair	Joy Higgs 16 Hyacinth Drive, Uxbridge, Middx. UB10 9QW	01895 272745
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Treasurer	Charles Hampshire 4 Barrington Drive, Harefield, Middx. UB9 6RL	01895 821351

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Magazine Editors. John Symons, Alan Rowland

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## 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.**