



# HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



*Cranford House, Hillingdon (See page 31)*

## 2016 PROGRAMME OF OUR MEETINGS

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

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
<i>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January</i> <i>Joint meeting with U3A</i> <i>Starts at 2.00 pm</i>	<i>Myko Clelland</i>	<i>'Findmypast: Introduction of the 1939 Register'</i>
<i>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February</i>	<i>Film Evening</i>	<i>'Middlesex Past and Present'</i>
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	A.G.M.	Social evening with refreshments
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Tony Mitchell	'Some Old Houses in Uxbridge'
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Barry Twigg	'The Seven Georges'
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Winnie Gomme	'Land Tax Assessment 1798'
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Pam Pearce	'Hooked by a Bouquet of Flowers: the Story of a Waterloo Veteran'
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Ian Waller	'Reading Old Writing Session: How to Read Old Hand Writing with Audience Participation'
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October		Members' Research Stories
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November		
Joint meeting with U3A Starts at 2.00 pm	Audrey Collins	"There and Back Again: Going Away Doesn't Mean Staying Away"
<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:   **[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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Welcome to a new year of Hillingdon Family History Society!

As always we have a full and varied programme of speakers and of course the research room and library are available to members and visitors. We also have the consistently popular research room open on the first Saturday of the month in Uxbridge library. I hope you take advantage of all these resources.

I ended January with a dripping bathroom tap and I hope by the time you read these notes I will have found a plumber willing to fix it. What with all the rain and flooding over the winter it set me thinking about water supplies and how we take for granted a fresh, potable water supply run into our houses. In other countries – Spain, France Italy – the water is not perhaps as clean as ours. Have you ever wondered why they have so many brands of bottled water?



But even in the U.K. it was not always so.

In the nineteenth century water borne diseases, in particular typhoid was a major problem: not just in urban areas but also in the country. In Ickenham the absence of deep wells meant that there were numerous fatalities from typhoid and this was one of the reasons that Mrs. Charlotte Gell left money in her will for the digging and construction of the pump in the centre of the village.

*Ickenham pump.* (contd.)

It is served by an artesian well i.e. it goes down to the deep water table and when it was drilled the water apparently shot into the sky like a huge fountain. I believe all the fountains in Trafalgar Square are also artesian – the water rises naturally.

One consequence of infected water was that our ancestors tended to drink ‘treated’ water rather than the real thing: i.e. beer. I know of one country pile that in 1918 had beer on tap from the on-site brewery but no running water! It is one of the reasons why we had so many pubs in towns and villages.

As we look at our family histories and death certificates, it is important to consider the historical context. Clean running water was not a given in the town or country.

One particular museum (not well enough known) is the Wellcome Museum opposite Euston station and this has permanent and temporary exhibits on all aspects of ailments afflicting our ancestors and how they were treated. It is well worth a visit.

**<http://wellcomecollection.org/visit>**

So I end on a Wellcome, which is sort of where I started!

*Ian Harvey*

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## EDITORS' JOTTINGS

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Findmypast have a new feature: ‘The 1939 Survey’. This gives access to images of the survey, carried out prior to the issuing of identity cards in 1939, which covered 41 million lives (*see also page 33*).

At the time of writing access to the records is fee based but as of February 2016 we understand it will form part of the normal subscription package. The facility provides; full household transcript including full dates of birth, occupations, address & updated names, maps (compare historic maps to present day), a scan of the original register page, photos, historical images from the local area, statistics, facts & figures for 1939, newspapers and articles from the local area. *(contd.)*

**A gentle reminder to all our contributors and those who we hope will join them this year.**

JOURNAL 2016	DEADLINE DATE
JUNE	6 <sup>th</sup> MAY
SEPTEMBER	5 <sup>th</sup> AUGUST
DECEMBER	7 <sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

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For those of you with interests and/or connections with Northamptonshire Ancestry.co.uk have announced that they have added the parish records of the shoe-making county to their growing collection of parish records.

This is a superb resource that covers baptism, marriage, and burial records and can push your research back to the time of Henry VIII.

Their existing parish records already cover much of the U.K. and new collections will be added during 2016.

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It is amazing how family history research has been extended with the continuing expansion of web sites. We noticed in the Essex Family Historian (the journal of the Essex F.H.S.) that there is a web site that gives free access to 650 million U.S.A. Census Returns 1790 to 1840. The address is; **<http://tinyurl.com/EDP-USCensusSearch>** which is the home of Mocavo. You are able to view excellent images of the census sheets so if any of your ancestors went to America during those dates have a look – you may be lucky.

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### **THE FARMER'S ARMS**

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The subject of our September 2015 meeting brought to mind a holiday that I spent with Beryl Graham (G.16) and our 'better halves' in a rented cottage in West Wales. Some years ago I wrote an article for our journal which featured this same cottage and its connection with the paternal side of my family. *(contd.)*

To avoid having to search through old journals I will recap briefly the story; without knowing of its connection with the family, my first visit was the result of a last minute booking made by my cousin and me. During this visit we tracked down a first cousin of our respective mother and father who told us that the cottage had for many years been the home of our grandfather and his siblings. She also told us our great grandparents had been the caretakers at their local Chapel.

Returning to the second visit; Beryl suggested that we should have a look inside the Chapel but as the chapel was closed on weekdays we would have to attend the Sunday service. We didn't expect the small congregation that we found there but they did make us very welcome.

Each of them invited us to share their box pew and we had to employ all our diplomatic skills in order to choose but in the end where we sat was decided for us.

The service was in Welsh with just the odd English word, possibly for our benefit. I am able to count to ten in Welsh so we could at least pinpoint the correct hymn but as the tunes were unfamiliar to both of us we had to restrict our vocal efforts to humming.

After the service I explained my reason for being there and wondered if they had any photographs of my great grandmother. We were shown the pew that she would have used before we were taken to a side room where we were told that there were no pictures of her because at the time it would only be the Minister who would have been photographed.

Then we were shown diary entries from that time and there we discovered a record of the demise of great grandmother.

In a hushed and somewhat shocked voice usually reserved for imparting state secrets, we were told that she had died in the farmer's arms. I already knew the circumstances surrounding this story; great grandmother had suffered a broken hip and her daughter took her into her home to be nursed. I shall never know how Beryl and I managed to keep our faces straight but I expect you may already have guessed. The home where the daughter lived was the local public house – The Farmer's Arms and the daughter was the landlady (my great aunt) who had taken to the demon drink.

*(contd.)*

The relief was evident and I was assured that this would be added to the appropriate records. So great grandmother would now be shown to have led a blameless life true to her religion and not to have entered into a 'late in life' romantic passion for the farmer or the bottle.

She died at the ripe old age of 94 in 1933 – some fifty or more years before our second visit.

*Philippa Long (L10)*

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## THE HARLINGTON PARISH REGISTERS

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Parish Registers of a formal kind had their beginning in 1538. Thomas Cromwell, as Vicar General, in September of that year (perhaps to remedy the inconvenience caused by the suppression of the smaller monastic houses) issued instructions to the clergy in the name of King Henry VIII charging them to keep a book recording the day and year of every wedding, christening and burial in their several parishes.

This book was to be kept in a 'Sure Coffe' with two keys; one to be held by the Rector and the other by the Churchwardens.

The Register was to be brought out every Sunday and the entries made for the past week, under a penalty of 3s 4d. These old Registers are far more interesting than the modern ones, because many quaint and informing remarks are entered, as contrasted with the formal tabulated statements of modern times.

Keeping a Register seems to us, nowadays, such a harmless, not to say obviously useful and right thing that it is hard to imagine anyone objecting to it, but when Cromwell's intention of issuing his injunction became known there was great popular discontent. Riots took place as a rumour was spread that some tax on the offices of the Church was in contemplation. The injunctions, however, came into force in 1538, though comparatively few Churches have preserved Registers dating as far back as that. In Harlington Church they date from two years later.

*(contd.)*



In 1597 the Convocation of Canterbury made, with Royal sanction, a new ordinance respecting Registers—that each parish was to provide itself with a parchment book, in which the entries from the old paper book were to be fairly and legibly transcribed. At this time it was ordered that the ‘sure coffer’ should be provided with three keys; one for the Incumbent and one each for the Churchwardens, so we often find in ancient Churches an oak chest with three huge locks.

The order about recopying the entries on parchment enables us to understand why it is frequently found that all the entries before about 1600 are in the same handwriting, the accuracy of the copy being certified by the Incumbent and Churchwardens at the foot of each page. Some partially informed antiquaries were misled by this into a ludicrous notion respecting the longevity of the clergy of the sixteenth century. In a History of Leicestershire it is gravely stated that a certain Vicar held his office for 92 years, and had the same Church.

## HARLINGTON REGISTERS.

### Volume I.

Christenings and Burials, 1540-1681; Weddings, 1540-1665. Parchment, bound in half-calf and nonpareil boards, measures 12.75| ins. by 8.5 ins.

The first eight or ten leaves, down to 1570, have been practically ruined by moths or their larvae (a note on the fly-leaf describes them as worm-eaten). As to some of these more than half the leaf has been fretted in this way and of the inscription, only one or two words remain. This should appeal to those who see no necessity for printing our Parish Registers. At the end is the following note:

*‘28th March 1654, John Sherratt of Harlington sworne and approved before me, John Biscoe Esq., one of the Justices assigned for the County of Middx., to be the Parish Register of Harlington aforsayd.’*

This volume contains an account of various benefactions by Lord Ossulstone, Lady Pointz and others.

### Volume II.

A small book of parchment bound in vellum with ornamentation in gold. It measures 8 ins. by 6.25 ins. and contains Burials and Baptisms 1678-1745, Marriages 1683-1744 (no marriage entries from 1665 to 1683).

*(contd.)*

There is a note as follows:

*'The contents of this Book were transcribed out of the former Register until Sept. 15th 1681 by me, Robert Cooper, Rector.'*

Volume III.

Parchment, bound in doe-skin, size 11.5 ins. by 8 ins.

It contains Baptisms and Burials 1745-1812, Marriages 1745-1753 and a list of Rectors and Curates. The earlier entries are engrossed in the style of double pica type as shown below.

Ap <sup>th</sup> 11:	William Son	of W <sup>m</sup> & Deborah Cotterel .
July 3 <sup>d</sup> :	John Son	of Philip & Mary Hatchman
Aug <sup>th</sup> 6:	John Son	of Thomas & Rebecca Scates .....
Nov <sup>th</sup> 28:	Geo. Son	of Geo. & Mary Salter .....
14 <sup>th</sup>	Sarah dau <sup>r</sup>	of James & Eliz <sup>th</sup> Cotterel .....
Dec <sup>r</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup> :	Sarah dau <sup>r</sup>	of John & Alice Lewen .....

Volume IV.

The usual Register consisting of printed parchment forms with Banns and Marriages combined. The registers were transcribed by me and the late Connie Zouch in the 1980s.

1709	
Apr 25	George Edwards of Hillingdon & Mary Probert
Oct 9	John Stanney & Joan Bright
Jan 15	John Cotterel Carpenter & Ann Brent

*Excerpt from the Marriage Register for 1709*

*(contd.)*

The exercise was not entirely altruistic on my part because on my maternal grandmother's (Sarah Cottrell) side of the family I have connections with Harlington going back for more than 300 years. Making the transcriptions therefore gave me the opportunity to inspect the registers in detail and make photographic copies of the entries that were of particular interest to me.

I had an additional interest in the registers as two of my direct ancestors and another member of the family, all named William Cotterell, had been the Parish Clerks over the period from 1754 to 1848.

This 'same name' situation is not unusual and explains reports of Parish Clerks and Churchwardens living for an extraordinary length of time. For example, in the neighbouring parish of Harmondsworth it might appear to the unwary that James Tillyer was a churchwarden for more than 100 years.

The then Rector was very co-operative and allowed us free access on the condition that we did not reveal our information to the Mormons. His reason was that he objected to them baptising people out of his church (as if they could!). The registers at the time were kept in the safe in the church vestry, the Rector taking the view that was where they belonged but they have since been deposited in the London Metropolitan Archives.

The previous Rector had been belligerently obstructive telling local and family historians that he was the Rector of Harlington and not the curator of an ancient monument.

As a result during his incumbency it had not been possible to consult the registers, although Herbert Wilson, an earlier Rector, had included a transcription of the marriage registers in his book '800 Years of Harlington Church' published in 1926.

We therefore took the opportunity to make a photographic copy of every page of the registers and mounting the negatives on slide mounts. Our idea was that anybody would be able to see what the registers actually looked like rather than a transcription. These slides were later deposited with the Society of Genealogists but they appear to have since been lost.

*(contd.)*

The registers for the most part are very easy to read particularly those mentioned above as being engrossed in the style of double pica type.

*Philip Sherwood*

*Note: The greater part of this article is copied almost verbatim from "800 Years of Harlington Church" by Herbert Wilson (the then Rector) in 1926*

## A COINCIDENCE IN ABERYSTWYTH

BY PARTICULAR DESIRE.  
*Theatre, Bridge Street, Aberystwyth.*

FOR THE BENEFIT OF  
**Miss EDDISON,**

As, in assuming her Night to the Ladies and Gentlemen of Aberystwyth and its Vicinity, as late to hope for kindle exertions in her profession will insure her the honor of their support, which has ever been her guide to such and most welcome study to deserve.

On Wednesday Evening, September 27th, 1826,  
 Will be performed Heretofore celebrated Tragedy of

**DOUGLAS;**  
 Or, the Noble Shepherd.

Norval Douglas	Miss EDDISON
Lord Randolph	Mr. HILL
Clarendon	Mr. BURROUGHS
Old Norval	Mr. CHATFIELD
Oliver	Mr. BURROUGHS
Lady Randolph	Miss MASTERMAN
Anna	Miss HILL

END OF THE PLAY.

A FAVOURITE SONG BY MISS HILL.  
 A COMIC SONG BY MR. BURROUGHS.  
 A FAVOURITE SONG BY MR. HILL.

After which to sing  
 NEW BALLET DANCE,  
 (Set up under the superintendance of Miss Eddison especially for the occasion.)  
 called The

**Cambrian Lovers;**  
 Or, All alive in Wales.

Talks (Comic Lover)	Mr. BURROUGHS
Old Thomas (Father to Tulliver)	Mr. CHATFIELD
Ag Stead (Tulliver's Lover)	Miss EDDISON
Tulliver	Miss HILL
Old Woman	Miss MASTERMAN

Villagers, &c. by the rest of the Company.

DANCER INCIDENTAL TO THE BALLET.  
 A HORNPIPE BY MASTER MASTERMAN.  
 A Comic Dance by Mr. Burroughs, Miss Hill, Miss Eddison,  
 and Mrs. Masterman.  
 A PAS SEUL BY MISS HILL.  
 A HORNPIPE BY MISS EDDISON.  
 A Favourite Waltz by Miss Hill and Miss Eddison.  
 A Grand Finale by the Company to a Favourite Welsh Air, called  
 "PUR AGOS I PUNLUMON"

The whole to conclude with the very popular beautiful Fete, (never acted here), called

**Winning a Husband;**  
 Or, Seven's the Main.

CHARACTERS REPRESENTED.

Mr. Radwick Magistrate, in love with every thing he meets, except Miss Jenny Trevel	Mr. HILL
Davy (his Man), an Philosopher, and yet so Fool	Mr. BURROUGHS
Louisa (Sister of Mr Radwick), and not quite so fond of Honour)	Miss HILL
Miss Jenny Trevel, a young Lady who contempts the morality of her own father	Miss EDDISON

CHARACTERS ATTEMPTED.

Margaret Mowbray, a beautiful young woman from the Highlands	Miss EDDISON
Miss Carolina Claverhouse, a voluptuous, and volatile Literary Spirit	Miss EDDISON
Lady Dorothea (Daddy's Lady of the Town)	Miss EDDISON
Mr. Richard Graham, a Poor Bishop's Widow, with more wit than grace	Miss EDDISON
Mrs. Mowbray, a handsome Homopope, a French Agent with a Pas Seul	Miss EDDISON
Richard Radwick, a Rustic Beauty, with a red cloak	Miss EDDISON
Edgar Trevel, a G. Trevel of the Military Service	Miss EDDISON

27 Books, 2s.—Pit, 2s.—GALLERY, 1s.—Grand Place to the Benefit of Half Past Nine, 2s.—  
 To begin at Half past Seven precisely.

NO ADMITTANCE BEHIND THE SCENES.

Printed by John Cox, Printer and Bookbinder, Aberystwyth.

As readers will know from my previous writings my 4xgreat grandfather was James DOUGLAS.

In 1827, after military service, he settled with his wife and family as a gentleman farmer in Rhydyfran, Llanfairhangel Ystrad, which lies some twenty miles from Aberystwyth.

DOUGLAS is hardly a Welsh surname and it is particularly unusual in West Wales so I was surprised to find it in the archives of the National Library of Wales (N.L.W.). It appeared not as a reference to a family or person but in association with a date, namely 27<sup>th</sup> August 1827.

As far as I know this is not a date of note in the annals of Welsh history, but for me the reference struck me as a coincidence.

The date referred to a forthcoming event in Aberystwyth that would take place at the theatre in Bridge Street.

*The poster*

*(contd.)*

The poster gave details of the production of a play entitled 'DOUGLAS, or The Noble Shepherd' as well as several other items including a ballet 'Cambrian Lovers', comic dances and another play 'Winning a Husband'. So it would seem to be a 'variety' type show with none of the items of any great length.

The appearance of the name, DOUGLAS, seemed such a coincidence that I decided to find out if there was a connection to my James DOUGLAS.

Within my family there was no knowledge or suggestion of any connection with the theatre or acting so I needed to carry out a little research more in hope than anticipation.

Following the reference in the N.L.W. catalogue I found an interesting result; an image of a tattered theatre poster advertising the event (*see left*).

The play was a five act tragedy, the author was not mentioned and the cast list did not contain a DOUGLAS; so no family connection with the production. The DOUGLAS of the title was one of the main characters one Norval DOUGLAS. Although in earlier years my James was recorded in some official documents as an 'artist', I found no trace of his works and no reference to him in various indexes or catalogues.



I had yet to discover the author of the play and unless there was a personal connection between the writer and James the whole thing was nothing more than a coincidence.

However my interest had been aroused so I ploughed on and eventually found the author to be the Reverend John Home a Scottish playwright.

*The Reverend John Home.  
(contd.)*

He was born in Edinburgh in 1722 and died there in 1808. So even though not a family connection at least he was, like James, a Scotsman!

He was ordained in 1742 and was appointed to the parish of Athelstaneford 4 years later. During those intervening years he joined a volunteer force against Bonnie Prince Charlie and he was taken prisoner at the battle of Falkirk, taken to Doune Castle in Perthshire from where he luckily managed to escape. Settling into his ministry he had time to devote to his playwriting.

Following an unsuccessful production of his first play he began writing the DOUGLAS play a tragedy suggested to him when he heard a lady sing the 'Ballad of Gil Morrice, this gave him the outline of a simple yet striking plot. Finished five years later it was rejected in London by David Garrick.

Disappointed friends and followers decided it should be performed so in 1756 they staged it in Edinburgh where it was an overwhelming success. The play then attracted intense opposition by the 'presbytery', they called for Home to appear before them the result of this meeting resulted in his resignation in 1757.

In the same year the play was successfully staged in Covent Garden to much acclaim. It became very popular and was performed nationwide for many years to come.

Although John and James were contemporaries I could find no connection between them. We have to accept that our research will sometimes reveal nothing relevant but I always feel that time hasn't been wasted.

Although this research found no family connections I learned a lot about the playwright himself, his works and the obstacles he faced in presenting his play.

*John Bridger*

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## POLICING HILLINGDON – THE BIRCH BROTHERS

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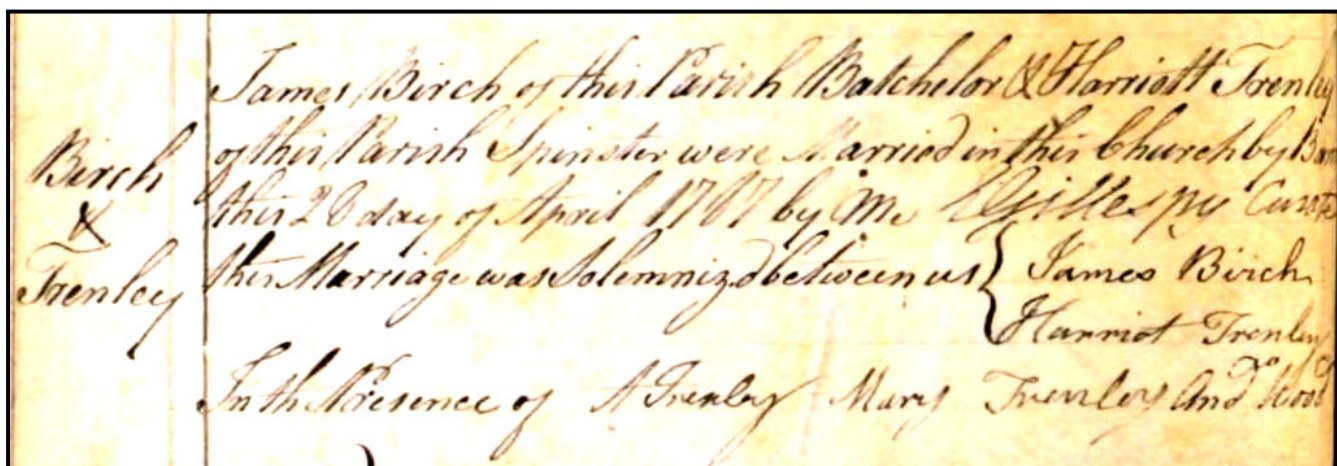
We include here a piece from non-member Sheila Clarke. Sheila is a member of West Middlesex Family History Society and she thought that her ancestral connection with Hillingdon would prove of interest to our members.

*N.B. It is a coincidence that our Chairman's Open Evening talk on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 dealt with the Berkeleys of Cranford. One of their number is the subject of the last part of this article.*

When Harriett TRENLEY and James BIRCH married in 1787 they founded a dynasty of musicians and composers including;

William Henry BIRCH (1826-1888);  
Edward Henry BIRCH (1850-1934);  
Montague BIRCH (1884-1947).

Montague was musical director of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and he steered it through the challenge of the WW2 years.



*The marriage record of Harriett and James which took place at St. Giles without Cripplegate in the City of London*

Harriet was born in Denham in 1759 and she was the younger sister of my 5 x great grandmother Sarah Trenley. After their marriage Harriett and James settled in Uxbridge where they ran a draper's shop.

*(contd.)*

Sons William Henry and John worked as tailors, but this was not their only means of employment: long before later generations distinguished themselves in the field of music, the Birch brothers were to leave their own mark in a very different line of work.

At various times in the first half of the nineteenth century William and John acted as either Headborough or Constable of Uxbridge. The role of Headborough had originally involved responsibility for ten families of freeholders, but by the time of the brothers' incumbency it had become that of constable's assistant, but with somewhat more limited powers.

The constable kept the peace, the Headborough provided the back up – and in the brothers' case this seems to have worked particularly well. There are several reports where the two performed their duties in unison with father James as a witness on occasion.

The accounts make fascinating reading for example;  
Seven years transportation for stealing a few hats or some knives and forks;  
Fifteen years to a lifetime's banishment for robbery with violence.

But among the many instances of theft and other misdemeanours, two cases which involved the BIRCH brothers stand out, each notorious in its time and each therefore helpfully recorded in some detail.

The first occurred in 1828. William 'Noble' Edden met his fate one October evening as he returned home from Aylesbury market. Noble, so named for his handsome and distinguished appearance, was a sixty five year old market gardener from Thame. He travelled by horse and cart and he stopped to enjoy a drink or two en route although he was described as far from inebriated by a friend who accompanied him part of the way. Later that evening near the village of Haddenham Noble was found lying in the road with his cart a little way off. He had been severely beaten and died a short while later but there was no sign of robbery. A few days later an inquest jury returned a verdict of murder by person or persons unknown.

Rumour was rife including that from the mouth of one of the main suspects a nineteen year old named Solomon Sewell who claimed the murderer was Benjamin Tyler, a thirty year old fellow labourer.

*(contd.)*



This was not the first time Tyler had been named: Noble Edden's widow had been ironing at home on the evening of the murder when she experienced a vision of her husband's death including the identity of his assailant - Benjamin Tyler.

The rumours rumbled on and almost a year later Tyler and Sewell were arrested. However the case against them was dismissed because the evidence was largely circumstantial and the doubt cast over Sewell's mental capacity after his mother testified that he had suffered fits from birth. The two were released, but Sewell was rearrested on a charge of poultry stealing and threatened with fourteen year transportation.

Presumably in an effort to reduce his sentence, Sewell gave evidence against Tyler. He said he saw him kill Edden with a stone hammer and that he, Sewell, had played no part in it himself and had fled the scene as the attack took place. His plan misfired and both men were charged with the murder, standing trial at Aylesbury in March 1830.

The Birch brothers' part in all this was that of the arrest officer and assistant when Benjamin Tyler was taken into custody the previous August. Tyler lived in Uxbridge at the time and Constable John BIRCH tracked him down to the Red Lion Inn where, with his girlfriend, he was enjoying a drink. Tyler must have expected him, because he said "I know what you want me for" and he appears to have gone quietly.

Help arrived in the shape of William BIRCH, the headborough, who had received information from the constable of Thame. He searched the Red Lion and found a sack containing some of the clothes worn by Tyler on the day of the murder. Both Tyler and Sewell protested their innocence but their luck had run out.

In March 1830 they were found guilty and hanged outside Aylesbury gaol in front of a crowd of around four thousand. Their bodies were taken to St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, for dissection. There it was discovered that Solomon Sewell did indeed have a mental impairment which was likely to have been present all his life.

So why did Noble Edden meet such a violent end in an apparently motiveless attack?

*(contd.)*

Some thought they knew the answer; for a few months before his death, Edden had witnessed Tyler and Sewell as they stole some sheep. With the penalty for this crime possible death or at the very least a lengthy transportation, Edden decided not to report them. However, he was known to taunt them with his knowledge and to make sheep noises each time they met, a constant reminder that their fate depended on his silence.

The case was unusual in that most crimes of the time were either solved fairly rapidly or not at all. The startling vision experienced by Edden's widow increased the notoriety and gave rise to the legend of his ghost appearing near the scene of the murder as a portent of bad fortune for any unlucky traveller who might encounter it.

The final resting place of William 'Noble' Edden is at St. Mary's Church, Thame, Oxfordshire which is pictured below.



The second notable case to involve a BIRCH law officer came almost a decade later in June 1839 when one of the brothers (unfortunately the Christian name is not recorded) left Uxbridge for London armed with an arrest warrant and under instruction to return with the charged man.

*(contd.)*

Constable BIRCH found him in the fashionable area of St. James about to mount his horse outside Cox's Hotel, Jermyn Street. What happened next, according to the person about to be arrested, I found in his book;

*'My foot was in the stirrup, when a countrified - looking man, who appeared as if ashamed of what he was doing, very respectfully pulled off his hat and said he wished to speak with me.'*

Once inside the hotel, Constable BIRCH is described as looking 'like a ghost' as he showed him the arrest document. This was probably accurate because the arrestee possessed a fearsome reputation and the constable had every reason to be dreading the encounter.



*Grantley Berkeley*

The Honourable George Charles Grantley Berkeley (known as Grantley Berkeley) MP, writer and sportsman, was evidently a violent man who operated on the shortest of fuses, not hesitating to launch his considerable strength and influence at anyone he perceived to have crossed him.

As a child he horsewhipped other children. He then graduated to assaults on gamekeepers he deemed impolite and a farmer who attempted to keep a stag out of his barn during a hunt.

The most infamous example of Berkeley's behaviour had occurred in 1836 after the publication of his first novel 'Berkeley Castle'. Incensed by a scathing review in the popular Fraser's Magazine, he confronted the editor James Fraser in his Regent Street office and demanded to know the name of the reviewer.

*(contd.)*

When Fraser refused, Berkeley attacked him with a heavy horsewhip while his brother Craven and another man kept watch at the door. Had it not been for the intervention of a passer by, it seems likely Fraser would have been killed. As it was, he suffered terrible injuries including brain damage and died five years later having never fully recovered. The Irish writer William Maginn was the author of the offending review and when he heard of the assault he challenged Berkeley to a duel. This took place in a field along the New Barnet Road and ended after three rounds had been fired without anyone being hurt.

Maginn had been so furious at his editor's treatment he had risked his life in what seems to have been the last literary duel fought in England.

He later expressed surprise that he had survived against a man known to be an excellent shot.

Constable BIRCH would no doubt have been aware of this because the case brought against Berkeley by Fraser and its cross petition for slander by Berkeley against the editor had been widely reported just three years earlier.

The constable now found himself at the centre of another incident which involved Berkeley in a dispute that had escalated to the threat of an imminent duel.

The issue revolved around a cockfight held at a Mr. Powell's barn in Hillingdon earlier in the month of June 1839. Cockfighting had been banned in England and Wales in 1835 but naturally this failed to deter those who continued to enjoy the 'sport' despite the growing view that it was inhumane.

Powell's barn stood on land owned by a local magistrate Count de Salis. The Count had passed the names of those present at the fight to the Secretary of the Cruelty to Animals Prevention Society. They in turn sent someone to watch the fight before taking out a warrant for the arrest of those named.

Grantley Berkeley admitted he was present and was duly fined; but that is where his own version of events and the contemporary press reports part company. He claimed his arrest by Constable BIRCH was for non payment of his fine, but newspapers carried a different story. *(contd.)*

Word had got out of an imminent duel between Berkeley and the Count so BIRCH was despatched to London in order to prevent the hostile encounter. Rumour spread that the Count had known about the fight all along, but when noise from the illegal event had threatened to give the game away he attempted to cover himself by providing animal cruelty officials with the names. Berkeley did not consider this to be the behaviour of a gentleman and threw down the challenge.

News travelled fast and the Constable was instructed to arrest the Count and accompany him to his house for his own safety. Having dealt with one of the protagonists, BIRCH set off in search of Berkeley at his house in Cranford, Hillingdon. Berkeley had already left for London so he followed and caught up with him that evening.

According to Berkeley, BIRCH need not have feared. He laughed off the thought of returning to Uxbridge for punishment on the treadmill and went on to say that the Constable looked 'excessively relieved' when instructed to get himself something to eat while he (Berkeley) went for a ride in the park, with the promise of issuing 'further directions' on his return.

It seems much hilarity was had that evening at the expense of Constable BIRCH. Neatly turning the tables to make it appear he was in control, Berkeley says his riding companions soon spread the news that he had tamed the Constable, escaped prison and locked him in his hotel.

Some were anxious to view the spectacle for themselves and indeed Berkeley said he had so many requests that he 'thought of killing him and having him stuffed so that he could be perpetually seen at leisure'. Meanwhile, BIRCH enjoyed a good dinner at Berkeley's expense, oblivious to how close he had come to becoming a permanent exhibit.

Newspaper reports claim Berkeley was subsequently bailed at Uxbridge: his own version of events is that his solicitor had forgotten to pay the fine. I am inclined to believe the papers; a man who referred to himself as 'a handsome and powerful six foot two nobleman of chivalrous ways' is hardly likely to be relaxed about his image slipping.

The contrasting cases of 'Noble' Edden and Grantley Berkeley were all in a day's work for a Constable and a Headborough.

*(contd.)*

William and John BIRCH may not have achieved the levels of success enjoyed by later generations in the world of music, but I like to think that because of the brothers' efforts the good people of Hillingdon were able to sleep a little easier in their beds at night.

In the picture below, which is obviously staged, a villain has been caught by a constable. It gives an indication of the apparel worn by both parties and it is probable that one or both BIRCH brothers would have been dressed in a similar style to the constable.



*(contd.)*

*Sources:*

*The source for my story about the M.P. Grantley Berkeley was his first book 'My Life and Recollections' published by London, Hurst and Blackett, 1865-66.*

*Sheila Clarke*

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## A FOLLOW UP

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We have received some comments from our member, Philip Sherwood, concerning two of the articles in our December 2015 edition. The items submitted by Robin Hoare were entitled 'LIFE IN A SUITCASE' and 'FACES FROM THE PAST'.

We have passed these comments on to Robin but we thought that others might be able to add to the debate so here are Philip's comments;

'LIFE IN A SUITCASE' the pub his aunt would have known as a child was the Bricklayer's Arms. The original pub was demolished when the Bath Road was widened in the early 1930s and replaced with a modern building of the same name. This changed its name to the Air Hostess in the late 1940s as it stood opposite the then main entrance to the airport. It was demolished in the 1970s and its site is now occupied by a drive-in McDonalds.

Although this area was often regarded as being in Harlington it was, and still is, in fact at the eastern extremity of Harmondsworth parish and if his aunt had been baptised it would have been in Harmondsworth Church.

'FACES FROM THE PAST' Most of the children living in this area went to Sipson and Heathrow School which was also on the Bath Road and only half-mile away to the west. I think that the photo on page 34 was taken at this school although I am a little puzzled by the fact that all the pupils are girls.

*(contd.)*

On the other hand the ages of the girls are varied so it is possible that the girls from several different classes were assembled together for the purpose of the photograph. If it is of any interest I have photographs of both the old and new pubs and also of the school.

The old school was demolished in the 1960s and replaced with a new school in Harmondsworth Lane, Sipson. Paradoxically although it is undoubtedly in Sipson it is now known as Heathrow School which doesn't make any sense to me.

*N.B. We await any comments that Robin may have on Philip's observations but if any of our readers can add to the debate please let us know in the usual way.*

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### MEMORIES OF NATIONAL SERVICE 1953 TO 1955

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My first attempt to write recollections of my two years National Service took on the proportions of a full-blown document more suitable for my 'memoirs' than a simple summary of the events of that time. So here I have attempted to concentrate on the more important experiences.

My registration took place in November 1952 and I was enrolled in the R.A.F. Unfortunately I was rejected for air crew training as I failed the eyesight requirements. So it was off to R.A.F. Hednesford, Staffordshire for 'square bashing' after which I was designated a 'fighter plotter', this being the nearest 'trade' to satisfying an interest in flying.

I was sent to Middle Wallop, Hampshire to be trained as a 'fighter plotter' after which I was posted to the Far East.

The flight from Lyneham, Wiltshire should have taken five days but because of faulty landing gear we had to stop at Muripur, Pakistan. There were also had stops at Idris, Tunisia and Nagonbo, Ceylon.

The flight finally arrived at Changi, Singapore where I took up my post. The fight against the communists was still in progress so officially I was now on 'Active Service'. Acclimatisation to the tropical conditions took time and they were a continuing problem.

*(contd.)*



Orders eventually arrived that meant I had to pack for a different posting this time in Hong Kong. I travelled there by ship, the 'New Australia', which was also involved in taking emigrants to Australia.



*The New Australia*

After a journey of five days the ship reached Kowloon Harbour from where I was transported across to Hong Kong Island whilst a typhoon was in the process of running its course.

My billet was on the main road at North Point; at least it didn't feel like a military camp! My days on duty were spent deep underground in the Sector Operations Room.

Later as a temporary measure I joined the transport section to become a 'chauffeur' taking R.A.F. officers to and from the Officers' Mess which was located in Victoria Peak.

On my return to the operations room I was assigned to the enhanced duty of fighter controller. It was a worrying time because of the Korean War and the hostile relationship between America and China. Despite these worries I have many pleasant memories of the hospitality given to us by ex-pats and church members.

*(contd.)*

In November 1954 I received orders to pack my kit – I was to fly home for Christmas in the U.K. I didn't receive another posting and remained in the U.K. until January 1955. I was then demobilised and had to experience the change to civilian life!

In common with many others who served as a National Serviceman I have a large number of photographs which help to bring back memories of my time 'in the services' and add atmosphere to my story telling.

*Fighter Plotters at Middle Wallop*

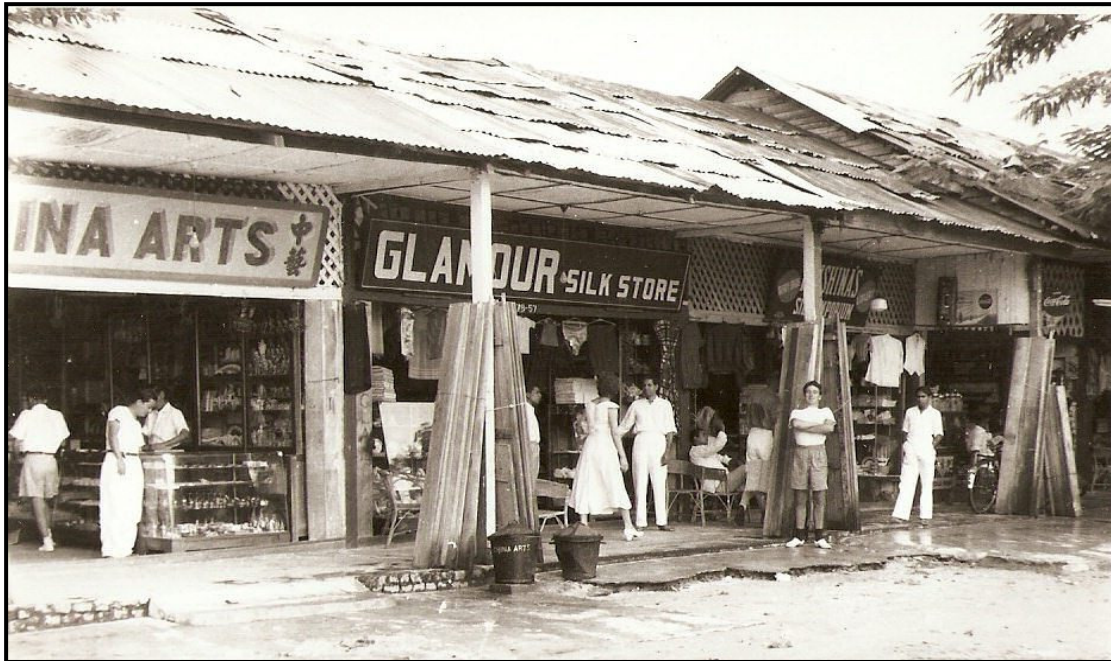


*R.A.F. Hastings transport plane.*



*(contd.)*

*Changi village*



*An Arabian with camel at the ocean.*

*(contd.)*



*Transit accommodation Negombo*



*Leisure time – Changi beach (John Bridger second from the left).*

*(contd.)*

Despite the worries of the conflicts, Hong Kong was an experience I would not have wanted to miss.

Hopefully this article will inspire you to take up your pen and start writing your own memories including, of course, the photographs if possible.

*John Bridger*

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## **A TALK – WILLS AND PROBATE; A GUIDE TO SOURCES**

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At the joint meeting with Hillingdon U3A Family History Group on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 I provided a summary of some of the sources now available to track down wills and probate for family history research.

Wills can be one of the most useful documents you might find. They can provide a fascinating insight into family relationships and may reveal other family members who were not previously known. Equally many will provide a minimum of information but all are worth looking for, so this is a guide to help to establish if a deceased person left a will. This summary only applies to English and Welsh wills; those proved elsewhere including Scotland are treated differently.

Wills and probate fall into two main categories:

- Ecclesiastical wills (before 1858) have no central recording and are proved in a variety of courts.
- National wills (after 1858) are easier to find.

Generally speaking if the value of a deceased person's estate was more than a specified sum then a grant of probate was required under the direction of a court to enable the executor or executors named in the will to carry out the wishes of the deceased in accordance with the terms of the will.

*(contd.)*

If however the deceased had not made a valid will, then the estate was divided up in accordance with the laws of intestacy with the closest relatives first in line. To arrange this an administrator is appointed. Such administrations, or admons as they were known, usually offer little in the way of family history assistance.

The recording of ecclesiastical wills is very complicated but essentially they were dealt with by a hierarchy of courts. The primary court was the Prerogative Court of Canterbury followed by the Prerogative Court of York (for those with assets in Northern England), then Archdeaconry Courts, Consistory Courts and Peculiar Courts. For more detail it is recommended that you consult any of a number of books written on the subject.

Wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) were often those with larger and more extensive estates. Equally I have found many landowners with more modest estates who lived in Middlesex had their will proved in this court. They are the easiest to access as The National Archives (TNA) have recorded and digitised them. Search their Discovery catalogue with the name of the deceased and this may lead you to a result. If available you may download for a fee (currently £3.30). They are also available through Ancestry but the name transcriptions are less reliable here.

Either way what you will receive is a script copy of the will, not the original. It will however tell you all you need to know once you understand the script which takes a little practice.

Those with larger estates in Northern England would often have their wills proved in the second court of the land, the Prerogative Court of York (PCY). Records of these are kept at the Borthwick Institute for Archives in York and an index is available on FindMyPast.

All other wills were proved at Archdeaconry, Consistory or other ecclesiastical courts. There is no easy, definitive way to find these but a good starting point is in one of the local County Record Offices. Many are referenced in online catalogues so it is worth looking at these. TNA's Discovery Catalogue also shows some records held by other archives, including wills.

*(contd.)*

Ecclesiastical Welsh wills are searchable and available online from the National Library of Wales at [cat.llgc.org.uk](http://cat.llgc.org.uk) (don't forget to change from Welsh to English; top right you will see the word Laith Cwmraeg and a small blue arrow – click on the arrow and select English).

For many years estates over a given value have been subject to tax. Historically these were known as Death Duties and the records of the tax paid in the period 1796 to 1903 have been preserved at TNA. There are two benefits of these records to family historians. Firstly they say who the actual beneficiaries of a will are, for example a beneficiary named in a will may have died or otherwise become ineligible. Secondly the death duty indexes to 1857 provide a valuable guide both to whether a will and probate (or administration) exists and which court the probate was proved in.

Indexes to Death Duties (TNA Series IR27) are searchable by name on FindMyPast. Detailed records (TNA Series IR26) are available at TNA.

The early years are on microfilm and some have now been digitised; these may be downloaded for the modest fee of £3.30. For later years you need to view the original documents but this is only an option if you are able to visit Kew.

After 1858 a national system of recording wills and administrations was introduced which makes searching far easier. A series of indexes in book form called calendars was available but these have now been replaced by online searches – although you will still see copies of the original books for earlier searches. Much information may be obtained merely by looking at these calendars without the need to purchase a will, especially in the early years of civil probate. If you wish to purchase a copy of a will and a grant of probate the current cost is £10. If there is no will, a grant of administration will cost the same but will not provide much if any additional information.

The address is: **<https://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate>**

There you will find three search categories:

- Wills and Probate 1858 – 1996
- Wills and Probate 1996 to present
- Soldiers' wills

*(contd.)*

Most of us will be looking in the first category where you enter a surname and year. From this you will be able to select the person you require from the reproduction of the calendar listing.

Remember however that probate will not necessarily have been granted in the year of death so it will be worth checking a year or two after the death year. These same indexes are also available on Ancestry up to 1966 and these are searchable by year of death as well so this might be a better search option.

If you order a will and grant of probate, it usually takes a week or so before the document is available for downloading.

In summary here is a short guide to finding wills over the years:

Before 1795: Enter name with 'will' in the TNA Discovery Catalogue. This should bring up PCC wills as well as some kept in other archives.

1796 to 1857: Search Death Duty Register Indexes on FindMyPast.

1858 to 1966: Search National Probate Index on Ancestry.

1967 to 1995: Search name index on Court Service website (but watch out for variance between death and probate year).

1996 onwards: Fully digitised: Name search on Court Service website (but no address shown at present).

Once again the joint meeting with U3A was very successful.

*John Symons*



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## A TALK – CRANFORD AND THE BERKELEYS: A COMPLICATED FAMILY TREE

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Ian Harvey gave this informative talk at the October meeting.

Cranford Park is at the Southern end of the Hillingdon trail near to Heathrow. For 300 years it was owned by the Berkeley family from Gloucestershire and used variously as a staging post for Gloucestershire; a base for stag and fox hunting; and as a dower house. Cranford House was demolished in 1945 but the stables, church and other structures can be seen in the park. There is an active Friends of Cranford Park group that seeks the preservation of these buildings

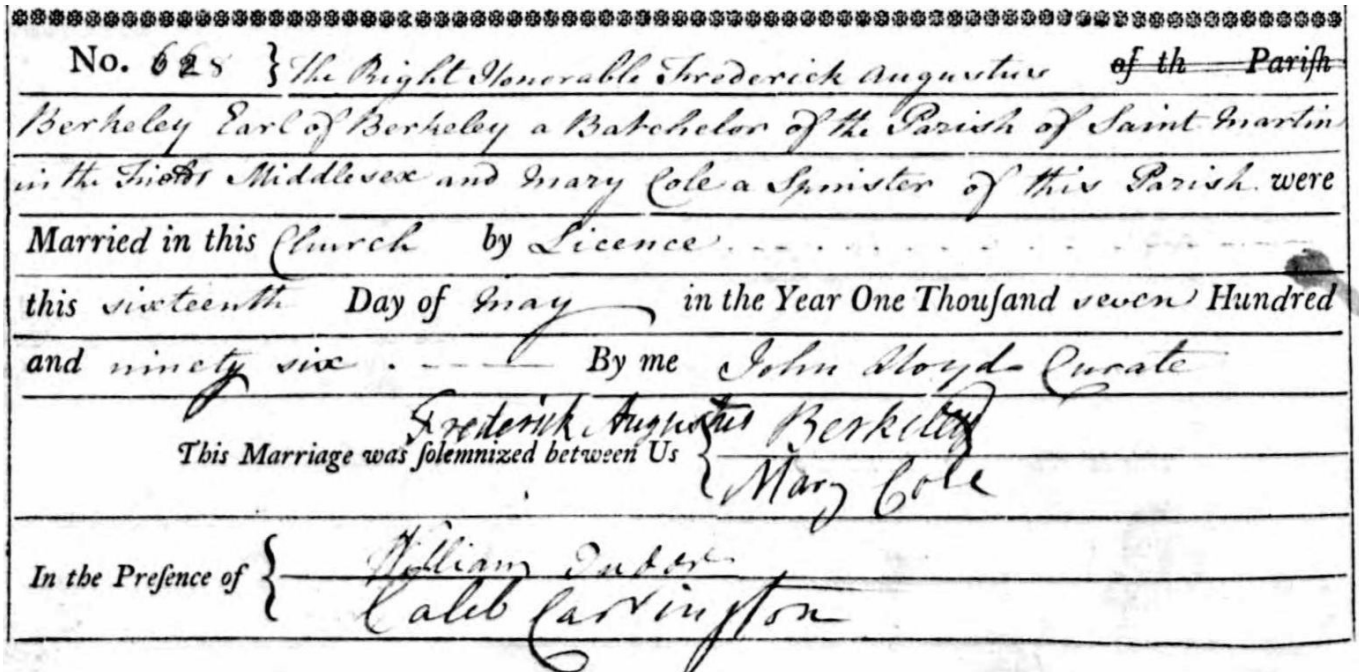


*The 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Berkeley and Mary Cole.*

The story Ian related concerned the 5th Earl of Berkeley, Frederick Augustus (1745–1810) and a local Gloucestershire butcher's daughter, Mary Cole. They entered into some sort of 'irregular' marriage in Berkeley Castle in 1785. They lived in the castle where seven children were born.

*(contd.)*

The Earl then decided to 'regularise' his marriage to Mary in 1796 in Lambeth, Surrey. Following the marriage a further six children were born.



The 'regularised' marriage record. 16<sup>th</sup> May 1796 at St. Mary, Lambeth

In an attempt to establish the legitimacy of his eldest son (from the earlier 'marriage') and therefore entitled to take the title on his death, the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl submitted his pedigree to a House of Lords committee of privileges in 1799 together with evidence of the earlier marriage to Miss Cole at Berkeley on 30 Mar. 1785

Was the first marriage legitimate? If so why was the second marriage necessary?

When the Earl died the question of the inheritance resulted in the Berkeley peerage case which became the talk of the town. It was centred very much on Cranford where Mary, dowager Countess of Berkeley, resided.

Cranford became a hive of activity with many 'goings on'; escape tunnels were built from Cranford House out into the park; horses were kept saddled to facilitate a rapid escape and name plates were removed from the coffins in the family vault.

(contd.)

In the event, the House of Lords decided that the first marriage was not proven (indeed there was a suggestion that the Earl himself had falsified the entry in the Berkeley Castle records) and so the children from the first marriage were all deemed illegitimate and the title passed to the eldest son of the second marriage.

An interesting development occurred whilst all this was going; the Duke of Clarence (who also had an illegitimate family of his own) proposed marriage to the dowager Countess!

She declined but the irony is that a butcher's daughter from Gloucester could have become Queen to the King of England when the Duke of Clarence came to the throne as William IV.

Another 'what if' in History!

*Ian Harvey*

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### **A TALK – THE 1939 NATIONAL REGISTER**

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The first meeting of the New Year was in association with the Hillingdon U3A Family History Group and was held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January. The guest speaker was Myko Clelland, who is the Partnership and Outreach Manager for FindmyPast (FMP).

The subject of his talk was the 1939 National Register which appeared on the FMP web site late last year. About 75 people attended our combined meeting; they were made up mainly from both our Groups but also included a number of visitors all of which reflected the interest in the subject.

The National Registration Act received the Royal Assent on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1939 and the Register was taken on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1939. The intention was that it would provide the means of recording the population for the purposes of issuing Identity Cards for rationing and also for possible conscription. 65,000 enumerators were used, all were men. After their issue identity cards were required to be carried until 1952.

*(contd.)*

Unlike a census virtually everyone was recorded not least because anybody not recorded would not receive a ration book and so would not eat!

It was also considered to be a 'live' document because for some years after the 29<sup>th</sup> September marriages and some deaths were recorded. This made it something of 'a wartime domesday book'.

It should also be remembered that the 1931 census was destroyed during the Second World War and the 1941 census was not taken because of the conflict. As such the 1939 Register fills the long gap between the 1921 census (which will not be available to us until 2022) and the 1951 census (closed until 2052). It covered some 49 million people and the information recorded included address, full names, date of birth (but not place) and occupation. It is possible to search any of these fields.

For reasons of privacy records of those born after 1916 are blocked unless it can be proved that a person has died. Many civil death records have been matched by FMP with the corresponding entries in the Register to allow them to be opened and work is continuing to allow further access.

There is also the facility for a family member in possession of a death certificate to open a closed record. (I personally have done this twice and the record has been opened in less than two weeks).

Myko provided a number of tips on how to get the best results from searches. An especially useful one is to search by date and month of birth. This is often unique and narrows down the possibilities even with common names particularly when used in conjunction with locations. It is also possible to search by address if for example you wish to discover who was living at a given address in 1939.

Occupations are also a useful source for searching. Myko used the example of 'coal' which produces more results than 'coal miner' as with the latter coal hewers and others also appear.

The column headed OVSPi is for officer, visitor, servant or inmate and is used for institutions. If a policeman or prison officer is on duty, they will be shown under the prison or police station and the same applies to nurses who will appear under the hospital.

*(contd.)*

It is worth remembering that evacuation arrangements from cities had already commenced by the date of the register with many children in particular moved from cities.

The whole country was divided into evacuation zones. Zone A was for those who should be evacuated. Zone B was a neutral zone so people stayed where they were. Zone C was a reception zone where evacuees were received.

At the time of his talk access to the 1939 Register was only available through the purchase of additional credits but from 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016 they are available as part of an annual or world subscription.

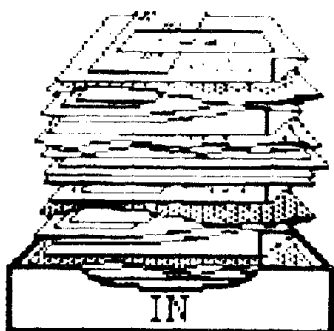
Myko finally had to field many questions from the audience and we thanked him for a most lively and informative afternoon.

*John Symons*

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### FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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Thank you to all those members who have paid their 2016 subscriptions on time and returned all the renewal forms with their cheques.

Also many thanks to all those who made donations; they all help the society to continue.

The total membership stands at 208 of which twelve are new members. However I must stress that we still need more new members so please try to encourage anyone with even the smallest interest in family history to join us.

Finally I would like to thank you all for the many Christmas cards and letters of appreciation received by myself and the committee.

*Patricia Reynolds*

## **WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS**

A42 Mrs. Heather Argyle	15 Mellow Lane East, Hayes End, Middlesex. UB4 8ER
C78 Mrs. Sheila Clarke Email: sheilac123@hotmail.co.uk	20 Gleneagles Close, Vicars Cross, Chester, Cheshire. CH3 5HW
G54 Mr. Adrian William Glennon Email: glennona@ymail.com	6 Burns Close, Hayes, Middlesex. UB4 0EJ
H89 Mr. Peter Hoare Email: peterhoare469@virginmedia.com	47 York Road. Northwood Hills, Middlesex. HA6 1JJ
H90 Mrs. Ann Hoare Email: peterhoare469@virginmedia.com	47 York Road. Northwood Hills, Middlesex. HA6 1JJ
P79 Mr. Derek Richard Power	21 Court Road, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex. UB10 8TF
P80 Mrs. Avril Patricia Power	21 Court Road, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex. UB10 8TF

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### **UXBRIDGE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

#### PROGRAMME for 2016

April 19th	Uxbridge Characters	Tony Mitchell
May 17th	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and Social Evening	

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### **RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

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Meetings are held on Mondays in St Martin's Church Hall, High Street,  
Ruislip at 8.15pm. For further information, please contact the Programme  
Secretary on 01895 673299. (contd.)

## PROGRAMME for 2016

18<sup>th</sup> April

Watford after the Dissolution:  
The Royal Manor of Watford

Pat Simpson  
Watford Historian

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### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OPEN DAY

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This will be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016 from 10am to 4pm at The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH.

There will be Research facilities including our names database, Parish Register, People and Places libraries. Parish Register transcripts and other research aids will be on sale. Also featured; expert advice, guest societies, local heritage groups, suppliers of CDs, maps, software, archival materials and much more. Admission and parking is free at the venue. Further information, including a full list of organisations attending, can be found at [www.bucksfhs.org.uk](http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk)

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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). *(contd.)*

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

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

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

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



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## RECENTLY PUBLISHED

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The publisher Austin Macauley Ltd. has a new paper back book out entitled 'What's In A Name?' price £7.99.

Written by Ian Murray Tough it examines the roots of etymology, with particular focus on surnames and their socio-geographical context.

Ian says 'A name is not only important in its own right, but it is the conduit of many subjects of history, science, inspirations and oblique associations'. Ian goes on to say that 'the book itself is aimed at those who have not as yet experienced exploring Family History, and in the event encourage them to do so'.

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## YOUR FAMILY NEEDS YOU!

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As I grow older the more I realise that future family generations might find events in my life interesting or useful in their own researches. These events would provide background and 'flesh out the bones of bare research'.

*(contd.)*

I invariably encourage those I help in the research room to note down any interesting items that come to light and if possible, to get an older family member to jot down their own memories. This source in particular can be very useful because even only half remembered stories, anecdotes and names can often lead to getting rid of a 'brick wall'.

So taking my own advice I asked an elderly, now late, aunt to write down everything she could remember and in particular relations names and their families. She was the last of her generation and had a host of information that would otherwise have been lost for ever. This proved an immense help for instance in resolving the enormous number of 'aunts and uncles' that I seemed to have in my younger days. Of course she was able to confirm that these were really only family friends!

Also revealed was that my maternal grandfather had a brother who emigrated to Australia in the 1920s. She remembered that her aunt had a grocer's shop in Swansea and that my great grandfather, a shoemaker, made wooden clogs for the Swansea workhouse.

As well as memories from a previous era she also recalled more recent events such as the WW2 blitz in London which resulted in her leaving Woolwich to move in with us in Swansea. Our house was a little crowded; there were five of us as a family plus my aunt with two young children and in addition we had billeted with us a Naval Officer.

(I have just realised my own memories have encroached so I need to take my own advice and as a member of an older generation make a record of my 'past'). With families today spread country wide it is not always possible to pass on family details and memories. This makes it all the more important that we should put pen to paper.

I also think that facts and memories which at present do not appear to be part of family history will become just that in future years.

So how far back should we record? I would suggest baby years, school-days, teens and twenties, marriage, families, career and in my case my call up for National Service. The list of headings can be stretched to take in every thing you can remember.

As well as written memories old photographs should not be forgotten!

*(contd.)*

I have a box of old pictures the pictures carry no names, dates or places. Some are sepia and are probably Victorian but without any details it is very difficult, even impossible, to identify them as family members. Even recent photographs suffer from the same problem and with the advent of digital cameras and mobile telephone cameras, the situation has not improved.

As you gather the information you will soon become the expert for your own family and by then you may have become addicted to family history as well! Good luck with your endeavours!

Why not let us know how you get on and write something for the journal as an inspiration to others.

*John Bridger*

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### **A BIG THANK YOU TO JUDE BAKER**

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Those who attend our monthly meetings will probably know Jude Baker. Jude is the Programme Secretary who arranges the speakers who invariably give us talks full of interest. After twenty years of providing a wonderful service Jude has decided to step down from this position.

We the committee would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Jude for all her work for the society. Over the years she has always come up with interesting speakers and made sure everything ran smoothly.

Jude is not leaving the society but she feels it is time for someone else to 'have a go'. We are sure that all those who attend the meetings will join with us when we say thank you Jude for all your efforts.

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### **A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

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The ever popular Ickenham Festival takes place this year from 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Full details on: <http://www.ickenhamfestival.org.uk/Calendar.htm>

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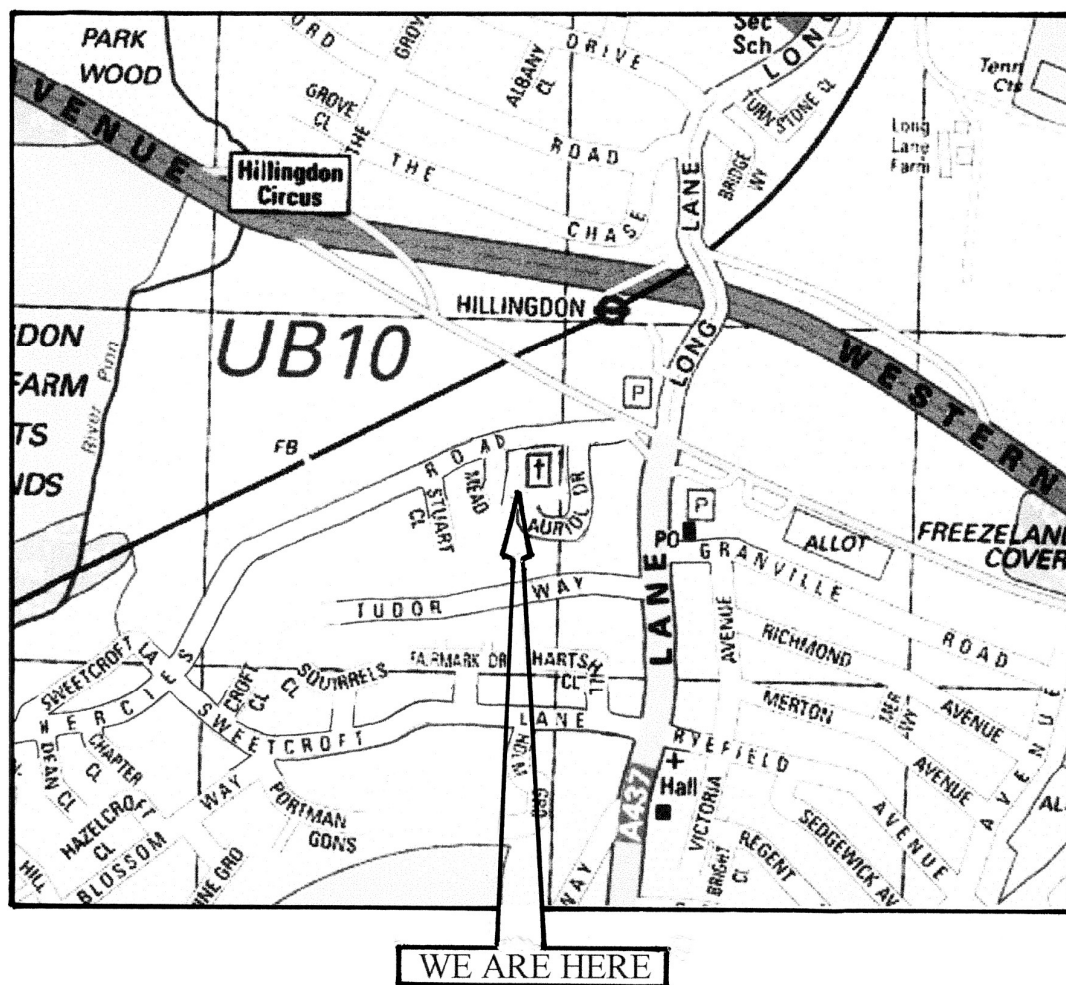
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(The geographical centre of Hillingdon)

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

There is also a public car park on the eastern side of Long Lane (access between the Co-op & the Chinese take away restaurant, or via the exit slip road off the A40 from London). The nearest L.T. station is Hillingdon and there is a U2 bus stop on Hercies Road outside the Church. Please note that the main entrance to the 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

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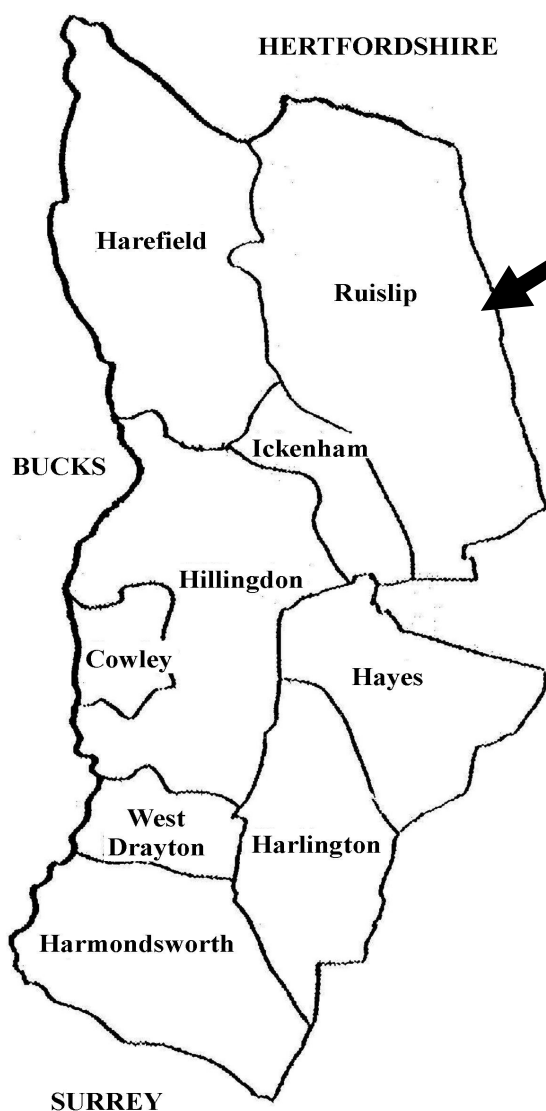
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## London Borough of Hillingdon

## GREATER LONDON



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

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

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

**IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO:  
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