



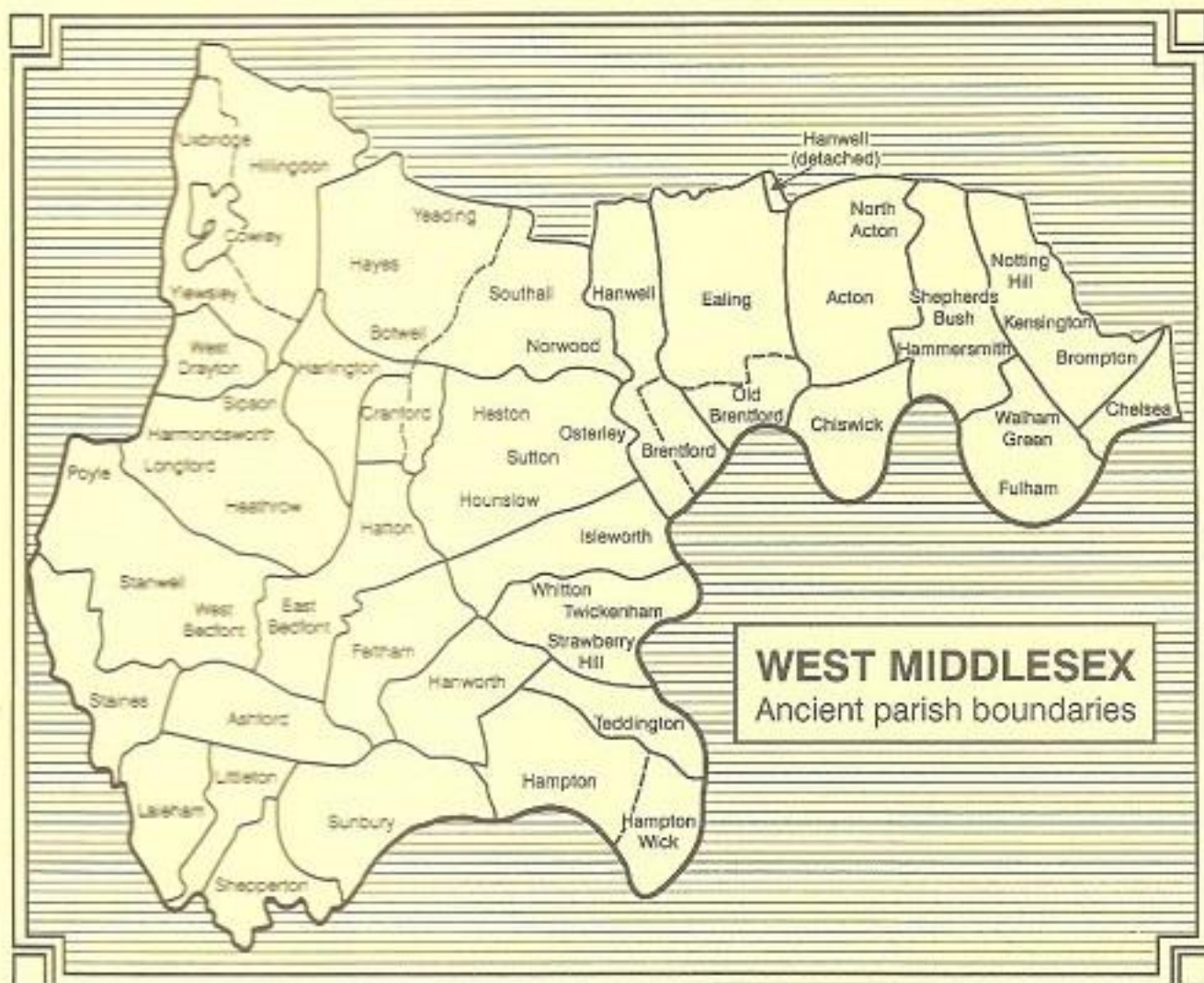
**WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY  
SOCIETY**

**JOURNAL**

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JUNE 2004



## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Society Web site	<a href="http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk/">http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk/</a>
Subscriptions	All Categories: £10.00 per annum
Subscription year	1 January to 31 December
Examiners	Chris Hern and Muriel Sprott

In all correspondence please mark your envelope WMFHS in the upper left-hand corner; if a reply is needed, a SAE/IRCs must be enclosed. Members are asked to note that receipts are only sent by request, if return postage is included.

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All articles and other items for the Journal should be sent to:

Mrs Yvonne Masson  
65 St Margaret's Grove, East Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 1JF

Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to:  
Mrs. Sheila Scott, 3 Wembley Road, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2QE

Queries concerning non-delivery or faulty copies of this Journal should be sent to:

Mrs Bridget Purr  
9 Plevna Road, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2BS

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

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The following talks have been arranged:

- 17th June    DIY manual Self-help in 19th and 20th Centuries: the Friendly Societies – *Audrey Fisk*
- 15th July    Members' Evening
- 19th Aug    Sex, Sin and Scandal in Newspapers  
*Roy Stockdill*
- 16 Sept     Tracing a Merchant Seaman  
*Chris Watts*

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow, and doors open at 7.15pm. Parking is available adjacent to the Hall. Research material such as indexes (e.g. IGI, 1881 census, Middlesex marriages to 1837) and reference books, exchange journals from other societies and a bookstall, can be browsed between 7.30pm and 10pm; talks take place between 8 and 9pm; tea/coffee, cold drinks, biscuits are also available.



**WMFHS OPEN DAY**

**Saturday, 11 September**  
10am to 4pm  
St Peter's Church Hall,  
Laleham Road, Staines

*Indexes • Book Stall • Library • Postcards of churches  
Family History • Local History  
Guest Societies*

*All welcome – Admission Free*  
Light Refreshments available all day

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

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### **Family Records Centre**

FRC has a large number of census surname indexes on microfiche, in booklet form, and an ever-growing number on CD covering complete counties which can be used with the FRC's family history database PCs. Recent acquisitions on CD are: 1851: Berkshire, Dorset, Radnor, Montgomery; 1861: Radnor; 1891: Dorset, Herefordshire. So it's worth asking about a county you are researching.

### **Federation of Family History Societies**

The Federation celebrates its 30th anniversary this year: its 30th anniversary conference "A Flight of Yesterdays" takes place at Loughborough University 26th~30th August. Details can be accessed from the Federation website [www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk) or [www.flightofyesterdays.org.uk](http://www.flightofyesterdays.org.uk) or FFHS, PO Box 2425, Coventry CV5 6YX. First class speakers include Carena Lewis from Time Team, plus family and local history experts, and many family history topics will be covered, plus workshops and beginners' courses, with a special family and local history fair on the 29th.

### **Lambeth Archives**

More than 6000 images from Lambeth Archives' collection of 30,000 photographs, drawings, prints and water colours have been digitised and are available online. This is an extension of the Landmark Digital Archive service already available in Lambeth's local libraries. High quality photographic prints can be purchased online for home delivery. [www.lambethlandmark.com](http://www.lambethlandmark.com)

### **London Metropolitan Archives**

LMA is offering a new online service: London Signatures. It is possible to search a free online index of 10,000 wills from the Archdeaconry Court of Middlesex. You can buy a digital copy of a will direct from the web for £4, through a secure online facility. The first phase of London Signatures will place around 6,500 Archdeaconry Court of Middlesex wills online covering the period 1609-1733. To these will be added wills from the Consistory Court of London, the Commissary Court of Surrey and the Archdeaconry Court of Surrey, marriage bonds and allegations, apprenticeship indentures and settlement certificates.

### **Diary Dates**

**Monday 14 & Saturday 19 June:** 1pm, *Fires of London*. Gallery Tour (45 mins) with Robert Whitwell, Museum of London, exploring how fires have shaped the development of London.

**Wednesday 23 June:** First of two guided walks (120 mins) tracing the evolution of the East India Company from modest trading venture to Imperial Corporation: to include the company's maritime sites, East India Dock, company chapel; finish at Museum of Docklands to look at relevant artefacts. Meet 6pm at Docklands Light Railway East India stop. £7. 50, £4 conc

**Saturday 26 June:** Second guided walk (180 mins) tracing evolution of the East India Company: the company's business sites, its pub, warehouses and headquarters; finish at Westminster tube, Whitehall. Meet 2pm outside main entrance, Fenchurch Street Station [Fenchurch Place). £10, £6 conc. *Joint ticket for two walks." £15, £9 conc.*

**Saturday 26 June:** 9th Yorkshire Family History Fair, the largest family history event in the UK. York Racecourse (Knavesmire Exhibition Centre), 10am-4.30pm. All usual stalls, free carparking, cafeteria. Admission £3. Further details from: Mr A. Sampson, 1 Oxbang Close, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 4ND, tel: 01642485615. WMFHS will have a stall at this event.

**Saturday 3 July:** Kent Family History Society Open Day, Pembroke Building, Medway Campus, University of Greenwich, Chatham, Kent. 10am-5pm. WMFHS will have a stall at this event.

**Saturday 24 July:** Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day, Aylesbury Grammar School, Walton Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. 10am-4pm. Bucks FHS library and databases, Centre for Bucks. Studies, Bucks FHS Computer Group demos, guest societies and commercial suppliers. Light refreshments. Free carparking and free admission. WMFHS will have a stall at this event.

**Sunday 5 September:** Kent's largest family history fair, Market Hall, (behind Odeon Cinema and David Lloyd Complex), Lockmeadow, Hart Street off Barker Road, Maidstone, 10am-5pm. Up to IOU stalls. Nearest railway station Maidstone West. Large free car park next to Hall, Cafeteria.

**Saturday 11 September:** WMFHS Open Day 10am-4pm at St Peter's Church Hall, Laleham Road Staines, see box page 2.

**Sunday 17 October:** Eastleigh Family History Fair, Fleming Park Leisure Centre, Passfield Avenue, Eastleigh, Southampton. 10am-5pm. Up to 120 stalls. Largest fair covering Hampshire and Dorset.

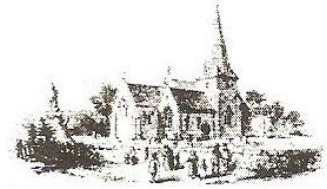
**Saturday 30 October:** *Where have all the b\*st\*\*ds gone?* West Meads Meeting Centre of Sussex Family History Group hosts one-day conference at West Meads Hall, The Precinct, Aldwick, Bognor Regis, 10am-5pm. Four lectures: *Unusual Sources* and *The Parish Chest* by Lady Teviot, and *London*



*Ancestors and Irish Ancestors* by Michael Gandy. Free car park adjacent to Hall. £10 ticket includes tea/coffee; ploughman's lunch, £5, can also be booked in advance. Booking form from Mrs Mary Churchill, 5 Old Farm Close, Aldwick, Bognor Regis PQ21 4AX, enclose SAE, or from SFGH website [www.sfhg.org.uk](http://www.sfhg.org.uk)

## Local Scene

Any members taking part in the following was and/or; talks might also consider buying relevant local history books from the Society Bookstall, or from our Postal Books Service - a full list will appear in our September issue.



## Walks:

**Guided heritage Walks** around Twickenham, Richmond and Kew on various themes are conducted by Richmond Voluntary Guides throughout the year. *Tickets £3.* Dates and times from the Tourist Information Centre, Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond, tel. 020 8940 9125/8940 6888.

**Guided walks** around Chiswick, Isleworth and Brentford and surrounding areas are conducted by 1-lounslow Heritage Guides Association, on Sundays at 2.30pm, £2 per walk. Further details from Brian Pett, 020 8230 8583 or Janet McNamara 020 8560 3718. The following walks have also been arranged:

**Friday 21 May: Heston Village.** Meet 11am in front of St Leonard's Church, Heston, finishes at Nan's Cafe opposite Church. Led by Andrea Cameron and Brian Pett

**Friday 28 May: Hidden Isleworth.** Meet 11am outside Isleworth Public Hall, South Street, Isleworth, finishes at Town Wharf riverside Public House, Isleworth. Led by Christine Diwell & Jane Short.

**Friday 18 June: Brentford Byways.** Meet 11am at Brentford Bridge, corner of High Street and Commerce Road, Brentford, finishes at St Paul's Church Open House Cafe. Led by Janet McNamara & Peter King.

## Talks:

These three talks take place at Isleworth Public Hall, South Street, Isleworth, 11am-12.30pm, £2 entrance includes refreshments:

**Friday 4 June:** Isleworth: a once-busy port supporting a pottery and flour and calico mills, and still with almshouses, a charity school and 18th century buildings. *Given by Christine Diwell*

**Friday 11 June: Brentford:** evolving from Roman settlement to market town, scene of a Civil War battle and 18th century election skirmishes. *Given by Janet McNamara*

**Friday 25 June:** Osterley and S3/on House: a look at two of Robert Adam's masterpieces and their gardens. *Given by Andrea Cameron*



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## WMFHS NOTICEBOARD

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### Open Day

As you will know from notices in the journal, WMFHS Open Day is on Saturday 11th September at the usual venue, St. Peter's Church Hall, Laleham Road Staines, from 10am until 4pm, so please make a note in your diary.

As well as many of our usual visiting family and local history societies, you will find some new Faces that we are delighted to welcome. These include the Brookwood Cemetery Society who have a wealth of information on those buried at Brookwood which may just include some of your elusive London ancestors. We have three Family History Societies joining us for the first time: Wiltshire, East Surrey, and Devon and Dorset who will be bringing their computerised Marriage Index.

We hope that members who live too far away to get to monthly meetings may be able to make a day trip on the 11th and avail themselves of our extensive research facilities and library and bring any queries to the 'help team'.

Peter Roe is again i/c kitchen and dining room, so if past experience is anything to go by, we should be well fed and watered throughout the day. If blessed with good weather, we can spread out on to the lawns that lead down to the Thames towpath. That can't be guaranteed but a warm welcome and plenty of family and local history information, for beginners and also more experienced researchers is assured, so do join us if you can.

The WMFHS Marriage Index (84,000 entries) went Online, as part of the Family History Online database, on 15 April. [www.familyhistoryonline.net](http://www.familyhistoryonline.net)

The following books have been left to the Society by the late Arthur Powell and have been placed in the Society's library: "Memories of Old Middlesex" by J. Travnor Perry, published 1909; "Chiswick" by Warwick Draper, first published 1923 (1973 edition); "Old Kew, Chiswick and Kensington" by Lloyd Sanders, published 1910; "Middlesex in British Roman and Saxon Times", by Sir Montague Sharpe, published 1919, "The Middlesex County History Council 1955-1984"; "The Victoria History of the County of Middlesex", Vol.V11, this edition published 1982.

### Members' Survey 2004

2004 being the 25th anniversary of the Founding of our Society, we decided to circulate with the December 2003 journal our first-ever Survey of



Members, to be returned by 31st January 2004. We have had a tremendous response and the Committee is now busy analysing the feedback and preparing action plans to improve the Society's effectiveness: we aim to achieve What our Constitution lists as our prime objective, i.e. ". . .to promote and encourage the public study of Family History, Local History, Genealogy and Heraldry". By the last day of February we had received 322 replies (only two by email), representing 71% of those who were renewing their membership for 2004 - 'far surpassing our expectations.

Our members' profile is revealed through the first eight Questions ("About You"). 40% are male; two-thirds are over 60 (only six respondents claimed to be under 40!); 31% live within ten miles of Hounslow, 66% throughout the rest of UK, 3% overseas; two-thirds are retired, just over a fifth are in full-time employment; 40% have been members of the Society for three years or less; members became members through a variety of channels, pretty evenly split between personal recommendation, advertisement, website, Family History Fairs and "other"; our members seem to belong to many Societies — while the Society of Genealogists and Local History Societies were mentioned by almost 20%, a total of over 700 other Family History Societies were listed by 242 respondents.

Over 160 respondents (including five from abroad) offered to help, or continue to help, in some way in the Society's affairs, independent of their location. The computer of course makes distance from West Middlesex less critical, and we have already written to current and potential helpers, including those able to assist locally. Our Society's improvements and ultimate success depend on its volunteers.

We are already responding to a widely-expressed need for more information about the history of our West Middlesex area - see our new journal feature 'Local Scene' and look out for a planned series of articles on local parishes. We are also in the process of creating a list of websites of use to family historians. We are now studying the main subject areas commented on by members - the Journal, Monthly Meetings, our Website, our presence at Family History Fairs, Membership Costs and expanding our Research Database. Watch this space...

And finally some quotes from members:

"I live too far away to do anything in the West Middlesex area, but perhaps could do computer inputting or anything else that would be useful"

"Devote a Section of the Journal to computing and the Internet"

"Please do not have a computer page in the mag"!

“Suggest members should reply when contacted regarding members’ interests even if there is no connection” [this has been added to Members’ Interests instructions - Ed)

“More publicity in local libraries”

“Need to interest younger age group - but how!”

Your opinions are very welcome on the Survey and its results: please write to Mike Cordery, 50 Garrick Close, Staines, Middlesex TW18 2PH.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society held at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow on Thursday 18th March 2004.

### **1. Welcome by the Chairman**

The Chairman opened the proceedings by welcoming all those members attending the meeting. He then introduced the members of the Committee individually.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Wendy Mott, Mavis Sibley, Beryl Coker and Pam Morgan.

### **3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 20th March 2003**

The Minutes had been included in the Society journal of June 2003. It was agreed that the Chairman should sign the Minutes as an accurate record of that meeting.

### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Chairman's Report**

In the Society’s 25th Anniversary year, amongst other notable events the Society held its first day-long Conference in September at the National Archives, which was attended by 94 people. Speakers were Michael Gandy, John and Beryl Hurley and Chris Watts. The event was a great success and audience feedback was positive enough to consider repeating the experience.

The Society produced its first compact disc containing data on West Middlesex War Memorials and Rolls of Honour.

Six Open Days and Fairs were attended, and thanks to all those who assisted. As the Society’s liaison with the FFHS I attended their bi-annual meetings, one of which was combined with a conference, an interesting and enjoyable way of finding out what is going on in the family history world.

I am grateful to Toni Davies for arranging the programme of monthly talks culminating in the 25th Anniversary Christmas Party, with its food and wine contributed by members and anecdotal contributions from Lewis Orton and Jim Devine.

As far as is known, membership fell in 2003 for the first time, by 8% on the previous year, with 683 members against 741 in 2002. Only half the 94 delegates at the Society's Conference were members: does this say something about the way the Society works and is organised? Is the Internet lulling people into believing that their family history research can be done in front of a screen without the need to join a local society? Is interest in family history, or in family history societies, on the wane? Perhaps the Members' Survey results will throw some light on this; an update will be given later by Mike Cordery whose brainchild it was. Nevertheless the Society stall at the Bracknell Fair in January 2004 was almost swamped by visitors resulting in the highest recorded cash taking for the Society; and the February 2004 monthly meeting had the highest attendance for some years, including some first-time visitors.

The Society's financial position remains satisfactory. However, we face increased charges for the hire of this Hall and for funding future projects, so there can be no complacency.

For the future we have a good list of speakers and topics for monthly meetings and Maggie Mold has undertaken the role of Programme Secretary. There will be two Members' Evenings this year, one after this AGM and another in July. The Society will attend a number of Family History Fairs and Open Days but sadly, notwithstanding the announcement in the journal, we will not have a stall at the SOG Fair on 1st May: May Day celebrations in central London have become increasingly violent and confrontational and I was not prepared to put the Society's assets or voluntary helpers at risk. However we look forward to our own Open Day on 11th September at St Peters Church Hall, Staines.

The Executive Committee has a number of tasks to undertake amongst which are: updating the Society's Constitution," completing an audit on services we offer to comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act; seeking an alternative, perhaps cheaper meeting place which is convenient for public or private transport. The number of man-hours the Committee and other voluntary helpers contribute to the running of the Society is enormous. WMFHS's 'service' is being increasingly recognised as efficient and friendly and I offer a big 'thank you' to all those involved.

It is sadly time to say 'farewell' to Ted Dunstall and Yvonne Masson who have both served six years on the Committee and must now stand down. Both

have been stalwart colleagues and contributors to Executive Committee meetings and have shouldered a considerable portfolio during their committee service, Ted handling publicity and Yvonne editing the journal. However, I have always considered Ted to be the Society's 'artist in residence' and members will have seen examples of his work on the postcards of West Middlesex churches produced by the Society. It is hoped he will be able to continue in this vein for some time to come, and I thank him very much for all his efforts. Yvonne has been appointed the Society's Archivist/Historian, responsible for collecting, storing and editing the photographic and written data concerning the Society accrued over the years, so doubtless we will see the results of this work from time to time. I think everyone will agree the Society has benefited considerably from her time as Editor, and a huge vote of thanks to her for that.

I am glad to say it is proposed to fill one of the two vacant places on the Committee with June Watkins, bringing a wealth of knowledge from her executive experience with the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry. The position of Journal Editor remains vacant whilst discussions continue with a prospective successor.

Finally, in my final year in the Chair, I hope we will all have a successful and enjoyable year in family history and that it will be fun! As Michael Candy said at our Conference, it is not so much the arrival at our destination that makes our hobby so fascinating but rather the journey itself. So let us set off in hope and expectation and enjoy ourselves along the way.

## **6. Project Coordinator's Report**

Project Coordinator Richard Chapman summarised the various important projects being undertaken by the Society:

At the 2003 AGM I spoke of the launch of WMFHS' first CD publication: *War Memorials and Rolls of Honour*, compiled by Bridget Purr. This has sold well at PH fairs and particularly via the Postal Book Service, to the extent that the project has now covered the CD production and a second batch of disks has been pressed. It also received a favourable review in *Family Tree Magazine*.

Transcription of marriage records from All Saints, Fulham from 1813 to 1837 was complete by Autumn 2003, thanks to the efforts of a small team co-ordinated by Ken Butler and Maggie Hurl. This completed the last of the major gaps in the coverage of the West Middlesex Marriage Index for the parishes covered by our society, updating abbreviated records for over 2200 entries, in a current total of over 86,000. Another addition during the year was a batch of over 5,200 17th century marriages from Holy Trinity Knightsbridge, based on the Harleian

Society transcript. Thanks are due to Peter Roe for his assistance with that project.

The Society has entered into an agreement with the Federation of Family History Societies with a view to making a version of the West Middlesex Marriage Index available via the Family History Online service. Brian Smith has volunteered to co-ordinate this initiative and later in the year we expect this resource to be added to the numerous indexes already available. It is likely this will be the first contribution for the county of Middlesex, aside from the 1881 census index. Vouchers for Family History Online will be available from the Society in the same way as those for the 1901 census.

Building, again, upon the sterling efforts of Peter Roe in typing up the entire Strays index into a searchable database (which, like the other computer indexes, is available for searches at most monthly meetings), a sorting exercise has begun to distinguish genuine strays from other material that has found its way into this index over the years. We are grateful to the several members who have volunteered to help but more people are needed! It is simple to do and does not require travelling, a microfiche reader or computer, although if you do have a PC it would certainly help a lot. If you have not already signed up, please contact me.

The next major project initiative will be a contribution to the National Burial Index for the parishes in our area. Although this Federation project has been running for some years now, back in 1995 WMFHS declined an invitation to take part. More recently, parishes in the Spelthorne area have been worked on by the local U3A group, so the new edition of the NBI due to be published later this year will contain a good contribution from West Middlesex; our aim will be to expand this coverage in time for the third edition. As well as submitting material for inclusion on the CD publication, we will be able to make it available in any other form we choose, including Family History Online. Our contribution to this project is still in the planning stage, but watch out for news later in the Spring, and do consider volunteering when the invitation comes.

We shall be hearing later of some initial results from the membership survey that was distributed with the December issue of the journal. Among the many objectives, one was to identify potential volunteers for project work and the barriers that prevent some of the membership from coming forward to help out. By this means we hope to engage more out-of-town members on suitable project tasks. As we look back over our 25th year, we continue to see, and are grateful for, a lot of hard work being done by many unsung contributors to project work, both locally and further afield: our website, for example, has in recent years been managed by David Childs across the Atlantic. There is, of course, much more to do ...

Following this Report, Valerie Walker asked about the accessibility of 1891

## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

	BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2003					BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2002				
	Cost or Value at 30/9/04	Accumulated Depreciation to 31/12/02	Depreciation year to 31/12/03	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31/12/03	Cost or Value at 30/9/04	Accumulated Depreciation to 31/12/01	Depreciation year to 31/12/02	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31/12/02
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>										
1881 Census Index	1087	952	34	986	101	1087	907	45	952	135
1891 Census	752	619	33	652	100	752	574	45	619	133
Fiche Reader Copier	1800	1373	107	1480	320	1800	1230	143	1373	427
Film and Fiche Viewers	1080	664	104	768	312	1080	525	139	664	416
Portable Fiche Viewer	50	38	3	41	9	50	34	4	38	12
Kodak Slide Projector	315	231	21	252	63	315	203	28	231	84
Projector Stand	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
1988 IGI Fiche	75	69	5	74	1	75	67	2	69	6
Times Divorce Index	11	10	0	10	1	11	10	0	10	1
Boxes and Display Shelves	31	28	2	30	1	31	27	1	28	3
Heavy Duty Printer	95	95	0	95	0	95	82	13	95	0
Harmondsworth Manor Rolls	348	0	0	0	348	348	0	0	0	348
Exhibition Display Boards	324	213	28	241	83	324	176	37	213	111
Fiche Readers bought 2001	705	308	99	407	298	705	176	132	308	397
Lectern – bought 2001	400	100	75	175	225	400	0	100	100	300
Lap Top Computer bought 2002	1482	371	278	649	833	1482	0	371	371	1111
	<u>8556</u>	<u>5071</u>	<u>789</u>	<u>5860</u>	<u>2696</u>	<u>8556</u>	<u>4011</u>	<u>1060</u>	<u>5071</u>	<u>3485</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>										
Stocks: Bookstall				1368					1533	
Fiche				186					130	
Postal Books				46					65	
War Memorial CDs				17						
Family History on Line Vouchers				45						
National Burial Index DCs				80					20	
PRO Vouchers				<u>171</u>	<u>1913</u>				<u>171</u>	<u>1919</u>
Prepaid Expenses										
Due from Inland Revenue for Gift Aid Repayments (2002)					554					554
Due from Inland Revenue for Gift Aid Repayments (2003)					670					
Cash at Bank and in Hand			2854					3177		
Deposit Account			4					36		
COIF Account			10548					9183		
Cash			100					100		
Floats			<u>156</u>	<u>13662</u>	<u>13662</u>			<u>164</u>	<u>12660</u>	<u>12660</u>
					<u>19495</u>					<u>18618</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>										
Subscriptions in Advance				2019					2358	
Creditors				0					0	
Deposits held				40	<u>2059</u>				40	<u>2398</u>
					<u>17436</u>					<u>16220</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>										
Balance Brought Forward					16220					17703
Surplus/Deficit (-) for 12 Months					<u>1216</u>					<u>-1483</u>
					<u>17436</u>					<u>16220</u>

Paul Kershaw,  
Hon. Treasurer

In accordance with the provisions of Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, we have examined the Receipts and Payments Account and Balance Sheet of the West Middlesex Family History Society relating to the year ended 31 December 2003. We confirm that the accounts and Balance Sheet accord with the accounting records of the Society and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act. We are not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the Accounts.

Chris Hem, Independent Examiner  
March 2004

Muriel Spratt, Independent Examiner  
March 2004



**WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**12 Months to 31 December 2003**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	<u>12 Months to 31/12/03</u>		<u>12 months to 31/12/02</u>	
<b>MEMBERS' SERVICES</b>				
<b>INCOME</b>				
Subscriptions – late 2002	126		18	
Subscriptions 2003	3609		3474	
C/fwd 2004 (prepaid in 2003)	<u>2358</u>	6093	<u>2969</u>	6461
Bank Interest		368		398
Tax refund on Gift Aid to 5 April 2002	0			556
Tax refund on Gift Aid to 5 April 2003	670	670		
Advertisements in Journal	<u>      </u>	<u>0</u>	<u>35</u>	7450
<b>Less EXPENDITURE</b>				
Open Day – Staines Sept 2002	0		1234	
Less Income	0		<u>-560</u>	674
First Annual Conference at TNA	966			
Less Income	<u>-940</u>	26		
Journal Production and Delivery		4313		4373
Hire of Meeting Hall		632		769
Speakers		430		374
Members' Interest Fiche		<u>0</u>	<u>303</u>	6493
		1730		957
Bookstall Sales including Postal Services (Books, Fiche, Maps, CDs, Vouchers)		3264		3853
Plus/minus Stock Variation		-6		47
Less Cost of Sales		<u>-2312</u>	946	-2880
Sale of Calendars (2003 late receipt of cash)		25		405
Less Cost of Purchase		<u>0</u>	25	<u>-764</u>
				-359
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>				
Donations		14		50
Courier Service	251		270	
	<u>-18</u>	233	<u>-47</u>	223
Refreshments		94		80
Raffles		393		337
WM Marriage Index Searches		114		116
Tape Hire at Meetings	31		23	
Less expenses	<u>-11</u>	20	<u>-63</u>	-40
1881 Census Index Searches	0		47	
Less expenses	0	0	-33	14
Other Research Income	<u>      </u>	<u>23</u>	<u>      </u>	9
		891		789
		3592		2407
<b>OVERHEAD EXPENSES</b>				
FFHS Subscriptions	222		216	
FFHS Insurance and Services	<u>263</u>	485	<u>274</u>	490
Bank Charges		9		43
Research Expenditure		53		61
Postage, Stationery and Telephone		259		602
Misc Equipment (not capitalised)		9		543
Mileage Allowance		189		360
Subsistence		15		136
Library Purchases		19		0
Honoraria and Gifts		48		0
Conference Fee		75		163
Misc Expenses including Publicity		426		432
Disposal of assets		0		0
Depreciation		<u>789</u>	<u>2376</u>	1060
Deficit (-) / Surplus (+) for Year		<u>1216</u>		<u>-1483</u>

index material assembled before the abandonment of that project. Richard Chapman reported that S&N had been unsuccessfully approached with regard to the material, which has been stored on computer and is available at monthly meetings and Open Days but not postally. It was also pointed out that the CD produced by the Society has been favourably reviewed in both *Family Tree* and *Family History Monthly* magazines.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

Paul Kershaw presented the Society Accounts for 2003. Following his Report there was a comment from the floor about the presentation of the comparative figures for subscriptions for 2002 and 2003, which was noted. The Treasurer urged all members who are able to do so to sign the Gift Aid forms which are part of the Membership Renewal form and also part of the New Members' Pack; he reminded members that any payment of tax, even that on savings and investments, qualifies.

## **8. Approval of Financial Statement for year ended 31st December 2003**

Jim Devine proposed that the Financial Statement be approved, which was seconded by Muriel Sprott. The proposal was carried unanimously.

## **9. Appointment of Examiners.**

Both previous examiners, Muriel Sprott and Chris Hern, were willing to continue in this capacity. Peter Roe proposed their appointment for the coming year, which was seconded by Diane Bradley. The proposal was carried unanimously.

## **10. Election of Committee**

The Chairman pointed out that after the last Annual General Meeting Tony Simpson had come forward to accept the position of Society Treasurer. He had been coopted onto the Committee and it was now necessary to confirm his election to the Committee. Ken Butler proposed his appointment, which was seconded by Muriel Sprott. The proposal was carried unanimously.

June Watkins had been nominated for membership of the Committee. This was proposed by Mavis Burton and seconded by Valerie Walker. The proposal was carried unanimously. Six members of the Committee had served three or more years and thus required to be re-elected for a further year: Richard Chapman, Margaret Harnden, Patrick Harnden, Paul Kershaw, Bridget Purr and Robin Purr. Eileen Small proposed that they be re-elected en bloc, which was seconded by Joan Scrivener. The proposal was carried unanimously.

## **11. Any Other Business**

The Chairman reported that it had recently been discovered that John Giddens had been a founder member of the Society but had not received a Certificate of Honorary Membership. He duly presented John Giddens with a Certificate.

The Chairman spoke about the creation of the post of Society Archivist/Historian, which had been accepted by Yvonne Masson.

Mike Cordery then spoke about the Members' Survey. The Society's 25th Anniversary had been seen as an opportunity to review what the Society is about and where it is going. The response to the Survey had been very good with over 71% of renewing members sending in completed forms. Work must now start on breaking down the large amount of material generated. The Society membership will receive feedback from this on a regular basis. The Chairman reported that a sub-group will be formed to investigate how the material from the Survey can be used to benefit the Society.

There were a number of general comments from the floor: Gordon Samuels suggested a shorter-duration subscription for members who may only want to attend a few Society meetings. Janet Hagger pointed out that visitors can already attend three meetings free of charge: it was suggested that there should perhaps be a notice displayed to this effect. It was also pointed out that Society publicity advises that non-members are welcome to attend meetings. Diane Bradley said that there will always be interest in the Society from members with interests in the area who do not live within ten miles of Montague Hall and cannot therefore attend meetings.

Peter Roe said that Society Open Days had tried to break even or make a small profit; however, the last Open Day made a considerable loss: could the Society withstand this? The Chairman pointed out that one of the items which had contributed to the loss had been the purchase of a new banner; hire of halls for these events was always very expensive; any profit on the bookstall goes to the bookstall; not to the Open Day. It was suggested that perhaps these events could be regarded as 'loss leaders'; to be written off as useful publicity; Muriel Sprott reported that a decision was made before the first Open Day that this would be for publicity purposes. In reply to an enquiry as to whether new members are recruited at Open Days it was confirmed that some new members were recruited last time.

Janet Hagger pointed out that a lot of members come to monthly meetings because of the easy access to Montague Hall and perhaps therefore any increase in hall hire costs should be regarded as acceptable. The Chairman said that the Music Museum in Brentford had indicated willingness to house Society monthly meetings in their new hall, but this was not yet completed. There were comments from the floor that parking would not be so easy there.

The Chairman asked for a show of hands of those who would wish to stay at Montague Hall, and the majority of those attending voted in favour of this.

Mavis Burton called for an expression of appreciation from those attending for the work of the Committee over the past year.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9pm.

## **CERTIFICATE COURIER SERVICE**

The charge for certificates obtained through the courier service is £8.50. Please supply the FULL reference as given in the index, i.e. name, year, quarter, district, volume and page. I do check the reference you have supplied and appreciate that sometimes the page numbers are difficult to read if using a fiche. Unwanted certificates or copies of certificates which are still wanted are always welcome for our certificate database. When applying please quote your membership number and make your cheque payable to me (*not* WMFHS); all payments must be in *sterling*. S.A.E.s appreciated.

I should point out that now that certificates can be ordered online, the price for doing so is cheaper (£7) than can be offered by the WMFHS Courier Service. However our Courier Service will continue for as long as there is a demand for it.

*Valerie J. Walker (Miss), 32 Cunnington Street, Chiswick, London W4 5EN*

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## **HELP!**

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*This service is free to members of WMFHS (please quote your membership number when writing). In order to ensure that your appeal is published correctly and is clear to other readers, please make entries clear and concise, give all personal and place names in BLOCK CAPITALS, and all dates in full.*

*Entries from non-members can be accepted, at a rate of £3.00 for up to ten lines. Payments must be in Sterling only, with cheques made payable to WMFHS.*

## **CAMPBELL**

I am looking for the Baptism of Ann(e) Esther/Ester CAMPBELL believed to have been born or baptised on 17 November 1813 at St Matthews, BETHNAL GREEN. I am also seeking her parents. If anyone is able to check the IGI or Parish Registers I would be most grateful.

*Miss F.M. Reed, 'Helenslee', Albert Lane, Oban, Argyll PA34 5JD*

## **LOCK**

I am looking for any information on the 'Arrow' beer house listed in 'The Property Owners 81 Tenants of Sunbuiy in 1848'. This lists my 4x great grandfather William LOCK as being the occupier. Can anyone confirm whether the 'Arrow' is the same premises as the current public house, known as the 'Harrow' in CHARLTON. Has anyone any suggestions on where I can find further information.

*Stephen Reed, 5 Bramble Way, Sand Marsh, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6 LL*

## **HART**

My great grandfather Charles Joshua HART was born in OLD BRENTFORD in 1855. His parents were Benjamin HART (b 1824 DARTFORD) and Elizabeth FORWARD (b about 1828).

I am trying to trace details of their marriage which I believe took place in BRENTFORD or one of its surrounding parishes between about 1850-1855. I believe that Benjamin HART (b about 1851 BRENTFORD) and Henry HART (b about 1859 BRENTFORD) are their children. I have searched the GRO marriage and birth indexes without success so any information concerning the marriage or births would be greatly appreciated.

*Terry Hart, Flat 3, 41 Fox Hill, Birmingham, B29 4AG  
email: terry@hartsoul.fsnet.co.uk*

## **RODGER**

I am looking for the family of John RODGER (b 1837 IRELAND) and his wife Jessie M. PEARCE (b 1843 DEVON). In 1872 they were living at 45 Upper Manor Street (now Chelsea Manor Street) with their children George Edward (b 1872 CHELSEA), Jessie Jane (b 1874 YEOVIL), Sarah Ella/ Ellen (b 1876 YEOVIL) and Roger RODGER (sic) (b 1878 CHELSEA). John had military connections but I have no details. Sarah Ella is my paternal grandmother.

*Mrs Mary H. Harris, 37 Medway, Crowborough, E Sussex TN6 2DN*

## **HUBBARD/ MERRETT/TWITCHEN**

Could anyone help identify the young man in this photograph. My late mother-in-law Ellen Elizabeth HUBBARD (nee MERRETT or TWITCHEN) was base-born and on five of her childrens' baptisms gave her maiden name as MERRETT and then on one daughter's baptism gave her maiden name as TWITCHEN.

I have done some research and believe that her mother perhaps had an affair

but never married the father Frederick MERRETT. The photograph was amongst Ellen's effects and the family believe he could be her brother. He apparently came to her house once in the 1930s and she made a great fuss of him but after that no more was seen of him. Could he be a Merrett or a Twitchen as I know both families had children.



If any kind reader could help me in any way I would be very grateful.

*Mrs Val Hubbard, 16 Hollyhock Close, Kempshott, Basingstoke, Hants RG22 5RF*

## **WHITE**

Trying to establish the family of my grandfather James (also known as Charles James) WHITE who married Ellen AYERS/AYRES at Christ Church, PENGE, SURREY, 25 December 1886 and had children Ellen Jane, b 22 March 1888, 6 Croydon Villas, Croydon Road, Penge, Emma Rose, b 29 November 1889 and Harriette Julia, b 32 July 1891, both at 61 Railton Road, BRIXTON, and my father Leonard James Vian, b 12 September 1903, 58 Harrington Road, SOUTH NORWOOD.

I believe James' parents were Charles Michael WHITE b TEDDINGTON February 1828, died 5 April 1890, 56 Santley Street, STOCKWELL, and Eliza Agnes GOATLEY, who married 1 May 1853 at Brixton Parish Church; their children were grandfather James, b 10 October 1863, 97 Carlton Road, ST PANCRAS, and Rosina Eliza, b 27 January 1858 ST PANCRAS.

As far as I know Charles Michael's parents were Charles White perhaps b HAMPTON, MIDDLESEX c1799 and Rosina, b DOVER c1803, and his siblings I believe were Ann b c1828, John c1831, Thomas c1833, Elizabeth c1835 and James c1840, all b Middlesex, perhaps Teddington, where they lived at 53 Factory Cottages, Waldegrave Road. Charles was a Wax Chandler and one of the main employers in the area. If anyone has information regarding any of the above I would be very grateful as I can find nothing of help after two/three years.

*Mrs Sandra Steadman (née Sandra Bernice Vian White), 29 Ash Road, Horfield, Bristol BS7 8RN*



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## DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS 2004

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It has been decided to issue a new edition of the West Middlesex Family History Society Directory of Members' Interests as a means of promoting the exchange of family history information between members and also to a wider audience.

Information for inclusion in the Directory should be submitted using the form provided in the centre of this issue of the journal. A microfiche containing the Directory will be issued free to members with the journal later this year. Members who do not own a microfiche reader are reminded that many public libraries and record offices have fiche readers and will allow users to read or print from their own fiche. The layout of the Directory will be the same as that used in previous editions: a simple surname-period-area scheme, as is used regularly in the journal for the surname interests of new members.

The Directory will include a full listing of the names and addresses (and e-mail addresses if included on the form) of those members who return the form, plus their surname interests. Members who have recently joined the Society should take note that the surname interests in the Directory will be based only on information returned on the Members' Interests Directory form provided in this issue; interests submitted when a member joins the Society are published in the journal on a once-only basis, and will not be automatically repeated in this Directory, so even if you have recently submitted your surname interests as a new member, and wish them to be included in this Directory, please complete and send in this form. Longer-term members may wish to take this opportunity to up-date their surname interests.

**To be certain of having your surname interests included in this Directory, you should return the form by 31st July 2004 at the latest.**

Before filling in the form, please read the following instructions carefully. If you are still unsure about some aspect of completing the form, state your query on the reverse of the form before sending it in, together with an e-mail address or telephone number, or contact the Editor, Yvonne Masson, by e-mail - the Editor's e-mail address is on the inside front cover of the journal.

### **General**

Please complete all parts of the form in **BLOCK CAPITALS**

Include your membership number where indicated; if you receive your journal by post, you will find your number on the address label.

The form contains space for a maximum of fifteen surnames per member. Any additional names entered will not be included in the Directory.

Please complete all four columns for each surname interest, i.e. surname, period, area, county. Each line should be complete and self-contained. **Please do not use ditto marks** (remember that when the overall list of surnames is 'alphabetised', lines which are adjacent on your form will not necessarily be together). Incomplete lines cannot be included in the Directory as they give insufficient information.

If you are interested in all occurrences of a surname in the second, third or fourth columns, you may enter 'ALL' or 'ANY' in that column.

### **Surname**

Please enter surnames only in the first column, not the full names of individuals.

Spelling variants: it is assumed that a member using the Directory will check for likely spelling variants him/herself. If necessary, however, a single spelling variant of a particular surname may be included in the surname column.

### **Period**

Indicate the period for which you are interested in the surname in the specified area. This should be in one of the following formats (please no 'plus' or 'minus' signs as these are too ambiguous):

1820-90; c1750; before 1800; after 1850; from 1836; 19C; 17-18C

Please do not abbreviate further, or use alternatives

### **Area**

Enter one town or parish only. If you are interested in a wider area, please indicate this by, for example, 'Kensington area'.

### **County**

Enter one English, Welsh, Scottish or Irish County using the Chapman county codes if possible; if the code is not known, write the County in full. Places overseas should be written in full.

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## FORSTER vs. FORSTER: 'A VERY MELANCHOLY CASE'(Part2)

Richard Chapman

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*This article continues the story of the marriage of John and Mary Forster of Egham. Part I described their history and Mary's elopement with Lt. Ebenezer Mussell, leading to John Forster's largely unsuccessful prosecution of the latter for criminal conversation. However this was only the beginning of the legal actions.*

### **Separation *a mensa et thoro***

Before 1857 there were two ways in which a marriage could break down that involved litigation. The first, a private act of parliament to achieve a full divorce, was an expensive option that required prior demonstration of adultery on the part of the wife, but allowed both parties to remarry. The second option was by means of a suit in the church courts for separation *a mensa et thoro* (loosely, 'from bed and board'). This did not dissolve the marriage but simply licensed the couple to live apart and required a bond from each not to remarry within the lifetime of the other. Such suits were most often brought by a husband in order to effect a separation from an adulterous wife without the requirement to pay alimony<sup>1</sup>.

Suits for separation from bed and board were normally initiated in the diocesan church courts and the London Consistory Court assumed a special importance in handling such cases. It was here that John Forster launched his suit against Mary in January 1788. A significant difference between the crim. con. proceedings and the suit for separation was that the first was conducted under common law, the second under canon law. In the latter case, all evidence was taken in writing and this emphasis on the written word is one reason why such a wealth of documentary material survives for the separation suit, compared with the crim. con. action.

One of John Forster's actions at the end of 1787 was to engage the services of a proctor, James Heseltine, to prepare a citation, the first step in the procedure of the Consistory Court. This was in effect a summons, containing the essential details: the names of plaintiff, defendant and judge, and the cause of the action ('Divorce, by Reason of Adultery'). It was first returned on 6th January 1788, but Mary was not aware of, or chose not to respond to, the citation and on 27th February she was decreed to be excommunicated for her non-appearance<sup>2</sup>.

On the 31st May Mary finally attended the court and was duly absolved. She appointed Thomas Wittenoom as her proctor and Heseltine was then able to proceed to the next step: the libel. The purpose of this first plea was to state

the grounds for the action and the facts to be relied upon and proved. It was finally brought to court on 8th November 1788<sup>3</sup>.

The document comprised fifteen articles, setting out John's case. Details were provided of the couple's marriage, life in Jamaica and England, and the birth of their three children. John claimed that until the elopement he always treated Mary 'with the greatest Love, Tenderness and Affection'. The visit to Lille in 1787 was described and a claim made that 'a very great and improper Intimacy' commenced between Ebenezer Mussell and Mary, 'and many very indecent Familiarities passed between them'. The libel went on to claim that the correspondence continued during the subsequent visit to Canterbury. The next articles dealt with events at Egham, particularly the assignation at the garden gate, the intended voyage to Jamaica and the elopement from Southampton. Events at the London hotels were noted, along with the substantive claims that Mary and Ebenezer had passed for husband and wife and had committed adultery together. The libel also noted that John had not lived with Mary since the elopement and made the essential plea that John might be divorced 'from Bed Board and mutual cohabitation' with Mary by reason of her adultery. The libel was admitted a month later and while conceding the facts regarding the marriage and children, Mary's proctor contested the suit.

The first half of 1789 was occupied with the examinations of witnesses. These were conducted at Doctors' Commons before examiners of the court, who put questions to them on articles of the libel. As so often, servants attendant on the key figures provided the most important evidence. The first of these was Sarah Walker, formerly Audley<sup>4</sup>. A servant with the family since 1783, she confirmed details of the visit to Lille and of Mary's meeting Mr Mussell there, but said that she did not observe any improper intimacy between them. Regarding the later events at Canterbury she described how she conveyed letters between Mr Mussell and her mistress, though unaware of their contents. After the reinstatement at Egham, Sarah described how she was told of the plan for Mussell to call at the garden gate at midnight. Later, when the voyage to Jamaica was imminent, she agreed to accompany her mistress there. Her role as go-between continued throughout, until the last message from Mussell upon their arrival in Southampton. Sarah claimed that she had begged Mary not to go with Mr Mussell, but on finding her determined, agreed to accompany her to London.

Sarah's evidence on the articles dealing with their attendance at the hotels in London was crucial in establishing the fact of Mary's adultery. In a lengthy description of the arrangements during these visits, she cited numerous instances of having seen Mary and Ebenezer in bed together. She also deposed that the couple had passed for husband and wife. Supporting

evidence was provided by Elizabeth Grant, chambermaid at the Westminster Hotel, and by domestic staff at the White Bear.

Early in May, Mary's proctor sought to establish payment of alimony for his client, while the case continued. An allegation was presented estimating John's wealth<sup>3</sup>. The Jamaican estates were valued at £25,000-£50,000, the Egham estates at £6,000-£10,000 and his other investments and goods at £10,000- £30,000. John gave his answers in a personal appearance at court on 13th June<sup>5</sup>. His estimates were far lower, noting, for example, that the lands at Egham would raise only £2,000 and citing several irrecoverable debts. Nonetheless, on 11th July the court decreed that alimony of £200 per annum was to be paid to Mary, back-dated to the time that the original citation was returned<sup>2</sup>.

Now that John had made his claims, Mary's proctor brought a responsive allegation on the first session of Trinity term, 13th June 1789<sup>3,8</sup>. It included a claim that soon after their marriage and without provocation, John began to 'treat her with great ill-temper, and the utmost Coldness and Neglect, insomuch that divers Friends of (him) have remonstrated with him respecting such his Conduct'. Furthermore, at the end of 1785, he withdrew himself from her bed and they constantly slept apart. Finally it claimed 'That Mr Forster is a Man of extremely ill Temper, and of violent Passions, and of a most wicked, lewd and lustful Disposition' - a statement which the ensuing articles endeavoured to demonstrate.



*Untitled engraving by H. Wigstead (c1788)*  
© Copyright The British Museum

Mary Hodges had been a cook at Egham House since 1779, from which time John had taken 'indecent Liberties with her Person' and frequently solicited her to commit adultery with him. While resisting as far as she could, in the autumn of that year he surprised her in her room and succeeded in his aims. From then until 1788, whenever John was in the country, he frequently took advantage of her, a fact that came to the common knowledge. Sarah Walker also claimed that John had frequently offered her money for a similar

purpose during her time at Egham House between 1784 and 1787. He had made advances to a housemaid, Elizabeth Paris, had asked her to recommend him to her acquaintance. When challenged on the sinfulness of his solicitations, he replied 'That Religion had nothing to do with the Matter, and that Women were only made for the Use of Men'. The allegation

described how John had placed Elizabeth in a house at Englefield Green that Mary was to occupy while he was in Jamaica and that while taking an inventory there, he took advantage of her and then paid her two guineas. Immediately after his return and with Elizabeth now married, John engaged her to undertake some work at Egham House and again forced himself upon her. Similar circumstances were claimed in respect of Ann Portsmouth, housemaid at Egham House in 1784- 85. The remaining articles of the allegation related to details of events in Lille, particularly John's invitations to both Mr Mussell and Baron de Silliac to visit Egham, despite the attentions paid by the latter to his wife.

Among the witnesses examined in the ensuing months, Elizabeth Paris recalled the circumstances as recited, including the payment of the two guineas, but was not prepared to answer whether John had had sexual relations with her on either occasion. Ann Slark deposed that she had worked for the Forsters as nursery maid from 1790 and described John as 'a cross reserved Man' little concerned with his young children<sup>4</sup>.

Ebenezer Mussell's deposition allowed him to present his view of events in Lille, two years earlier. In particular, he reported Mary's uneasiness at the attentions of Monsieur de Mussey, of the episode of the amorous verses of Baron de Silliac and John's subsequent invitation to the latter to visit Egham. He firmly denied any suggestion of improper intimacy between Mary and himself while in France. He also confirmed that upon his departure John had invited him to visit Egham.

Cross-examination of witnesses was conducted by written interrogatories, which were put to each of them after their deposition had been taken. For the witnesses on Mary's allegation, John asked that several questions be put, but most applied only to Ebenezer Mussell, who was asked about his background and financial resources, his life and acquaintance in Lille, and of the episode involving Baron de Silliac. He also admitted that a verdict had been found against him for criminal conversation with Mary Forster.

Depositions by Sarah Walker and Mary Hodges were taken in the autumn. Sarah supported her mistress's claims and reported an occasion when she had had to struggle to repel John's advances. She also noted that the couple had slept apart for two years before they parted and in different rooms for the last six months. Mary Hodges had worked as waiting maid for Mrs Forster and her mother Deborah Brooks at Englefield Green while John was in Jamaica and continued to work at Egham until they went to France. She described John's behaviour to his wife as cool and said he was 'not given to talking', but ascribed the initial change in domestic arrangements as due to Mary's suffering from erysipelas, and John's removal as due to the arrival of



Mrs Lisle, who wanted to share a room with Mary. She spoke of John as ‘the best-tempered Man almost she ever saw’ yet also reported his having made some advances upon her, including offering money. The couple’s doctor at Egham, Hugh Stevenson, was called upon and acknowledged his awareness of their separation, commenting that John treated Mary with ‘great Indifference and Inattention, not to be expected by a young, handsome woman’.

In February 1790 John Forster’s own answers to Mary’s allegation of June 1789 were brought to the Court<sup>5</sup>. He denied treating Mary with coldness and neglect, Mary’s having told him of the advances made by Baron de Silliac, and suspecting any improper intimacy between Mary and Ebenezer while at Lille. He admitted inviting Mussell to Egham, but pointedly denied the claim that he proposed that Mary write to Mussell to ask if he would come to live with her.

John Forster’s proctor, Heseltine, brought a further allegation in early April 1790<sup>3</sup>. It contained an explicit denial of the corresponding one in the allegation of 13th June 1789, citing passages from a letter that Maiy had sent to John while at Lille and others sent to Mrs Venner in the months that followed. The letters themselves were included as exhibits with the allegation<sup>3,6</sup>.

On 18th June 1790, Heseltine asked the judge to conclude the proceedings and assign the cause for sentencing. However at the same session Mary appeared in person, claiming that she had received important new information. As a result, the final allegation brought in to the court was by Wittenoom, on the 26th<sup>2,3</sup>. This related to claims that John, acting through his agent Andrew Markison of Egham, had sought to intimidate Elizabeth Faris into not giving evidence in the cause by threatening to tell her husband. Furthermore Mary had feared that John’s efforts to prevent Elizabeth from testifying would be successful and so arranged for an affidavit to be taken from her<sup>7</sup>. Further articles made claims of attempts by John and his agents to use persuasion, bribery and threats to prevent Elizabeth giving evidence of their adultery, in which aim he was successful, as noted earlier. It was following Elizabeth’s refusal to answer that Mary had launched enquiries and discovered the ‘Acts and Machinations’ of John and his agents in this respect.

## **The Judgement**

This last allegation was rejected by the judge and the cause was assigned for hearing on the fourth session of Michaelmas term, 6th December 1790. The procedure for sentencing was for parties to put forward, or porrect, a written sentence in their client’s behalf and the judge, after examining all the pleas, depositions, interrogatories and exhibits and hearing the arguments of counsel, to decide between them. The judge in this instance was Sir William

Scott, the distinguished civil lawyer. He gave a ‘final interlocutory Decree having the Force of a definitive Sentence in writing’ that John Forster had proved his original libel and that his wife had been guilty of adultery as charged. He further pronounced, however, that Mary Forster had proved her recriminatory allegation and that John had *also* been guilty of adultery. In consequence he dismissed Mary from the original citation of 1788 and from any further action.

The suit of Forster vs. Forster in the London Consistory Court was of sufficient importance to be included in the law reports. This source provides a particularly valuable summary of the judgement, not available from the papers of the court itself. Scott’s opening remarks were ‘This is a very melancholy case, arising on a prosecution brought by the husband against the wife to be relieved from the obligation of cohabiting with her, by reason of her adultery’. Summarising the events in Lille and thereafter, together with the verdict in the crim. con. proceedings, Scott quickly noted that the fact of Mary’s adultery had been amply proved. He then moved on to the essence of her defence, the established principle of law that denied to a guilty husband remedy against a guilty wife, and its application to suits for divorce. Reciting from the statements given by Elizabeth Faris, Ann Slark and Sarah Walker, Scott held that while insufficient to support an original accusation of adultery against John Forster, the evidence *was* sufficient to support a plea in bar. It was on this point - the plea of recrimination - that the suit was later to be cited in legal texts<sup>9</sup>. Noting the provocation and neglect that led to Mary’s adultery, Scott left no doubt as to his judgement, remarking on this aspect of the case ‘what has been the character of the husband? planting corruption most sedulously all around him - soliciting the chastity of his female servants, by every art of profligacy that he could apply - converting his own house into a brothel, and even engaging these females in the employment of finding for him other objects of his criminal gratifications. Surely this is not the man who can call out, in a court of justice, against the unfortunate delinquency of his wife: he cannot be listened to on any such complaint.’

Not surprisingly, John was unhappy with such an outcome: his appeal was launched immediately.

*(to be concluded)*

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- 1 Baker, J.H. *An Introduction to English Legal History* 3rd Edn. (London, 1990); Stone (1990) *op. cit.*
  - 2 London Metropolitan Archives (hereafter LMA): DL/C/117
  - 3 LMA: DL/C/180
  - 4 LMA: DL/C/283
  - 5 LMA: DL/C/203
  - 6 LMA: DL/C/561/55 to DL/C/561/60 inclusive
  - 7 LMA: DL/C/561/117
  - 8 *The English Reports* Vol. 161, p.504 (Edinburgh, 1900-); Haggard, J. *Reports of Cases ... in the Consistory Court of London; containing the judgments of ... Sir W. Scott* Vol. 1, p. 144 (London, 1822)
  - 9 Maddy, E. *Digest of Cases argued and determined in The Arches and Prerogative Courts of Canterbury, the Consistory Court of London and the High Court of Delegates ...* (London, 1835); Shelford, L.A. *Practical Treatise of The Law of Marriage and Divorce...* (London, 1841)

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## SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS ON MICROFICHE

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### Monumental Inscriptions

The following transcriptions of monumental inscriptions for churchyards in the West Middlesex area are available.

	U.K.	Overseas
St Nicholas, Shepperton . . . . .	£2.35	£3.00
St Mary Magdalene, Littleton . . . . .	£1.35	£1.75
St Mary the Virgin, Bedfont . . . . .	£1.35	£1.75
St Mary the Virgin, Harmondsworth . . . . .	£2.35	£3.00
All Saints, Isleworth . . . . .	£2.35	£3.00
All Saints, Laleham . . . . .	£2.35	£3.00
All six sets of fiche . . . . .	£9.50	£11.00

### Surname Indexes to the 1851 Census

<b>Paddington (HO 107 / 1466-1467)</b> . . . . . <i>Set of two microfiche.</i>	£2.35	£3.00
<b>Kensington, Brompton, Hammersmith &amp; Fulham (HO 107/1468-1471)</b> . . . . . <i>Four microfiche. These, together with the two for Paddington (above) cover the whole of the Kensington RD</i>	£4.35	£5.20
<b>Chelsea (HO 107 / 1472-1474)</b> . . . . . <i>Three fiche. Covers the parish of St Luke, Chelsea</i>	£3.35	£4.00
<b>Brentford Registration District (HO 107/1698-1699) with Hampton Sub-District (HO 107 1604 (part))</b> . . . . . <i>Three fiche. Includes the parishes of Heston, Isleworth, Twickenham, Hampton, Teddington, Acton, Brentford, Ealing, Hanwell, Greenford, Perivale and Chiswick</i>	£2.85	£3.50
<b>Uxbridge (HO 107/1697)</b> . . . . . <i>Two fiche. A complete index to the surnames, Christian names and ages for the Uxbridge RD which covered the parishes of Cowley, Hayes, Harefield, Hillingdon, Ickenham, Northolt, Norwood, Ruislip and Uxbridge</i>	£2.35	£3.00
<b>Staines (HO 107/1696)</b> . . . . . <i>Two fiche. A complete index to the surnames, Christian names and ages for the Staines RD which covered the parishes of Ashford, Cranford, East Bedfont, Feltham, Hanworth, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Laleham, Littleton, Shepperton, Stanwell, Staines and Sunbury</i>	£2.35	£3.00

### Indexes to the 1891 Census

<b>Hampton (RG 12/616-618)</b> . . . . . <i>Two fiche. Index of surnames, Christian names and ages for Hampton, Hampton Wick and Teddington, which comprise the Hampton sub-district of the Kingston RD</i>	£2.35	£3.00
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All prices above include postage. Please indicate the number of each that you require, and send your order with your name, address and payment (sterling only, cheques payable to West Middlesex Family History Society) to: Mrs. M.M. Harris, "Stone Lea", Mellors Lane, Holbrook, Derbyshire DE56 0SY

*It is suggested that UK members order from Mrs. Harris, not GENFAIR as you will then not be charged VAT.*

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## WEST LONDON LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE 13 MARCH 2004

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Conference Chairman Valerie Bott pointed out that this year's theme, Victorian and Edwardian West London, was a time of real change in West London, as it is again now. She then introduced the first speaker, Kitt Wedd, a former Director of the Victorian Society and author of a book on the Victorian House, who spoke on speculative building in West London: adapting architectural styles for the suburban house. Many of the familiar features of suburban house fronts, such as tile hanging, gables and half-timbering, were the result of the enthusiasm of influential Victorian architects like Norman Shaw for rural architecture: Shaw would travel in counties such as Kent sketching vernacular buildings whose features he would adapt in his designs, also drawing on foreign styles such as Dutch and Japanese. He had a number of commissions to build houses for artists, some of whom put on "Show Sundays" when visitors would be shown round, thus publicising the styles amongst the middle classes, and they were also featured in architectural journals; so Shaw's designs provided 'crib sheets' for builders putting up suburban houses. His idea of making houses look 'olde worlde' while using new materials - frowned upon by some architects as a 'dishonest' use of materials - was also widely adopted. From 1876 Bedford Park was developed in 'Queen Anne' style, Shaw providing six different house designs based on the 'Golden Age' of the late 17th and early 18th centuries.

Brick had been out of favour in the early 19th century, regarded as inferior as sometimes it was, the brick clay often being dug on the building site itself; in the 1820s this did not matter as house fronts were stuccoed, so some brick walls were 'jerry built'. When brick came back into favour it was thought it should not be disguised but celebrated in its own right. Bricks were now of better quality and cheaper, and now the railways could bring materials from all over the country, builders in London were not restricted to 'London stock' with its dingy yellow-grey appearance. Some brickwork became very fine, with sometimes red brick dust mixed with the mortar to match in. Carved brick panels were a fine feature, but plaster and moulded terra cotta were still cheaper alternatives. Many of these can still be seen in the suburbs: the ubiquitous sunflower design was very popular.

Kitt suggested that multi-paned Georgian windows, now much admired, were in fact determined by the process of glass manufacture ('Crown glass') at the time, the size of the panes governed by the necessity of cutting rectangular panes from circular pieces of glass with minimum wastage. The development of plate glass led to bay windows and sashes. The upper part of some bay windows having multiple panes looks back to the Georgian style, a

compromise between adherence to the style and letting in more light. Suburban development led to a boom in church building plus a gothic revival and tile making became a big manufacture. Multi-coloured encaustic tiles were produced, used first in ecclesiastic, later in public buildings, and in private houses for areas seen by visitors, particularly the front hall. Kitt warned us not to dawdle too much looking at house fronts on the way to the station and miss our train.

Next Oliver Green, Head Curator of the London Transport Museum, spoke on how, why and when public transport developed in West London. Early 19th century maps of London show that the later western suburbs did not yet exist, these areas still being rural. The 1820s saw the beginning of a modern transport system: early 19th century services headed for London's commercial heart, but most people still walked.

Shillibeer introduced horse omnibuses, modelled on a service introduced in Paris, and from c1815 river steamers were used for commuting. For places further out the only way into central London was by long-distance stagecoach, terminating at inns such as the Belle Sauvage on Ludgate Hill; Hounslow was a first stage for changing horses. There were short-stage coaches similar to the new horse buses but they were slow and took a long time to get anywhere, making commuting daily from places as far out as Hounslow impractical. The horse-drawn omnibuses developed rapidly but were initially a middle class mode of transport, one reason the working classes did not use them being the service began too late, about 8 am.

Mainline rail services such as the Great Western Railway, whose Paddington terminus was completed by 1838, tended to ignore the suburbs and thus the potential of commuter traffic, so suburban services took a long time to develop. In the outer areas people were still largely employed in agriculture, but some areas did begin to 'take off'. When Kingston refused to have the railway coming through, a station was opened at Surbiton, amongst Fields, called Kingston-upon-Railway, Surbiton developing as a middle class 'railway' suburb with a direct service to London.

In the 1870s came horse trams: as heavy vehicles could be pulled along tramlines they could be larger than buses and so keep fares down - they were thus associated from the beginning with working class travel, acquiring a slightly unsavoury reputation: tramways were kept out of central London, especially Westminster.

Steam trains running in tunnels began as a way of getting people from the mainline termini to central London, the cut and cover method being employed for digging these shallow tunnels, with blowholes for the steam. The Great Western, Great Northern and Midland Railways set up the Metropolitan

Railway, which ran from Paddington to Farringdon by 1863 and was a great success despite the smoke and stench in the tunnels. Workmen's fares were introduced and working people began using trains. The Metropolitan District, later the District Line, was also set up, ostensibly to join the east and west ends of the Metropolitan line, but the two companies became rivals, and largely due to this competition neither really prospered until the 20th century.

Soon there was significant impact on West London: in the early 1860s Earls Court Station was built on the site of a farmhouse; Kensington became built up; Bedford Park was developed for the 'artistic' community as one of the first garden suburbs - being near Turnham Green Station it was handy for town but still semi-rural. The old villages of West London became residential areas for clerks working in central London. In 1899 began the first motor bus service in central London but it was unreliable and slow, the design still based on the old horse bus; it was another five or six years before buses came to the fore.

Brunel's Thames tunnel showed the potential of deep tunnels, and in the late 1880s the first deep underground train tunnel was built, cast iron hoops used to strengthen it made a 'tube', hence the name. But steam trains could not be run at this deep level, so electricity was successfully tried out. American entrepreneurs such as Sprague and Yerkes brought new technology already introduced in American cities. Yerkes set up the Underground Electric Railway of London and built Lots Road Power Station (the Chelsea Monster), completed 1905, thus enabling electrification of the District Railway, so forcing the Metropolitan Line also to adopt electrification. American management methods and terminology were introduced, e.g 'cars' instead of 'carriages'. In 1901 electric tramways were introduced: Yerkes took over London United Tramways, which went on to become London Transport.

In a short space of time London had a rapid, efficient transit system. Travel to the outer edges of London was promoted as a leisure activity: trips to rural parts were now affordable, e.g. at Bank Holidays to Kew Gardens and the river. Posters were used to promote the underground railway; children's specials were organised to provide children with a day out. The new motorised buses could run along extended routes; those used to transport workers during the week carried trippers at the weekend: "a drive in the country" - it was possible to go to Hounslow Barracks Station (a terminus) and then by bus to Windsor Great Park. So buses became a 'feeder' service to stations. The 'Metroland' housing scheme was actually launched in the middle of WW1 - looking towards the War's end, railway companies with surplus land originally bought for the railway were already planning to build on it.

**Anne Wheeldon** from Hammersmith 8r Fulham Archives spoke next. Although its opening in 1856 was not even reported in the Press, Fulham



Women's Prison, or Refuge, was a pioneering institution with reform as one of its main aims. It was largely the brainchild of Joshua Jebb, a military man seconded to the Home Office as a prison architect, and was conceived originally as a third, short-stay stage of a three-part prison sentence, the first two to be at other locations and involving firstly solitary labour such as oakum picking, the second with free association with other prisoners and more privileges, and finally a period of rehabilitation whereby it was hoped women could obtain a 'character', or reference, which would at least enable them to gain employment in domestic service.

Jebb acquired the former Burlington House in Fulham and built a new kind of prison establishment with underfloor heating, dormitories divided into sleeping booths and a prison laundry (the only building still to survive, now turned into luxury flats). Jebb personally involved himself with the prison, he and his wife - they lived nearby at Parson's Green - visiting every Sunday and befriending many of the inmates. However, a National crime wave during the winter of 1861-2 led to an enquiry. After Jebb's death and the Prison Act of 1865, the regime at Fulham changed, with the introduction of long-stay inmates. Some manufacture was tried - mosaic blocks were made, but this was later discontinued. The Prison outlived its usefulness and closed in 1888, again unheralded by the Press.

The buildings lay derelict for five years but in 1893 the site was sold to builders who developed the Burlington Estate; by the turn of the century the old prison buildings had disappeared under houses and shops. When in 1909 the Fulham Chronicle asked who remembered the prison, hardly anyone did. However the old prison entrance can still just be made out in the front wall of a house in Burlington Road. Some records of the prison are at The National Archives.

Finally **Peter Longman**, Director of the Theatres Trust, spoke on A hundred years of Theatre Building, Burning and Demolition in West London. When the old Granville Theatre in Fulham Broadway was being demolished in 1971 some of the small crowd who had gathered noticed that through a gaping hole in the outside wall light was being reflected by many coloured tiles inside. Too late it was realised that this was the most extravagant theatre building of the late 19th century, a gem built in 1891 and designed by the famous theatre architect Frank Matcham.

Building a theatre had once been a good way of making money, only needing a small piece of land and making plots even in places like Shaftesbury Avenue affordable. But of the 1100 theatres in Britain at WW1, 85% were gone by 1970, and only about 70 are still in use. Many of them were designed by Frank Matcham: he built about 80 theatres, and altered about 80 more; Richmond Theatre is a Matcham building. Theatres were designed so that the

different classes did not mix, with separate seating areas and entrances. They were never intended to be permanent, and as they tended to burn down about every 15 years, re-building could incorporate new designs. When cinemas were first built, in case they did not 'catch on' they had a stage so that they could be easily turned into theatres.

But nobody rated theatres architecturally: Pevsner hardly mentioned them. Happily some theatres like Putney Hippodrome were recorded photographically before demolition, but some have not been recorded at all, for instance there is no known photograph of the interior of the former Q theatre at Kew. The Save London Theatres campaign began after the Granville Theatre demolition, and the Theatres Trust, who are consulted about demolitions, was set up in 1976. Planning permission is now needed even to turn a theatre into a cinema or bingo hall. Since the 1970s there have been rescues and rebuilds: the planners required the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith to be replaced when demolished; Bifield Hall Barnes was a public hall, then cinema, then theatre, then cinema again, and is now the Olympic Sound Studios; the Shepherds Bush Empire, designed by Matcham in his "Arts and Crafts" mode, in 1953-91 was a BBC TV Studio (well known for 'Crackerjack') and is now a live music venue.

When threatened with demolition, the theatre built in 1879 for the inmates of Normansfield Hospital, Teddington, was found to contain the only complete collection of Victorian stage scenery in the country; this is being conserved and restored and it is hoped to return it to the Normansfield Theatre, which will hopefully be made available for public use.

But theatre tradition survives in West London. St Mary's College Twickenham has a theatre built in 1963; the modern Hampton Hill Playhouse is based on the Georgian theatres of 200 years ago; the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond is at present being extended. Hampton Court's Great Hall, probably used for Shakespearean and other Tudor entertainments, could be oldest theatre in Britain and is (just) in West London. *Ref." Guide to British Theatres 1750-1950*

### **ANY INTERESTING WEBSITES?**

Have any members a favourite website (apart from the generally known ones such as TNA (PRO), SOG, etc) which they have found useful in their fanfly lustory research and.wvchich they would care to share with the journal readership? If so, please send it in to the Editor so that it can be published in the journal - postal/email address on inside front cover of the journal

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## PAST MEETINGS

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February talk: Birth and Baptism in the 1800s by Tom Doig

*Tom Doig introduced himself as a Social Historian who works both at the University of Cambridge and as a part-time primary school teacher. He emphasised that he is no family historian himself, not possessing the weary eyes from looking at microfilms and damp legs from tramping round graveyards. However he confessed to having a lot of time for family historians, who have drawn out all the available information from sources which no-one has looked at before and, perhaps unlike traditional genealogists, far from wanting aristocrats on their family tree, are proud to be descended from the ubiquitous ag labs.*

Amongst the working rural population there was no stigma attached to a woman being pregnant when she got married, in fact, a very high percentage of couples waited until the girl was pregnant before they married. However the worst thing for a girl was to be pregnant without the support of the father. Druggists supplied pills to clear what were described as “unwanted block-ages”. When this didn't work, a girl abandoned by the father of her baby might well end up in the Workhouse.

But there might be one woman in the village for whom illegitimate children were expected and tolerated: the ‘female barber’. This woman gave a service to the village men of shaving them plus extra services, inevitably producing a number of children by different fathers, the suspected father's surname being used as a middle name for the child. This lifestyle was quite lucrative and the female barber often owned her own cottage and her children did well, gaining apprenticeships etc.

But once a village girl was definitely pregnant — and the baby's father wanted to be sure as marriage was an expensive business — the Banns for marriage were called in the local church. Banns date from the year 1200 when they were first ordered to be called by Archbishop Walter. This was not always adhered to, but was ordered again under the Hardwicke Marriage Act of 1754. Banns were called (or ‘bawled’ as it was colloquially known) on three consecutive Sundays before the wedding; they could also be called in the local market place, but this was exceedingly rare.

It was the task of the Parish Clerk to call the Banns, at the end of the service, and the prospective bride would not be present in church to hear them as it was believed if she was, the baby would be born disabled in some way; it was also extremely unlucky for there to be any break in the sequence of three Sundays. (Incidentally, disabilities mentioned in the final column of

censuses were specific 'Idiot' referred to those born with a mental disability; 'lunatic' to a mental affliction which tended to come and go; an 'imbecile' probably got a mental affliction later in life.) The quite substantial fee (in 1719 it was 4s.6d, in 1820 7s.6d) demanded for calling the Banns was sometimes referred to as 'hanging on the bellropes' - nothing to do with bellringing - in Vestry minutes. As the last Banns for a couple were called, the young men of the village seated at the back of the church would make animal noises, as this was regarded as the natural 'marriage' of the couple — the official ceremony which followed perhaps a week later was just the church making it official for its own sake and getting a fee!

As the prospective bridegroom left the church by the South porch, which itself had significance, he would be joined by the bride, and the young men would place a broom across the porch which the couple stepped over — they were now definitely married in the eyes of the villagers. However, they would spend as much as they could afford on their official wedding, and again the church demanded a substantial sum: Minister's fee 2s.6d, Clerk's fee 2s.6d, when a labourer's wages were perhaps 10s a week. Upon his marriage, a farm labourer who might have been 'living in' either at the farmhouse or with his family, would rent his own cottage.

To await the birth a woman went into 'confinement' about a month before her time, and stayed in bed. Leeches might be applied to her legs and this probably staved off the deep vein thrombosis which might otherwise have occurred, although this condition was not medically understood at the time. A monthly nurse, if necessary paid for by the Parish, would be installed in the house to look after the woman and see to the house and any other children. A midwife, whose other duties would include laying out the dead, was also appointed (a man-midwife attended the well-to-do). Sometimes a woman expecting her first child opted to have it at her mother's home, where she knew the local midwife and everybody else in the village.

When the time for the birth arrived, all the doors and windows of the room in which the birth would take place were shut and a roaring fire got going, so the room became very warm. As well as the monthly nurse and midwife, there now arrived the 'God-siblings', or 'God-sibs', women of the village who made sure that everything was done as it should be. To pass the time before the baby was born they would discuss the affairs of the village, and so the term 'gossip' was created.

When the baby was born it was the God-sibs who took the placenta and threw it on the fire - the number of times it 'popped' were supposed to foretell the years the child would live. The God-sibs also bathed the child,

checking its gender and looking for any deformities or abnormalities - if they found any, they might quietly 'do away' with the infant. If a child was particularly weak and not expected to live, the God-sibs or midwife would also perform a 'private' baptism; if the child lived there would be a later ceremony in church when it was accepted into the congregation. Today hospital nurses still occasionally carry out baptisms on newly-born infants.

Infant mortality in the early nineteenth century was high: 36% in 1832 did not live beyond a month. For a healthy child its church baptism had to wait until the mother had been 'churched' - after a birth she was considered unclean and was not allowed to attend church again until she had gone through a cleansing ceremony. Her child's baptism did not take place until after her churching - perhaps five weeks after the birth. Again, fees were charged for the churching: Minister's fee 1s.6d, Clerks fee, 1s.6d.

Up to the late nineteenth century there was a fairly strict tradition about children's names: they should be from the Bible, or the names of Kings, Queens or Saints, or sometimes a family name. As Tom Doig pointed out, this talk served to emphasise that the interests of family and social historians interlock, and certainly such social history and traditions as he has researched give a very revealing and at times graphic background to the lives of our ancestors.

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## **EDITOR'S NOTES**

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The stock of new material for the journal is getting rather low and I would welcome any new material that members might care to send in; remember it does not have to be a 'polished' item, be it full article or small piece on some aspect of your research, or you might care to air your views about a Family history matter.

As the Society is committed to responding to views and requests submitted in reply to our recent members' survey, we will try as often as possible to include in the journal information about the area covered by our Society, or how members can find out about the area as it was in past times when some of our ancestors were living here, so look out for this in future issues. We hope members will find it useful. We would welcome information from members about informative events, or background items about the area which have come out of your research.

Deadlines for the quarterly issues of WMFHS journal are:

**15 January; 15 April; 15 July; 15 October**

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## NEW MEMBERS

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*The Society welcomes all new members. The list below comprises those from whom surname interest forms had been received at the time this issue of the Journal was prepared. The interests themselves are listed on the following pages.*

- B279 M RH. Bailey, 193 Pinhoe Road, Exeter, Devon EX4 8AB  
*yosthermes@hotmail.com*
- B272 Mrs L. Bexley, 25 Sunnyside Road, Seville East, Victoria 3139,  
Australia *lorraine@foxall.com.au*
- C232 Mrs M.E.B. Caughey, 11 Darley Park Road, Darley Abbey, Derby  
DE22 1DB
- E53 John Edwards, 36 Spring Lane, Colden Common, Winchester,  
Hants SO21 1SD *john@edwardss021.fsnet.co.uk*
- G128 Mrs B. Gibbs, 22 Luke Street, Bampton, Devon EX16 9NF  
*brenspin@luke22.fslife.co.uk*
- G130 Mrs H.A. Gott, Yeomans, Clydesdale Road, Box, Corsham,  
Wiltshire SN13 8EN *gott@clydesdale.fsworld.co.uk*
- G129 Mr M. Grace, In der Erborst, 58675 Hemer, Germany  
*mike.grace@skydsl.de*
- H160 Mrs B. Hancock, 13 Greenways, Egham TW20 9PA  
*john.hancock11@btinternet.com*
- H236 Rev. D.N. Hayter, 7 The Cobbles, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8BP
- H237 Mr D.T. Helyar, "Bramley", Parka Road, Fraddon, Cornwall  
TR9 6JX *davehelyar@aol.com*
- H234 Mrs P. Hodges, 57 Dennis Way, Cippenham, Berkshire SL1 5JS  
*pauline@hodges3396.fsnet.co.uk*
- L99 Mr A.A. Lavers, 20 Cedar Court Road, Torquay, Devon  
TQ1 3HH *lavers@mail.com*
- M201 Mr D.R. Marks, 45 Kneller Road, Whitton, Twickenham, Middlesex  
*d.marks@tesco.net*
- M200 Ms J. Medcalf, The Coach House, Town Street, Upwell, Cambs  
PE14 9DA *joanmedcalf@aol.com*
- R120 Mrs M.A. Roberts, "Edzell", 1 The Vines, Hucclecote, Gloucester  
GL3 3QF *maureenaroberts@aol.com*
- S229 Mrs G. Shaw, Little Tile Barn, 28 Downview Road, Barnham, West  
Sussex *shawgilldave@aol.com*
- T74 Mrs J.M. Turner, 15 Wood Pond Close, Seer Green, Beaconsfield,  
Bucks HP9 2XG *turner\_janet@hotmail.com*



- W212 Mr J.R Wichelow, 9 Edgeview Road, Congleton, Cheshire CW12  
3JQ [jwichelow@waitrose.com](mailto:jwichelow@waitrose.com)
- W201 Mrs E.F. Wooller, Aveleigh, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy, Devon  
EX22 7DH [aveleighfw@aol.com](mailto:aveleighfw@aol.com)
- V18 Mrs G Vocadlo, 1A The Uplands, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 7JQ  
[gwendav@aol.com](mailto:gwendav@aol.com)

Please note the following change of address:

- C220 Mr M. Cork, 45 Packham Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 7JE

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## SURNAME INTERESTS

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*The table below gives surname interests for the new members listed on the previous page. The format should be self-explanatory. Note that the Chapman County Codes are used in the 'Counties' column. 'ANY' or 'ALL' indicates that, for instance, any date or any place is of interest. When writing to members about entries in this section, please remember to include an SAE. We would urge all those who receive enquiries to reply even if there is no connection with your research.*

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
ALLEWAY	Any	London	MDX	T74
ALLEWAY	Any	Reading	BRK	T74
ALLEWAY	Any	Henley	OXF	T74
ARMITSTEAD	Pre 1840	Any	YKS	B272
BAGLEY	18-19C	Fulham	MDX	M201
BAILEY	18-19C	Chieveley	BRK	B279
BARNES	Before 1800	Hampton Area	MDX	M200
BEXLEY	Pre 1850	Any	MDX	B272
BIGGS	18C	Binfield	BRK	V18
BIGGS	c1840	Sherborne St. John	HAM	V18
BILLINT/BILLINS	19C	Any	ANY	M201
BOWDEN	18-19C	All	DEV	M201
BRANN	17-19C	Wittersham	KEN	G130
BRIGHTWELL	20C	West Middlesex	MDX	H160
BROMHAM	After 1880	Willesden	MDX	S229
BROMHAM	Before 1880	Porlock	SOM	S229
BULL	17-20C	Winkleigh	BRK	W201
BUTTLERS	1800-1920	Duloe	CON	H234
CARNALL	19C	Any	ANY	M201
CHIVERS	18C	Chippenham	WIL	B272
CLARIDGE	19C	Twickenham	MDX	G130
CLARIDGE	19C	Ashford Area	MDX	G130
CLARIDGE	19-20C	Isleworth Area	MDX	G130
COPCUTT	19C	Aylesbury Area	BKM	B279
CORK	19C	Birling	KEN	M201
CORY	18-19C	London	MDX	W212
CROSSINGHAM	18-19C	Battle Area	SSX	G130
DALTON	Any	Lees	LAN	S229
DAVIS	18C	Bromham	WIL	B272
DENMAN	After 1871	Chelsea	MDX	S229
DENMAN	Before 1871	Any	LEI	S229
DIGBY	19C	Lewisham	KEN	M201



Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
DIMELOW	19C	Bronington Area	FLN	V18
DIMELOW	19C	Whitchurch Area	SAL	V18
DODD	19C	Hammersmith Area	MDX	B279
EDWARDS	1900-present	Greenford	MDX	E53
EDWARDS	1900-present	Ealing	MDX	E53
EDWARDS	1900-present	Brentford	MDX	E53
EWENCE	19C	Salisbury	WIL	B279
FARTHING	Pre 1750	Any	SOM	B272
FINCH	c1824	Uxbridge Area	MDX	M200
FINCH	Before 1800	Uxbridge Area	MDX	M200
FLEMMING	19-20C	Bristol	GLS	G130
FLOWERS	18-21C	Richmond Area	SRY	W201
FLOWERS	18-21C	Teddington Area	MDX	W201
FOSTER	19-20C	Chelsea	MDX	H237
FOX	19C	Lambeth	SRY	M201
GILES	19C	Banbury	OXF	T74
GILES	1850-1920	Reading	BRK	T74
GOSLING	19C	Torquay Area	DEV	T74
GRACE	All	Acton	MDX	G129
GRACE	All	Fulham	MDX	G129
GRANT	19-20C	Hayes	MDX	R120
HARDING	19-20C	Chelsea	MDX	H237
HARDY	19C	Chieveley	BRK	B279
HARRHY	Any	Any	WALES	S229
HARVARD	1843-1875	Llanarth	MON	L99
HAVAD	1843-1875	Llanarth	MON	L99
HAVARD	1843-1875	Llanarth	MON	L99
HAYTER	Any	All	ALL	H236
HEATHER	c1803	Isleworth Area	MDX	M200
HELYAR	19-20C	Chelsea	MDX	H237
HEWITT	1920-30	Ealing	MDX	E53
HEWITT	1920-30	Brentford	MDX	E53
HILLS	19C	New Cross Gate	KEN	M201
HOCKEY	17-19C	Horsington	SOM	G130
HOCKEY	19-20C	Bristol	GLS	G130
HODGES	1800-1900	Horton Area	GLS	H234
HODGES	After 1850	Newport	MON	H234
HOWE	Any	Uxbridge	MDX	G128
HUMPHREY	19C	Hillingdon	MDX	R120
HUMPHREY	19C	Uxbridge	MDX	R120
HUMPHREY	19C	Yiewsley	MDX	R120
HUMPHREY	19C	Hayes	MDX	R120
HUMPHREY	19C	Southall	MDX	R120
HUMPHREY	19C	Hanwell	MDX	R120
HUMPHREYS	c1825	Hillingdon Area	MDX	M200
HUNT	19C	Hammersmith	MDX	B279
HUNT	19C	Fulham	MDX	B279
HUNT	19C	Chiswick Area	MDX	B279
HUNT	19C	Southampton Area	HAM	B279
JAMES	Pre 1850	Bristol	SOM	B272
KEENE	Before 1900	Any	ANY	M201
KENTSBEER	Pre 1850	Chudleigh	DEV	B272
KING	20C	West Middlesex	MDX	H160
KNIGHT	After 1870	Notting Hill Area	MDX	H234
KNIGHT	After 1840	Marylebone Area	MDX	H234
KNIGHTLEY	1900-1990	Heston	MDX	E53
KNIGHTLEY	1900-1990	Hounslow	MDX	E53
KNIGHTLEY	1900-1990	Feltham	MDX	E53
KNIGHTLEY	1900-1990	Hayes	MDX	E53
LARKIN	19-20C	Hammersmith	MDX	C232

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
LARKIN	19-20C	Kensington	MDX	C232
MALSON	18-19C	Bristol	GLS	G130
MARKS	18-19C	Taunton Area	SOM	M201
MARLAND	Any	Lees	LAN	S229
MARTIN	c1750	Hampton Area	MDX	M200
MATHEWS	19C	Richmond Area	SRY	M201
MATHEWS	18-19C	Ealing Area	MDX	W212
MILBOURN	c1800	Hampton Area	MDX	V18
MILBOURN	After 1850	Wandsworth	SRY	V18
MILES	18-19C	London	MDX	W212
MILTON	All	Acton	MDX	G129
MILTON	All	Fulham	MDX	G129
MOORE	Any	Rougham	SFK	S229
MOORE	Any	Rattlesden	SFK	S229
MOORE	After 1820	Wickham	HAM	V18
MOORE	c1870	Trowbridge	WIL	V18
MORRICE	c1870s	Strand	MDX	C232
NORWOOD	20C	Brentford	MDX	H160
NORWOOD	20C	West Middlesex	MDX	H160
PARNELL	1840-1900	Totnes Area	DEV	H234
PAXTON	1870-1920	Chelsea/Kensington	MDX	T74
PAXTON	1870-1920	Acton	MDX	T74
PAXTON	1830-1880	Croughton/Evenly	NTH	T74
PAXTON	19C	Mixbury	NTH	T74
PEAKE	19C	Hammersmith	MDX	B279
PEAKE	19C	Fulham	MDX	B279
PEAKE	19C	Chiswick Area	MDX	B279
PENTON	17-21C	Chelsea	MDX	W201
PENTON	17-21C	Isleworth Area	MDX	W201
PHILLIPSON	1750-1920	Paddington Area	MDX	H234
PHILLIPSON	1800-1900	Bedale Area	YKS	H234
PLEDGER	Pre 1820	Sheet	HAM	B272
POLLARD	1860-1920	Greenwich	KEN	T74
POLLARD	1860-1920	Camberwell/Newington	SRY	T74
POLLARD	1860-1920	Chelsea/Kensington/Pimlico	MDX	T74
POLLARD	1800-1850	Chippenham	WIL	T74
POTTLE	c1850s	Marylebone	MDX	C232
REDKNAP	Before 1920	Richmond Area	SRY	M201
REID	1800-1900	Blunham	BDF	H234
RICHARDS	After 1832	Kensington	MDX	S229
RICHARDS	Before 1832	Upmarden	SSX	S229
RICHARDS	Before 1832	Harting	SSX	S229
SEATON	1800-1900	Plymouth Area	DEV	H234
SEATON	1870-1920	Bovey Tracey Area	DEV	H234
SHAW	Any	Lees	LAN	S229
SIMMONDS	19C	Newton Abbott Area	DEV	T74
SMITH	19C	Paddington	MDX	B272
SMITH	After 1895	Twickenham	MDX	W201
SPOONER	1800-1912	Paddington	MDX	L99
SPOONER	1900-1913	Dover	KEN	L99
SPOONER	c1880	Pimlico	MDX	L99
SPOONER	1877-81	Norwood	SRY	L99
SPRING	Any	Hillingdon	MDX	G128
SPRING	Any	Uxbridge	MDX	G128
SPRING	After 1868	Shepperton	MDX	G128
STURGEON	19C	Richmond Area	SRY	M201
SYMONDS	19C	Old Brentford Area	MDX	B279
TADD	1840-1900	Marylebone Area	MDX	H234
TEMPLEMAN	18-19C	Hinton St. George	SOM	G130
W(H)ICHELOW	18-19C	Ealing Area	MDX	W212

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
WAKELING	19C	Pleshey	SFK	M201
WALE	19C	Hammersmith Area	MFY	B279
WALE	19C	Old Brentford Area	MDX	B279
WELLS	Before 1800	Hampton Area	MDX	M200
WHEATLEY	1700-1900	Buxted Area	SSX	H234
WHEELER	19C	Richmond Area	SRY	M201
WHILLEY	1900-1990	Ealing	MDX	E53
WHILLEY	1900-1990	Brentford	MDX	E53
WICKHAM	18-21C	Kilrane/Rosslare Harbour	WEX/IRL	W201
WILLIAMS	17-19C	Isle of Wight	HAM	G130
WILLIAMS	19C	Benenden	KEN	G130
WILLIAMS	19C	Lewisham	KEN	G130
WILTSHIRE	18-19C	Twickenham	MDX	G130
WOODMAN	1700-1900	Great Somerford	WIL	H234
WOODMAN	1860-1920	Notting Hill Area	MDX	H234
WOOLLER	18-20C	Richmond Area	SRY	W201
WOOLLER	19-20C	Virginia Water Area	SRY	W201
WYNN	18-21C	Twickenham	MDX	W201
WYNN	18-20C	Isleworth Area	MDX	W201
WYNN	18-21C	Frimley	SRY	W201
WYNN	18-20C	Hawley	HAM	W201

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## INDEXES HELD BY MEMBERS

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These indexes are intended as aids to research in the West Middlesex area. For members of the Society fees are as stated (please quote membership number); for non-members they are twice what is indicated below, except where specified.

Please note that all enquirers must include a SAE (or IRC). Unless stated otherwise, cheques should be made payable to the holder of the index, not the WMFHS.

**West Middlesex Marriage Index** Pre-1837 marriages in West Middlesex with partial coverage elsewhere in the county. Search for one specific marriage reference: £1 (non-members £2); listing of up to 20 entries for specific surname: £2 (non-members £4). Please supply places/dates/surname variants if known. All enquiries must contain SAE [minimum 220x110mm). Cheques to West Middlesex FHS.

*Richard Chapman, 15 Willerton Lodge, Bridgewater Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0ED*

**West Middlesex Strays** People from or born in our area found in another area. Enquiries : Members free, non-members £1.00.

*Mrs Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow TW3 4AP*

**Monumental Inscriptions:** Acton, Ashford, Cranford, Chiswick, Ealing, Feltham, Fulham (recorded 100 years ago), Hampton, Harlington, Hayes, Heston, Hillingdon, Hounslow (United Reformed), Norwood Green, Perivale, Staines, Teddington, Twickenham and Uxbridge. Enquiries: free for members, non-members £1.00.

*Mrs Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow TW3 4AP*

**1881 Census Index and IGI** For fee of £1.00 plus SAE (at least 9"x4") any one county searched for any one surname. Fee will cover the supply of up to four photocopies of the entries found. Cheques payable to Mrs Margaret Harnden.

*Mrs Margaret Harnden, 10 Wavendean Avenue, Thorpe Lea, Egham, Surrey TW20 8LD*

**Chiswick Census 1801** Head of household plus numbers of males and females; additional information in some cases.

*Mrs R. Ward, 29 Ernest Gardens, Chiswick, London W4*

**West Middlesex Settlement Records** New Brentford, Uxbridge, Staines, Ealing, Feltham, Friern Barnet, Fulham, Hammersmith, Hanwell, Chelsea. Enquiries £1.00

*Mrs J. Hagger, 9 Mandeville Road, Shepperton, Middx TW17 0AL.*

**Hammersmith Burials Index** 1664-1837 A search of this Index can be made for £1 per surname plus SAE.

*Apply to: Mrs Margaret Garrod, 54 Potters Lane, New Barnet, Herts EN5 5BQ*

**Hayes St Mary's Parish Registers** Baptisms, marriages, burials 1557-1840. Enquiries £1 per surname.

*Mrs M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 9HF*

**Hillingdon Parish Registers** Baptisms 1559-1909, marriages 1559-1910, burials 1559-1948 (churchyard) and 1867-1903 (cemetery). Enquiries £1.

*Mrs M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 9HF*

**Isleworth All Saints Parish Registers** Baptisms 1566-1919, marriages 1566-1927, burials 1566-1942. Enquiries £1.00.

*Mrs M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 9HF*

**Harlington Parish Registers** Baptisms, marriages, burials 1540-1850. Enquiries £1.00.

*Mr P. Sherwood, 5 Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middlesex UB3 SEW*

**Harmondsworth Parish Registers** Baptisms, marriages and burials 1670-1837. Enquiries £1.00, or 3 IRCs per name.

*Mrs Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow TW3 4AP*

**Feltham Index** An expanding collection of transcripts and indexes relating to the parish of Feltham, Enquiries free, on receipt of a SAE. Contributions welcome.

*Mr P. Watson, 22 Bedford Road, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 4LT*

**Coastguard Index** All enquiries £5.00 per name.

*Mrs E. Stage, 150 Fulwell Park Avenue, Twickenham, Middlesex*

**West Middlesex War Memorials** Substantial name-list material, consisting of public, churches', schools' and companies' memorials etc, for WWI and WWII and earlier wars where they exist; list not yet complete; information on any other memorials you know of would be welcome. When making an enquiry please include any information on village or town where you might expect a name to be mentioned.

All enquiries, SAE, to: *Ted Dunstall, 43 Elers Road, Ealing, London W13 9QB*

**Hampton Wick** Records of this village collected over 40 years of research. Will search records for ancestors etc. in answer to enquiries. £1 plus SAE.

*Paul Barnfield, 258 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3TY*



**West Middlesex Family History Society**  
**Area of Interest**

Acton, Ashford, East Bedfont, Chelsea, Chiswick, Cowley, Cranford, West Drayton, Ealing with Old Brentford, Feltham, Fulham, Hampton, Hanwell with New Brentford, Hanworth, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Hayes with Norwood, Hammersmith, Heston, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Isleworth, Kensington, Laleham, Littleton, Shepperton, Staines, Stanwell, Sunbury, Teddington, Twickenham and Uxbridge

If undelivered, please return to:

West Middlesex FHS  
c/o Mrs B. Purr, 9 Plevna Road, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2BS