



# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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*Orchard Meadow, Sunbury-on-Thames*



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## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

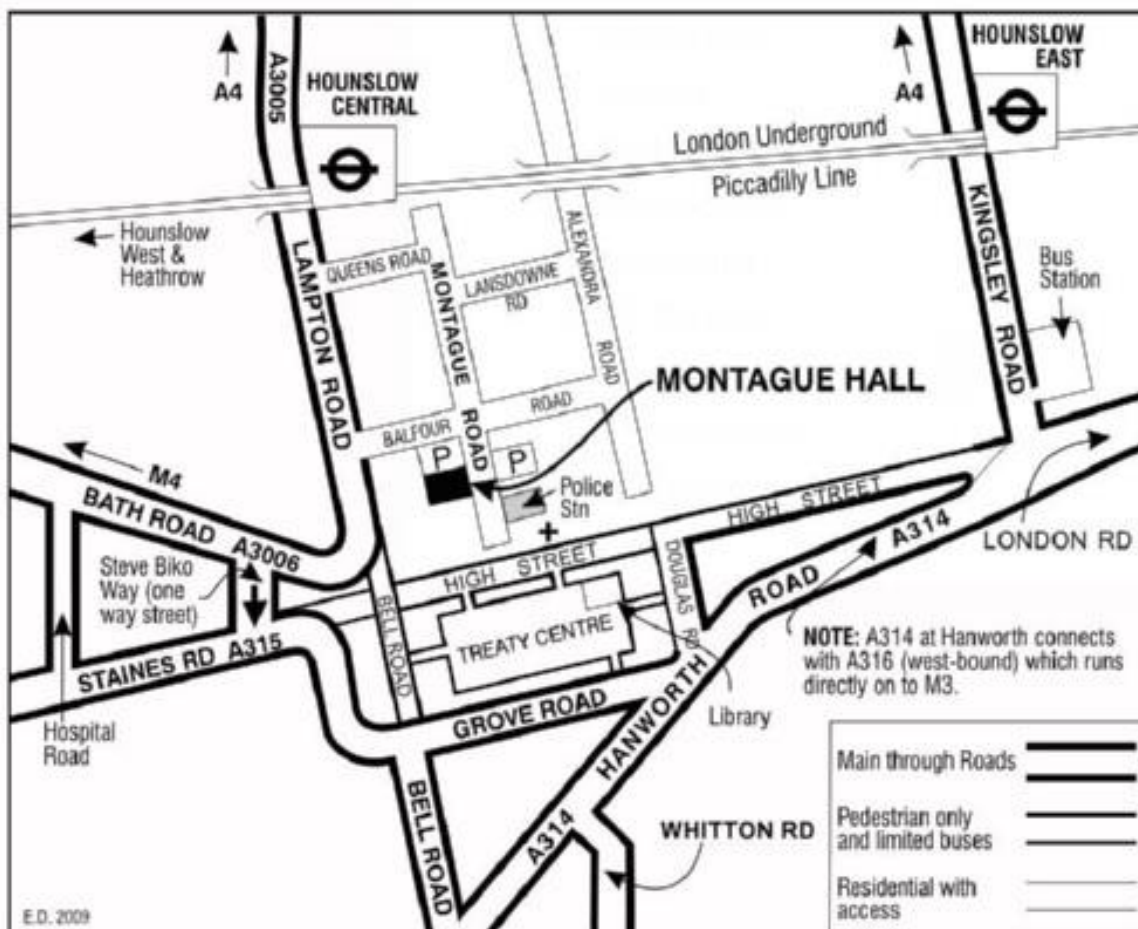
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The following talks have been arranged:

- 16 Jan Kensal Green Cemetery and the History of Cemetery Monuments *Henry Vivian-Neal*
- 20 Feb Quakers *Michael Gandy*
- 20 Mar AGM and A Fine Crop, the history of allotments *The Reminiscence Roadshow*
- 17 Apr Suicide *Kathy Chater*

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 on the Society laptop, erg. Middlesex marriages to 1837 and other indexes; reference books; exchange journals from other societies and a bookstall - all can be browsed between 7.30pm and 10pm (talks take place between 8pm and 9pm), and tea/coffee, or a cold drink, and biscuits are also available. Fully Accessible.



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## EDITORIAL

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Very many thanks to all those who responded to my plea in our September Journal for articles. I had an excellent response, and some have been held over until the March Journal. The July meeting of the Society was a Members' Evening, when several members gave short talks on a particular aspect of their research, and some of these have also been transformed into articles which appear either in this edition or the next. However, do not think you can all rest on your laurels, keep the articles flowing and we will all be able to enjoy a varied and exciting Journal. We have a new series: Family History A-Z, aimed particularly at beginners but which I hope everyone will enjoy.

Numbers at our Conference in September were disappointing, but those who did attend spent a very enjoyable day listening to our four speakers, and I am sure all took home some new information to inform their future research. Details of the talks appear in this and subsequent Journals. Our thanks are extended to Kay DUDMAN, who organised this whole event.

Please note the date of our AGM in March. We always have a good attendance for this meeting, so I hope as many of you as possible will join us to hear a resume of the past year and our plans for the year ahead'



### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the  
Annual General Meeting of the  
West Middlesex Family History Society  
will be held at 8.00pm on Thursday, 20th March, 2014,  
in Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow

Reports will be presented by the Chairman and Treasurer and members will be asked to accept the accounts for the year 2013 and elect accounts examiners for the coming year.

Elections will be held for officers and members of the Executive Committee.

Members who wish to bring forward any matters at the AGM, or to propose nominations for the Committee, are asked to write to the Secretary at the address below by 3rd January, 2014.

The agenda for the AGM will be included in the next issue of the Journal, to be published and distributed at the beginning of March, 2014

Richard Chapman  
Golden Manor  
Darby Gardens  
Sunbury-on-Thames TW16 5JW



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## THE FACES CHANGE BUT LOVE REMAINS THE SAME *Alison Blundell*

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When my husband and I went to visit one of my father's elderly cousins in 2006, he showed us lots of family photos and we chatted about his memories. There were two photos which really interested me. The first one was my grandparents' wedding, with beautiful bouquets and hats. He had no idea where it was taken. The other photo was the facade of the imposing, impressive home of my great grandparents, superimposed with small photos of them.

This inspired me to delve further into researching the family and their past. I had found my great grandparents and family in the 1901 census - there were nine children and two servants in the house. As a child I had been led to believe that the big house had been demolished and the area redeveloped. On a visit to a local studies library I asked where, on an old map, the house would have been. Imagine my surprise when the archivist suggested I should go and see the house for myself. In the rain and fading light I was overjoyed to see the same imposing house from the photograph. My husband and I wandered to the rear of the building and I was left totally speechless as there was the same turreted structure from my grandparents' wedding photo.



I wrote to the occupiers of the house, enclosed photos, explained the connection and asked if I could visit. Unfortunately I heard nothing, gave up hoping and then my husband was diagnosed with a terminal illness.

I continued with the research and discovered that the building was listed and I found plans and detailed drawings, with staircase detail, of the house in the mid 20th century. In 1907 my great grandfather was a successful business man owning his own corn merchant's business nearby.

However, a year later I had an unexpected phone call. My letter had only just arrived and we were invited to visit. It was wonderful to be shown around the house. I was able to imagine my great grandparents, grandmother and her siblings living in this rather grand house over five floors, including a basement with a wine cellar, and servants' quarters on the top floor. The same staircase detail from the plans was evident. At the rear of the house the conservatory had gone but the turreted structure was still there. We sat on the patio drinking coffee and soaking up the atmosphere.

It was an emotional moment when, almost 100 years to the day after my grandparents' wedding, I stood in the same spot and had a photograph taken with my husband. My husband died nine months later.



Earlier this year I entered my grandparents' wedding photograph in the Who Do You Think You Are Live?, aka WYDYTYA, scanned photo with story competition. I was excited and proud when I turned up at Olympia to see the photo on display in the 'Photo Gallery'. It was a special moment realising that my story would be shared with so many people.

There was a public vote over the three days, where visitors could vote For their favourite photo. A few days after WYDYTYA I heard that I had won the competition.

It was after Robert BADEN POWELL's famously successful camp in 1907 on Brownsea Island, and inspired by reading a copy of *Scouting for Boys*, that in 1908 the then curate of St. Mary's, Twickenham, Rev. A.E.T. RAVEN, founded St. Mary's Twickenham Scout Group and so it is one of the oldest Groups in the country.

Our parental involvement with the Group began when, in 1976, our son David joined the Troop and almost immediately I found myself on the Scout Group Executive and, just six months later, Treasurer. This position I held for ten years and it is one that David eventually inherited and he is still doing, assisted by his mother, Janice, collecting subscriptions. So after nearly forty years our connection with the Group is still on-going.

In 2008, the Group celebrated its centenary by staging an exhibition using some of the old records, photographs and memorabilia that had been collected over the years. Such was the quantity that Janice and I took the numerous boxes home to extract the most appropriate archive material and to put it in some sort of order. The exhibition was a great success, with many former scouts coming out of the woodwork to visit it.



*William Angus (Gus) King,  
aged 16, in 1934*

Before returning these priceless records to the loft at the Scout HQ, we thought it would be a good idea to catalogue the records and trophies, etc. Although vaguely 'in hand' this job is still unfinished but when we were contacted by Bramham KNIGHT, the son of William Angus (known as Gus) KING, who was a former Scout and a Rover Scout in St. Mary's Scout Group in the 1930s, we were able to help. Sadly Bramham had been unaware of the Group's Centenary Exhibition, or even its continued existence, but fortunately he had been in contact with Jane BAXTER at the Local Studies Department of Richmond Library, Not only was Jane able to give him the

phone number of the then current Group Scout Leader, she was able to produce a copy of *From Raven to Beavers - The Story of St. Mary's Scout Group 1908-1983*. Unbelievably, Bramham spotted two references to his father in this commemorative book published for the Group's 75th birthday.



Born in 1941, Bramham barely remembers his father who, in World War Two, served in France, North Africa, Sicily and Italy. Because in civilian life Gus had trained as an architect, his career resulted in him being attached to the Royal Engineers and, as such, he was one of the last to leave Dunkirk as the Engineers were responsible for building the makeshift pontoons to assist with the evacuation. In 1944 Gus was designing and helping to rebuild bridges up the east coast of Italy that had been destroyed by the Nazis as they retreated following the capitulation of Italy. That September he contracted polio and in spite of being in an iron lung he died a week later. He is buried in the Ancona War Grave Cemetery Apart from his service medals, one of the few possessions that Bramham has from his father is a plan of a bridge he had designed at that time.

After the war, Bramham's mother remarried (hence the surname KNIGHT) and they left the area. On the death of his mother and step-father Bramham, who lives in Nantwich, Cheshire, decided to trace his roots and, in particular, where his father had grown up and he was very interested in finding out about his father's life in Twickenham in the 1930s. As we had still got all the archive material, that really is how we got involved with the enquiry.

When Bramham visited Twickenham, we were able to show him photograph albums of the period and other memorabilia such as programmes of the productions put on by the Troop. We also gave him a tour of Twickenham,



*The Rovers in 1937. Gus is centre of back row.*

pointing out the various sites where the Troop and the Rovers met at that time, including St. Mary's School, the Mission Hall (now part of the Mary Wallace Theatre), the site of St. Mary's Church Hall (built in 1932 and demolished in 1990 to make way For the Civic Centre) and the Parish Room (between Aragon House and the new Church Hall). We also showed him the current Scout Headquarters (built in 1962) and the memorial plaque in the entrance hall with his father's name on it. Gus's name was also displayed on the War Memorial in the Church Yards These names have worn away over the past sixty years but were transcribed during Alun GLYN-JONES' time as Vicar of Twickenham, and can be found inside the church in the north aisle.



*The River Thames is full of islands called 'airs' or 'eyots', long and narrow piles of sediment accumulated by the river over centuries ...*

Westminster is built on one, though you would never know it, and of course there is the world-famous Magna Carta Island at Runnymede. There are more than 190 in total and we have many in our locality, their uses changing over time, Isleworth has one, Brentford two, there are three in Twickenham and in Hampton, and more in Richmond and Kew. Even the original Saxon site of Kingston was once a marshy island.

Historically, many aits were used for willow cultivation, either pollarded [cut at head height) the branches used for cricket bats, gun stocks and paddles; or coppiced (cut to ground level) to create more flexible branches called osiers, which were woven into baskets and fences. The willows of Isleworth, Brentford and Hampton were used for such baskets so that fruit grown in the local market gardens could be carried up to Covent Garden.

Taverns, hotels and theatres have been built on the islands too and nowadays many are nature reserves. The Isleworth Ait, opposite 'The London Apprentice', is a Site of Metropolitan Importance, providing nesting for 57 species of birds, including kingfisher, heron and cormorant. More intriguingly,



*The two lipped door snail  
and the German hairy snail*

it protects two species of air-breathing gastropod - snails to you and me: the two lipped door snail and the German hairy snail. Even so, since the 1930s, the island has been associated with malodorous Mogden (sewage treatment plant). The Metropolitan Water Board, now Thames Water, bought the island from the Duke of NORTHUMBERLAND and installed waste pipes, thereby making three islands one. But mercifully, it is purified waste water which is piped to the ait from the sewage works and discharged into the river at high tide.

The Brentford Ait, near Kew Bridge, is also a bird sanctuary but has a more notorious 'bird'-related past. An inn, The Three Swans, was built there in 1729 by Henry WEST. It was originally known for good food and entertainment, having its own fishponds and licensed to take salmon from the Thames. Good old Thames eels were eaten too (willow comes in handy for weaving eel-traps). They were stewed or 'pitchcocked' (breadcrumbed and griddled over an open fire). Eel Pie Island in Twickenham got its name by a similar route. But

by 1811 The Swans was described as “a great nuisance” and known more for debauchery and rowdy behaviour.

But debauchery was nothing new, for this was the place that the 17 year old Prince of Wales (later GEORGE IV) seduced the (married) actress Mary Darby ROBINSON in 1779, He was smitten when he saw her at Drury Lane in *Florizel and Perdita*, an adaptation of SHAKESPEARE's *The Winter's Tale*. He referred to himself as ‘Fiorizel’ in his love letters and she was thereafter known as ‘the Perdita’ (the lost girl). But she was unceremoniously dumped as the Prince's mistress in 1780, her reputation and stage career ruined. However, Prinny's love letters were the ace up her sleeve, She threatened to publish them, forcing GEORGE III to buy them for £5,000 (almost half a million pounds today), although most went to her creditors. To support herself she wrote poetry and novels, trading on her notoriety.



*Willow eel trap*

Theatre connections continue at Tagg's Island in Hampton (not that far from Garrick's Ait, named for the great actor David GARRICK, who was Mrs. ROBINSON's mentor). It was leased by the TAGG family in 1841 and later



*Tagg's Island with the Karsino*

used by Thomas TAGG Jr. to build boats, in particular Thames launches, which carried up to 150 people. In 1872 he took over The Angler's Retreat, a beerhouse, and rebuilt it as The Thames Hotel. Large and elegant with a long verandah from which to admire the

views, it was a popular resort For millionaires, actors, including Sarah BERNHARDT, artists, writers (J.M. BARRIE amongst them) and royalty too. Another Prince of Wales (who later became EDWARD VII) cavorted there.

Following TAGG's death in 1897, his riverside empire declined. In 1912 the island was sold to Fred KARNO, the showman and impresario who discovered Charlie CHAPLIN and Stan LAUREL. ‘Karno's Army’ toured the country, presenting sketches without dialogue to avoid the Lord Chamberlain's censor, becoming a precursor of silent film comedy. He was also credited with



inventing the custard-pie-in-the-face gag. KARNO hired the architect Frank MATCHAM, who also designed Richmond Theatre, to rebuild the hotel with a music hall attached, the Karsino. It had a resident orchestra of 350 and landscaped gardens and was a runaway success. In 1914, the Palm Court Concert Pavilion was added, its domed roof painted with views of Hampton Court. But the First World War intervened. The hotel was used as a base for officers but after the war it lost money and by 1925 KARNO was bankrupt. The hotel was demolished in the 1970s.

Eel Pie Island's hotel, linked to DICKENS, later famous as a jazz and blues venue until it closed in 1967, suffered a similar fate. Both hotels were ravaged by fire before being

knocked down. Pete TOWNSEND of The Who, who appeared at the Eel Pie Club, once owned Eel Pie Recording Studios, located further downriver near Richmond toll bridge. Tagg's Island has its own links to rock music. KARNO's Edwardian houseboat, *The Astoria*, built at a cost of £20,000 and including marble bathrooms, is now a recording studio owned by the Pink Floyd guitarist Dave GILMOUR and is moored at Hampton.



*Eel Pie Island and Hotel*

Even the movie business is linked to our islands. Lot's Ait, near Brentford Dock, was once the setting for external scenes for the BOGART/HEPBURN film *The African Queen* - interior scenes were shot at Isleworth Studios. Legend has it that a pair of parakeets escaped from the set and now there are thousands of them, along the river and in our gardens. Lot's Ait has a recently restored boatyard and is accessible by a new footbridge. Eel Pie and Tagg's Islands are accessible too by bridge, but to visit Isleworth and Brentford Aits you would need a boat.

Where you can, go and take a look. There is more to these islands than might first appear.

Linda Lingham Taylor is a local writer and researcher This article first appeared in *Out & About* (Hounslow, Osterley, Brentford, Isleworth 86 Chiswick) April-May 2013.

### Images

Snails: [www.news.bbc.co.uk](http://www.news.bbc.co.uk)

Eel trap: [nailldebutlearcom/blog](http://nailldebutlearcom/blog)

Tagg's Island: John Sheaf

Eel Pie Island: [londonparticulars.wordpress.com](http://londonparticulars.wordpress.com)



I was eight years old in 1940 and I lived with my parents in Hounslow. It was an exciting time for an eight-year-old but at the first hint of anything interesting happening in the sky above, I was bundled into the nearest shelter. Only once did I have a brief clear sight of what came to be called the Battle of Britain. Memory becomes a series of snapshot stills after 60 years, but I recall playing in the garden on a warm late summer day. The usual siren warning had not sounded but a neat formation of aircraft suddenly appeared in the hazy sky, almost directly above me. Most little boys were aircraft recognition experts in those days and I identified the aeroplanes as Dorniers. My mother appeared at the kitchen door and was rooted to the spot!



*RAF Hurricane*

The cavalry arrived! A Hurricane came in close to one side of the group and I could hear the drumming sound of gunfire. Almost immediately one of the German machines streamed fire with a smoke trail from one engine and fell away from the formation. The whole episode took perhaps 45 seconds and the sky was empty again.

Some few years ago I made a determined effort to find out more about this incident. Rumours abounded in wartime and the local story was that the aircraft had crashed in Richmond Park and that one of the attacking Hurricanes was also shot down. Both of these stories proved untrue. The Park Authority records showed that no Dorniers had arrived in 1940.

My research efforts were rather spasmodic but I tried various avenues to discover more. I got fragments of memory from local people but, rather like UFO sightings, it was astonishing that so few folk were watching the sky for the vital moments when all this occurred and nothing quite fitted what I remembered anyway.

There are now massive books documenting the identity and approximate position of every aircraft shot down in the Battle, both Allied and German. I searched and cross referenced these for likely looking cases, my main difficulty, of course, being that I did not have a date for the incident.

Logical reasoning finally put me on the right track. I clearly recalled the orderly formation of German aircraft flying from east to west. History showed that after most daylight raids formations were broken up and made for home as

individual aircraft. On this basis I reasoned that I had, therefore, seen a group on its way to a target to the west of Hounslow, this narrowed the field a lot.

One more piece of information came to me from a small paperback book about raids on Walton and Weybridge. The aircraft on the notorious raid that killed many workers at lunchtime at the Vickers' factory at Brooklands on 4th September 1940, were initially thought to be Dorniers by the Observer Corps but were in fact Messerschmitt 110 machines of a modified type. These aircraft had large flared structures under the front fuselage to house extra fuel or guns and they looked very much like Dornier 17 'flying pencils'. I had found my 'raid', a Formation on its way to Brooklands.



*Messerschmitt 110*

After this it was relatively easy to unravel the episode. TNA (The National Archives) records state that the Hurricanes were from 253 Squadron at Kenley. I had almost certainly seen Flight Lieutenant CAMBRIDGE shoot down LI + BK of the crack German fighter-bomber unit Erpro 210. This aircraft made it all the way from the sky above Hounslow to where it crashed at Waterloo Farm, West Horsley. Another from the same group crashed at Netley Heath with no survivors.

The formation I had seen represented half the attack force of the Brooklands raid, the other half attacking from the West. There had been an initial encounter with the RAF over the Channel and the leader of the group I had watched was shot down at this stage I suspect the group arrived leaderless, behind the coastal radar chain, and then flew north but too far to the east. The Thames probably gave them orientation and they swung west over Hounslow to begin their run on the target. By this time they were only flying at about 10,000 feet and were clearly visible against a hazy September lunchtime sky.

The crash was investigated some 30 years ago but I can find no trace of the now disbanded group of enthusiasts who dug there.

One final question remains for me. The records show that in the crash FW ROEHRING was killed and Uffz JAECKEL survived, injured. ROEHRING was, I believe, buried in Brookwood Cemetery but what of the injured man? Did he recover from his wounds and survive the war? Sadly the victorious Hurricane pilot was killed only one week later but what happened to the only survivor from the Messerschmitt?

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## FAMILY HISTORY A-Z

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**ARCHIVES** and County Record Offices are the backbones of family history. Over the past decade many have been rebuilt and no longer are you seated at a microfiche reader perched on a shelf in a corridor with just enough space beside it for a reporter's notebook. Now most are modern buildings, full of computers, many of which are linked to the main genealogical websites. If you have never visited a County Record Office you are in for a treat - they have records that will never go online. Search their card index and you may find an obscure record mentioning your ancestors' Browse among their books dealing with local history and geography and find out about where your ancestor lived. Talk to the archivists, they hold the knowledge of their collections and will give you valuable advice.

**BASTARDY BONDS** are Orders made by the Petty Sessions against the father of an illegitimate child, Those administering the Poor Law made every effort to identify the father of an illegitimate child, who could be ordered to make weekly payments to the mother in order to support the child thus alleviating calls upon the Poor Rate. If you are lucky, details of these can be found in the Quarter Session Records at the appropriate Record Office.

**COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION** not only looks after the graves of members of the Commonwealth who perished in World War I but also the memorials to civilians who died as the result of enemy action in the Second World War. Their records are free and online. World War I cemeteries of more than 40 graves contain the 'Cross of Sacrifice', designed by architect Reginald BLOMFIELD, to which is added the 'Stone of Remembrance' in cemeteries of more than 1,000. Designed by Edwin LUTYENS the Stone is carved with the inscription, "Their name liveth for evermore." Records give the name, regiment, rank and number of the serviceman, together with names of next of kin if known, and a home address. They also give the name and address of the cemetery and the place within that cemetery of the burial.

**DADE REGISTERS** (1770-1812) William DADE, vicar of several livings in York and the East Riding, felt that details in parish registers were inadequate. I-Ie included in Registers of Baptism, where known, the occupation and residence of the father, mother's maiden name, also the names, residences and occupations of grandparents. Burial Registers included the date of death, the names of the parents even for adult burials, the residence and occupation of the deceased and the cause of death. The system had fallen into disuse by 1812.

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## MISCELLANY

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### Memories of the Ice Trade

The London Canal Museum is searching for people who have worked, or are still working in the ice trade, or their relatives. Before the invention of the refrigerator ice was taken from ponds, rivers and canals and stored underground. Later it was imported from Norway and stored in the large ice wells that were dug in London.



The ice wells at New Wharf Road are now part of the London Canal Museum and they are hoping to tell their story. "If you have memories of the ice trade that you would like to share we would love you to get in touch" says Jane Wilson, Co-ordinator of Oral History for the London Canal Museum. Email: [jane@canalmuseum.org.uk](mailto:jane@canalmuseum.org.uk)

### One-Place Studies

Local history is part and parcel of family history and I know that many of you are also involved in studying the history of particular villages. A new Society has been Formed, aiming to assist those participating in this



fascinating study. A not-for-profit organisation, the cost of membership is £10 and you can register your 'place' for a further, one off, £10. Place is very loosely defined as a street, village or town, anywhere in the world. Kirsty Gray is the Chair (she is also the Chair of the Guild of One-Name Studies) and says, "The newly designed website shares good practice, ideas and methodology, promoting the research principles and problem solving techniques required." Go to their website at: [www.one-name-studies.org](http://www.one-name-studies.org)

### Have You Lost an Antique Teddy Bear?

Over a year ago an antique teddy bear was left in the departure lounge of Bristol Airport - could he be yours? The bear was in a carrier bag and is thought to be called Glyn. With him was a photograph of two children with the teddy bear and written on the back is,

*With dearest love & xs to our darling Daddie from your loving little daughter Sonnie, Dory & Glyn, Taken on Baby's birthday March 4th 1918. One year and 5 months old.*

Airport staff have drawn a blank in their attempt to find the owner. If you can help please email the Airport at: [yourairport@bristolairport.com](mailto:yourairport@bristolairport.com)

At our Members' Evening last July, one of the volunteer speakers was Yvonne MASSON, who mentioned the name of Edward WHYMPER, which immediately rang a bell with me, so I just had to talk to Yvonne to tell her of a tenuous connection with that brave mountaineer, as I had not long before seen the new Blue Plaque commemorating him in Waldegrave Road, Teddington.

As a result I did a little ferreting on the internet and found quite a lot of interesting facts, most of which I did not know. Here is a résumé, gleaned from various public articles.



*Edward Whymper*

Edward WHYMPER was born in Lambeth, Surrey, on 27th April 1840, the second son of Josiah WHIMPER - that is how they spelled their name in the Censuses of 1841 and 1851. By 1861 Edward had changed his spelling to WHYMPER and although he was still living at 18 Canterbury Place, Lambeth, his widowed father had moved out to Haslemere, Surrey. His father's occupation was engraver/artist/painter and Edward had trained to follow his father. He went off to the Continent, he said to broaden his experience So it seems he got the Wanderlust and spent the next few years climbing mountains in Europe and

South America, often being the first to do so. The 1871 Census shows he was still returning to his home in Lambeth, although he kept on mountaineering, He was the first man to climb the Matterhorn.

It was about 1905 that my paternal grandmother (my Nan), Annie MARKS (née CARNALL) came to Teddington with her family and they soon settled in at 47 Church Road (where I was born much later). Her only son was Richard Henry MARKS, my father, who was born in 1898.



In 1906 Edward WHYMPER married Edith LEVIN (45 years his junior) and bought 'Holmwood', at No.82 Waldegrave Road, Teddington. His daughter, Ethel, was born not much later. The two roads run parallel with each other on opposite sides of the railway. My father told me that Nan had worked as Housekeeper for Edward WHYMPER, the mountaineer. That would have been a ten minute walk away.

Quite by accident I recently came across an old Bible in our bookcase and opened it, only to find a dedication to my father written in Edward WHYMPER's hand, dated 6th May 1911. This had been added to a previous notation in spidery but clear writing - not Edward's - *E. WHIMPER April 1857* when Edward would have been 17: perhaps a birthday gift as he was born in April. This Bible is the King James' version printed in MDCCLV, i.e. 1855.

I checked the 1911 census, which had to be completed by the head of the household, so I had a confirmation of Edward's writing, which tallied with the Bible dedication. He had added his own notes on the census form: "There is no head of this family. I am alone. Have been married (words Three years DELETED). My wife has deserted me. A boy named William GULL was in the house on the night of April 2 1911. His age is said to be 15 but I cannot guarantee it."

This information would be at odds with the possibility that he and his wife divorced in 1910, which was difficult in those times, but the marriage might well have been strained given the disparity in their ages. Certainly at the time of the 1911 census they had already separated: he gave his age as 74 years and his marital status as "married"; his estranged wife had taken their daughter back to her family home at Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, but nevertheless also stated in the census that she was married.

The dedication in the bible was made in May 1911, after the census, so perhaps Edward had been planning to go abroad again and gave his Bible to my father as a keepsake, Edward died a few months later, aged 71, and is buried at Chamonix, France.



*Edward Whymper's grave*

*My thanks go to all those people who published various parts of Edward WHYMPER's life. DM.*

The original burial ground of Harlington Parish is the area immediately surrounding the church. In the words of Herbert WILSON (*in 800 Years of Harlington Parish Church*), "If anyone were to ask how old is this portion - when was it first used as a place of burial - it would be very difficult to give even an approximately correct answer. We may be quite sure that it is of immense age, older than the present church, probably older than the Saxon church that preceded it. From time immemorial it has been 'God's acre' the resting place of all that is mortal of countless generations of the faithful."

Some idea of the number of people buried in this relatively small area can be gained from the fact that the burial ground is about 3 feet higher than the path that leads up to the church doorway. The difference in level is accounted for by the enormous number of burials that must have taken place over a period of more than one thousand years.



*Harlington Churchyard*

The most interesting object in the graveyard is the famous Harlington Yew Tree, recognised as one of the most remarkable in England. In 1990 a survey of ancient yew trees by the Conservation Foundation estimated that using all the data it had to hand, the tree could well be more than 1,000 years old. Several drawings of the tree

show that it was the subject of elaborate topiary work, which was maintained by regular clipping at the annual Whitsun Village Fair.



*Ancient Yew Tree in 1810*

The accompanying picture is from a print of 1810, but the well-known print of the tree, published by William COTTERELL, the parish clerk, in 1770, suggests that then it was cut into an even more extraordinary shape. The clipping lapsed after 1825 and the tree reverted back to its natural shape. It was badly damaged by a gale in 1959 but although only a shadow of its former self, it is still a significant feature in the churchyard.

The old burial ground was closed on 2nd February 1884, and from then burials took place in the adjoining land immediately to the west, The boundary between the new and the old burial grounds is easily distinguished by the difference in levels. Further extensions of the churchyard took place in 1889 and 1915, In 1936 a cemetery was opened in Cherry Lane and the only burials that now take place in the churchyard are confined to those in existing family graves.

Until the early 1970s, a large number of 18th century tombstones remained in their original position but without warning, the then Rector, who had already done so much damage to the area around the church, had them illegally removed and placed them against the wall. The illustrations show the



tombstone of William and Deborah COTTERELL before and after its removal. The grave was of interest to me as the occupants are my 4 x great-grandparents. An unexpected bonus in this instance was to find that the stone had sunk into the ground, so that a further inscription

relating to the subsequent burial in 1825 of another direct ancestor - their son, also named William - was revealed.

In 1915 a plan of the burials known to have taken place since 1700 was drawn up by the churchwardens; the surname of the person first buried in each grave, the type of monument and the date of the first burials was also recorded. It should, of course, be remembered that in most cases more than one person would be buried in a grave, so that other members of the same family may have been interred at a later date. This plan, which is fixed to the wall of the nave, proved to be very useful when, in 1985, the late Connie ZOUCH and I recorded the details of the inscriptions on the tombstones. Several copies of the monumental inscriptions were made and deposited respectively in the Society's archives, the Society of Genealogists, Uxbridge Library and with the Rector.

Apart from the 12th century church, which is Grade I listed, the churchyard also contains two other listed structures One is the monumental tombstone, in the form of a gabled shrine, to William BROOKES, who died in 1869; the other is the boundary wall to the south and north, dating from the 18th and early 17th century respectively.

*Images: Philip Sherwood*

*George II loved the High Street because he said that  
the dirt reminded him of his native Hanover.*

From the frontispiece of *The King of Brentford* by Robert HENREY

Our day conference on 28th September was centred upon how our family histories were shaped by the evolution of transport - based on the town of Brentford: by the Thames and at the junction with the Grand Union Canal. Here is the report of the first two talks given on that day. The other talks will appear in subsequent Journals.

### **The Development of Brentford, Andrea CAMERON.**

Archaeological evidence shows that transport has been important in Brentford, from a prehistoric dugout canoe to Concorde and the Airbus A380 flying overhead. The Romans had created a settlement known as Londinium by 43AD. Their roads radiated outwards, including one through Brentford. Roman settlements existed at Brentford and Staines. The Romans established a tannery in Brentford and tanning continued until the 1970s, when the last tannery closed.

Brentford is not named in the Domesday survey - it existed as an entity within the parishes of Ealing, Hanwell and Isleworth.

A market has been held in Brentford since the early 1300s. The nuns of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, had the right to hold a market in Brentford until the monasteries were dissolved by Henry VIII. After this, a family named HAWLEY held the market charter, until they sold the rights. The market continued in the Butts area of the town until the 1870s, when it moved to a new site on Kew Bridge, on land owned by the ROTHSCHILD family of Gunnersbury House. This new site somewhat eased the congestion in the town.

Because the busy main road from London to the West country ran through Brentford, the town has also been busy. To cater for the needs of the residents and travellers, additional facilities have been required. There was a flour mill up to the end of the 19th century, in the part of Brentford included in Isleworth parish. A gas works existed from 1823 to 1963, Kew Bridge waterworks was established in 1834. Brentford Library was built in 1904 and is still in use. There were also breweries in the High Street, the last one closing in the 1920s. There only appears to have been one theatre, belonging to FINCH's jam factory, which survived until the 1930s.



*Kew Bridge  
Waterworks*



By the early 18th century, regular stage coaches stopped at Brentford on the journey between London and either Truro or Bath and Bristol. In 1784, mail coaches also ran along these routes, the mail coaches having priority over the stage coaches. At one time there were 79 inns between Brentford Bridge and Kew Bridge. After 1841, when the Great Western Railway between London and the west of England significantly reduced journey times, demand for coach travel decreased. The London and South Western Railway Hounslow loop through Brentford was opened in 1849, enabling easy travel to London.

In 1793 construction of a canal from the Thames was started. The stretch to Braunston was completed by 1805. There is debate as to the involvement of Isambard Kingdom BRUNEL in the construction of the docks and railway in Brentford. Evidence suggests that he was involved with the railway, but not with the docks Brentford Dock has always had access problems - it is accessible for only about two hours either side of high tide. In 1904, a Boatmen's Institute was built on the site of the old flour mill. It included a school for the boatmen's children and a lying-in room for the women. The building still exists but is now a private home.

There had been a horse ferry from Brentford to the Surrey bank of the Thames, but increasing population and traffic meant that a bridge was needed. Kew Bridge, at the far end of Brentford High Street, was first built as a wooden structure in 1759. It was replaced by a stone bridge which was completed in 1789. The third bridge, which is still in use, was opened by King EDWARD VII in 1903.



*Horse drawn tram*

In 1901 trams began to run from Shepherd's Bush through Brentford to Hounslow Heath. The trams ran on rails but were horse-drawn. In about 1912, buses first appeared in Brentford. These, together with the market traffic, caused severe congestion. As early as the 1830s there had been discussion about a new road to bypass Brentford High Street. The Great West Road was

eventually constructed, being declared open on 30th May 1925, by King GEORGE V and Queen Mary. The factories were built after the road was opened.

Most of the old High Street has been lost, but the bow windows of RATTENBURY's pawnbrokers are now in the Museum of London as part of a reconstruction of an 18th century street.

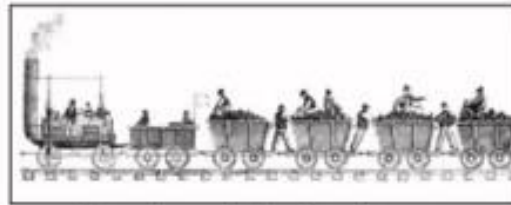
*Following Andrea's informative and fact-filled gallop through the history and development of Brentford, we had a short break for refreshments then welcomed Ron COX.*



## **The Railways - Why, Where and their Effects, Ron Cox**

Daniel DEFOE commented on the difficulties of transporting large/heavy loads by road. Such loads therefore tended to be transported by boat along rivers or the coast, with distances over land being kept to a minimum. Inland towns, or those not close to a navigable river, had difficulty in obtaining non-local produce or goods. Perishable items were not transported far.

In 1825 the Stockton to Darlington railway opened, primarily for the transport of goods, 1830 saw the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester line, mainly for passenger transport. The next decade saw a boom in railway building, and by the mid 1840s, London was linked by rail with the major ports and industrial areas of England.



*Opening of the Stockton to Darlington Railway*

Why were the railway lines built? For profit. The promoters of new railway lines were speculators looking to make profit. There was rivalry between companies, aggressively moving into new areas and employing dirty tactics to prevent rival speculators from opening a line in the same area. Greed and skulduggery played a part in the development of the railway network. There was no master plan, and Parliament generally tried to remain impartial because of the many conflicting opinions.

In 1835, London effectively stopped at Marble Arch - west of there was mainly farmland. One effect of the expansion of the new railways was to encourage house building, using the proximity of the new stations as inducements to potential buyers. More profit for the speculators! Not all speculators were out for personal gain, although many were professional promoters. Some MPs wanted to be seen to encourage the improvement of local facilities and some private landowners were willing to allow railway lines across their land, provided that they could have their own private stations, decorated to their own taste. A few land owners were able to charge extortionate sums for relatively small pieces of land, where this land was crucial to the development of a rail line. Indeed, the trustees of St. Thomas' Hospital realised enough from the sale of their former site to a railway company to enable them to build a new hospital, opposite the Houses of Parliament.

Opposition to the building of a new railway line came from various sources - often from those with a financial interest in a rival line. As might be expected, the coach operators and the relevant support businesses (such as turnpike trusts and coaching inns), opposed the building of railways, as did investors in the canals. There were also some strange reasons for objections, such as the clergyman who thought that the trains would disturb his choir. The Duke of

WELLINGTON thought that the railways would enable the lower classes to move about more and become discontented with their home areas.

The effects of the railways were far more numerous and varied than many of us had realised. Daily excursions became possible and Blackpool especially benefitted from this trade. Some rail companies charged lower fares for females and children, which led to some reported cases in the 1860s of men trying to dress as women to take advantage of this benefit. Rail travel allowed easier access to all kinds of social functions, such as sports, public hangings, and even prize fights (though these were illegal).

Railways also facilitated the spread of opinion as national newspapers and journals became available on the day of publication. The list of benefits just goes on: access to major hospitals and burial grounds (Brookwood in Surrey had its own rail line), improved postal services, easier and cheaper movement of raw materials and finished goods, movement of labour and livestock and expansion of employment opportunities. There were some disadvantages, however. There was an increase in the scale of crime and small local industries tended to suffer as cheaper, mass-produced goods became available.

One often overlooked result of the coming of the railways was the standardisation of time to London time. Trains were expected to run to the times published in the timetables. However, Ron told us an anecdote from Agra in India, where it was announced that the time on the timetable is not the time at which the trains will depart - it is the time before which the train will not depart!

The railways themselves provided numerous employment opportunities which had the advantage of being secure, non-seasonal and with good pay and promotion prospects. Men were attracted away from work on the land to these new jobs. Station hotels were built, which had huge requirements for staff. Amongst the numerous jobs created or expanded by the railways were accident inspectors, accountants, architects and draftsmen, bookshop staff, catering staff, contractors, dock workers, engineers, ferry and steamer operators, inventors, printers (of advertising posters, forms and timetables), travel agents and vending machine manufacturers (remember the machines that allowed the printing of a metal tag for ID?).

The railways had both good and bad consequences, but definitely had an impact on employment, health and the wealth of Britain. (Comment from this reviewer - the new Riverside Museum in Glasgow tells us that around 20,000 steam locomotives were built in Britain and exported from Glasgow during the 19th and 20th centuries.)

Images: Kew Waterworks: [www.gibas.org.uk](http://www.gibas.org.uk)

Horse drawn tram: [www.bookdrum.com](http://www.bookdrum.com)

Stockton to Darlington Railway: [www.imeche.org](http://www.imeche.org)

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## NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

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### **Birmingham Library**

The new Library of Birmingham has opened the doors of its starkly modern new building. There are more than 200 public access computers and its collection includes registers of churches which no longer exist and those of churches which were formerly in Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire, such as Aston, Handsworth and Kings Norton.



*New Birmingham Library*

The library is one of the few

places where there is free access to the General Record Office Indexes of births, marriages and deaths on microfiche.

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/libraries)

### **Greater Manchester Central Library and Archives**

As part of the renovations of the Greater Manchester Central Library and Archives, the Greater Manchester County Record Office and the Manchester Room have now closed. A temporary library is open at the Town Hall Extension where PCs, digital maps and a small local history section can be accessed. It is due to re-open in Spring 2014.

[www.manchester.gov.uk/info/448](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/448)

### **Northamptonshire Record Office**

Northamptonshire Record Office is responding to a demand for a longer working day on Saturday, and has extended its opening hours from 9am to 4pm on the first Saturday of the month only, on other Saturdays, the RO will close at 1pm. [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/heritage](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/heritage)

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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*Received from member, Michael J. Pullen.*

With being ever conscious of identity theft and spam mail from unknown sources, I wonder how many Members of the Society remove and shred the 'new members' pages before disposing of unwanted Journals? What is the general opinion?

*I would be interested to hear what members think. Please write and tell me your thoughts on this matter. Ed*

**Members' Evening (July)**

The Members' Evening proved to be an interesting and entertaining occasion, with several short talks given by members of the Society and a rather mind bending quiz based on British money, which only five members of the audience managed to complete.

Several members spoke about interesting ancestors or events they had uncovered in their research, and their talks have been included in this Journal or will appear in the next. Also Yvonne MASSON asked what was the connection between various seemingly unrelated topics, such as the Matterhorn, the MI6 building in London, Heidelberg University and *Punch* magazine, revealing that these topics had all arisen during her research on the DEARLOVE name. Finally Jill WILLIAMS gave a hilarious account of some of her Irish ancestors, including one grandmother who was not as straight laced as she otherwise might have appeared.

**Whatever happened to Lucy? Ian Waller (August)**

"Lost" children is a problem which continually occurs in family history - "Lucy" was Ian's generic term for them. It is often difficult to fix on why children vanish from the records, but it helps to know the social conditions at the time. Although many children were never registered, it was not so common for them not to be baptised, but the entry may just say something like "foundling", or the child may have been given a name by the clergyman.

Before 1st January 1927, there was no form of legal adoption. An illegitimate child might be taken on by another member of the family - they were often brought up by the grandparents, an aunt and uncle, or a friend of the family, but the social stigma about illegitimacy often prevented families from taking the baby in. Many single mothers had to leave the family home and were forced to farm the baby out so they could obtain employment, and they might turn to professional child adopters, such as baby farms or fosterers. Baby farmers would place ads in newspapers stating they will take a baby for, say, 15s a month, or £12 to adopt outright. Babies were kept in overcrowded conditions, some were even killed. Illegitimate children were even spurned by charities and the Poor Law authorities, and they were denied entry to the professions.

From 1927, an Adoption Order was issued by a Court through a registered intermediary and this might still be found at the Court office. The Children's Acts of 1975 and 1989 laid down specific procedures regarding tracing birth parents, as it was then legal for an adoptee to obtain their original birth

certificate' The original GRO birth index entry would have been annotated "adopted", and the adopting parents issued with a new certificate containing no information about the original birth' The Adopted Children's Register, available at The National Archives (TNA) and other main repositories including the British Library, gives the date and place of birth, which would be the same as the original GRO birth entry, the adoptive forename and surname, the child's gender, and the name, address and occupation of the adopting parents.

Those adopted before 1975 need to apply to the GRO for their original birth record, which involves a compulsory counselling interview, but if adopted after 1975 they only need to apply to get the information. Via the Adoption Contact Register the GRO puts people in touch with their birth mothers or natural parents; they send a letter to the other party. Local council services, charities, the Salvation Army or Barnardos will act as intermediaries. Natural birth information is only available to the adoptee, although a brother or sister can also apply if the adoptee gives permission, or is deceased.

With families living in overcrowded conditions, children were often turned out into the street or ran away. Various missions took them in. The oldest

children's society, the Waifs and Strays Society, now part of the Church of England Children's Society, was founded in 1881 by Edward and Robert RUDOLF and by 1905 they had 93 children's homes. Small groups lived in a house with a Master and Matron and slept in dormitories of five or six. There were chores and prayers before school and fêtes were held to raise money. The Society had its own newspapers and magazines which are included in British



*Church of England Children's Society  
School*

Newspapers Online. Case records are now available, many online, and they contain a lot of personal details about parents, medical histories etc., notice of discharge and where the children went on to: Children's Society Archive Centre, Block A, Floor 2, Tower Bridge Business Centre, 100 Clement's Road, London SE16 4DG

website <http://www.hiddenlives.org.uk>

There were about 400,000 private and charity orphanages around the country and information about local ones might be included in Kelly's Directories, and local archives, Although a large number of children absconded from these institutions they were reasonably well cared for and received an education.



The Ragged Schools arose from a charity started in 1844 by Lord SHAFTESBURY. By 1861 there were 176 schools. They were staffed by



*Lambeth Ragged School*

volunteers but had grants from the Government. Their motto was, "shelter, work, learning and religion". They provided basic lessons [reading and Writing] and food, taught thrift, gave moral guidance. Employment was found for many of the children. For records visit the Ragged School Museum in East London, the London

Metropolitan Archives (LMA) and local archives.

The Industrial Schools were supposed to help destitute children but petty criminals were also sent there to remove them from bad influences: the St Pancras Industrial School was located out in the country. The Industrial Schools Act, 1857, was part of the Poor Law; magistrates could send children to these schools between the ages of 7 and 14. After 1861, it was any child under 14 who was caught begging or committing petty crime, and any homeless or disowned child, etc. There was a strict routine but they were taught trades and given an education so had an opportunity to better themselves. Some were sent to training ships, hulks on the Thames and Medway, where they were taught seamanship and could obtain a certificate which could be a passport to a job in the Royal or Merchant Navy. The records can be found under Boards of Guardians records, on Ancestry, in I/Vorkhouses.org, and Metropolitan Asylum Board records at the LMA.

Reformatories were the Borstal of the day. The first such institution was set up in 1834 on the Isle of Wight and by 1861, there were 98 around the country, mostly associated with county gaols and prisons. Children were sent there to be in secure accommodation, their length of stay determined by the courts. It was a harsh regime but they received training and education, plus "moral improvement".

The Foundling Hospital was established in 1739 by Thomas CORAM and by Royal Charter. The first infants were admitted in 1741. Babies up to two to three months old might be admitted after petitions by the mothers, who then had to draw lots which consisted of three colours: white - the child was admitted; red: they had to wait; black: they were rejected. The mother would leave a small memento, or token, with the child and this was kept: there is an exhibition of these tokens at Foundling Museum in London. The children were



*The Foundling Hospital*

baptised with a new name, so they "vanish". The babies were put out to wet nurses around the country, some as far afield as Yorkshire: there are lists of the nurses. They then returned to the Hospital and from three to five years old were taught reading, music and sewing. The boys were apprenticed to trades or enlisted in the armed services, often entering the

regimental band due to the high standard of the music teaching. The girls usually went into domestic service. In the early days there was a high death rate, but the infants were probably already suffering from serious ailments. By World War II 270,000 children had passed through.

In 1925 the Foundling Hospital moved to Berkhamstead. There were also four Country Hospitals. Although the original building in London was demolished, there is a museum at 40 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ. Family Search includes the Foundling Hospital baptisms, but these give no clue as to the original name. The GRO has a separate index covering 1853-1948, available on application to the Registrar General. Apply to the Coram Foundation [www.comm.org.uk](http://www.comm.org.uk) for information: there is an admission record index and admission registers.

Many children were sent abroad, often without the knowledge or wishes of their parents. This went on for 350 years up to 1967, carried out by charitable organisations with the backing of the Government; 1870-1945 saw the peak of this activity. The theory was it would hopefully give the children a new life. Some of the children were orphans, most were illegitimate or from broken homes and some were criminals. Many were sent to Canada as part of the Farm School movement: a training farm was established in Nova Scotia in 1903. From 1832, children were being sent to Australia. Point Peur was an Australian boys convict establishment founded in 1834; girl convicts went into service with local residents. In 1917, Kingsley FAIRBRIDGE established the first farm school in Australia of the Child Emigration Society: these were called Fairbridge Holiday Camps. But the graveyard inscriptions show a lot of the children died at a young age. They took migrant children up to 1967. The British I-Iome Child movement sent children to Canada and Australia between the two World Wars.

During WWII 83 child evacuees were on their way to Canada on the SS *Benares* when it was torpedoed in the Atlantic. Those who died are in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records, also in the TNA Deaths at Sea records; after this incident, this practice was stopped. Some children sent abroad contracted diseases, some jumped ship, some were lost overboard.

Some lists are in the Canadian archives, such as those of the British Isles Family History Society of Ottawa which has a database of child migrants 1869-1935, [www.bifhsg0.ca](http://www.bifhsg0.ca) The Australian State Archives have inbound passenger lists from 1839. There were child migration societies, e.g. the Maria Rye Female Middle Class Emigration Society, founded in 1861, the Children's Friend Society, founded 1860, the National Children's Home, founded 1869, etc. Migrant children can be found in passenger lists [Ancestry] as there are groups of them, sometimes under the name of a charity. Government records (TNA) are prolific and include details of welfare of children sent abroad, i.e. name of individual, name[s] of parents, next of kin, where sent, how long. Online: the Child Migrants Trust are trying to put people in touch with their families in this country.

So, hopefully, you will find Lucy.

### **Reminiscence Roadshow (September)**

Our September meeting saw a welcome return of the "Reminiscence Roadshow" performers from the Questors Theatre of Ealing and this time their theme was "The wheels go round", the story of how cycling took a hold during the 19th and 20th centuries. The performance was built upon memories of local residents, which lent an authenticity to the various amusing anecdotes included.

One of the main points which came across was how cycling had, for the first time and in an affordable way, given the working classes the freedom to range further afield than they had been able to do in the past, and how popular and widespread cycling became. Many cycling clubs sprang up and long distances were travelled, especially at weekends, making good and healthful use of working people's new free time. New freedom was given to women and fashionable cycling outfits devised.



The bicycle became a vital piece of equipment for such people as policemen, errand boys, telegraph boys, postmen and, of course, ice cream salesmen - "Stop me and buy one". Bicycles were put to good use in both World Wars and in peacetime whole families, Mum, Dad and a couple of kids, could get aboard a tandem with side car attached and nights might be spent in a tent. Tea rooms sprang up all over the country to refresh the cyclists, not only in the high streets but in barns and wayside buildings. So the fondly remembered tin repair kits were needed and bicycles were often to be seen upended in the family kitchen.

After World War II there was an increasing aim to break cycling records, such as the time taken to cycle from Lands End to John o'Groats. As the 20th century gave way to the 21st, this sporting trend has grown in importance to produce world champions and winners of the Tour de France.

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## WORLD WIDE WEB

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A selection of new databases that have come online:

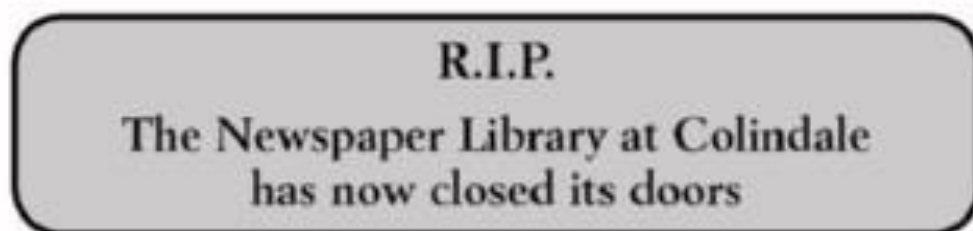
- The following can now be found on Ancestry: Clandestine Marriage and Baptism Registers for London, 1667-1754, these also include records from the Fleet Prison, King's Bench Prison, The Mint and May Fair Chapel; in collaboration with JewishGen, some Jewish records from the Holocaust; the Brasenose College Oxford Register 1509-1909 has now been indexed; England and Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Records 1567-1970, for births, baptisms, marriages and deaths — they not only include the main Non-Conformist churches but also Catholics, Quakers, Unitarians and those with no religion; the Birmingham Collection of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials and criminal convictions over a 400 year period.  
*www.ancestry.co.uk*
- Deceased Online has uploaded thousands of military burial records from collections in TNA, for eight military cemeteries dating back to 1756; also the Cremations and Burials from 1857 in the Wakefield Metropolitan District.  
*www.deceasedonline.co.uk*
- New databases on Find My Past include 1.2m new Welsh parish records, nearly 2m. parish records from Hertfordshire, 1538-1990, and parish records from Worcestershire 1537-1900; records of 50,000 officers and ratings in the Royal Naval Division who served in World War One; Canadian records including military records, business directories and occupational records; Royal Household staff; UK Electoral Registers 2002-2013; and Newspapers from around the world, including America, Canada, China, South Africa, France, Germany and Jamaica.  
*www.findmypast.co.uk*
- In collaboration with TNA, the Genealogist has digitised 90,000 criminal records from series HO27, HO13, HO20/13 and CRIM 1, from 1782- 1970 and apprenticeship Records, IR 1 . Also new to this site are more than 439,000 Royal Navy and Merchant seamen records 1851-1911; 1.5m railway workers in its new Railway workers Collection; a new set of 50,000 Jewish records; and parish records for Lancashire 1581-1882 and Suffolk 1533-1884.  
*www.thegenealogist.co.uk*
- The Irish government has announced that indexes to birth, marriage and death records from 1845 will soon be available online. This follows the

recent news from the General Record Office of Northern Ireland that it will also be making its own historical records.

[www.national.archives.ie](http://www.national.archives.ie) and [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

- If you have ancestors who were in the Royal Navy in WW1 you might be interested in the Naval History Website. It has details of the Royal Navy Log Books where 350,000 pages have been transcribed and The Ships Histories, a Citizen History Project, with 175 ships online, including Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, East Africa and China Stations. You will also Find casualty lists, Royal Navy Despatches and Royal Navy Honours and Gallantry Awards. From WWII there are War Diaries. You can search for men, ships or battles.  
[www.naval-history.net](http://www.naval-history.net)
- The Police Gazette, which was printed in London and distributed to all Metropolitan Police Stations, covers details of trials and suspected criminals. Editions from 1831-1900 are now online and can be downloaded for a small fee.  
[www.lastchancetoread.com](http://www.lastchancetoread.com)
- Queensland, Australia, BMDs are now online: births 1829-1914, marriages 1829-1938 and deaths 1829-1938. These are free to search but can be downloaded for a fee or you can also order printed copies.  
[www.bdm.qld.gov.au](http://www.bdm.qld.gov.au)
- The Royal Free Hospital archive and the London [Royal Free Hospital] School of Medicine for Women collections are moving from Hampstead to the London Metropolitan Archives and will be available early in 2014.  
[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma)
- World War One soldiers' wills have been digitised and are now online. Scanned copies from the 280,000 collection can be ordered for £6. This has come about through collaboration between Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service and Iron Mountain, who hold all copies of English and Welsh probate and wills from 1858: it is intended to digitise the whole collection over a 25 year project.  
[www.gov.uk/probate-search](http://www.gov.uk/probate-search)

**NB** Due to a change of ownership, Burkes Peerage has been removed from the web. It is uncertain whether eventually it will come back online.





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## BOOKSHELF

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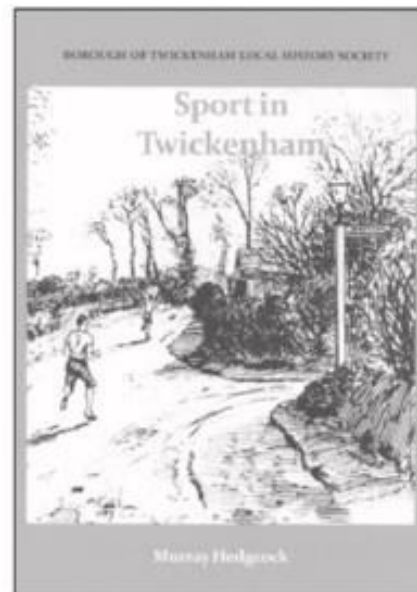
**Key of the Fields** by Jessie Lobjoit Collins (*The Britannia Press, 1990*) ISBN 1 872571018, £7.95



This book comes highly recommended by our Bookstall Manager. It is the story of Jessie's Lobjoit Huguenot family in England. During the 19th century they acquired land in west Middlesex in order to grow produce which was sent to Covent Garden Market. It could almost be described as a "Story of Country Folk", plus the history of the rise of Covent Garden and its importance to the market garden industry of West Middlesex. Covering the 19th and half of the 20th centuries it is well written and draws on family papers as well as personal recollections of places and family. A welcome addition to the social history accounts of the area.

**Sport in Twickenham** by Murray Hedgcock (*Borough of Twickenham Local History Society, 2012*) ISBN 978 0 903341 88 2, £4.50

To many "Twickenham" is synonymous with Rugby but that is, of course, not the only sport played in the Borough. Although beginning with rugby, the author also takes a look at the history of the many other sports, both professional and amateur, and the clubs that were and are so important in the life of the residents of Twickenham, Teddington and Hampton, several of which were founded in the 19th century and are still flourishing. Although neither sportsman was born in the Borough, it played an important part in the life of the diminutive Gem HOAHING, who was British No.1 women's tennis player in 1948-49, and who can forget Mo FARAH in the 2012



Olympics, who, although living in Teddington, attended the Oriel Junior School in Hanworth before his PE teacher at Feltham Community College recognised his potential? A fascinating read.

*Both these books can be purchased through the WMFHS Bookstall Manager.*

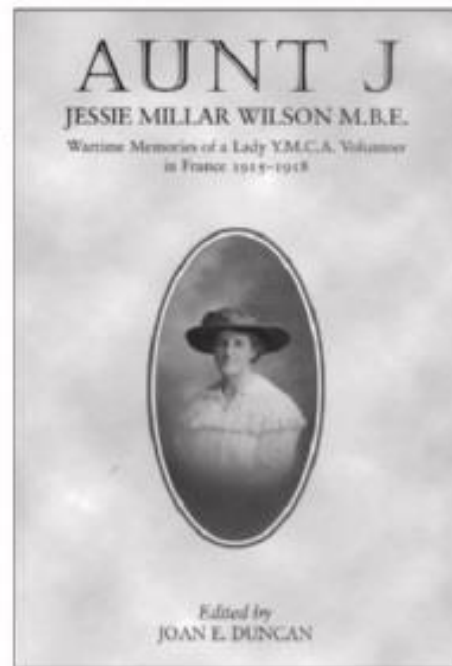
**Granny Was a Brothel Keeper, 50 Family History Traps** by Kate Broad & Toni Neobard (*The Family History Partnership*, 2013) ISBN 978 1 906280 38 3, £11.60 incl. p&p.



The title of this book says it all. Written by two experienced genealogists, they illustrate each of their ‘traps’ with true examples, Written in a very light-hearted style, it is illustrated with cartoons, and boxed “Toni’s tips” and “Kate’s comments” giving advice and warnings as you go about your research. A fun read but with serious content and excellent advice on many aspects of family history research. This book would make a good Christmas present for the sub-species of Homo sapiens, who are described on page 41 as “ ‘genealogisticus’ ...identified by their stooped gait watering eyes and an alarming tendency to get over- excited if someone shows them a family tree.”

**Aunt J, Jessie Millar Wilson MBE** Ed. by Joan E. Duncan (*Published Privately*, 1999) £6.50 incl. p&p

With the 100th anniversary of the First World War looming, this book is particularly apt. Joan Duncan inherited the memoirs of a member of her family who had served as a volunteer in France under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A. There are many, many books written about the experiences of the soldiers fighting in France, but this is a unique account by a woman who was there in a voluntary capacity. She was posted to France in 1915 and attached to “Hut 15” in one of the camps to which soldiers were posted after a period in the front line. Here she joined in the general duties of looking after the men and also creating several gardens round the camps - she had trained as a gardener. This is a remarkable insight into the lives of soldiers fighting in France between 1915-1918.

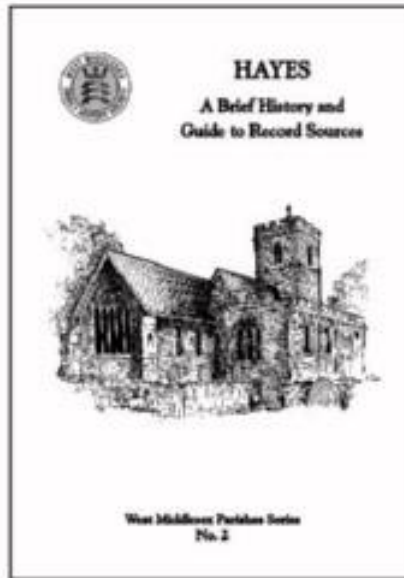
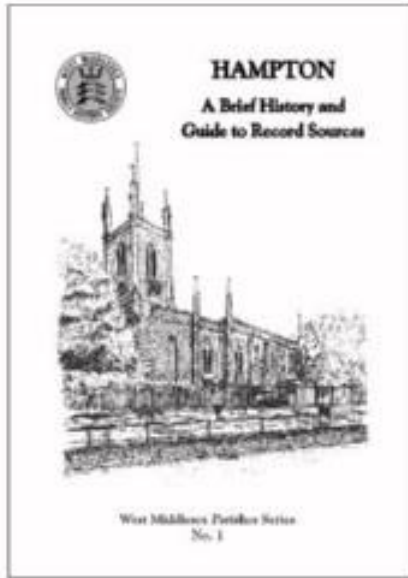


*Both these books can be purchased from The Family History Partnership, 57 Bury New Road, Ramsbottom, Bury, BL0 0BZ  
Email: [sales@thefamilyhistorypartnership.com](mailto:sales@thefamilyhistorypartnership.com)*



The Society produces the following publications.

**West Middlesex Parish Series**



Each book includes a brief history of the parish, plus a guide to record sources.

No. 1. Hampton  
No. 2. Hayes

£4.50 (incl. p&p)

Purchase from the Bookstall Manager address inside front cover

**War Memorials and Rolls of Honour**



An indexed transcription of War Memorials and Rolls of Honour from West Middlesex, containing over 21,000 entries

£6.50 (incl. p&p)

This CD is available from

Mrs. Maggie Mold, 49 Darby Crescent, Sunbury-on-Thames Tw16 5LA

It covers the following parishes:

- |           |               |                |                   |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Acton     | Fulham        | Heston         | Shepperton        |
| Ashtford  | Fulwell       | Hillingdon     | Southall          |
| Bedfont   | Greenford     | Hounslow       | Staines           |
| Brentford | Hammersmith   | Isleworth      | Stanwell          |
| Chelsea   | Hampton       | Kensington     | Sunbury-on-Thames |
| Chiswick  | Hanwell       | Knightsbridge  | Teddington        |
| Cowley    | Hanworth      | Laleham        | Twickenham        |
| Cranford  | Harlington    | Littleton      | Uxbridge          |
| Ealing    | Harmondsworth | Notting Hill   | Whitton           |
| Feltham   | Hayes         | Shepherds Bush |                   |



## Postcards of West Middlesex Churches

We have some delightful postcards of churches in West Middlesex. Pen and ink drawings in black and white, they have been produced solely for sale by the Society. The artists are: Ken HUCKLE, Ted DUNSTALL and Steve CALDER.

The parishes covered are:

Ashford	St. Matthew
Feltham	St. Dunstan
Greenford	Holy Cross
Hampton	St. Mary the Virgin
Harlington	St. Peter and St. Paul
Harmondsworth	St. Mary
Heston	St. Leonard
Laleham	All Saints
Littleton	St. Mary Magdalene
Northolt	St. Mary
Shepperton	St. Nicholas
Staines	St. Mary
Stanwell	St. Mary the Virgin
Sunbury	St. Mary the Virgin
Teddington	St. Mary
Twickenham	St. Mary



The postcards can be purchased for two second class stamps from:

Mrs. Maggie Mold,  
48 Darby Crescent,  
Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 5LA

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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 Society members look-ups are free (please quote membership number), unless otherwise stated. For non-members there is a fee of £5. Please note that all enquirers must supply a SAE if a reply is required by post. If an email address is given, holders of the Index are happy to receive enquiries by email. Unless stated otherwise, cheques should be made payable to the holder of the index, not the WMFHS.

### WEST MIDDLESEX FHS INDEXES

*Richard Chapman, Golden Manor, Darby Gardens, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 51W chapmanrg@f2s.com. Cheques to West Middlesex FHS.*

**Marriage Index.** Pre 1837 marriages in West Middlesex with partial coverage elsewhere in the county. Please supply places/ dates/ surname variants if known.

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

*Mrs. Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP wendymott@btinternet. Com*

**West Middlesex 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.

**West Middlesex Strays.** People from or born in our area, found in another area.

*Mr. Ted Dunstall, 43 Elers Road, Ealing, London, W13 9QB*

**West Middlesex War Memorials.** Substantial name-list material, consisting of public, churches', schools' and companies' memorials, etc. for WWI, 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.

### PARISH RECORDS

*Mrs. Margaret Cunnew, 25 Selkirk Road, Twickenham, TW2 6PS*

**Chiswick Parish Registers, St. Nicholas.** Baptisms, marriages, burials 1813-1901.

**Chiswick, 1801 Census**

**Ealing Parish Registers, St. Mary.** Baptisms 1779-1868, marriages 1797-1857, burials 1813-1868.

**Hanwell Parish Registers, St. Mary.** Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1813-1855.

**New Brentford Parish Registers, St. Lawrence.** Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1802-1837.

**Old Brentford Parish Registers, St. George.** Baptisms 1828-1881, marriages 1837-1881, burials 1828-1852.

*Mr. P Sherwood, 5 Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middlesex, UB3 5EW  
psherwood@waitrose.com*

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

*Mrs. Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP wendymott@btinternet.com*

**Harmondsworth Parish Registers.** Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1670-1837.



*Mrs. M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 9HF.  
mavikensib@aol.com*

For more than 3 names, please write for an estimate of charge.

**Hayes Parish Registers, St. Mary.** Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1557-1840

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

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

**Isleworth Register of Baptisms: Brentford Union Workhouse, Mission Church, Wesleyan Methodist Church,** extracts from Register of Baptisms.

*Ms. Carol Sweetland, 36 Diamedes Avenue, Stanwell, Staines, TW19 7JB  
carol.sweetlancl@btinternet.com*

**Stanwell Parish Registers.** Baptisms 1632-1906, marriages 1632-1926, burials 1632-1906. Also available on FreeREG. Name database 1632-1906.

### MISCELLANEOUS INDEXES

*Mr. A. Rice, 46 Park Way, Feltham, TW14 9DJ. secretary@feltham-history.org.uk*

**Feltham Index.** An expanding collection of transcripts and indexes relating to the parish of Feltham. Donations welcome, payable to Feltham History Group.

*Mr. Paul Barnfield, 258 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, TW3 3TY  
paulbarnfield@hotmail.co.uk*

**Hampton Wick.** Records of this village collected over 40 years of research.

*Mrs. M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middx, UB7 9HF mavikensib@aol.com*

**Newspaper Index.** Births, marriages and deaths, court cases, accidents, etc. taken from local newspapers 1894-1925.

*Mr. Brian Page, 121 Shenley Avenue, Ruislip, HA4 6BU, brian729@blueyonder.co.uk*

**1641-2 Protestation Returns of Middlesex.** This has been indexed. You will secure a printout, which includes variants. Cheques made payable to West Middlesex FHS.

*Miss Valerie Walker, 32 Cunnington Street, Chiswick, London, W4 5EN*

**G.R.O. Certificates.** A number of original GRO birth, marriage and death certificates have been kindly donated to the Society by members and are available for purchase at a cost of £3.50 per certificate. Cheques should be made payable to West Middlesex FHS. Please include a sae.

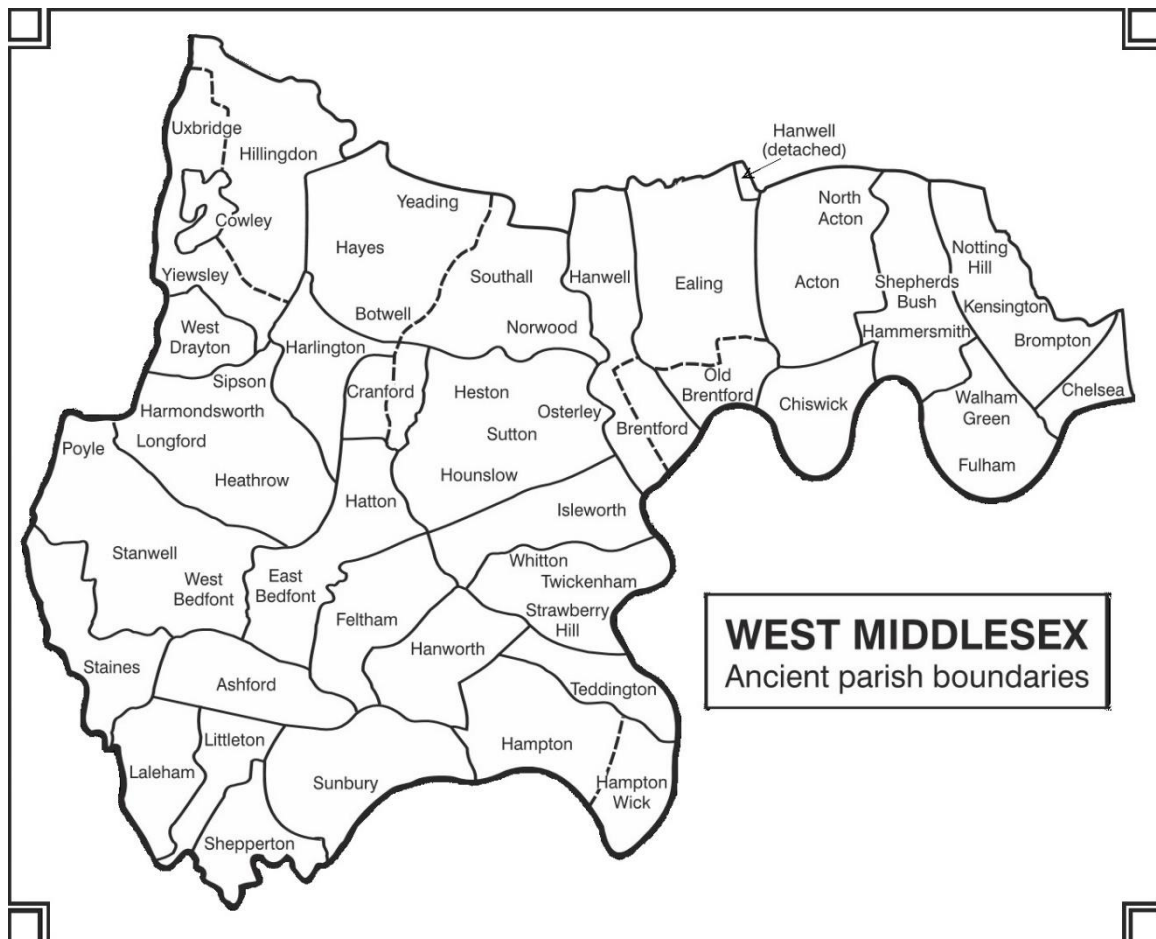
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The last date of submission for articles for printing  
in the subsequent Journal:

7th January    7th April    7th July    7th October

### Front Cover: Orchard Meadow, Sunbury-on-Thames

Following a long campaign by the Lower Sunbury Residents' Association, Orchard Meadow was opened to the public in April 2003. Fondly known as Sunbury's village green, it has a central area of mown grass which is surrounded by a border of wild flowers, and it covers an area of 4 acres' A popular picnic spot, this photograph was taken in February 2009. [www.photosunbury.com](http://www.photosunbury.com)



**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. Betty Elliott, 89 Constance Road, Whitton, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW2 7HX