



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Subscriptions	All categories: £15 per annum
Subscription year	1 January to 31 December

If you wish to contact any of the above people, please use the postal or email address shown. In all correspondence please mark your envelope WMFHS in the upper left-hand corner; if a reply is needed, a SAE 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:

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Richmond
Surrey TW10 7UG

Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to:

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

Queries concerning non-delivery or faulty copies of this Journal should be sent to:
Patricia Candler, 57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0JZ

FUTURE MEETINGS



The following talks have been arranged:

21 June	History of the Foundling Hospital	Jane King
19 July	Members Meeting - celebrating our 40 th anniversary	
16 Aug	Women in World War One	<i>Kirsty Gray</i>
20 Sept	Forgotten staff: Victorian and Edwardian Railwaywomen	David Turner
18 Oct	Chancery Proceedings	Susan Moore
15 Nov	The Story of Smallpox vaccination	Sylvia Valentine
20 Dec	Christmas celebrations - quiz is likely!	

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at St John's Centre, St John's Road, Isleworth, TW7 6RU, and doors open at 7.15pm. Fully accessible. A small carpark is adjacent to the Centre which is also close to a mainline railway station (Isleworth – South Western Railways) and is well-served by local buses. Exchange journals from other societies and a bookstall – all can be browsed between 7.30 and 10pm (talks take place between 8pm and 9pm). Refreshments are also available.



Advice Sessions

Would you like help with your family history?

Everyone (non-members included) is welcome, regardless of experience and whether their family history is within the West Middlesex area. At these sessions, an experienced member of our Society will spend about an hour with you to advise you on possible ways to move forward with your family history research. Email the Advice Session Co-ordinator: surgeries@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk to make a booking and give us an idea of what you want to achieve.

The sessions are held in the Local Studies area of Feltham Library on the third Saturday in the month – this year's remaining sessions are as follows

16th June, 2018

21st July, 2018

18th August, 2018

15th September, 2018

20th October, 2018

17th November, 2018

15th December, 2018

NB: Please check the Society website for up-to-date information: west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk - **Activities - Advice Sessions**.

We are now into our second year of monthly advice sessions. We don't limit ourselves to seeking West Middlesex ancestors but cover just about anywhere, which seems to attract appreciative customers. And Hounslow Libraries are no less appreciative. This year, they asked us to extend our usual monthly advice session into a Family History day as part of their Cityread event. Margaret and Yvonne ran the bookstall and the Advice team were out in force. The Isleworth 390 team who are researching the Isleworth War Memorial names were also there with their display. And in July, our Advice Session has been incorporated into the Older People's Festival.

WANT A LIFT?



At the Members' meeting on 21st September 2017, those members present were asked to consider if they were able and willing to provide lifts to other members who find getting to meetings a challenge. Below are details of those who have volunteered to be contacted by any other member who would like a lift. Do avail yourself of this service

If you are able to add your name to this page, just make contact with our Webmaster, Roland BOSTOCK, using the contact details as given below and providing similar information.

This list is also on our website under "Meetings" and hopefully additional names will be added between editions of the Journal.

Roland Bostock, who lives in **Teddington**, can do pickups from places such as:
Hampton Wick, Teddington, Strawberry Hill, Hampton Hill and Twickenham.

Email: Roland@Bostock.net
Telephone: 020 8287 2754

Mike Pipe, who lives in **Hanworth Park**, can do pickups from places such as:
Hanworth and Hanworth Park

Email: mikejpipe@aol.com
Telephone: 020 8893 1750

Hilary Strudwick, who lives in **Isleworth**, can do pickups from places such as:
Isleworth and Hounslow

Email: hilary.strudwick@springgrove.org.uk
Telephone: 020 8560 7492

Captain John Gray and Montpelier Row, Twickenham

Emma Louise Tinniswood



No. 1 Montpelier Row

Montpelier Row in Twickenham is possibly one of the best-preserved early Georgian terraces outside of London. It was built by a retired naval captain, John **Gray** in around 1720. Very little evidence survives about **Gray** and his life; however, we do know that he started as a volunteer in the Royal Navy in around 1696. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1702, and in 1708 he is listed on HMS *Fly* as Commanding Officer. This was followed by Commanding Officer of the *Squirrel* from 1710-1711. He was promoted to Captain of HMS *Folkestone* in 1711 retiring on half pay in around 1714/1715. This may have coincided with the Treaty of Utrecht which took place in April 1713. His half pay income combined with prize money possibly provided the funds he needed to invest in land and building and become a speculative builder in Twickenham.

Gray was already living in Twickenham when he began to acquire land from the Duke of Northumberland in 1718. Much of East Twickenham, or East Field as it was known was still parcelled into small areas, left over from the medieval period. He leased several areas to form the plot he wanted; Short Farthingworth and Long Farthingworth were the first plots. Building began and was completed by 1723, when the first properties started to be rented out.

During the 1720's the war with Spain resumed and **Gray** seems to have re-joined the navy as Commanding Officer, serving in the West Indies in 1726 on HMS *Lark*. He finally retired in 1729 and lived the rest of his life in Montpelier Row. He was married twice. He first married Sarah **Bennett** on 14 March 1705, and after her death, he married Elizabeth **Tufton** on 9 August 1720. **Gray** had five children who were born between 1713 and 1726: Diana, Charles, Tufton, Elizabeth and Christian. His children's names bear a striking resemblance to those of Sir Charles **Tufton's** children - Elizabeth, Charles, Diana and Christian Tufton. **Tufton** owned nearby York House from 1689 until the death of his wife Ayliff in 1720.



At the time of the row's construction, the stretch of the River Thames between Teddington and Richmond was becoming increasingly fashionable for the wealthy to establish their country estates. From royalty and gentry to politicians and writers, the Thames attracted people of status. **Gray** would have been aware of those living in the properties surrounding the plots which he had leased –

Cambridge Park, Orleans House, York House and Ham House all attracted the nobility and people of the social elite, as well as visits from Royalty.

The Twickenham Parochial records described Montpelier Row as '*twenty-four houses intersected by Twickenham Chapel...residences to people and families of Distinction.*'



Trade directories, enclosure records, poor rates and census returns provide long lists of military personnel, annuitants, clergymen, inventors and scientists, property owners, artists and peers living in the row. These were, and still are, substantial houses and would have required the residents to have a good income to not only afford the rents but also the life that went with living in such a home. Perhaps this is why, until the latter part of the nineteenth century, we tend to see very similar occupations for the residents and owners. However, with the development of the commercial sector in the Victorian period, we see an emergent middle class with increased incomes, enjoying a lifestyle which previously had only been afforded to the upper classes and these people are now moving into the row.

From 1720 the row has attracted a number of serving and retired military men such as Captain **Hamilton**, Major General **Parker**, Captain **de Stark**, Captain Philip **Antrobus**, Lt Colonel Edmund **Palmer**, Lt Commander Archibald **Finlay**, Commander Richard **Smith**, Captain Frederick **Vansittart** and Ronald **Kerr**. During World War II, the M15 officer and spy runner T. A (TAR) **Robertson** lived at Dudley House (No. 11).



The row had its own chapel, initially for the sole use of the residents, and the ministers lived in what was known as Chapel House. No 15, now called Tennyson House, is situated beside the former site of the chapel. However, there have been a number of other ministers who have lived in the row including Rev. Robert **Gasgoyne**, Rev. J. B. **Mayor**, Rev. D **Clarke** and Rev. Jeremiah **Seed**, and the Rev. Henry Parish who had been a former chaplain in India.



Throughout their history, the houses have attracted aristocrats and peers such as Lady **Bruce**, Lady **Osborne**, Lady **Buchan**, the Earl of **Macclesfield**, Lady **Stowell** and Lord **Hillsborough**. During the twenty-first century, the politician Lord **Thurso** and his wife lived in Fotheringay House (No.14). They enjoyed a visit from their friend, Sir Winston **Churchill** in 1953 with whom Lord **Thurso** had worked since just after the first world war. The row has also had a number of artists – musicians, painters, writers, photographers and inventors. Perhaps the most notable inhabitants in the twenty-first century were Peter **Townsend** of The Who, who resided at Tennyson House and Norman **Parkinson**, fashion and royal photographer, at Fotheringay House. Poet laureate Alfred Lord **Tennyson** and engraver and artist Wilfrid **Huggins** both lived in Tennyson House (Number 15). While the poet and writer Walter **De La Mare** rented the top floor

apartment in South End House (from the **Sedgewick** Family) until his death in 1956.

The clockmaker John **Archambo** lived in Seymour House (3) during the eighteenth century. Augustus **Mayhew**, the writer and brother of the famous nineteenth century philanthropist and social reformer Henry **Mayhew**, lived at Queen Anne House (No. 7). Other lesser known artists including Richard **Lay**, William **Fletcher**, Susan Sophia **Gascoyne** and Arthur **Garratt**.

Fritz Bernhard **Behr**, who was the inventor of the high-speed monorail system spent several years at the end of the nineteenth century living in South End House with his mother and sister.

At the other end of the row lived a lesser known female engineer Henrietta **Vansittart**. She owned a number of properties in the row which were rented out, whilst living in St Maur's Priory, now No.1. She also converted two pairs of houses into larger properties in the early 1880's, Nos 1 and 2 and 4 and 5.

It has been suggested that the row's earliest residents were some of the tradesmen who had worked on building the properties. Two carpenters, Thomas **Cook** and Caleb **Waterfield** who had been involved in the Pulteney Estates in London, were some of the first lessees in 1723, leasing No.12. Whilst William **Brown**, a pavior, leased Buckingham House, No.13, in the same year.

Gray died in 1736, leaving nine mortgaged properties in the row with provision for his wife, Elizabeth to remain in the row until her death. The properties were left to his son Tufton. However, a court case ensued shortly after his death, with a dispute over the will, the properties and who he had left them to. Gradually they were all sold off.



Perhaps the residents through time have been attracted by the beauty of not only the late Regency and early Georgian architecture but also by the beauty of the riverside location and its proximity to Richmond and London. These days an eclectic mix of people live in the houses who no doubt love them just as much as the residents for the last 300 years.

Note: *The numbers used are the current street numbers. They were changed around 1880 when some of the properties were converted into one.*

Photographs © Emma Louise Tinniswood 2014-2018

MEMBERS' DISCOUNTS

Find My Past

In May 2016 the Society signed a new contract with the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) relating to the terms under which we supply data to Find My Past. As part of this contract Find My Past has made available a discount of 15% on all new subscriptions, or Pay as You Go payments, taken out by our members. All you have to do is to enter the appropriate discount code as given below:

For Subscriptions the discount code is ****REMOVED****

For Pay as You Go the discount code is ****REMOVED****

These codes are valid up to the end of this year.

Forces War Records

The Society has arranged a useful discount for our members of 40% when you take out a subscription with Forces War Records.

You must register your details with them in the normal way, using [this link](#).

Then visit their [subscribe page](#), and enter our discount code ****REMOVED**** in the discount code box.

Since 2014, a small community group has been researching the lives and families of the 390 men named on the war memorial in Isleworth. As we got deeper into the project, we began to think of how to create our own memorial to these men. We have already set up a website (www.isleworthww1.co.uk) where the soldiers' biographies can be accessed and we have now set ourselves the goals of publishing the soldiers' lives as a book and installing our own centenary memorial alongside the Isleworth War Memorial. As we have no funding beyond grants and donations, we will have to raise most of the money for this through our own effort and ingenuity.

In 2017, West Middlesex Family History generously helped us in our fund-raising by sponsoring a talk from the military historian Andrew Robertshaw. In 2018, we are asking if the members of the WMFHS would help us by giving donations (large or small) or by offering fund-raising ideas. Please contact isleworth390@gmail.com

We have another request for help. Of the 390 servicemen named on the memorial, our volunteers have now identified and researched 358. We are left with 32 men who remain unidentified through the normal means and we need your knowledge and family trees to help us. Please look at the list overleaf and see if the names mean anything to you. A great-uncle? A family friend? The workmate of a grandfather or great-grandfather? Even the first husband of a second cousin twice removed?

If you can help at all, please contact isleworth390@gmail.com

Isleworth 390 WWI servicemen as yet unidentified

Adams	M
Bignold	C
Boswell	G
Byford	R
Clayton	Ernest
Cornell	J
Couzens	William
Elliott	W
Evans (<i>possibly Evens</i>)	T E (<i>possibly just E</i>)
Giles	Leslie
Gray	J
Hand	John
Hiscock	Charles
Humphrey(s)	Charles
James	J
Lloyd	Robert
Long	A E (<i>There are two A E Longs on the Memorial, we have details of one who died 28/05/1915</i>)
Lucas	Frederick William
Martin	Charles
Meehan	L
Morris	P
O' Brien	J
O'Leary	J
Peake	J
Purdy	G P
Roach	James
Robinson	J
Smith	W A
Wackerill	W W
Wells	Charles (<i>We already have Charles Frederick Wells, who died 27/11/1915</i>)



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society, held at St. John's Centre, St. John's Road, Isleworth, on Thursday, 15th March 2018. The meeting was attended by 29 members.

1. Welcome by the Chairman

Good evening and welcome to the Annual General Meeting of West Middlesex Family History Society. Thank you for attending. We aim to get through the official business as quickly as possible so that we can enjoy tonight's talk. I would just like to remind you that when we take votes, if you have not paid your subscription for the year, you will not be entitled to vote. I am pleased to tell you that as there are more than 20 members present, the meeting is quorate.

2. Apologies for Absence

Kay Dudman, Claudette Durham, Paul and Janice Kershaw, Maggie Mold, Wendy Mott, Robin and Bridget Purr, Eileen Small, and Anne Warrington.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 16th March, 2017

These were published in the Society's Journal of June 2017. Is it agreed that they can be signed as a true record of that meeting?

Proposed: Brian Page. Seconded: Carole Steers. Carried unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report

It falls to the Chairman in her Chairman's Report to provide a hopefully positive summary of what the Society has achieved over the last 12 months, with a look forward to what we aim to achieve over the next 12 months.

Looking back briefly to 2016. 2016 was an entirely positive year when we got on with doing what family history societies are expected to do, but when it came to review the finances of 2016, this time last year, we found that we had actually run a deficit of £1135, and it was because of that that we asked you at last year's AGM to approve an increase of £3 in the annual subs from £12 to £15.

I am sure that you will be delighted to hear that the raise in subs, and a few other things besides, completely turned around our finances, and this year, for the first time in 10 years we are able to report to you a surplus, which was £412. I do not wish to steal the Treasurer's thunder further in respect of our accounts, but I can assure you that we have absolutely no intention of raising the subscription again for a few years yet.

Looking back over 2017 your committee has made every reasonable effort to find and attract new members. We have had some success, but we are far from complacent on our membership numbers, and we will continue this drive to attract new members through 2018 and beyond. The numbers for 2017 are that

we started the year with 242 members and ended with 247. We lost 11 members who did not, or could not, renew their subscriptions, and we gained 16 new members through the year.

In 2016 we introduced, through Ann Greene's initiative, running open Advice sessions on how to do family history, which started at Hounslow Library in the Treaty Centre. When this library closed down last March we moved to Feltham Library where we are now beginning to see more visitors at these sessions.

The traditional way for us to meet our new members has been at the family history fairs. We attended five family history fairs during 2017, including the large new London Family History Show at Sandown Park Racecourse in Esher. This year we will also be present at five family history fairs including the newest and allegedly largest – which is The Name Event, being held at the ILEC (IBIS London Earls Court) Exhibition Centre, Earls Court over the week-end of 5th and 6th May. We are always pleased to see our own members at these events, so do please drop in on us and even lend a hand.

If looking for one word to sum up 2018 it has to be 'Change'. And meeting here this evening is of course one big significant change. It was not done as a matter of choice, as Montague Hall has now closed as a public hall, and we have been holding our meetings there since the hall opened in May 1984! which is almost 34 years, but hopefully we have now found a better place. The number of members coming to meetings has been slowly falling, which we think is partly due to members finding the journey getting to meetings difficult, particularly using public transport after the meeting. It was exactly because of this that we started the 'Give a Lift'/'Take a Lift' service during last year. Three drivers have come forward, and can be found on the website, who are basically willing to pick up members and get them to meetings, and return them home afterwards, but this can only work if the lift taker is more or less en-route to the meeting, so far as the lift giver is concerned. So, the more lift givers we have the better it can work.

Another change this year is that our Treasurer of long-standing, Muriel Sprott, has completed her six consecutive years on the committee, and has therefore to stand down as Treasurer and committee member very shortly. In her place, and we think for one year only, I welcome back an old familiar face, and my ex-vice chairman, Brian Page. Brian has been Treasurer before, so he knows the ropes, and I am sure our substantial assets will be safe in his hands.

Another change this evening is the standing down of Bridget Purr who, over her 10 year span as editor, has now produced the last 40 Society journals. A very great deal of work goes into these journals. The Journal is our permanent record of the comings and goings of the Society and is absolutely key for our more distant members to know what goes on here in Middlesex. Bridget has now handed the role of Editor to Ann Greene, whom we welcome to this great new challenge.

And while I talk of new roles let me also mention two more. I almost stood down as chairman this year, not because I in any way wanted to, but because I do have a business to run, and quite a few other commitments, and a very long journey to make. But a gentleman that regular attendees will know quite well has agreed to be my vice-chairman for this year, so that I do at least have a stand-in for when I am not here. Provided you support his election to the committee in just a few minutes hence, John Seaman has agreed to take on this role, which I am sure you all will appreciate, so thank-you very much John for that. I am also therefore willing to carry on as chair for another year.

The other thing I do for the Society is to arrange for, and liaise with, our speakers at these meetings, and I have also been looking for some assistance not so much as getting it done, but in checking that arrangements are in place, making sure that people have got contact details for the evening, etc. Hilary Strudwick, who has also volunteered to be on the committee this year, has agreed to help, which is wonderful for me, so my thanks go to Hilary for this.

There are plenty more contributors, the stalwarts, that I can and do thank. My thanks go to Mary Brown and Wendy Mott for their door-keeping duties, to Margaret Cunnew for her long contribution with the bookstall, and for attending (virtually) every fair we have been to while I have been with the Society. I thank Maggie Mold, the lady with the maps, for her support at our various fairs, and at meetings. I thank Pat Candler for being a most efficient Membership Secretary, and I also thank Brian and Pam Smith for their dedication in providing not only the library at all our meetings, but a cup of tea also, and some extra tasties at our Christmas meeting. So, thank-you all for your contributions (yet more applause).

The last thing I wish to mention, looking forward, is that I am reliably informed that this is our 40th (Ruby) anniversary as a Society. The inaugural meeting of the Society was held on the 19th July 1978. Hence, we will be making our July meeting, which also happens to be on the 19th July, something a bit special. We only have 3 of our inaugural members still with the Society (Mavis Sibley, Rhona Ward and Olive Young, while Wendy Mott joined just 3 months later in October 1978). We shall try to get them all to come. We will have a special cake to mark the occasion, and we shall be hoping to hear some good old reminiscing about things that used to happen a long while ago from some of our longer-standing members. So, do please mark down the 19th July as one not to be missed. To further mark our Anniversary Ann Greene will be making our September Journal a special Anniversary edition with plenty of old photos included. If you have material that you think is good for this special edition do please get in touch with Ann. On that positive note let me hand over to Muriel for her last Treasurer's report, until the next one.

6. Treasurer's Report

Good evening. You will see that we have joined the 'green revolution' and the accounts are being shown on the screen, although there a few printed copies available if you need them. The accounts will also be printed in the June journal for future reference. I have very little to say, as Kirsty has pretty well said it all. Our membership is hovering around the 240 to 250 mark, and we are doing our best to push that number up, but so far with limited success. The increase in subscriptions to £15 does not appear to have deterred anyone but has had a marked beneficial effect on our income for the year.

Thanks to the efforts of our Secretary, Roland, we are now sending our journals to some members by email. This is a helpful way of saving money, especially for our overseas members. If you would like to receive your journal electronically and have not already registered to do so, please let Roland or Pat know.

Some years ago, Richard Chapman loaded our first tranche of data onto FindMyPast. In recent times Roland and Brian Page have worked hard to increase the volume of data available to worldwide researchers. Our royalties from searches of these data now cover the cost of our speakers, so many thanks to our hard-working gentlemen for this and to all the people who use our data and boost our income.

During the year we bade a tearful farewell to Joan Storkey from her role as raffle organiser. Many thanks, Joan, for all you have done to help us over the years. That job was taken over by Ann Greene, and now by Hilary Strudwick. Thank you, ladies.

Thanks to the kindness of many volunteers who do not claim all the expenses to which they are entitled, our overhead expenses have reduced in total. However, you will see that we have increased payments for publicity including attendances at Open Days. These are the events where we promote the benefits of family history societies in general and our own in particular. Hard on the feet, ears and tongue, with all the standing, listening and talking we do, but generally very enjoyable. Do join us, if you are able.

As Kirsty has told you, the surplus for the year is our first surplus for ten years! Thanks to Roland for trawling through the records to identify this fact.

I have very little to say about our Balance Sheet - a list of our assets and liabilities. Due to the uncertainties we faced, no new equipment has been bought for some time now and the stock of books and maps has been allowed to run down. Many good books have been donated to the bookstall which raises funds at no cost to ourselves. Margaret is also an enthusiastic buyer of good books in the charity shops and low-price shops. Thank-you, Margaret, for all that you do for us.

Some years ago, a few of our members grumbled at the amount of money we were holding in reserve. As mentioned before, we have run at a loss for the last ten years, so if we had not had those reserves, we would now be in serious

trouble. As it is, we can look forward to a few more care-free years. Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions I shall do my best to answer them.

7. Receiving Financial Statements for the year to 31st December 2017

The Committee recommends their acceptance by you, the members.

To accept the accounts:

Proposed: James Young. Seconded: Margaret Cunnew. Carried unanimously.

8. Appointment of Examiners

To accept Neil Johnson as Examiner for 2018.

Proposed: Muriel Sprott. Seconded: Kirsty Gray. Carried unanimously.

9. Election of Committee

Muriel Sprott is standing down, having served her full six years. Kirsty thanked her for the work she has done over these six years on the Committee. Roland Bostock, Pat Candler, Kirsty Gray, Ann Greene and Yvonne Masson, having served less than three years on the Committee, and being willing to continue, do not need to be re-elected. Margaret Cunnew, Cheryl Ford, Brian Page, John Seaman and Hilary Strudwick have offered themselves for election to serve on the committee.

To accept the proposed new members:

Proposed from the chair by Kirsty Gray. Carried unanimously.

10. Amendments to the Constitution

Some proposed amendments to the Constitution were notified to members by an article in the December issue of the Journal. To put these changes into effect the changes now require to be accepted by members at this meeting.

To accept the proposed amendments:

Proposed: Muriel Sprott. Seconded: Carole Steers. Carried unanimously.

10. Any other Business

Presentations

Kirsty presented Muriel Sprott with a bottle of wine as a token of the Society's thanks for completing six years' service as Treasurer of the Society.

If Bridget Purr had been able to attend she would have been presented with a bottle of wine as a token of the Society's thanks for being Journal Editor for a period of 10 years. The wine will be held by for the next opportunity to be presented to Bridget.

The official business of the AGM closed at 8.12 pm with thanks to all who had attended.

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity Number: 291906
YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2017
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	<u>Year to 31 December 2017</u>	<u>Year to 31 December 2016</u>
MEMBERS' SERVICES INCOME		
Subscriptions received for current year	2331	2338
Subscriptions received in advance last year	<u>1079</u>	<u>372</u>
	3410	2710
Bank interest	1	21
Tax refund on GRT Aid	<u>542</u>	<u>289</u>
	<u>3953</u>	<u>3020</u>
LESS: EXPENDITURE		
Journal production & delivery	2446	2260
Hire of meeting hall	1039	1017
Speakers	<u>1075</u>	<u>575</u>
	<u>4560</u>	<u>3852</u>
	-607	-832
OTHER INCOME		
Bookstall sales	706	638
plus/minus Stock variation	-150	-295
less Purchases	<u>-266</u>	<u>-156</u>
Donations	182	148
Marriage index searches	657	295
Monumental inscription searches	283	69
Protestation returns searches	15	0
War memorials searches	132	0
Other research income	43	21
Raffles	156	230
Refreshments	<u>65</u>	<u>20</u>
	<u>1825</u>	<u>970</u>
	1218	138
OVERHEAD EXPENSES		
FFHS Subscriptions	89	90
FFHS fees	11	2
Equipment repairs & maintenance	92	154
Honoraria & gifts	19	99
Library purchases	0	208
Postage, stationery & telephone	0	28
Printing of Leaflets, Posters & Flyers	17	28
Publicity, including attendance at open days	332	236
Sundry expenses	138	162
Travel & subsistence	26	159
Disposal of assets	0	0
Depreciation	82	107
	<u>-806</u>	<u>-1273</u>
Surplus / Deficit for year	<u>412</u>	<u>-1135</u>

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number: 291906

BALANCE SHEET AS AT:

31 DECEMBER 2017

31 DECEMBER 2016

FIXED ASSETS

	31/12/2017		31/12/2016	
	Cost or Value at 30/09/1994	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31/12/2017	Value at 31/12/2016
1881 Census Index	1087	1084	3	4
Times Divorce Index	11	10	1	1
Boxes & Display Shelves	31	30	1	1
Hammondsworth Manor Rolls	348	0	348	348
Exhibition Display Boards	324	323	1	2
Lectern - Bought 2002	400	396	4	5
Overhead Projector - Bought 2005	352	347	5	7
Amplification System - Bought 2006	235	227	8	11
Power Point Projector - Bought 2006	428	414	14	18
Viewing monitor for laptop Bilt 2007	170	161	9	12
Display Stands & Table Cloths Bilt 2008	1409	1338	71	95
LapTop Computer Bought 2011	915	787	128	171
	<u>5710</u>	<u>5117</u>	<u>593</u>	<u>676</u>

CURRENT ASSETS

Stocks: Books		595		720
Ordnance Survey Maps		<u>275</u>		<u>300</u>
		870		1020
Expenses paid in advance: 2017/2016			397	167
Cash at Bank & in hand				
Barclays current account		792		1235
Barclays Business premium account		7501		7002
London Capital Account		5000		5000
Cash		<u>62</u>		<u>2</u>
		<u>13355</u>		<u>13239</u>
Total assets		15215		15101

CURRENT LIABILITIES

West 4 printers for December journals		0		589
Subscriptions In Advance		<u>1350</u>	<u>1350</u>	<u>1648</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		£ <u>13865</u>		£ <u>13453</u>

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Balance Brought Forward		13453		14586
Surplus / Deficit for Year		<u>412</u>		<u>-135</u>
		£ <u>13865</u>		£ <u>13453</u>

Note - the London Capital account is accruing income, but this will not be received by the Society until the capital is returned at the end of the fixed term of the investment.
The estimated amount of interest accrued at 31 December 2017 was £600.

Mueli Spritt
Treasurer

Kirsty Gray
Chairman

Mueli Spritt FCCA 0931470

14/3/18

Tracing Your Jewish Ancestors *Leigh Dworkin, Chairman of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, January*

Leigh Dworkin introduced himself as a keen amateur genealogist of 33 years' experience. In terms of nationality he regards himself as one-eighth Russian, one-quarter Lithuanian and five-eighths Polish. When he took a DNA test, the result were 93% Eastern European Jewish, 6% Western European and 2% Afghanistan, so he regards himself as Eastern European in origin. By way of illustrating the process of Jewish genealogical research, he began by introducing us to his family. His *Zader* or grandfather was a cabinet maker Harris **Dvorkin** from Brest-Litovsk in Belarus. Harris' Hebrew name was Tzvi Hirsch Ben Josef. Hebrew names are patronymic, so the name indicates that he is the son of Josef. The spelling of the family surname changed slightly as there is no letter W in Russian. His *Booba* or grandmother was Leah **Yellin** from Zambrov in the Lomza district of Poland. Leah's Hebrew name was Leah bat Aria Lev, indicating that she was the daughter of Aria Lev. Leah died just before Leigh was born so, in the Jewish Ashkenazi tradition, he was named for her – Leah becoming Leigh

Jewish history

The difference between British and Jewish genealogy is that with Jewish genealogy you can get stuck much earlier in the process. The dispersal of Jews around the world is down to persecution – the choices were to convert to Christianity, to die or to leave.

Jews first arrived in England with William the Conqueror, but in 1290 all Jews were expelled and did not return until 1656 when a Dutch Jew, Manassa ben **Israel**, successfully petitioned Oliver Cromwell for readmission. Jewish ancestry must therefore come from elsewhere in Europe or Africa. There are two different sorts of Jewish ancestry – Ashkenazi Jews from East Europe and Germany, and Sephardic Jews who started off in Spain and Portugal but who may have gone to Africa and Holland when they were expelled from Spain in 1492. This adds another challenge to tracing Jewish ancestry – you will be dealing with other countries, other record sources and other languages.

In the 17th to 19th centuries, Britain saw an influx of Sephardi Jews. Between 1880 and 1910, the pogroms in Eastern Europe meant a flood of Ashkenazi Jewish immigrants. The Nazi persecution of the 1930's saw further waves of emigration from Europe. Most Jews did not arrive until the 1880s, so the normal tools of civil registration and census cover a much shorter time-span, and then the "brick wall" of the Old Country is encountered. Your ancestor's Hebrew name (e.g Tzvi Hirsch ben Josef – Hirsch the son of Joseph) tells you his father's name. But the records say he came from Russia and 19th century Russia

encompassed Latvia, Lithuania, and Ukraine. How do you find the Old Country records – do they still exist? In Leigh’s case, all eight of his great-grandparents came to Britain and all four of his grandparents were born here.

How to do Jewish genealogy

Ask someone who knows how to do it! The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain (JGSGB) are there to promote research into Jewish genealogy. They offer an education program, how-to-do guides, mentoring, a journal (SHEMOT) a newsletter, special interest groups and conferences.

How to really do Jewish genealogy

The typical records. These are the ones which can apply to any family history research e.g. civil registration certificates, census, wills, military records and so on. Leigh warned that the 1911 census records should be taken with a pinch of salt for Jewish genealogy. Many Jews were not literate in English at that time, so the form was filled in by someone else and information on names, ages and even gender may be incorrect. The country of origin is also likely to be incorrect. Lithuania, Poland and Estonia were simply entered as “Russia”. Jewish immigrants were also fearful of authority and may have deliberately falsified their census entries.

The untypical genealogical records. These could include naturalisation records, alien registration, passenger lists and the London Gazette. *However.....* Naturalisation was expensive so parents would not necessarily go through the process. Adult children might do it later for business purposes. Alien registration is more useful as it records place of origin, date of arrival in the UK, date of birth and place of work. Passenger lists did not survive for Eastern Europe to the UK.

Use Jewish-specific genealogical records.

The *ketubah* or marriage contract contains the Hebrew names of the couples and the name of their fathers. It is usually written in Aramaic not Hebrew.

To marry in the UK, permission was required from the Chief Rabbi. The marriage authorisation contained not just the couple’s Hebrew names and the names of their fathers, but the names of the groom’s brothers. Under Jewish Orthodox law, if a man died, one of his brothers was expected to take the widow as his wife.

Again, to be buried as a Jew in the UK, authorisation was required from the Chief Rabbi. The authorisation gives information such as which country they came from, how long they had been in the UK before they died. Jewish tombstones are difficult to read, but they give the patronymic, so here you can expect to find the name of the deceased’s father.

The Jewish Chronicle. Useful for Jewish-specific news.

Yad Veshem (literally Pages of Testimony) is in Jerusalem. Because official records of Holocaust victims no longer exist, relatives supplied written testimony to prove their existence. Most of Leigh's family left Eastern Europe during the pogroms and so escaped the Holocaust, but his Booba's sister's second husband died in Jedwabne when the town's Jews were rounded up and burned alive.

Use records for the Old Country. They do exist! This can present challenges if you do not speak the language. However, if you register with Jewishgen Viewmate, you can send off certificates to the site and a Russian-speaking member will translate the information for you

Use records for a "sister" New Country. If your grandfather's brother went to America while the rest of the family settled in England, look for American records. American immigration records contain a lot more information than the British equivalent.

DNA testing. DNA research is not helpful for Jewish genealogists. Because the community was endogamous, any test will generate a huge number of "cousins".

Traditional family resources. Talk to your family, ask for family stories. Look for photographs, certificates, newspaper cuttings.

Online Resources

Previously, pursuing Polish ancestry meant travelling to Poland, but the rapid increase in online resources has made a great deal of difference to Jewish family historians.

Ancestry and FindMyPast. Subscription resource but free if you visit the FamilySearch at the National Archives or your local library has a subscription MyHeritage. Subscription resource but very good for Jewish genealogy as it recognises Hebrew names

JCR-UK, part of the broader resource www.jewishgen.org

Jri-poland.org

www.synagoguescribes.com for Anglo-Jewish ancestry. It includes the records from Bevis Marks Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in Britain.

Gesher Galicia www.geshergalicia.org is useful for researching ancestors in the Austria-Poland area

Litvak SIG www.litvaksig.org is a Lithuanian Jewish Special Interest Group Polish State Archives. These are free but you need some Polish – two key words are *Pobierz* (Download) and *Bozniczego* (Synagogue)

Geographical and linguistic problems.

"Russia" as a place of origin meant anywhere that formed pre-Revolution Russia. The Pale of Settlement, where Russian Jews were allowed to live, included Belarus, Lithuania and Moldova, part of the Ukraine and Latvia, and part of Western Russia. The history of these areas is complicated and can involve several languages! To research Polish ancestry, you will need to be familiar with Russian, Polish, Hebrew and German. To research Czech ancestry, you will need to be

familiar with Czech, Hungarian, Ukrainian and Russian. But it is okay to learn it one word at a time!

Success stories.

Despite these difficulties, Leigh has had some amazing successes. But success is not always about finding a record from hundreds of years ago. His cousin Josef **Perl** left Europe with only a Displaced Person's certificate. Despite building a new life for himself and becoming an educator on the Holocaust, he had never seen his own birth certificate. Leigh set himself to find the record of Josef's birth and succeeded in having a birth certificate produced for him.

The Layton Collection, *James Wisdom*, February

James Wisdom has a long association with The Layton Collection, and is currently Chairman of the Thomas Layton Trust. The talk was full of insights on Thomas **Layton's** life in Victorian Brentford, how he managed to collect a vast and varied array of artefacts, and what became of his collection when he passed away.

Thomas **Layton** was born in 1819 at Strand on the Green, and moved to 22 Kew Bridge Road, Brentford in 1825, where he lived until he died aged 92 in 1911. 22 Kew Bridge Road is the modest house on the very left of this Victorian picture of Brentford, taken from Kew Bridge. The water fountain at the centre of the photo below is now long gone but may be found in Southall!

The water tower in the background remains to this day. Apart from the general busyness of where Thomas **Layton** lived, James also emphasized the modest size of his house, for **Layton** somehow managed to cram his great collection of items into the rooms of his house, where they remained until he died – details of the collection will follow.

Like his father before him **Layton** was a lighterman and coal merchant by trade, but he took a great interest in the development of the town of Brentford, and he had a great sense for the



*Brentford Fountain - 22 Kew Bridge Road
is the house on the left*

history of the place, being much excited by the knowledge that the Romans would have been moving their ships up and down the Thames at Brentford

centuries ago. He involved himself in everything that was taking place in Brentford. In 1837 he was elected to the Board of Guardians of the Poor Law, which built the workhouse in Isleworth. From 1840 he was churchwarden of St. Georges (by the gasworks). From 1874 he served on, and became chairman of the Local Board, which became the Urban District Council in 1894.

This was a time of substantial development in Brentford; James showed us pictures of **Layton** at various significant events such as the laying of the foundation stone at Brentford Baths (1895), and the opening of Brentford Library in 1904, where **Layton** was Chairman of the Library Committee.



Thomas Layton

James's dedication to his subject was well demonstrated by his ability to recognise **Layton** in these photographs, even from the back, by the shape of his whiskers (for whiskers were the fashion then).

James went on to describe **Layton's** interests as an antiquarian. Because of his interest and involvement in the area, he knew about all the significant engineering works that took place around Brentford, particularly relating to the River Thames. He would hire scouts to find out what was being dug up and fund his men so that they could acquire the items, such as axe-heads, swords and daggers, pottery, and many coins of all descriptions. Just this part of the **Layton** collection consisted of some 3,000 weapons, 1,000 items of pottery, 3,500 coins, tokens and medals, and a further 1,200 Roman prehistoric artefacts.

Layton also collected books on almost any and every subject – there are early editions, books on history and natural history with superb artwork, and also the bizarre, such as a circus programme. Altogether, even after the events which we will come to, the collection contained 8,000 books, 4,000 maps, and 150 framed prints, maps and paintings.

In 1911, at the ripe age of 92, having outlived his wife, **Layton** died while still at 22 Kew Bridge Road. He had always seen himself as creating his collection for posterity, and in his will he bequeathed his house, including his entire collection, plus £20,000, to set up a library and museum for the citizens of Brentford to be preserved for ever. However, there was one proviso. He also bequeathed to his wife's nephew, Thomas Fletcher **Fullar**, the right to live in his house, with his wife Annie, for the rest of their natural lives, and as it happened, Annie was to go on and live into the 1930's.

You can imagine the state of his house shortly after his death. It was not a large house, was crammed full of books and artefacts, and Thomas **Fullar** and his wife were making it their home also. The citizens of Brentford, who knew all about **Layton's** will, soon noticed that the shops in Brentford were becoming stocked with items that must have come from **Layton's** house, and fortunately Brentford Council took action to stop his entire collection being dissipated. Fred **Turner**,



Fred Turner

head librarian at Brentford Library was given the task of 'reducing' the collection, particularly of books, from "a bewildering state of confusion" to one of "order and usefulness".

Turner was a librarian par excellence, and most thorough in his approach. During 1911 to 1913 he ran a series of auctions of every kind of item, and quickly reduced the original collection of 22,000 books down to 8,000, which he then catalogued, and which were initially held at Brentford Library, with the artefacts going to Brentford Museum.

However, during WW2, fearing possible war damage, all the items were moved from Brentford. The artefacts were lent (permanently) to the

Museum of London where they remain today. The books were moved many times, and, as of 2017, half are stored in Feltham Library, with the other half temporarily in store at the London Metropolitan Archives. Meantime, the Thomas Layton Trust exists to oversee the care and management of the collection and is particularly engaged at present in digitising images of the items in the collection. Layton's legacy is thus preserved as a 'virtual museum' which can be viewed on the Trust's website:

[www.facebook.com/Layton Trust](http://www.facebook.com/LaytonTrust)

London in the 1880s *Jef Page* March

By the 1880s London was already a thriving city of almost 4 million souls. So much was going on in this busy city that all Jef could do was take a broad brush and, with the help of numerous illustrations, tell us of some of the main events of the decade. One of the highlights was in 1887 when **Queen Victoria** celebrated her Golden Jubilee. London had become the heart of a great empire. However, some 30%, or 1.3 million, of her residents lived below the poverty line with poorly-paid casual work causing real poverty for many.

Of the outside events which were widely publicised and discussed, two of the most significant were Rorke's Drift and the death of General Charles **Gordon** in Khartoum, Sudan on 26 January 1885.

People in the public eye included William Ewart **Gladstone** (1809-1898) who was Prime Minister four times, but the death of General **Gordon** and the introduction of Irish home rule brought him down. The **Marquis of Salisbury** was Prime Minister twice and during his term of office there were many scandals - **Jack the Ripper**, London dock strike and the Cleveland Street scandal.

However, more men earned the right to vote. Florence **Nightingale**, nurse and heroine of the Crimea, had set up a school of nursing at St Thomas' Hospital, but ended as a bed-ridden recluse.

W G **Grace**, cricketer for Gloucester and England, came to public attention when, in 1880, England won the first test match against Australia. However, humiliation and disgrace followed in 1882 when England lost to Australia at The Oval. The bails were burnt and placed in a casket - The Ashes had arrived. Liberty's shops opened on Regent Street in 1875 selling a wide variety of objects. By the 1880s the store had become part of the shopping experience for the 'carriage trade' - the carriages would pull up and the servants go into the shop to buy what the master or mistress required. Peacock blue was the fashionable colour.

In 1884, Sir Frederick **Treves**, a noted surgeon at The London Hospital, rescued Joseph **Merrick** - 'the elephant man' from a peep show and ensured that he was cared for at the hospital until he (**Merrick**) died in 1890. 1885 saw the first productions at the Savoy Theatre of Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado*. Sarah **Bernhardt** and Lily **Langtry** were popular entertainers. And in 1886 The People's Palace was opened on the Mile End Road by **Queen Victoria**. The purpose of the building was to improve the cultural life of the East End working class people. The building still exists and is now part of London University.

Very few families had good cooking facilities and those who could afford a joint of meat on Sundays often had to take the meat to a local bake house to be cooked. With almost one-third of the population living below the poverty-line, there was inevitably a dark side to life in London in the 1880s. Many of the poor tried to scrape a living selling items on the street, where they were joined by Italian immigrants, many of whom were noted ice-cream sellers. The items sold on the streets were many - flowers, foodstuffs, matches, anything easily carried and cheap.

Some people worked in factories, for example Bryant & May who made safety wax vestas (safety matches). At first, the working conditions were not too bad and the factory even had its own chapel. Annie **Besant**, a social activist, wrote an article about white slavery in London. Bryant & May forbade their staff to talk to her about their deteriorating working conditions. However, some of the 'girls'

did talk to her and were duly sacked. A strike was called in July 1888 in protest at the sackings, but only lasted a few weeks.



Also in 1888, Mary Ann **Nichols** became the first victim of '**Jack the Ripper**', who went on to kill a total of 5 women, although some believe that there were more victims. The killings stopped as suddenly as they had begun. The police have never established who the killer was and this is still a matter of speculation. In July 1889, while investigating a theft at the post office in St Martin le Grand, Constable Luke **Hanks** noticed that some of the telegraph boys seemed to have more money than he would have expected. The money had not come from the theft but had been earned by working at a male brothel in Cleveland Street. The house was put under observation and several notable men were observed patronising it, including Lord Arthur **Somerset**. He was allowed to escape, but the boys all received prison sentences. These events became known as The Cleveland Street scandal. Coincidentally, the Cleveland Street workhouse - now Grade II listed - became part of the Middlesex Hospital.

London's East End became ever more overcrowded as more immigrants arrived from Ireland and eastern Europe. Families shared rooms to save money. These rookeries had very few toilets, which all had to be shared by many families. Work in the East end depended in large part on the docks. New 'Royal' docks - The Royal Albert and Royal Victoria - opened in the 1880s. By 1888 London docks handled 216 ships a day - 79,000 a year. A ship's cargo could be cleared in three hours. But the work was casual; on a good day, men could be called for a few hours' work, but on a bad day the casuals auctioned themselves for rough dock work at the lowest rates of pay. On a good day, pay was 5d an hour plus 1d if the ship was cleared in three hours. In August 1889 a dock strike was called to demand an extra 1d an hour. Families starved, but were eventually helped by sympathetic Australian dock workers who sent over some £30,000 to pay the striking workers. Eventually the strike was called off with an agreement on minimum conditions - 4 hours a day at 6d an hour.

Although times for a great many people were undoubtedly more difficult than we can begin to imagine today, the population was beginning to see some benefit from works which had begun earlier in the century. Dr Thomas **Barnardo's** homes for destitute children had been established in the 1870s and expanded during the 1880s. Joseph **Bazalgette's** creation and construction of a sewage system for London had been completed by about 1875 which allowed the Thames to gradually become cleaner, although it did take many years to achieve a good state of cleanliness.

By the 1880s William **Booth's** newly-formed Salvation army, which was modelled on army organisation and ranks, had arrived in London. Its origins were the Christian Mission founded in Nottingham in 1865.

Several times during this gallop through the 1880s, Jef told us that some of the subjects he mentioned merited a whole talk on their own, so he had, of necessity, to just give us a glimpse of this tumultuous decade.

Bookshelf

With all the online resources we have these days, it is easy to forget how useful actual books are – and how easy they are to navigate!

A reminder of some of our old friends

An Index of London Hospitals

Cliff Webb

2002. ISBN 978-1903462673

Published by the Society of Genealogists

Information on past and present London hospitals, their records and where to find them

An Index of London Schools and their records

Cliff Webb

2007 (3rd edition)

Published by the Society of Genealogists

This lists London schools, their addresses, dates of foundation, where and what period their records cover plus London maps. There is also a list of places that hold London School records, along with their addresses.

Poor Law Union Records Part 4. Gazetteer of England and Wales

Jeremy Gibson and Frederic A Youngs Jr

2014 (3rd edition). ISBN 978-906280482

Published by The Family History Partnership

If you don't know where your ancestor's Poor Law Union would lie, this is the book for you. Don't forget the other three parts to this Gibson Guide which give you the holdings of the records you want.

And a brand-new resource

The Parish Atlas of England

Tim Cockin

2017. ISBN 978-1907364105

Published by Malthouse Press.

Over the past seven years, Tim Cockin has traced over the early Ordnance Survey 6-inch County Series maps, combining information from tithe maps and other sources and adding in all key and secondary places. It features counties no longer in existence as well as ancient parish and county boundaries. Sadly, this is an expensive item! £60 – or £55 if you buy it from the National Archives

HELP!



Does anyone out there have a phantom relative called James PAGE??

I am looking for a James PAGE who was supposedly born in Fulham, London somewhere between 1827-1832. Parents names appear to be James and Hannah. James married Margaret RHYMER (from Scotland) in Ipswich, Qld, Australia in 1857 and he died in 1901.

Family rumours include “navy deserter” and “son of an old London waterman”. There is a convict James PAGE who was convicted at the CCC in 1847 and transported to Moreton Bay, Australia aboard the “*Bangalore*” in 1850. A ticket of leave passport was issued in 1851 for the Burnett district. Is this my man? Any help would be appreciated in discovering anything further on great grandfather PAGE.

Kay PAGE #165: kph5351@hotmail.com

Sapper Smith - A woman on the frontline

The appeal on this page is out of the West Middlesex area, but we are always willing to help people.

Please take a few minutes to read the email which the Committee received and think about whether you are willing or able to help.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I hope this message finds you well! My name is Liza Jane Wiedemann. I'm a filmmaker from Goldsmiths, University of London. My team and I are currently in pre-production for our graduation film, Sapper Smith.

Sapper Smith is a biographical drama focusing on the real-life journey of a courageous young woman named Dorothy Lawrence who challenges her social and cultural climate by striving to be on the front lines as a war correspondent in 1915. With the help of two British soldiers, Dorothy undergoes a dangerous and secret transformation into a male soldier.

Dorothy Lawrence is one of many overlooked historical heroines who persisted throughout the challenges of her time. We believe that her story deserves to be told in order to continue to inspire young women today.

I came across West Middlesex Family History Society and since Dorothy Lawrence was born in Middlesex I believe your platform would be a great opportunity to share our Kickstarter campaign & Dorothy Lawrence's story with like-minded individuals who are passionate about bringing this young heroine's story to life. If you are unable to share or donate to our campaign please feel free to provide us with any useful contacts we might be able to benefit from.

Additionally, we were wondering if there were any listed buildings in Middlesex that are attached to Dorothy Lawrence or her family name.

For further information on the project and our team, please

visit: www.kickstarter.com/projects/182605555/sapper-smith-a-short-film-about-a-fearless-female

Any exposure and support you can provide for our Master's graduation film project will be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to get in contact with us, please do not hesitate to do so.

We look forward to hearing back from you!

Sincerely,

Liza Jane Wiedemann

Producer - Sapper Smith

Goldsmiths University of London

lwied002@gold.ac.uk

Our 40th Anniversary - and how we can reach our Golden Jubilee

With our 40th anniversary approaching, the committee have been discussing ways of attracting new, younger members so that we can keep on going.

WMFHS have the same problem as many other family history societies. The average age of our membership is increasing and we are not seeing enough younger people joining us. As a result, when the FFHS put on a Marketing seminar, Yvonne Masson and Ann Greene attended to try and pick up some ideas. The speaker was Carezza Black, Commercial Project Manager for Northampton Archives and the following notes are based on her talk.

Firstly, marketing is **not** advertising or selling! It is everything that happens up to the moment of sale. And far from being something that needs a degree, Carezza told us that it is mostly common sense. What we need to do is:

Work out who our customers are, both now and in the future.

Work out what they want.

Anticipate what they want now and what they are likely to want in the future

Satisfy their requirements profitably. Profitability is important. If increasing our membership involves spending large amounts of money, it may not be worth it!

When trying to attract new members, we need to look at ourselves.

Our publicity – is it attractive and interesting ?

Contact methods - How do our members want to hear from us? Email? Phone? Letter? Frequently Asked Questions on our website?

Benefits What might encourage people to join us?

And we need to ask questions to identify potential members

Existing members What do we know about them? Age? gender? other interests?

New members Do we want to find similar members? Or do we want to find different ones?

Reasons for joining What might stimulate or encourage people to take up family history? Life changes may make them more interested in family history

Having identified our potential new members

Where might they go regularly? Libraries? Churches? The pub? The supermarket?

Online? People are increasingly likely to be online, so what sort of things do our target audience do online? Is our online presence inviting, interesting and kept up to date?

What publications do they read? Family history magazines? Local magazines? How can we use this to communicate with them?

Could we display some of our publicity material in the Register Office?

A bit of psychology! - People need to feel that they matter. Potential members might join for the social aspect as much as an interest in family history. We need to reach them

Every business or organisation has a USP (Unique Selling Point). People have only so much money and so much time. Other interests, other organisations, and their family all compete for their time. So, family history must stand out in order to gain their share of that time and money. The following things are “hooks” to attract your customer

Are we good value for money? Can we offer a good deal compared to Ancestry?

Does our “product” look good? Is our publicity inviting?

Benefits How does membership of WMFHS benefit people? Our Advice Sessions are open to members and non-members and offer advice and experience as well as social interaction.

Something Extra: Do we offer a publication or website, answering enquiries which can't be put to Ancestry or Find My Past? Do we provide a forum for sharing information, asking questions etc? Here again is the emotional benefit of being with like-minded people and belonging to the world of family history.

How do we tell people about our USP – expertise, advice, sociability Free or paid-for publicity? If we are going to spend money, how much can we afford? Should we rely on writing articles for existing publications and hope their circulation and distribution models are up to the job? Or should we place adverts/leaflets in strategic places?

Traditional media, e.g. advertisements; direct mail; newspapers; magazines; posters; flyers etc. Think about the cost to us, audience, and placements of articles or adverts

New media:

Facebook; Twitter; Pinterest; Blogs etc: these are all free and the audience can potentially be huge, but contact needs to be maintained. Someone will need to check the site regularly, interact with other people on the site, check our statistics

Marketing is really deciding what we want to communicate, who we want to reach and what we want people to do

1. We want to celebrate our 40th birthday and tell people about it

**2. We want to reach people who might not realise we exist
and**

3. We want YOU, our existing members, to help find new members so we can be sure of being here to celebrate our 50th (and 60th!) anniversaries

FAMILY HISTORY NEWS

Birmingham City Council's Bereavement Services has launched an online database of over 1.5 million records covering 11 cemeteries and 3 crematoria up to 2014. The initial search is free – a digital download of the register with full details is £5

www.birminghamburialrecords.co.uk

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) are changing their opening hours. From the beginning of September, they will be open as follows:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am - 4.45pm; Wednesday 9.30am -7.30pm; Friday closed; and 11 Saturdays a year (check the website details of which Saturdays) 9.30am - 4.45pm.

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) has launched a **digitised register of war casualties** treated in the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH), Belfast, between September 1914 and November 1916 (PRONI Reference:

HOS/2/1/4/1), and a corresponding names index. The register covers over 700 soldiers from various regiments who were treated in the RVH during this time.

www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/first-world-war-register-royal-victoria-hospital.

Norfolk Family History Society have released NORS, their online record search. The database allows people to search and view all their records that are currently online. The initial search is free but the “more info” option is only available to NFHS members.

New Zealand Probate Records.

FamilySearch have announced that the digitisation of the New Zealand Probate records will soon be complete, after nine years of painstaking volunteer work.

www.familysearch.org

Railway Ancestors.

The Railway Work, Life and Death project is now online. The project studied British railway worker accidents, particularly in the 20th century.

It includes a free database of all worker accidents investigated by the government's Railway Inspectors between 1911 and 1915, covering 3,915 individuals and including a brief description of the incidents they were involved in. The project was a collaboration between the University of Portsmouth and the National Railway Museum

www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk

NEW MEMBERS

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 below.

M247 Mrs. V. M Milligan, 38 Cedar Avenue, Torbrex, Stirling, FK8 2PQ
andvalerie@btopenworld.com

SURNAME INTERESTS

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
Sexton	19 th century	Kensington	MDX	M247

It is with great sadness that we announce the death
of the following long-standing member

KEN SIBLEY

We offer our condolences to his family

FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS

Shropshire FHS Family History Fair

Saturday, 2nd June. The Shire Hall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6LY

10.00-4.00.

Admission - to be confirmed

sfhs.org.uk

Sheffield Family History Fair

Saturday, 9th June. Hillsborough Stadium, Sheffield, S6 1SW.

10.00-4.00.

Admission £2

sheffieldfhs.org.uk

The Family History Show, York

Saturday, 23rd June. Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, York Racecourse,

YO23 1EX. 10.00-4.30.

Admission £5 (advance booking offer 2 for £7.50). Children under 16 free.

Free parking

thefamilyhistoryshow.com

SWAG (South West Area Group) Family History Day

Saturday, 30th June. STEAM – Museum of the GWR, Firefly Avenue, Swindon SW2

2EY. 10.00-3.30

Admission £3, children free admission.

swag-fair.co.uk

Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day*

Saturday, 28th July. The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH.

10.00-4.00 Free admission and parking.

bucksfhs.org.uk

The London Family History Show *

Saturday, 22nd September. Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher

KT10 9AJ. 10-4.30

Admission £5 (2 for £7.50) in advance or £7 on the day. Children under 16 free.

Free parking

thefamilyhistoryshow.com

* WMFHS will have a stall at these events.

West Middlesex Family History Society News

Officially, the West Middlesex Family History Society was “born” on 30th June 1978. Our first meeting however was on 19th July 1978 and coincidentally, our July Members’ Meeting this year falls on 19th July.

*We cordially invite you to
join us in celebrating our
40th anniversary on
Thursday 19th July
From 7.30pm -10.00 pm*

We will be meeting at our new venue
St John’s Community Centre
St John’s Road,
Isleworth TW7 6RU

Please bring along your stories, memories and photographs to bring our past to life.

*NB We are publishing a special full-colour anniversary edition of the Journal in September. If you can’t be with us on the 19th July but would like to contribute stories or photographs, please get in touch with Ann Greene, the Journal’s editor.
Contact details are on the inside cover of the Journal*

INDEXES HELD BY MEMBERS

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

Roland Bostock, bostocr@blueyonder.co.uk

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 Settlement Records. Chelsea, Ealing, Friern Barnet, Fulham, Hammersmith, New Brentford, Shepperton, Staines, Stanwell, Uxbridge.

Richard Chapman, Golden Manor, Darby Gardens, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 5JW
chapmanrg@btinternet.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.

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

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

Mrs. Bridget Purr, 8 Sandford Lane, Greenham, Thatcham, RG19 8XW

bridgetspurr@waitrose.com

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.

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 £1 per certificate. Please check on Society website for current list. Cheques should be made payable to West Middlesex FHS and please include an s.a.e.

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

Harmondsworth Parish Registers. Baptisms marriages burials 1670-1837.

Mr. P. Sherwood, 5 Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middlesex, UB3 5EW

psherwood@waitrose.com

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

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.sweetland@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.

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

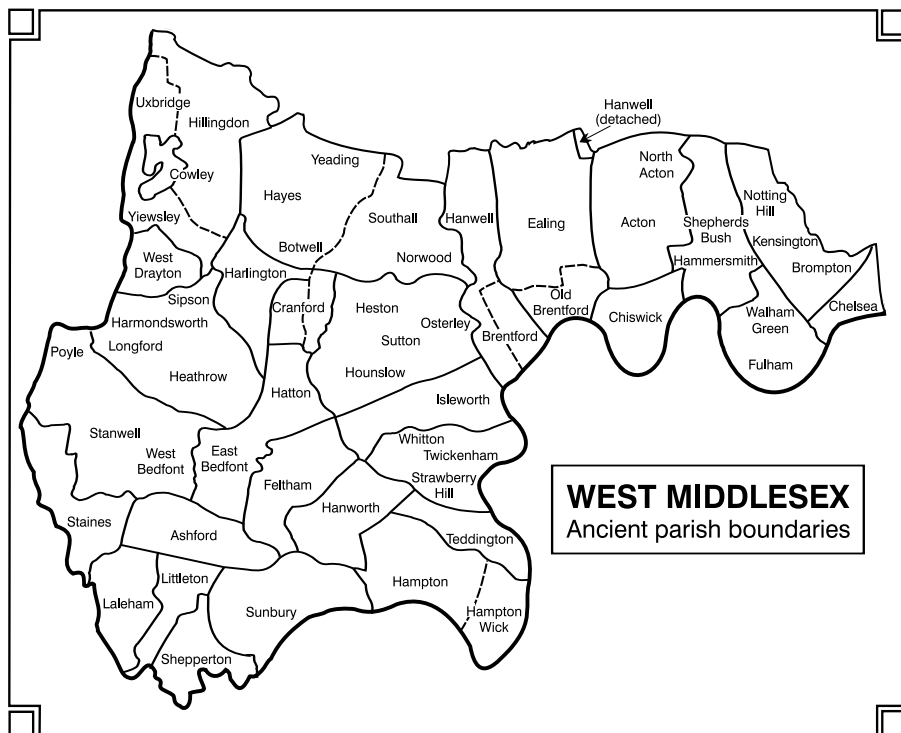
1641-2 Protestation Returns of Middlesex. This has been indexed. You will secure a printout, which includes variants. Cheques made payable to West Middlesex FHS.

Front Cover

This image could easily be an outpost of Camelot, but it isn't.

It is in fact the Gothic Tower, which stands at the edge of Potomac Lake in Gunnersbury Park. The land on which the lake and tower was not part of the original Park but was purchased in 1862 by the **Rothschild** family. The "tower" was originally a tile-kiln and the "lake" was a dried out claypit previously named Coles Hole

Image © Ann Greene



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 Pat Candler, 57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0JZ