



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

VOL 37 No.2

June 2019



Kirsty Gray

Chairman 2015 - 2019

West Middlesex Family History Society



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Joint Presidents: Rob and Bridget Purr

Executive Committee

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Examiner	Neil Johnson
Project Manager	Brian Page
Society website	west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
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:

Mrs Ann Greene
39 Broughton Avenue
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:

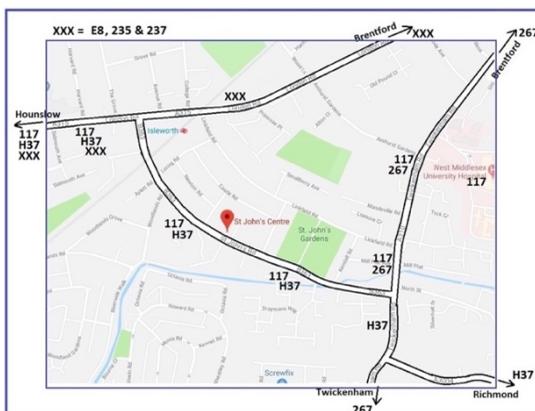
20 June	The Hampton Wick Accident 1888	David Turner
18 July	Members' Evening (short contributions by members)	
15 August	The History of Brookwood Cemetery	John Clarke
19 September	DNA: The story continues	John Symons
17 October	The History and Architecture of London Underground Stations – Part 2	Mark Pardoe
21 November	Willpower: How wills were made and how they can be used to solve a variety of problems	Meryl Catty
18 December	Christmas Celebrations	

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.

There is a small carpark adjacent to the Centre. The Centre is also close to a mainline railway station (Isleworth – South Western Railways) and is well-served by local buses.

Reference books, exchange journals from other societies and a bookstall – all can be browsed between 7.30 and 10pm (talks take place between 8pm and 9pm), and tea/coffee, or a cold drink, and biscuits are also available.

Fully accessible



WANT A LIFT?



Do you find getting to meetings a bit of a challenge? We may be able to help!

Below are details of those who have volunteered to offer lifts to other members. Please ring or email them if you would like a lift.

If you are able to offer a lift to someone living in your area, contact our Webmaster, Roland BOSTOCK (contact details below) giving your name, contact details and areas you could pick up from.

This list is also on our website under "Meetings" and hopefully more names will be added as time goes on.

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 1705

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

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

The WMFHS Journal is your magazine so contributions of all kinds are welcome, not to say necessary! Your contributions can be articles, cries for help, snippets of information, whatever you like.

Articles should be between 800 and 1200 words in length. Longer articles can be submitted but may have to be published in two parts depending on space. Formatting: please set the document out as an A5 document with normal margins and single line spacing.

They can be emailed or sent by post. The editor's postal address is to be found on the inside of the front cover.

Email: editor@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk

If emailing an article, please submit any illustrations in a separate folder from the actual article.

If a quote or image is used that is not the author's own, the attribution must be given. If the attribution is not known, please state this.

Copy submission dates:

7th January, 7th April, 7th July and 7th October.

Advertisements

NB: We only accept advertisements relating to family history.

Rates:

Full page: £25 (members) £30 (non-members)

Half-page £10 (members) £15 (non-members)

Quarter-page £10 for both members and non-members.

ADVICE SESSIONS

Would you like help with your family history? Anyone is welcome, whether or not they are new to family history research, or a member of the Society and regardless of whether your 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.

15th June 2019

20th July 2019

17th August 2019

21st September 2019

19th October 2019

16th November 2019

21st December 2019

NB: Please check the Society website for up-to-date information:
[west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk-Activities-Advice Sessions](http://west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk-Activities-Advice%20Sessions).

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 21st March 2019. The meeting was attended by 36 members.

1. Welcome by the Chairman

Good evening and welcome to the 40th 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 am pleased to tell you that as there are more than 20 members present, the meeting is quorate.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence have been received from Bridget and Rob Purr, Hilary Blanford, Valerie Boddy, Rosemary Gower, Eileen Small, Valerie Walker and Diana Wells.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 15th March 2018

These were published in the Society's Journal of June 2018. Is it agreed that they can be signed as a true record of that meeting? No concerns were raised, and Kirsty duly signed the minutes.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report

Good evening. This is where I highlight some of the main events the Society was involved in during the last 12 months, and where I also point the way forward for the Society over the next 12 months.

Perhaps the main event for us last year was to enjoy the Society's Ruby Anniversary which took place last July 19th. We had planned to get the Society's inaugural chairman David Hawkings, who lives in Somerset, to come and tell us about the Society's beginnings. He was willing, but alas became ill on the day. Thankfully, Yvonne Masson, who had planned the reminiscing, was well enough prepared to do most of it herself. We had a very good quiz, and some good displays with photos, and a particularly lovely cake for the occasion, and it was all written up in our September journal, which was also our first journal to be printed in full colour – a very nice keepsake for the occasion.

On the more serious side your committee continued to maintain focus on how best to gain us new members, most especially younger ones who live in the area. Did you know that 2/3 of our membership do not live in Middlesex, and hence are not that likely to be able to attend our meetings, which are a key element to us being an active Society.

The most obvious way we look for new members is to attend a variety of family history fairs, particularly if the fair is new, and large, and local. With all those things in mind we attended a fair called The Name Event which was a 2-day event run at Earls Court in May, but frankly this was a failure. The exhibitors were there, but there were very few visitors; it is not surprising that there is no repeat of that fair this year. We also attended Buckinghamshire Family History Fair in Aylesbury in July, The Family History Show at Sandown Racecourse in September, the Full of Life Fair at Twickenham Stadium in October, and West Surrey Family History Day in Woking in November.

This coming year we felt we had to choose between two large 2-day events at the start of the year – The Genealogy Show, which I should know, as I am Director of the Show, runs at the NEC, Birmingham on 7th/8th June, and Family Tree Live, which runs at Alexandra Palace in north London on 26/27th April. Now your committee is nothing if not democratic about these things, and has decided to attend Family Tree Live, and not the other, mainly as it is the closer event. Another very different show where we will be exhibiting for the first time this year is Richmond May Fair on Richmond Green on Sunday 12th May. We will also be attending The Family History Show at Sandown again, and West Surrey FHS's Open Day later in the year.

We have dabbled in adverts in family history magazines, but we don't think that has achieved anything for us. We have also advertised discounted membership - £10 for the first year, using tri-fold leaflets deposited at libraries. We have had 2 members (local ones obviously) join us this way, so we shall continue to use this method. Indeed, anyone who can place a few of these leaflets should see Roland, who can provide you with copies.

On the matter of membership numbers, last year I was able to report to you that we started the year with 242 members, lost 11 members and gained 16, so we ended with 247 members. This year has been a similar story, we have lost a few and gained a few. Pat tells me that right now we stand at 250 members, which is not at all bad.

We would not be here at all if it were not for the much-valued contributions of our volunteers who keep the Society running. We depend on Secretary **Roland Bostock** to tell us what must be done and when; also on our nominal treasurer **Brian Page** for playing the role, whereas **Muriel Sprott**, who is in her sabbatical

year and stood down from the committee, has actually been writing the cheques and keeping the accounts. **Ann Greene**, having taken over the Editor role this time last year is now well settled in, and we are enjoying the journals she is producing, particularly that 40th Anniversary special issue. **Pat Candler** runs a smooth operation as Membership Secretary, and this last year Pat also volunteered to transcribe some of the baptism records of All Saints, Isleworth from a volume in our library, written by **Mavis Sibley** many years ago, and which records had not been previously digitised. Pat has transcribed 10,000 baptisms, no less, and they are now in our collection of records submitted to Find My Past, and earning us royalty right now. Let's have a show of appreciation for Pat's good work (applause). **Margaret Cunnew** continues to do us a great service running the bookstall, both here at meetings but especially at all our fairs. **Pam** and **Brian Smith** look after all our refreshments, and bring necessary kit to our meetings, all of which is much appreciated. **Hilary Strudwick** has run an enterprising raffle stall, and **John Seaman** has stood in for me on the several occasions when I have not been able to attend these member meetings.

Which brings me to my own future with the Society. I almost stood down as Chairman this time last year as I knew that I was becoming over-committed, and there would be times that I just could not be here. But with **John** stepping up to be Vice-chairman, and **Hilary** volunteering support with the Programme Coordinator responsibilities I felt able to continue the one more year. But now I really do have to step down. The very good news is that Ann has thrown her hat into the ring – again – and with the full approval of the committee is ready to take over as your chairman as from the end of this meeting. **Hilary** has also agreed that she can take on the Programme Coordinator role. Let's have applause for both these ladies. We all appreciate very much that they are stepping up for these roles (applause).

I am not leaving the Society. There is one other role I play, which has not received as much attention as I would have liked, which is as your Social Media Coordinator. These platforms provide a great opportunity for a Society such as ours to go find a younger audience, but it needs critical mass, and thus far we have not achieved it. If you think you can help to get a bit of action going with me on these pages do please get in touch. You certainly don't have to be a local to contribute to our Facebook/Twitter presence.

Now I have kept off mentioning finance this year. If you recall, last year I was able to mention that the Society had broken into surplus for the first time in 10 years. I am very pleased to be able to tell you that we are in surplus again this year, but to share with you how much, and how we were able to repeat that success, I will now handover to **Brian** to give you his Treasurer's report.

6. Treasurer's Report

The report that follows is as Brian had submitted to the Secretary before the meeting. Brian did not have it with him as he spoke, and hence there is some variation here to what he did actually say.

“Good evening. **Roland** has kindly printed some copies of our accounts for the year to 31 December 2018 and I hope you all have sight of them.

Our membership continues to hover around 250, despite our best efforts to increase this number. During the year we have been distributing leaflets offering new members a first-year subscription of £10 and a few people have taken up this offer. We'll be continuing this effort throughout 2019.

Our journals are now printed by a new company with the March 2019 issue being their first print run for us. We hope you liked it. We also offer the option of receiving journals electronically; if you don't already receive yours that way and would like to, please let **Pat** or **Roland** know.

We seem to have settled in to our new meeting hall here. It is proving to be a little cheaper than Montague Hall but does lack some of the amenities, so this evening we are trying out our new microphone. Please let us know what you think.

Our bookstall manager, **Margaret**, continues to help us with astute purchasing and pricing, bringing in a useful sum. Thanks are also due to the people who have kindly donated books for us to sell.

Our indexes - available to anyone, anywhere in the world via Find My Past - continue to generate regular income. Thanks are due to our diligent team of transcribers who have now added a substantial number of Isleworth baptism records. These should now be online and generating income as well.

Our raffles continue to bring in a useful sum - thanks to **Hilary Strudwick** for organising these and to those of you who regularly buy your tickets.

The teas and coffees at our monthly meetings are provided by **Pam & Brian Smith** who also provided the delicious food for both our 40th anniversary party and our Christmas party. Thank you, **Pam & Brian**.

As far as our expenses are concerned, the biggest outlay this year was on the purchase of new t-shirts and hoodies. These are very reasonably priced and I do hope you will treat yourselves to one. I am reliably informed that the hoodies are very cosy.

Yet again, we managed to generate a small surplus for the year.

As far as our Balance Sheet is concerned, we took a critical look at our assets and discovered, or decided, that some items had either disappeared or were no longer of any practical use, so these have been written off.

The only matter of concern is our investment with London Capital & Finance. This organisation is now in administration, but that does not mean that our money is lost. It simply means that an independent team of managers has been brought in to run the company. However, it does mean that the date of repayment is now uncertain. Our Independent Examiner, Neil Johnson, has asked that, following the accounting concept of prudence, we write down the value of the investment as a precaution. We acknowledge with thanks Neil's generosity in examining our accounts for no fee.

That's all I have to say. If anyone has any queries, I'll do my best to answer them”

James Young asked about the cost of holding our meetings, and was provided the answer - £66 each meeting at St. John's Centre, whereas for comparison Montague Hall used to cost us £79 each meeting.

John Seaman asked which bank we used, and if we earned interest on our bank account. **Muriel Sprott** advised that we now use Barclays Bank. They do not give us interest on our current account, but more importantly they do not charge us anything for processing cheques.

7. Receiving of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018

The Committee recommends that the accounts be accepted.

Proposed: **Sara Burn Edwards**. Seconded: **Brian Smith**. Carried unanimously.

8. Appointment of the Examiner

Our current examiner, Neil Johnson, who is accountant for Family Wise Ltd, makes no charge for examining our accounts and is ready to continue as examiner.

To accept Neil as examiner for 2019.

Proposed: **Roland Bostock**. Seconded: **Muriel Sprott**. Carried unanimously.

9. Election of Committee

Roland Bostock, **Pat Candler**, **Ann Greene** and **Yvonne Masson**, having served three or more years on the Committee, offer themselves for re-election.

Margaret Cunnew, **Cheryl Ford**, **Brian Page**, **John Seaman** and **Hilary Strudwick**, having served less than three years on the Committee and being willing to continue, do not need to be re-elected.

Muriel Sprott offers herself for election to serve on the Committee. Muriel was elected with no-one dissenting.

10. Any Other Business - Presentations

Two members have been nominated this year for Honorary Membership, and both nominations have been approved. Kirsty asked **Betty Elliott** and **Margaret Cunnew** to step forward to receive their framed certificates, to general applause.

Roland then spoke as follows:

“There is one more presentation to give, which is to our out-going chairman. I am sure that many of you in this room will have attended the Extra-ordinary General Meeting which took place on October 15th 2015 when the critical business was a motion to wind up the Society, as the committee had dwindled to just three people, Muriel as Treasurer, Betty as Membership Secretary, and Margaret as Bookstall Manager, and we had been running for most of a year without either Secretary or Chairman. It was also a regular meeting, and the speaker that night just happened to be Kirsty Gray, and the subject of her talk was ‘Tracing the History of a Community’. The rest is a bit of Family History legend. Kirsty offered us her services to be our chairman, despite that she lives in Calne in Wiltshire. I put my hat in the ring as Secretary, Brian Page became Vice-Chairman, and we also had join our committee that evening Joan Scrivener (RIP), Claudette Durham, Kay Dudman, Pat Candler, Ann Greene, and Yvonne Masson – suddenly our committee was no longer 3, but the maximum of 12. We have moved on of course, and Kirsty must go and find some other good causes to rescue. Your committee thought for a few minutes how best to recognise Kirsty’s contribution to us, and we came up with the following:- First, a bottle of good red wine, being a safe gift to present you with.... But our main gift to you is something a bit special for your wall – and by the way, from tomorrow it will also be on our Home page for the next month as well – We have here a knight, rampant one might say, but definitely in shining armour. The knight bears a banner with the words Family Wise on it, a shield which happens to be our Logo, and if you look very carefully the horse’s bridle has the words Rock Star Genealogist written thereon. Finally, on behalf of all members of the Society, the certificate has the signatures of all members of the committee” (applause).

Kirsty expressed her appreciation for the special gift.

The official business of the AGM closed at 8:09 pm with thanks to all who had attended.



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity Number: 291906
YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2018
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	<u>Year to 31 December 2018</u>	<u>Year to 31 December 2017</u>
MEMBERS' SERVICES INCOME		
Subscriptions received for current year	2140	2331
Subscriptions received in advance last year	<u>1350</u>	<u>1079</u>
	3490	3410
Bank Interest	17	1
Tax refund on Gift Aid	<u>575</u>	<u>542</u>
	4082	3953
LESS: EXPENDITURE		
Journal production & delivery	2543	2446
Hire of meeting hall	975	1039
Speakers	<u>598</u>	<u>1075</u>
	<u>4116</u>	<u>4560</u>
	-34	-607
OTHER INCOME		
Bookstall sales	621	708
plus/minus Stock variation	-10	-150
less Purchases	<u>-388</u>	<u>-266</u>
Donations	80	182
Marriage index searches	508	657
Monumental inscription searches	218	283
Protestation returns searches	11	15
War memorials searches	139	132
Other research income	29	43
Raffles	150	156
Refreshments	<u>35</u>	<u>65</u>
	<u>1393</u>	<u>1825</u>
	1359	1218
OVERHEAD EXPENSES		
FFHS Subscriptions	94	89
Genfair charges	12	11
Equipment repairs & maintenance	45	92
Honoraria & gifts	0	19
Library purchases	0	0
Postage, stationery & telephone	0	0
Printing of Leaflets, Posters & Flyers	0	17
Publicity, including attendance at open days	549	332
Purchase of sweatshirts & hoodies	684	0
Less: still in stock	<u>-660</u>	0
Sundry expenses	191	138
Travel & subsistence	41	26
Depreciation & disposal of assets	67	82
	<u>-1023</u>	<u>-806</u>
Surplus for year	<u>336</u>	<u>412</u>

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number: 291906

BALANCE SHEET AS AT:	31 DECEMBER 2018			31 DECEMBER 2017		
	Cost, or Value at 30/09/1994	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31/12/2018	Cost, or Value at 30/09/1994	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31/12/2017
FIXED ASSETS						
1881 Census Index	1087	1087	0	1087	1084	3
Times Divorce Index	11	11	0	11	10	1
Boxes & Display Shelves	31	31	0	31	30	1
Harmondsworth Manor Rolls	348	0	348	348	0	348
Exhibition Display Boards	324	324	0	324	323	1
Lectern - Bought 2002	400	395	5	400	396	4
Overhead Projector - Bought 2005	352	352	0	352	347	5
Amplification System - Bought 2006	235	229	6	235	227	8
Power Point Projector - Bought 2006	428	417	11	428	414	14
Viewing monitor for laptop B/t 2007	170	163	7	170	161	9
Display Stands & Table Cloths B/t 2008	1409	1356	53	1409	1338	71
LapTop Computer Bought 2011	915	819	96	915	787	128
	<u>5710</u>	<u>5184</u>	<u>526</u>	<u>5710</u>	<u>5117</u>	<u>593</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks:						
Books		610			595	
Ordnance Survey Maps		270			275	
T-shirts & hoodies		<u>660</u>			<u>0</u>	
			1540			870
Deposit paid for key to St John's Centre			30			0
Expenses paid in advance: 2018/2017			240			397
Cash at Bank & In Hand						
Barclays current account		890			792	
Barclays Business premium account		8017			7501	
London Capital & Finance Account		2500			5000	
Cash		<u>52</u>			<u>62</u>	
			<u>11459</u>			<u>13355</u>
Total assets			13795			15215
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Due to St John's Centre for room hire		594			0	
Subscriptions In Advance		<u>1500</u>	<u>2094</u>		<u>1350</u>	<u>1350</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			£ 11701			£ 13865
ACCUMULATED FUNDS						
Balance Brought Forward			13865			13453
Surplus for Year			336			412
Provision for loss of value, LC & F investment			<u>-2500</u>			<u>0</u>
			<u>£ 11701</u>			<u>£ 13865</u>

Note - the sum invested in London Capital & Finance (LCF) is in doubt due to LCF being placed in administration.

The value of the investment has therefore been reduced by 50% in the interim, although doubts remain as to whether we will recover even this amount.

Brian Page
Treasurer



Kirsty Gray



Cemeteries Management and Disposal of the Dead: A personal experience

Alan Rice, February

This was an illuminating talk by a man who has spent the whole of his working life in cemeteries management and the business of disposing of the dead. It's not something that is often talked about. There are of course many rules and regulations to be adhered to, and forms to be completed. Alan kept the tone of his presentation light with several anecdotes of interest.

He started by telling us how he passed his job interview on 16th November 1968 to work at Borough Cemetery in **Whitton**. Once his interviewer saw the calluses on his hands it was clear that Alan could do hard work and he was employed forthwith. He also told of being impressed by the then Superintendent **Robert Howarth** who, himself when being interviewed many years before, 'had his own implements'. Robert had gained his employment from a selection of applicants by the words "You with the shovel, come here".

While burial authorities will tend to group those of a particular faith together the only legal requirement for this is that separate space must be managed for Church of England burials versus other non-conformist burials. In larger cemeteries you will often see two chapels, one is for Church of England use and one is for other faiths.



There are of course rules about how deep a grave must be dug. Earlier rules were that there must be 4 foot of earth above the last interment, but the rule today is that 3 foot is sufficient.

A coffin is typically 1 foot 3 inches deep. If the grave is to take several coffins there must be 6 inches of earth between the coffins, leading to a 6-foot

deep grave to take 2 coffins, and deeper again to take 3 or 4 coffins. A further interesting point is that when you buy a plot in a cemetery you don't actually buy the land; what you buy is the right to be buried in that plot. And not all graves are equal either. The more expensive option is to have a brick-lined grave, as

shown on the previous page. This protects the casket from damage and also prevents the ground from sinking as a result of the burial. Then the actual position of the plot also contributes significantly to its cost; plots near a path cost more. Almost all burials nowadays are in cemeteries as opposed to churchyards, as most churchyards are now full, with no new plots available. Second or further burials may be made to existing plots, but only where the plot owner has paid in advance for a Faculty to cover the additional burials. Churches are able by law to close churchyards and transfer them for maintenance purposes to the local authority. Alan told us how **St. Leonards** at **Heston** were pleased to sell their very large churchyard to Hounslow local authority in 1977 for £1. Today's costs for maintaining the churchyard run to about £18,000 per annum – so a good deal for the church.

Today, most disposals in this country are by cremation, 72% of the total. Among the burials an ever-increasing proportion are now Muslim. Alan quoted the figures for **Hatton Cemetery**, and said that **Hatton**, which opened in 1974, had reached a milestone of late with its 1000th burial, of which 940 were Muslim. It is part of the Muslim faith that the deceased must be buried rather than cremated, and the custom is to require burial within 24 hours. Muslim burials must also be made with the head of the deceased looking towards **Mecca**. It is not so much the direction of the body that is important but the precise aligning of the deceased's head.

Alan followed this with some unexpected observations concerning exhumations, stating that there were no particular regulations as to when an exhumation is permitted, but the cemetery must be closed to visitors while the exhumation is taking place, and that due care is required when performing the removal. All remaining parts of the body and the coffin must be removed. Reasons for exhumation that he has encountered were: because the family have moved house; because people wished to be buried together in a new grave; or for repatriation purposes; and he also described what he called a 3-body shuffle, but I lost track of the detail of it! When it comes to re-using grave space, an authority is permitted to reuse a plot once 75 years have passed since the last burial. However the process does not involve the permanent removal of the deceased's bones, rather the removal of the remains, then a deepening of the grave, and reburial of the remains at sufficient depth so that further burials can be made above. Any memorial that is part of the grave must also be retained, so this would not usually be done for graves with memorials.

Alan ended by reading us a few of the verses from memorials that he found most meaningful during his 50 years in the business of burying the dead. He assessed that he had played some part in the burial of 16,000 souls during that time and a number of exhumations.

The History and Architecture of London's Underground Stations, The First 150 Years (Part 1)

Mark Andrew Pardoe March

The need for an underground system of transport arose because the streets of London were clogged up with horse-drawn traffic. The first underground lines were created using the cut and cover method, but this tended to interfere with the utilities and was soon replaced by a burrowing machine. The use of these machines created the metal-lined deep level tube lines.



James Henry Greathead (1844-1896), inventor of the “travelling shield” that made the London Underground possible.

On 10 January 1863 the first underground train ran from **Bishop's Road** (now **Paddington**) station to **Farringdon**. Because these first trains had steam engines, the stations were built with open vents which served both to let light in to the stations and also to let the smoke out. None of the original surface buildings remain, but many of the underground structures remain in, or have been restored to, their original condition.

Perhaps surprisingly, more than 60% of the London Underground network is actually above ground. Indeed, the **Dollis Viaduct** at 100 feet high is the tallest

overground structure on the underground network. The underground railway proved so successful that it was extended both to the west and the south.

After 1868 the next extension was from **Baker Street** up to **Swiss Cottage**, but all the original stations have now gone.

Because the original underground network was built by different private companies, two of them - the Metropolitan and District Railways - were always in competition. Due to this rivalry, it took 20 years for the Circle Line to be built. The Metropolitan and District Railways eventually merged and expanded east to **Bromley-by-Bow** and **Whitechapel** and west to **North Ealing**.

In 1870 a single-track Tower Subway was built where Tower Bridge now stands. It lasted only six months and closed when Tower Bridge was built. However, the tunnel still exists, being used for carrying cables and pipes. The northern entrance to the tunnel is still standing and can be seen near the **Tower of London**.

In 1825 **Marc Isambard Brunel's** workmen had begun to tunnel under the Thames and by 1843 the tunnel opened as a foot subway. It had been intended for horse traffic, but the gradients of the entrances would have been too steep for the horses. The tunnel was used for pedestrian traffic for some years but before too long the London Brighton and South Coast Railway bought the tunnel and converted it for use by trains. **Rotherhithe Station** was built in 1884 and still looks much as it originally did; **Brunel's** tunnel can be seen from the end of the platforms.

As far as architecture is concerned, **Bayswater Station** was originally constructed in 1868 and has now been restored to its appearance in about 1900. **Gloucester Road Station** has similarly been restored to how it would have looked in about 1900 and is also a fine example of restoration of the original green and silver mosaic walls where the name of the station was displayed. **Westbourne Park** station has the longest frontage. **Kennington Station** has a dome which still houses the equipment which was used for the original hydraulic lifts.

When the Underground extended out to **Aylesbury**, all the stations on the line had similar architecture but with different decorative features. The Metropolitan Railway stations chose an architectural style reminiscent of country houses to encourage people to move out to 'Metroland' - the Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire border country.

The Metropolitan and District Railway favoured red-brick buildings, such as can still be seen at **Mornington Crescent** (*right*)



Hounslow Central station (*left*) was built in 1912 to look like a Georgian cottage which was seen as the ideal type of property in the area. When the 1920s saw the end of steam engines on the

underground, some stations were rebuilt with no chimneys.

The original rolling-stock had only very small windows which allowed passengers to see the station names; large windows were considered unnecessary as there was nothing to see in the tunnels. However, demand from the passengers led to larger windows being fitted, especially as the network expanded out into the suburbs. When the carriages had small windows, each station had its own unique colour-coded pattern of tiling on the walls, with the station name being displayed only three times along the length of the platforms. The tile designs meant that travellers could identify which station they were at even if they could not see the station name. The 1900 Central London Railway - now part of the Central line - all the stations had white tiles. All the original tiles have been replaced, but some stations have reminiscent white tiles.

Despite being titled, 'The first 150 years', Mark is so enthusiastic about the underground system that he only managed to cover about the first 75 years in this talk. He will return in October to tell us about the most recent 75 years, with especial reference to those stations which have an 'all you can eat' Chinese restaurant nearby. With apologies for the paucity of information in this summary of his talk, Mark was so interesting that insufficient notes were taken. For more information:

tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/culture-and-heritage/art-and-design/station-architecture

(Images: Statue of James Henry Greathead. Copyright Ann Greene Mornington Crescent & Hounslow Central Wikimedia Commons)

WOOLLARDS IN THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY TIMES

Paul Douch

My mother was a **Woollard**, raised in **Acton**. She was able to tell me quite a bit about her parents' generation, but not so much about her grandparents, **John** and **Sarah** (née **Thorogood**). When one of Findmypast's weekly bulletins announced the digitisation of the Middlesex County Times (MCT), I thought it would be a good chance to find out more. And so it has proved.

The years covered are 1866 to 1936. I had hoped to find a little more about **John** & **Sarah's** early days in **Acton** (they married in **Ealing** in 1885), but had to be content with their involvement with the Acton Poultry, Pigeons, Rabbits, Cats, Cavies and Cage Birds Society. At least, I guess it was them. First appearing in 1890 as Mr & Mrs "**Woollard**", **Mrs J. Woollard** came 4th in Poultry Class 10 "For the best cross-bred fowl, any variety, cock or hen, any age" in 1891. Then **J. Woollard/ Woollard** was among the committee of management in 1892 & 1893.

They drop out of the local news for several years. I doubt this can be blamed wholly on the appearance at 1 Grove Place, Acton of four children, **Tom, John, Edwin and Winifred**. It was probably more to do with John snr. working hard to establish his building & decorating business.

Young **Winnie** turns up twice in 1907, as one of 'the clever little pupils from the **Sterndale Bennett Institute of Music, Acton**', winning 'praise for her piano solo "Sparkling Cascades"'. The adults reappear in 1911, and with them a variety of leisure activities. **J. Woollard** gains recognition for his 'Ferns or Mosses (four distinct)' at the Acton Flower Show ("GOOD SHOW IN SPITE OF DROUGHT"). So, too in 1912, at the first indoor exhibition, '**Mr. Woollard's** group of hardly [sic] British ferns, all raised from babyhood in **Acton**, and of unique variety, was the subject of much attention, and was awarded by the judges a silver medal'. **Mr. Thos. Woollard** continued this family interest when he became assistant hon. secretary of Acton Horticultural Society in 1913. Two years later, as secretary, he 'stated that the exhibits were very representative of the several organisations [Acton Smallholders', Allotment, and Garden Holders' Association, and the War Relief Allotments Committee] which had amalgamated in the event. Most of the competitors had promised him their produce of that day, and it would be very nice to send it to a hospital, or to wounded soldiers, or, possibly, with the assistance of an association, to some of our sailors afloat'. I am assuming it was the same **Tom** (in his mid-twenties) who was playing football for Acton Baptist, 1911-13.

In October 1913, at **Newton Avenue Baptist Church**, 'Busy and willing hands had made the church-schoolroom gay with muslin-decorated stalls, flying flags, and bunches and wreaths of flowers' in order to raise money by a sale of handiwork ('there were no endowment funds to fall back upon among Nonconformists'). I believe that the '**Miss Wright**' among those on the Ladies Working Party Stall was **Dorothy Evelyn** who, six years later, was to become the wife of '**Mr. E. Woollard**' - **Edwin**, though 22, was not too old for the Young People's stall.

John snr's membership of Acton Park Bowls Club probably began before WW1. The first reference to his presence on West London greens came in 1916, when 'the honour of the winning point rested on the shoulders of "**Skipper**" **Woollard**, who sent up one of his remarkable shots just as the rinks were level'. It looks as if he was a regular through the 1920s, possibly playing in matches two or three times a week, with responsibility for the family business having passed principally to **Tom**.

Hitherto there had been but one mention of **J. Woollard & Sons**, when in 1912, despite theirs being the lowest tender of £24 5s., Acton Highway Committee decided to postpone 'internal and external painting at the park-keeper's lodge, Acton Vale'.

Conscription became an issue after May 1916, when the married **Tom** became liable to serve. His two younger brothers were already enlisted and on 7th February 1917, the MCT reported thus on the Middlesex Appeals Tribunal: '**Thomas Woollard of Messrs. Woollard and Sons Ltd, of Acton**, in his appeal said that two of his brothers, who were directors, were in the Army, and if **John**, who was in the Dorset Yeomanry, and now acting as orderly, was released to look after the business, he was quite willing to go. He understood the Army would release him. This arrangement was agreed to'. This one report hardly begins to reflect the to-and-fro of correspondence as **Tom**, through the tribunal process (records of which are available via the National Archives), tried to remain at work over several months. **Tom** had been called up by the time that adverts for staff started to appear in the MCT. Perhaps it was **John Jr.** who came up with the wording for a '*BOOK-KEEPER-TYPIST required at once gd salary, and comfortable post for a smart girl*'. More often, in 1917-18, it was tradesmen who were needed and no doubt in short supply: '*WANTED at once; thoroughly reliable man for roofing, plastering, ranges, etc.; Union rate; perm job; also painters, 11 hrs a day, 1/1 per hr; perm job*'.

A short notice on the front page of the MCT for 28 June 1919 might have given cause for family pride: '**Pte. E. J. Woollard, of Churchfield-road, Acton**, has been recommended for distinction for carrying dispatches across a bullet-swept plain at the second battle of Gaza'. Shortly afterwards, **Edwin** and **Dorothy** were

married. It was not to be a happy marriage, not that the newspaper has thrown any light on that.

In 1920-21, **John Sr.** and **Sarah** were supporting fundraising efforts at **Acton Congregational Church** and **Acton Hospital**, also the Old Age Pension Fund of the Acton Philanthropic Society. **John** served on the committee of Acton Working Men's Sick Benefit Society.

One of **Woollard & Sons'** contract bids ran into a bit of local controversy. As the MCT of 8 June 1921 summarised it: 'THOSE MYSTERIOUS LEAKS. Council Confronted by Expensive Work at the Baths. TENDERS THAT MAY BE DOUBLED'. For some time the Baths Committee has been worried by a serious leakage, supposed to be due to fissures in the asphalt under the glazed bricks, at the sides and bottom of the first-class swimming bath'. A protracted report of councillors' arguments followed. In the end, the tender was awarded to the **Woollards**. It is not recorded how much they lost on the job or, indeed, whether they were prepared for the deep end.

Tom pretty well disappears from MCT pages in the 1920s. He probably had his work cut out running the business. I guess that much of the work would have been for private householders, but the firm continued to tender for contracts and, in July 1935, was engaged by Acton Hospital Council 'for the redecoration of the nurses' home'. In the same year, John and Sarah's Golden Wedding celebrations were reported in the MCT and John's remarkable past was revealed.

Unlike many other local or regional newspapers, the MCT does not seem to have carried notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths. Indeed, Findmypast's Article type filter does not have 'Family Notices' for the MCT.

John and **Sarah** had three surviving grandchildren. There is some evidence that they were encouraged to take part in music and drama. Master **David Woollard**, for example, performed at 'an enjoyable entertainment (...) by the 12th and 18th Acton Scout Troops in aid of group funds at the **Central Hall, Acton-lane**' in March 1934. His sister **Joan** played Hebe in HMS Pinafore at the **York House School** speech day in July 1936.

J. Woollard continued bowling, according to reports, until 1931. Pushing 70, he had won the Begent Cup in 1924. His passing was recognised with a minute's silence at the Acton Park Bowls Club AGM in February 1936. His funeral was reported in the same issue of MCT. Coincidentally, on the same date appeared the headline "EALING MAN LEAVES OVER £100,000". It turns out that this was 'Mr. **Alfred Woollard**, of **28, Hamilton-road, Ealing**, late of **Woollards Ltd.**, jewellers, of **Westbourne-grove**'... no relation!

So, Findmypast's British Newspapers database (also to be found at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) has helped me to flesh out some of my forebears. It is still frustrating to find that names are sometimes not recognised by the OCR software. And the sooner that highlighting of matched search term(s) on the results pages is introduced to the collection, the less squinting through newspaper text there will be. No doubt these difficulties will be sorted out in due course and, in the meantime, one's delight at finding in the newspapers something new about the family is not diminished!

Middlesex County Times 3rd August 1935

'STARTED WORK AT 2s. A WEEK

Searched For Gold At 18: Married 50 Years Ago

ACTON CELEBRATION

Hearty congratulations are due to Mr. and Mrs. John Woollard, 52, Churchfield-road West, Acton, two greatly esteemed old townspeople, who celebrated their golden wedding on Wednesday. They were married at the West Ealing Baptist Church on July 31, 1885. Mrs. Woollard was Miss Sarah Thorogood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thorogood, of Shalford, Essex. Mr. Woollard, who was born in Bardfield, a neighbouring village, started work on the land for 2s. a week when he was only eleven years of age. When he was 18 he went to Australia, where he spent the next years of his life "roughing it" in the Bush. He traversed the great island continent from north to south, and undertook all kinds of jobs that offered, from well sinking to bullock driving. Twice he tried his luck on the gold fields with no great success. In fact, he was ship-wrecked and nearly lost his life when on a coasting vessel making for one of these eldorados. The vessel was pounded to bits on the rocks, and he was the only survivor of a group of four friends amongst the passengers.

SCOPE FOR ENTERPRISE.

On returning to England in 1884, Mr. Woollard made for the growing district of Acton, which promised scope for enterprise. Having learned the building trade by practical experience gained in working for various firms, then busy in developing the town, he started business on his own account in Churchfield-road as a house repairer and decorator, and succeeded in gaining a large circle of customers. He had friends in Ealing, and it was there that he met his future wife, who happened to come from his native county.

About twenty years ago Mr. Woollard was joined in his business by his three sons—John, Tom and Edward—and it developed into a general building enterprise that has carried out many important contracts in the town and neighbourhood.

Mr. Woollard, who is 80, is in capital health and active for his age, save for a slight lameness due to synovitis that attacked him suddenly about four years ago. Mrs. Woollard, who is 77, also enjoys good health. They have three sons and a daughter, and the family is well known and much respected in the town.

The Mayor of Acton (Clr. W. Atkinson) has written to Mr. and Mrs. Woollard tendering congratulations on behalf of himself and the Mayoress and their fellow burgesses of Acton.

The Middlesex County Times, 3rd August 1935, page 4. British Newspapers collection (FindMyPast)

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

For Pay as You Go the discount code is

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 in the discount code box.

PASSWORDS

Mar – June 2019

Jul - Sept 2019

WEST LONDON LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE 2019

Yvonne Masson

Two Richmond Theatres: their Roles in the Social Life of the Town - Paul Velluet (Architectural Historian & President, Richmond Local History Society)

Theatres in **Richmond** have for centuries contributed towards the cultural life of the town. In 1769 **Boswell** noted in his diary a visit to Mr **Love**, then manager of the **Theatre Royal at Richmond**, situated on a corner of **Richmond Green**, where it had been established four years earlier. Earlier theatres included a playhouse at **Richmond Wells**, 1696-1763; another on **Hill Rise**, 1719-1725; and a third, 1730-67, set up further up the hill by actor **Thomas Chapman**.

Richmond was close to **London** so those who could afford it could come out to enjoy rural life. A "Prospect of Richmond", published 1726, shows gentlemen's houses around the **Hill** and **Green** and **Richmond Lodge** (demolished 1770s) in **Old Deer Park** was the home of the **Prince and Princess of Wales**. **Richmond Bridge** from 1777 gave easy access from **Middlesex**. The leading actor of the day **David Garrick** lived at **Hampton**. He was a supporter of **Love** and spoke the Prologue at the **Theatre Royal's** opening performance in 1765 (with music by **Thomas Arne**). The theatre cost £4000 to build and ticket prices ranged from 4 shillings to one shilling. When it opened **Love** did not yet have a licence; but with **Garrick's** help this was finally granted in July 1766 and **Love** could put on full plays. Performances received positive reviews and good patronage. Some famous names played there, such as **Mrs Dora Jordan**, (later the morganatic wife of the **Duke of Clarence**). **Edmund Keen** appeared at **Richmond** early in his career and was living next door to the theatre when he died in 1833; hundreds attended his funeral at **Richmond Parish Church**. But the middle years of the 19th century saw the theatre's gradual demise. By the 1870s **Richmond** was becoming a populous residential suburb, and the railways – the main line and the District Line – had arrived. This affected the cultural life of **Richmond**. People could easily go up to the **West End** and the old patronage was changing. The **Theatre Royal** was demolished in 1884. **Mouflet** (owner of the **Greyhound Hotel** in **George Street** and the **Castle Hotel** in **Hill Street**) called in **Frank Matcham**, the leading theatre architect of the time and in 1899 the **Richmond Theatre** that we know today opened on the opposite side of the **Green** from the site of the old **Theatre Royal**. This opulent building would attract the new middle classes. Audiences were still segregated - the pit stalls and the gallery had separate entrances. The opening bill was *As You Like It*, tickets ranging from £1.15s for the best seats to 6d for the gallery.

Musical Life in Georgian Brentford and Chiswick - Val Bott (editor: *The Brentford & Chiswick Local History Journal*)

Music offered a more domestic type of entertainment than the theatre. Accounts from the time show that music played an important part in people's lives: those who could afford it took music and dance lessons. A Frenchman, **George Desnoyer**, taught the future **Prince of Wales** to dance at **Hanover**, and his son **Philip** followed in his father's footsteps: they earned large fees teaching aristocrats and their children to dance. **Philip** came to live very near to the artist **Zoffany** in **West London** and there were a lot of **Royals** nearby. **Lord Fauconberg** at **Chiswick** paid for dancing lessons for his niece, and **Ann Clitherow** of **Boston Manor** paid £50 per year to a dancing master for lessons for her daughters, and she and her husband **James Clitherow III** were portrayed with musical instruments in paintings. Some schools offered dancing lessons as an extra. The **Rev. Archibald Crawford**, who ran a charity school in **Chiswick**, would get distinguished clerics to come and give public sermons, after which there would be a collection. This helped pay for extra-curricular activities for the children, such as singing, which would have been part of their religious education. Maypole dancing, perhaps associated with the travelling fairs, required some dancing skills so as not to entangle the ribbons, and there was also Morris dancing. **Pepys** describes a dance in the 1600s where the dancing was "ordinary" but with plenty of colour. In dances at the Royal Court, the more elite dancing was mixed with country dancing. People also gathered for dancing at inns such as the **Three Pigeons, Brentford**, and balls were held in Assembly Rooms. Pamphlets were published with diagrams of dance movements. Some of these, for example the minuet, were very complicated. There were men's clubs at which members drank and sang, and there was choir singing in the churches. Musical performances required patrons. **Lord Burlington** of **Chiswick House** brought back from a Grand Tour four musicians from **Italy**, and Italian opera was promoted in **London**. **Handel** lived for a time at **Burlington House** in **London**. **Thomas Morell**, who wrote a lot of the libretti for **Handel**, was a friend of the artist **Hogarth** who lived at **Chiswick**. **David Garrick** married a European ballerina known as **La Violetta**. The harpsichord and spinet were fashionable instruments to have in one's home, as was later the piano. **Zoffany** and his family lived at **Strand on the Green**: in the sale catalogue of his house there were musical instruments, and he included a harp in the altarpiece he painted for **St Anne's Church, Kew**. Scottish songs were included in musical evenings held at **Gunnersbury**.

Music Halls Bring Variety and Fun to South West London - Neil Robson
(editor :*The Wandsworth Historian*)

In the 1840s and 50s there were Song and Supper Rooms which were largely taverns (for men) and rather “rackety” places. In 1878, it was suggested that these sort of places needed a ‘certificate of gentility’; custom-built music halls were needed. But whether the venue was a variety theatre in **Leicester Square** or a music hall in a poor district, there was a consistency of performance on the stage. **Hammersmith** had had a seedy hall attached to a pub but then the **Palace of Varieties** appeared in **King Street** in 1898 with a foyer decorated with Moorish tiles - Neil found a programme cover of 1899 (urchins would wait outside these theatres and ask people emerging for their programmes, which they would then sell for half price to audiences going in for the second performance). The interior of the **Granville Theatre, Fulham**, a **Matcham** building of 1898, was decorated with Dalton faience ware, and the **Hippodrome, Putney**, had pink, grey and gilt decoration. They were all very popular; they were warm and bright (lit by electricity) and they were cheap. If you sat in the gallery you could see 12 acts for 3d. **Florrie Forde**, born in **Australia** in 1875, was in **London** by 1897 and went on till the 1930s. She performed at all three of these theatres. She would get everybody in the audience to join in the choruses of her songs.



Marie Lloyd (*right*), a sometimes tragic figure, had a reputation for somewhat risqué performances – she was not invited to the **Palace Theatre, Cambridge Circus** in 1912 for the first Royal Command Performance. **Harry Lauder**, (*left*) on the other hand (he lived in **Longley Road, Tooting**) was knighted in 1919.



This was the golden age of the music hall. But there were grievances behind the scenes. In 1907 artistes struck and theatres were picketed. One of the grievances was that artistes were only paid once for two performances per night, sometimes several miles apart, and if this needed a cab (as they were in costume) they bore the cost. During WWI music hall, still in its heyday, attracted large audiences. But soon there came a decline: America began exporting acts performing ragtime and jazz: **Jack Hilton's** orchestra was just one of the bands and these rendered music hall “old

hat". And there were Hollywood films at the cinema, and radio. But perhaps music hall is still alive: in pubs, in panto, and the Royal Command Performance still has a variety format.

That's Entertainment!

Readings after lunch by the Organising Committee began with the **Cooke family's Royal Circus**, with successive generations of the family touring the UK and even the USA from the 1780s into the mid-Victorian era. Performances included horse riding, trampoline, jumping through fiery hoops, feats of strength, stilt and tightrope walking, human pyramids, and fireworks. The next piece was about the **Albert Palace**, a glass structure in **Battersea Park**. It eventually became a white elephant but opened in June 1885 with attractions such as the **Viennese Ladies Orchestra** of 60 performers clad in scarlet hussar jackets and conducted by **Mme Schipek** who beat time with a bow. Following this was a reading about the **Lyric Hall**. Built in **Bradmore Grove, Hammersmith** in 1888, it successively became the **Lyric Opera House** in 1890, then the **Lyric Theatre**, designed by **Frank Matcham** and opened in July 1895 by **Lily Langtry**. Eventually demolished in 1969, the Victorian auditorium was reconstructed inside the modern building seating around 540 people. The next reading was about an appearance by **Marie Lloyd** at the **Putney Hippodrome** in 1921 when she performed her latest hit "One of the Ruins that Cromwell knocked about a bit". She was now often "the worse for wear" when on stage. Asked in an interview where she got the old-fashioned dress in which she performed the song, she said it had belonged to her grandmother but she had had to get rid of the moths first. She said the elaborate dress had probably only cost about £3, whereas now a dress of only half a yard of material could cost 20 guineas. The next reading was about the **Tooting Granada** (now Grade I listed), with modernistic design by cinema architect **Cecil Massey** and interior by **Theodore Komisarjevsky**; the auditorium was embellished with mural paintings. The most modern projectors and sound apparatus were installed and there were capacious waiting halls, a Wurlitzer organ, a quick-service restaurant, a large car park and perambulator park, and a beauty parlour. Finally, a 1967 press report on **Arthur Chisnall's** jazz and blues club on **Eel Pie Island** described the appearance of the typical young patrons and the quality of the music they came to hear.

The Lido, West Ealing: a Journey through Cinema History 1913-2005 by David Shailes (local historian)

This cinema was a large building erected in **Northfield Avenue, Ealing**. **Ealing** was keeping abreast of cinematograph entertainment – the first animated picture show was shown in England in February 1896; **Ealing** followed in October.

These shows were called Exhibitions and were originally shown in fairgrounds and shops. The high inflammability of nitrate film led to the Cinematographic Act, 1909: there must be regular inspections and the projector must be installed in a separate room. There was no censorship on early films; the British Board of Film Censors was set up in 1916, but local councils still had the final say. The first cinema in **Ealing**, the **Broadway Cinema**, arrived in 1908; it lasted till 1958, located where **W.H. Smith** is now. Other early cinemas were the **Electric Theatre**, 1908; the **Walpole**, 1912 (till 1972), and then in 1913: the **Kinema**, **West Ealing**, on what was originally the site of the cottage hospital. The project of two businessmen who had already opened a cinema in Acton, opening day of the **Kinema** was Monday June 30th 1913 and there was seating for 1200. During WWI it showed films about the War, e.g. *The Battle of the Somme*, and **Chaplin** films. In 1909 30% of films were from the USA, but later it was USA 90%, and this situation led (in 1927) to protectionism. 75% of films had to be by British studios and labour. From this period came the two-film programme: main feature and B film. There were restrictions on Sunday opening till 1972; the Sunday programme could not start till 4.30pm. A change of ownership for the **Kinema** led to a refurbishment with a new grand re-opening in October 1928. Also in 1928 came the advent of the talkies with the new Vitaphone System. **The Kinema** was pipped at the post by **the Walpole**, but they had it by July 1929. Also in 1928 **John Maxwell** founded ABC cinemas. Nine months after its refit, the **Kinema** was sold to **ABC** and with a new name, the **Lido**, became the main cinema in **Ealing**. During WWII it suffered no serious damage, and did well. Cinema attendances were good: 635 million people went to the cinema in 1946 but from 1956 audiences began to fall. Colour films came in, although black and white films were still being shown. Colour TV came along, then videos. Now only 40% of the cinema industry's revenue comes from films at the cinema: the rest from DVD and TV and e.g. the airlines. The golden years of going to the cinema were past. The Gaming Act of 1960 legalised bingo and its popularity saved some of the buildings, including for a time the **Lido** - in 1964 the **Star Cinema Group** purchased the **Lido**, closed it in 1965, and a week later it opened as a Bingo Hall. This group built the first multi-cinema in Britain: in 1971 they shut the **Lido** for two months, spent £40-50,000, and re-opened it in September as a bingo club plus two cinemas. But in 1985 they sold the **Lido** to **Cannon** and it became a bingo social club, then **Ealing Snooker Club** - **David** in his youth played snooker there. After various other changes of ownership unfortunately in 1996 the **Lido** won BBC worst cinema award. It closed in February 1997 and re-opened after four months as **The Bellevue** showing English films in one cinema, Bollywood films in the other. Eventually demolition became inevitable and started June 2005. On the site is an office building called **Lido House**.

The National Jazz and Blues Festivals in Richmond in the 1960s by Alan Sherriff (*Richmond Heritage Guide*)

This Festival had its birth in **Richmond** in 1961. It made outdoor musical events popular. Why **Richmond**? Promoter **Harold Pendleton** felt that jazz's respectability had to be restored after the '**Beaulieu Riots**'. He thought of an outdoor national festival. He was a **Twickenham** resident and was aware that **Arthur Chisnall** had started the **Eel Pie Island Jazz Club** in 1956 which within 12 months had 1800 members.

Pendleton thought that **Richmond** met all the transport criteria: he wanted to attract lots of people. He had a network of contacts. **Richmond Athletic Ground** in the **Old Deer Park** was chosen as venue and opening date was 26th August 1961. It would be exclusively jazz with a bias towards traditional jazz. A drinks licence was granted, but not on Sundays. Tickets cost 12s.6d per day or 25s for the weekend. Was **Richmond** excited? Local residents were apprehensive, remembering **Beaulieu**. They felt **Richmond** should take a strong stand: undesirables should be held by the police for their parents to collect them and pay a fine. The *Richmond and Twickenham Times* assured its readers that undesirables would not get in as hired strong-arm men would stop rowdyism. The Festival started with the **Don Rendell Quartet**; **Johnny Dankworth** also appeared and **Ken Colyer's** band. The *Richmond Herald* conceded there was no hooliganism. The strong-arm men had a quiet weekend. The local press was disappointed by the lack of trouble but local traders were happy. The Festival was seen as a success. Rhythm and blues was also very popular, especially at the Crawdaddy Club behind the **Station Hotel** in **Richmond**, which began in 1963. The National Jazz Festival soon included Rhythm and Blues. By 1964, it was the National Jazz and Blues Festival, now three days long and included bands like the Rolling Stones. And they were now importing the 'Real McCoy' from the **United States**. By 1965 there were more rhythm and blues bands and it was televised. **The Who** appeared, and **Chris Barber** topped the bill of the jazz bands. But despite the success, critical press reports less to the local Council asking them to leave. **Harold Pendleton** found a new venue for the Festival in **Windsor**, and this eventually became **Reading** in 1971, where it still takes place. **Harold Pendleton** in 2014 was a guest at Richmond Local History Society. He died in 2017 (1924-2017). His events had no doubt filled a vacuum for young people, and he had contributed to music history.

(Images: Wikimedia Commons)

LINKING NEWSPAPER REPORTS AND PARISH REGISTERS

John Seaman

Editor: In May 2017, Celia Heritage gave a talk on using newspapers in family history. John obviously took her words to heart because he has done some “matching up” deaths reported in newspapers with parish registers. As you can see, they were all deaths that occurred in Shepperton but which were reported in some fairly far-flung places.

Three accidental deaths in Shepperton which were reported in newspapers have been linked to the Shepperton parish register.

The 9 to 16 November 1734 edition of the *Ipswich Journal* reported that a man had been accidentally drowned in the **Thames** at **Shepperton**. The burial of **Henry Griffen** on 14 November 1734 was recorded in the parish register.

On 19 February 1735 the *Derby Mercury* reported the death of a woman at **Shepperton**. She had fallen down a bank and broken her ankle. There were serious complications and she died. The burial of **Elizabeth Ambrose** on 20 February 1735 was recorded in the parish register.

The 13 to 23 August 1751 edition of the *Derby Mercury* reported that a bricklayer drowned while washing in a small river at **Shepperton**. The burial of **Henry Weech** on 13 August 1751 was recorded in the parish register.

It was possible to make these links because there were only a few entries in the register each year. The transcriptions from the register were accessed using the Findmypast website www.findmypast.co.uk

The editor apologises!

In our last issue of the Journal (March 2019), there was a page publicising the second **Liddiard** Family History Society family gathering, complete with a picture of a beautiful country church. However I did not identify the church and when one of our members contacted me to ask about it, I had to confess that I didn't know! I promised to find out and to print the update in June's Journal.

It was the 11th-century church of **St Michael** in **Aldbourn**, **Wiltshire**

Readers who are searching for ancestors in west London may turn up their family name by looking at our Members Area on the West Middlesex FHS website (under *Data Searches, Baptisms*) because the baptisms from 1566 to 1807 recorded at **All Saints Church Isleworth**, have recently been uploaded. The population of the Parish increased considerably over those years – from the reigns of Elizabeth I to George III - and the clergy seem to have been very efficient at locating newcomers, bringing many of them to the font.

When I began to input the records, a task which kept me busy over the autumn months, I noticed the surnames established in the locality in the 1560s, and these recurred in later years. Gradually, more families moved into the parish and I saw instances where several of their children were baptised on the same day. We know that often they had only moved a short distance, from **Hounslow** or **Twickenham**, or places closer to **London**, because the Vicar made a note of their previous parish if he had time or thought the information might be useful. Infant baptism was usual, but a few adults were recorded.

Some of the original records were incomplete or very difficult to read but **Mavis Sibley**, a member of West Middlesex FHS, had taken great care to make her transcript as inclusive as possible. If your ancestor's name is not in the database, do not assume that he or she wasn't baptised in Isleworth. On any list, anywhere, one or two items or details will possibly be omitted, whether it has been copied or not.

I wanted to see the original baptismal register, and was glad I made an appointment at Hounslow and Feltham Local Studies Library and looked at one of the volumes because I gained an understanding of the difficulties of making a transcription. A number of pages were badly defaced – I thought this must be due to damp or water damage, but the Local Studies Librarian told me it had been caused by fire. It is wonderful that these records have come down to us at all. In the 16th and 17th Century, spelling was not standardized, so occasionally the clergy had ways of spelling names that seem odd or amusing today. Most of the congregation could not read or write and the Vicar had to rely on what he heard, as he took particulars. Often it would have been cold in the church – which is close to the river Thames. Baptisms took place in all months of the year and even on Christmas Day. Sometimes parents brought their twin babies – there seemed to have been more twins than is usual in a population.

The transcription needed to be put on an Excel file, so that it could be uploaded to the Internet. I had no previous experience of creating a large database, but as a membership secretary, I was used to Excel and doing some typing. Our webmaster, Roland, arranged for me to get started and sent me the guidance notes from Find My Past. I decided on a routine of typing fifty records twice a day and checking them, simply because this fitted in easily with my household and gardening chores. A kitchen timer with an automatic bell ensured that I got up and walked around from time to time. It was a matter of perseverance and arranging the strongly bound dark green book in a position where I could see the pages as well as the computer screen. As the list progressed, I thought that quite a lot of people would be able to do the task, if only they could spare the time. I'd had the idea that there would be a surge of volunteers, but this was not the case. I acquired more than a general interest in Isleworth and have been comparing and contrasting it with parishes near **Kanturk, Co. Cork**, where my own ancestors lived.

Soon there were corrections for me to make – I had been typing £ instead of a capital E – which I hadn't done previously and it was necessary to delete some stray characters that had somehow crept into empty cells. Even an unwanted full stop had to go. It is surprising how odd little habits develop when typing. Gradually the increasing number of baptisms per year made the task more demanding. I thought how busy the Vicar must have been, though glad to see so many coming to church.

In October, I took time away from the typing, to attend an interesting afternoon at the Society of Genealogists, with talks given by **Celia Heritage**, "Organisation of the Parish and its Records Created 1560-1840".

When eventually I reached the year 1807, the file was sent to Find My Past so that it could be finally checked. Computers, despite their complexity, score very highly when tabulated information is needed and could help you find that crumb of detail which leads to a Eureka Moment of finding an ancestor.

Running a website in this age is a great opportunity. Similar to the journal, the website should provide our members with information on our next meetings, subs renewal, etc. But the website is also our shop window to the world, and should provide general assistance to anyone trying to do family history which is based on our area. These are the main developments of the website in recent months, and by the way, if you have any suggestions for further things you would like to see included do just drop me a line.

In December I realised that I could be more helpful to non-members on where to find a copy of our journal, including back-copies. Going to the **British Library** is one option of course, but not too helpful if you live in **Indiana, USA**. There are actually 15 libraries that receive our journal quarter by quarter, so I added a list of them to our main *Journals* page.

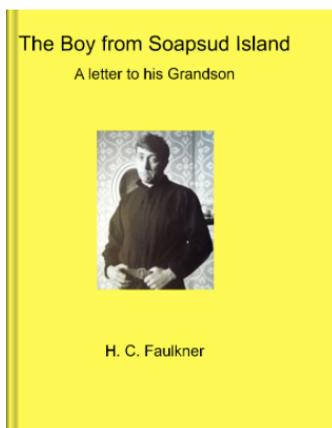
It was also in December that we obtained a new supply of Society jumpers (T-shirts and hoodies), which we want to sell (to anyone!), and it obviously made sense to put these onto the website, but we only had a '*Books and CDs page*', so the jumpers were duly added to this page, and it was re-christened '*Items for Sale*' under the *Services* tab.

In January The **Federation of Family History Societies** made available to us a very useful article titled 'Can DNA Tests Help You?' which Ann included in the March journal. I thought this article was well-considered and could usefully be linked to from our website, so I added a page titled '*DNA Testing*' under the *Research* tab, which includes the link.

I have a bit of a love-hate reaction to using newspapers as an aid to doing family history research. I certainly use sites such as Funeral-Notices.co.uk to find current obituaries, but I have always found the Newspaper Archives difficult to use effectively. There is good stuff there, but how to find it? I then realised that I should at least be able to show what titles are available, relevant to West Middlesex, on the website, which is what led to the main enhancement to the website this quarter. I found that there are comparatively few (12) titles in the British Newspaper Archive (BNA) that are specific to our area, so they could be listed for information, and the relevant links provided. There are then some 500 titles to be found for newspapers of our area held at The British Library. It obviously requires serious commitment to visit The British Library, but at least I could provide a user-friendly search facility to show what exists there. So, in March '*Newspapers*' became a further page available under the *Research* tab. Enjoy your research.

BOOKSHELF

The Boy from Soapsud Island
H. C Faulkner
Published by Blurb Books
£17.39 plus p+p from www.blurb.co.uk



“Dear Tom, you won’t know it yet, but as sure as eggs is eggs certain pictures, sounds, smells are already fixed in your memory.....”

These are the opening words of *The Boy from Soapsud Island* and they had me hooked from the word go. Anyone who knows Acton or has (or had) family there will know about Soapsud Island, a virtual empire of laundries.

H C Faulkner grew up there and this book was written about his experiences for his grandson Tom. He was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth and this is not a book of cosy reminiscence. But it is a great read from someone writing honestly and unsentimentally about his life.

At the moment it is only available through Blurb Books online but the author is now trying to get it published through one of the main publishing houses so that it is more widely available.

The Society does have its own copy now which will be displayed for a few months on the Bookstall. It really belongs in the library but we thought members would like to see it!

FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS & EVENTS

The Genealogy Show

Friday 7th June - Saturday 8th June. NEC, Birmingham
Admission £15 per day or £25 weekend pass.

War and Peace in Surrey 1914-1919

Saturday 20th July 11am-4.30pm
Dorking Halls, Dorking RH4 1SG
Admission free

Exhibitions, talks, activities, a sound installation and a re-enactment

Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day *

Saturday 27th July. The Grange, Wendover Way, Aylesbury HP21 7NH
10-4.

Free admission and free parking

The London Family History Show *

Saturday 24th August. Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher KT10
9AJ. 10-4.30

Admission £6.50 or £8 on the door. Earlybird Offer 2 for £10 available now.

Children under 16 free.

Free parking

thefamilyhistoryshow.com

West Surrey FHS Family History Fair *

Saturday, 2nd November. Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking GU22
9BA. 10-4.30

Further details to follow

** WMFHS will have a stall at these events.*

FAMILY HISTORY NEWS

The Federation of Family History Societies has changed its name! From 26th April this year it became the **Family History Federation**. The change of name and the new-look website were launched at the Family Tree Live Show.

Another big change recently was the departure of **FamilySearch** from the **National Archives** at **Kew**. Rather like a relative in Victorian days, they had originally moved in as a temporary measure and ended up staying for several years! The enthusiastic and welcoming volunteers will be sadly missed, but the good news is that the National Archives have become a FamilySearch Affiliate Library and will continue to offer access to the digitised records.

The FamilySearch films have, of course, already moved to the **Society of Genealogists** in **Clerkenwell** and (although they are not on open access) can be consulted there.

The **National Archives** at **Kew** is now very user-friendly, with open reading rooms, disabled access, a coffee shop and restaurant on-site, a lovely outside space, a very good bookshop and many free talks. All this plus free access to Ancestry and FindMyPast, as well as FamilySearch! Not to mention their world-class collection of documents. Treat yourself to a day out and see what they can offer you.

Don't forget that **FamilySearch**, **FindMyPast** and **Ancestry** all add records on a regular basis, as do many other online providers. The numbers of records online is now almost frightening, but if you get a chance to go online, do look

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

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

Lynne Jones

We offer our condolences to her family

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 on the following page.

S296 Mrs Rachel Stuchbury
J88 Ms L A James. lindajames2347@gmail.com
W262 Ms D P Wayne. 60 Okebourne Park, Liden, Swindon, Wiltshire
bees.swindon@ntlworld.com

SURNAME INTERESTS

SURNAME	PERIOD	AREA	COUNTY	MEMBER
WAYNE	1900-1990	Hounslow, Brentford	MDX	W262
WAYNE	1820 -1890	Hounslow, Brentford	MDX	W262
HOWE	1700-1900	Heston, Hounslow	MDX	J88
WISE	1700-1900	Hammersmith	MDX	J88
ANGELL	All periods	All areas	MDX	J88
BATH	All periods	All areas	MDX	J88
CHELTON	All periods	All areas	MDX	J88
CLEVELAND	All periods	All areas	MDX	J88
JUETT	All periods	All areas	MDX	J88
DALLIBAR	All periods	All areas	MDX	J88
ARGENT	All periods	All areas	MDX	J88
EWER	All periods	All areas	MDX	J88
GRISTWOOD	All periods	All areas	MDX	J88
TURNER	All periods	All areas	MDX	J88

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.

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.

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

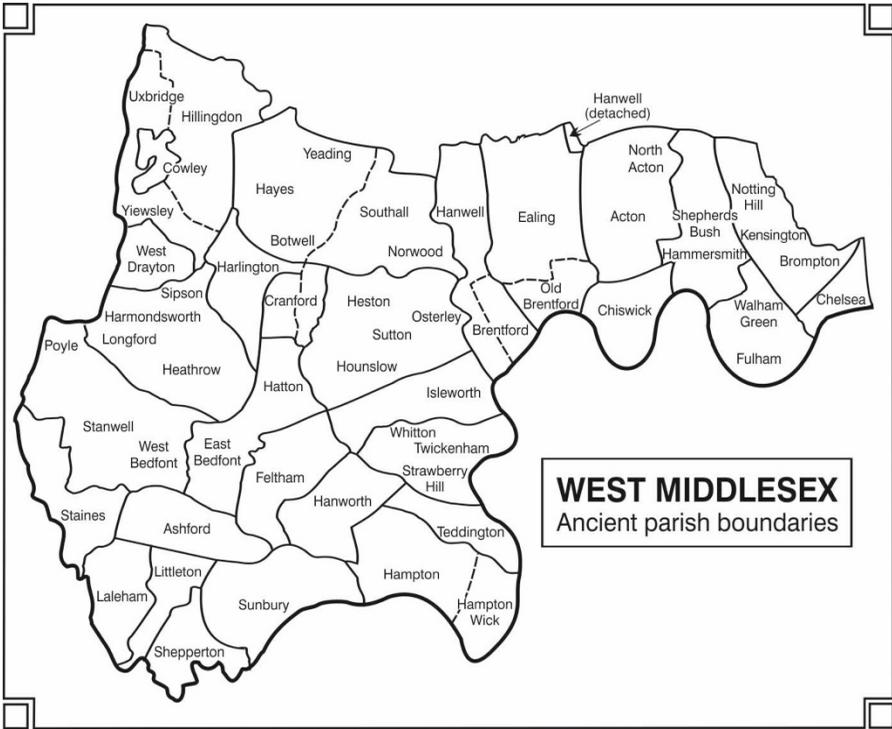
G.R.O. Certificates. A number of original GRO birth, marriage and death certificates have been kindly donated to the Society by members and are available for purchase at a cost of £1 per certificate. Please check on Society website for current list. Cheques should be made payable to West Middlesex FHS and please include an sae.

Front Cover

“A Coat of Arms awarded for meritorious service in a time of need”

The Committee’s thank-you to Kirsty Gray.

Designed by Roland Bostock



West Middlesex Family History Society

Area of Interest

Acton, Ashford, East Bedfont, Chelsea, Chiswick, Cowley, Cranford, West Drayton, Ealing with Old Brentford, Feltham, Fulham, Hammersmith, Hampton, Hanwell with New Brentford, Hanworth, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Hayes with Norwood, 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

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