



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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

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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:

15th January, 15th April, 15th July and 15th 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?



Until coronavirus caused the closure of Feltham Library, and the introduction of social distancing, we held an advice session on the third Saturday of each month at Feltham Library. These sessions needed to be booked, but were freely available to members and non-members of the Society alike.

Even now that the library has reopened, the restrictions of social distancing will make it hard to run an effective advice session face-to-face. But we are still here to help!

If you have a query about 'How to do family history?' or you are looking for help to pull down a brick wall in research with a West Middlesex connection, you can always ask for help by emailing advice@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk to ask a question and give us an idea of what you want to achieve.

We shall do our best to help, although nothing is guaranteed!

I last wrote of updates to the website in the December 2020 journal. These are the main new additions since then.

Maps can be a bit of fun. In November 2020, Brian Page tipped me off about a new map of Greater London called an Etymology Map, which gives the purported origins for some of the town names in our area, eg that Hillingdon is derived from Hilla's Hill, or Teddington comes from Tuda's settlement. So there are now 5 maps which may be selected for their view of our area.

Poor Law records are a rich source of genealogical information, but transcribing some quite lengthy Settlement Examinations was a slow business. The full task was divided into two parts and part one went online with a new database search facility in March 2021. The June 2021 issue of our journal included a comprehensive write-up on the Poor Laws and the various types of record that we have recorded.

We run an open 'advice' line endeavouring to answer whatever may be asked relevant to doing family history in our area. We do quite often get asked place specific questions that generally lead to us recommending a visit to one of our record offices, or perhaps to make contact with a particular Local History Society. We already had a page under the Research tab to lookup our record offices, in May 2021 we collected all the data we had on Local History Societies, in particular links to their websites, and created a further page under the Research tab where they can be found.

We have been running our Members' Meetings using Zoom since July 2020, but we never asked the speaker if we could record the meetings. But we were getting requests from our Antipodean members in Australia and New Zealand to make recordings for them, and so we set up a Playback facility for members to replay the talk from the Zoom meeting, provided that the speaker consented to us doing this. As the playback is limited to one month duration, and is on a members' only page of the website most speakers have readily given their consent for the recordings. The Zoom playback page went live in October 2021.

Monthly Talks *Ann Greene , Muriel Sprott , Roland Bostock*

Remember When? 1946-1969

Janet Few

November

Several members have written memoirs of their ancestors, but few that we know of have written their own biographies. Most of us would think we were far too unimportant and our lives too ordinary to bother with this. Janet Few began her talk by asking the question “Why would we write our own memoir?” and then giving us a very compelling reason as to why we should do it. We are part of our family’s history and if we leave ourselves out, the history will not be complete. Our descendants, direct or indirect, may have an interest in what our lives were like. Social history, family history and local history all overlap.

Janet’s website www.thehistoryinterpreter.wordpress.com describes a project in which she helped a group of women to write the stories of their lives between 1946 and 1969. The resulting book is available from Amazon. “*Remember Then? Women’s Memories of 1946 – 1969 and How to Write Your Own*”. Although the lives of these women might have been ordinary, they experienced enormous change. From liberty bodices to miniskirts, from rationing to ready meals. Among the social changes were the beginnings of feminism and the shift from “make do and mend” to conspicuous consumerism.

Having taken the plunge to write your own history, you are faced with questions and dilemmas.

What do you need to do? The practical tasks

Janet advises having a readily available way of recording the ideas that come to you in the middle of the night or driving down the M3. It can be a notebook, a voice recorder, your tablet or mobile phone. The choice is yours, but it is important to have something immediately to hand – do not trust your memory!

Clean out your attic, or wherever you store old possessions and documents. Photos, prize certificates, clothes, diaries, books, letters, toys and clothes will all say something about your life and will trigger memories. Sadly, if you are a minimalist or have recently “decluttered”, then you will find yourself at a disadvantage, but there are still aide-memoires.

Music is a great way to evoke memories, so try listening to the music of “your” era. (*Ed: I still vividly remember my sister and I being given a Beatles EP record for Christmas by a very “square” uncle.*)

Sharing personal memories can also spark memories for other people. Include as many different kinds of events as possible – local and national events, key moments in your own life. Don’t neglect to include things like moving house, changing schools, your first job and holidays. When did you first get things that are now considered everyday and normal – electricity, indoor plumbing, television, the Internet? National events may not have a direct personal effect, but they can provide a framework for your history. In the absence of physical mementoes, think about the important events and people in your life.

Who were the key people in your life? Who influenced you – parents? Friends? A teacher? A youth leader? Were there moments in your life when a crucial choice was made? Think about what might have happened if you had taken another path?

How are you going to organise it?

There are various ways to arrange your history. Chronologically? Thematically? Janet thinks that arranging memories by theme makes it easier to remember dates. Themes could include: clothing; homes; school; toys; housework; money; childcare; leisure; festivals and holidays. However you choose to organise your history, sections and subsections are going to be necessary.

How do I write it? What style should I use?

Janet’s advice is to write as you speak. Include dialect words if they were part of your life. If you find it difficult to write, try recording it instead. Don’t think the first version is the final one. Be prepared to revisit topics if you suddenly remember something. If you have your book on computer, it is very easy to edit things.

Should I get it published? How would I do this?

Personal family memoirs are unlikely to attract commercial publishers, but there are other ways of creating a hard copy of your story. You can get a printing firm (local or online) to print copies for you. (Just remember you have to store all the copies!). Another option is to use Amazon’s digital self-publishing service. Upload your book and whenever someone wants to buy it, a copy is printed off and sent to them.

When should I have it done by?

This is up to you, but make your deadline a realistic one. A good way to do it, Janet suggests, is to have a deadline for the whole project, with “sub-deadlines” for the various sections. Breaking the project down into smaller units help to make it manageable.

What should I put in or leave out?

Try to write a “warts and all” story, however tempting it may be to airbrush unpleasant or uncomfortable issues. At the same time, this is not only your story but that of your friends and family, so think carefully about what you include. It may be best to talk to others about difficult issues before you decide to include it, but it is still important that a story is told and is put in context.

It is not what you decide to put **in** that matters, but what you decide **not** to leave **out**.

Editor:

For those of you who have been wondering about this issue's cover, I chose it because I thought it encapsulated the 1960's so well. The bright casual clothes, independence for young working women, and affordable foreign travel.

"Humour in Genealogy" or "A funny thing happened to me on the way to the record office..." **Chris Broom** **December**

Chris said that his introduction to genealogy arose as a tribute to his father, **Trevor Harold Broom (nee Lowe)** who had been adopted as a child. As he got older, Chris' father began to wonder about his birth parents and so the research began. As an accolade to his father, Chris began by playing a clip of **Tommy Cooper** telling his Dad's favourite joke 'Cleaning up the Attic.'

The sources used which yielded humorous, and sometimes saucy, quotations were the ones with which we are all familiar: Parish Registers; The National Census; Wills; Diaries, journals and newspapers; Ecclesiastical Court Records and other records.

Chris did warn us that some of his examples may give offence. Indeed the first example shown was one such - from the SPILSBY parish register of baptisms. The very first two entries were the baptisms of the illegitimate

children of **Liddy Day** whose occupation was given as Whore. Other strange entries from baptismal registers included a child whose name was given as 'What you please'. Another entry shown had the place of birth as 'on horsback' (sic). Examples were shown of very old men marrying where the wives were described in very unflattering terms. The marriage of **Charity Murrell** did not look unusual until the note was read which stated that she had no arms. The ring was placed on her left foot and she signed the register with her right foot. Another marriage which had a moving note was that of a dumb man who indicated his feelings about marriage by elaborate signs. He clearly showed his affection for his bride and his determination that the marriage should last until death. Found in a burial register: **John Clark** a miser.

The censuses provided several examples, including the 1881 entry for **Robert Goodman**, a resident of Paddington whose occupation was given as International Playboy. In the infirmities column he was described as a Lunatic. His son, also named Robert is described as a Ponce. However, the whole page apparently consists of one household but clearly seems to be entirely fictitious. An entry on the Truro Census includes **Howard Benny**, age 1, occupation 'The Boss'. An example from an American census shows a daughter who 'does as she pleases'. Sentiments with which many parents must surely be able to sympathise. There are some examples of animals being included on census returns, including **Peter Tabby**, a servant and mouser and **Tobit Cricket**, married, age 18, mouse-catcher and thief. On the 1911 census one wife had crossed herself out, but her husband re-entered her in red ink and wrote an explanatory note saying that she is a suffragette, was present at the time of the census but tried to remove her name as a silly subterfuge! On another census page, one member of a family of tailors described himself as 'A Knight of the Thimble'. Further down on the same page one man gave his occupation as 'Goldfish catcher'.

The 1939 Register shows a lady named **Rose Bloom** who became a florist.

Wills also provide interesting examples, such as that in an 1820 will where legacies were left to a pet monkey named Jacko, a dog named Shock and a cat named Tibs.

From Diaries and Journals came a short verse about a **Dr I Lettsom**:

*'When patients come to I
I physicks, bleeds and sweats 'em
Then if they choose to die
I lets 'em.'*

Extracts from the diary of a traveller shows her frustration with passports, the need to carry cash and the annoying habit of foreigners of speaking French or German.

Advert in a newspaper 'Wanted by a widower - A WIFE' which described the qualities any candidate should offer. (We must wonder whether he ever did find such a wife).

The Ecclesiastical Court is often nicknamed The Bawdy Court due to the frequency with which cases of illegitimacy and infidelity appear. In 1597, one Norfolk gentleman's excuse for not attending his local church was that he was 'too corpulent and fat' but was able to attend another church. Also in 1597 **Robert Crickmer** had not lived with his wife for four years, claiming to be in fear of his life. He was ordered to cohabit with her. In 1623 a man was brought to court for playing at bowles (sic) on Sundays. In 1632 **Mr Baker** was charged for false printing of the Bible, the example cited was 'Thou shalt commit adultery'.

One poor soul was admitted to **Aberdeen Asylum** suffering as a result of 'living a sedentary life and abuse of tea'.

Some examples of parents making a poor choice of names for their child included: **Anna Gram** (1811), **Tommy Gun** (1838), **Al Fresco** (1853), **Gladys Friday** (1900), **Morris Dancer** (1903), **Cliff Edge** (1903) and **Eileen Dover** (1924).

As we all know, transcription errors can cause problems and we were shown several examples, but one of the specimens was totally unintelligible and no attempt had been made to transcribe it.

We were shown a photograph of students at **Manchester Grammar School** (MGS) dressed as Owls to celebrate Annual Founders Day. **Hugh Oldham** founded MGS in 1515. His arms include owls, thought to be a pun on the first syllable of his name.

The talk finished with a series of clips and quips from his father's favourite TV shows. Chris was thanked for a most entertaining talk and was asked whether he had collected all the examples himself. He replied that most of those shown are from his personal research, but now that people know what he is doing, he is sent examples which others have found. As a rider, Chris recommended IHGS (Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies) for their affordable short courses which can be undertaken either for pleasure or to obtain a qualification. (*Ed: I can add my own recommendation, having undertaken these myself!*)

Help, my Ancestor has vanished

Simon Fowler January

In Simon's view there are three main considerations as to why your ancestor may have appeared to vanish:

- Problems with the way you are doing your research
- Reasons why your ancestor may not be in the records
- Perhaps they really are missing.

Of these three Simon said that the first was the most likely cause for not finding an ancestor where they were expected to be. Be careful with the facts you are researching with, and double check names etc. where possible. Be careful about the assumptions you are making. Just because your great uncle Jimmy said that someone was present at such and such a place does not necessarily mean that it is true. People's memories are not totally reliable.

Understand the purpose of the records you are researching from. Are the records indexed? They were likely created for a different purpose than to help family historians research their ancestry. Obviously, look for alternate spellings of surnames, and expect dates and ages to be a bit out as well. The handwriting of clerks may well have been misread for the transcribed record, so always go back to the original source where this is possible. Expect to find mistakes in the records, things like forenames in the wrong order are quite commonly found.

On specific types of record Simon informed us that about 5% of people are missing from census records, mainly due to people being away from home on the day of the census.

In many cases missing information may be found from an alternate source, for example if a record is not found in the original parish registers, it may still be found in a Bishop's Transcript for the same parish.

Some records have of course been lost or destroyed, which can be hard to find out. The major losses of records are well documented; sections of the 1851 and 1861 censuses were destroyed; the Four Courts Fire in Dublin in 1922 destroyed many Irish records; the Army Records Centre in Southwark was destroyed in 1940 in the blitz, and many West Country wills were also destroyed from bombing in 1942.

Simon went on to remind us that there were many reasons why our ancestors may not have been where we expected them to be. Some may have sought adventure by travel within the UK, some will have emigrated, perhaps to return to England not many years later, others will have joined the services either for adventure or as a means of escape. With divorce not being an option for most marriages, desertion and bigamy were not at all uncommon. People also just ended up homeless, maybe suffering medical disability, or soldiers suffering post-traumatic stress disorder, or simply being unable to find suitable work.

On emigration the United States was the most common destination, with Australia also popular on account of paid passage schemes in operation to encourage emigrants. What is not so well known is that about one third of all migrants failed to find the life that they hoped for and returned home, disillusioned, to the UK.

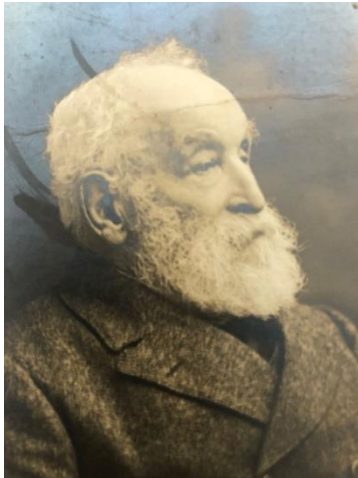
Recordings of talks.

As Roland has mentioned in his Recent Website Updates, we have added a new service. Since October 2021, providing we have the prior consent of the speaker, we have been recording the talks from our Zoom meetings, so that any member who could not attend the actual meeting may at least play back the talk itself. To see and hear the last talk, please go to the [Meetings Playback](#) page, enter the current password, then sit back and relax.

Further information on tracing an illegitimate family

Margaret Watson

When my article '*An Illegitimate Family is Traced thanks to the West Middlesex FHS*' was published in the June 2021 issue of the West Middlesex FHS magazine, the editor thought that an image of the Barry, Ostlere and Shepherd linoleum factory in Kirkcaldy would enhance the article because the main character, **John Barry** was a well-known industrialist there in the latter



John Barry

part of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century.

This was obtained courtesy of the Fife Cultural Trust (Kirkcaldy Galleries) on behalf of the Fife Council. As a result, a copy of the magazine was sent to the Kirkcaldy Galleries in thanks. The librarian recognised that the article might be of interest to the Kirkcaldy Civic Society which is producing a series of 50 objects relating to **Kirkcaldy**, one each month, leading up to the 50th anniversary of the society in 2024. Alan Crombie realised that the article threw a different slant on **John Barry** and answered a lot of questions which had been swirling around his character for many years. It was also coincidental that

2021 was the hundredth anniversary of **John Barry's** death.

Consequently, Alan contacted the editor of this magazine to ask if I would be willing to have the article included as their 16th object under the heading of **John Barry**. I agreed at once and the article, along with a potted history of **John Barry's** participation in the linoleum industry in Kirkcaldy, was published in October 2021. www.kirkcaldyin50objects.com. Almost immediately a response was received from a grandson of **John Barry**, on the illegitimate side, who now lives in New Zealand. He has added more information on the 'hidden' family for Finola and Gerry Cooney. He had actually visited the infamous **Helen McFarlane Wright** in **Portugal** as a young child and thinks that he may have a photo of her. He also provided information on his cousin,



Helen Macfarlane
Wright

Patrick St. George Barry, son of **Colin Barry**, **John Barry's** eldest son with **Helen**. He had visited him in **Dordogne, France** to celebrate his 100th birthday in 2014. In the meantime, Finola had managed to contact **John Boulton**, a grandson of **Colin Barry**, from the address that I had obtained from 192.com. We were able to put him in touch with Barry, who is his first cousin once removed. Amazingly, Barry has another photograph that he thinks is of **John's** father, **Jack**, his wife and youngest son. Both are delighted to have been able to get in touch. Barry's daughter, Jane, had previously tried and failed to find out anything about the 'other' family and had almost given up trying. Finola is hoping to arrange a Zoom or

Skype meeting with them all.

So thanks all round to the West Middlesex FHS, Alan Crombie of the Kirkcaldy Civic Society and Susan Birne of Kirkcaldy Galleries for facilitating these connections.

Annual General Meeting



**The Annual General Meeting of the
West Middlesex Family History Society
will be held on Thursday 17th March 2022,
at St John's Community Centre, St John's Road, Isleworth
(also by Zoom connection)**

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17th June, 2021
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Receiving of Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December, 2021
8. Appointment of Examiners
9. Election of Committee
10. Amendments to the Constitution
11. Any other business

Election of Committee

Roland Bostock (Secretary), Patricia Candler, Cheryl Ford, Ann Greene (Chairman) and Yvonne Masson, having now served for six consecutive years on the Committee, automatically stand down in accordance with the Society's Constitution.

Muriel Sprott and Hilary Strudwick, having served three or more years on the Committee and being willing to continue, offer themselves for re-election.

Margaret Cunnew, having served for less than three years on the Committee, and being willing to continue, does not need to be re-elected.

Betty Elliott has offered to serve on the committee.

Volunteers needed!

As may be noted from the above our committee, which currently has 8 members, will be reduced down to just 4 from March onwards so we are approaching this AGM seriously short of people to serve on the committee, and more seriously with no volunteers for the key positions of Chairman and Secretary. These posts are vital to the Society's continuing operation. Are there any volunteers out there? No experience or special qualifications are needed and there will be support from previous postholders.

There is an alternative plan, which we will share with members at the AGM itself. In the meantime, if you have been wondering whether to volunteer as a committee member, this is the time to come forward and tell Ann Greene or Roland Bostock. We encourage non-locals to consider joining the committee, which meets on the first Wednesday of the month, every other month. We have run hybrid Zoom committee meetings in the past and there is no reason why we cannot continue this.

Neither Ann nor Roland will be disappearing and they will be happy to provide full support to anyone else ready to fill either post.

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 a 10% discount on Pay as You Go payments, taken out by our members. For both Subscriptions and for Pay As You Go the discount code is *****.

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 should register your details with them by visiting www.forces-war-records.co.uk/register/ and going to their Login/Register page. The discount code is *****.

PASSWORDS

JAN-MAR 2022 *****

APR-JUN 2022 *****

Most family history societies, like ourselves, have been running Zoom-only meetings for just over a year. Now that Covid restrictions are lifting we feel a need (an obligation perhaps) to give our local audience the opportunity to attend meetings again in an actual hall, the St. John's Centre, Isleworth in our case. But our Zoom audience, who include many from faraway places, are urging us not to forget them, and to continue to provide Zoom meetings which many of us have much enjoyed. The obvious answer is to run hybrid meetings if we can, but we will be on a learning curve as we switch to this quite complex arrangement.

We do actually have some experience of running hybrid Zoom meetings. This goes right back to May 2018, when Kirsty Gray was our chairman. Kirsty lives in Calne, Wiltshire whereas we held our committee meetings in Hounslow. Kirsty had joined us as chairman in November 2015, and she had rather hoped to persuade us to hold our meetings online from the start, but there was too much opposition to it, and Kirsty was faced with a very long commute to be with us in Hounslow. It was not until January 2018 that the Family History Federation chose to run a training seminar on running meetings using web conferencing, and Ann Greene and Roland Bostock took the opportunity to attend, to see if there was a practical way to let Kirsty attend our meetings from home, i.e. to run a hybrid web conferencing session. While the Zoom product was not part of the agenda of the seminar we did hear from a lady representing the Anglo-Italian Family History Society that they were using this product called Zoom, and she spoke well of it.

Thus it was that on May 2nd 2018 the committee, bar Kirsty, met in our usual room in Hounslow. Roland brought the necessary gear with him, and we ran that meeting with 9 of us in Hounslow and Kirsty chairing the meeting from her home in Calne, and we never looked back after that. Roland has an additional screen monitor which he brought along. He could then sit with his laptop initiating Zoom etc, while the monitor provided a screen copy for the rest of the meeting to see.

Sound was certainly a consideration. Roland has stereo sound speakers with volume control which ensured that Kirsty was heard by all in the room. As for Kirsty hearing what was said in Hounslow we used a simple microphone which plugged in to a USB port. This was sufficient to enable Kirsty to hear everyone at Hounslow. As to the video connection we did not attempt to have a movable video cam at Hounslow, but settled for a still picture to represent us all, while Kirsty was able to use her laptop video cam so that we could all see her.

This setup with Zoom did of course require a good internet connection, whereas our room in Hounslow didn't actually provide any internet connection. The answer was to buy a nice little gadget called a data dongle which plugs into a USB port, and a data card which goes inside the dongle, and which allows you so much access to the internet over a given period of time. A Zoom session uses a lot of data, but as we were only online for 2 hours every two months, overall the data requirement was quite modest. What worked best was to purchase 24GB of data to be used in a 2 year period for a cost of £60. Having a data dongle has considerable value over and above running Zoom meetings. It is also a useful back-up at family history fairs, should the provided internet access be of poor quality, and I have certainly used it at home when my regular broadband service has been out of service.

Some questions How does all this translate to us holding hybrid Zoom meetings at St. John's Centre?

- Zoom speakers. Let us first assume that the speaker is on Zoom talking from their home. As we did for our committee meetings, the Zoom session would be started from my laptop, but this time connected to the overhead projector so that an audience at St. Johns is able to see the presentation in the usual way. Again we do not plan to use a movable video cam at St. Johns, but simply show ourselves to Zoom as a still image. The existing stereo speakers should enable the Zoom session to be heard by everyone in the room. The only enhancement we have gone for is the enabling of any member of the audience to interact and ask questions. This required us to buy a karaoke-style Wi-Fi microphone which can be handed to the person wishing to speak. This also connects, much like a cordless mouse, to a USB port on the laptop.

- What if the speaker is there in person and prefers to see at least some of their audience? The difference in this case is that when the speaker starts their presentation using Zoom's Share Screen facility, they will need to be doing that from my laptop which is running the Zoom session, rather than their own. So they can leave their own laptop at home and just bring a memory stick to download the presentation to my laptop before the main meeting starts. The speaker won't want to stare at my laptop when there is the live audience, so they would likely use a remote control to move the slides forward and stand and face the live audience. The karaoke microphone will enable the speaker to be heard remotely via Zoom. It is likely with a smallish audience that the audience at St. John's will be able to hear without further help, but we do have a Wi-Fi voice amplifier that we can use in the hall. So long as this does not interfere with the karaoke microphone then that will guarantee enough sound for the local audience. These are the finer points of tuning that we shall find out more about when we run our first few sessions.

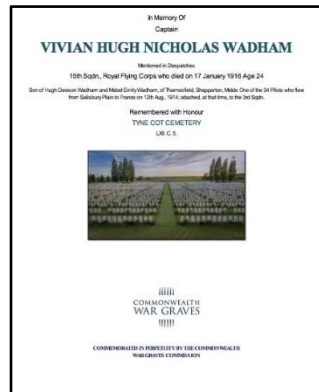
As should be clear the setup is more straightforward when the Zoom speaker is remote, so our first two hybrid meetings in February and March will have remote speakers, but we hope to include a few meetings with a local speaker later in the year. Our next hybrid meeting is March 17th and will include the AGM and a talk. You won't want to miss it wherever you live. Wish us good luck, and we hope you will join us.

Editorial Humour

I'm sure that you all notice the (very) occasional spelling and punctuation errors that creep into our Journal in spite of our proof readers' best efforts. The Editor is often to blame but computers are also culpable!

*Eye have a spelling chequer
Witch came with my PC
It plainly marques for my revue
Mistakes I mite not sea
I've run this poem threw it
I'm shore your pleased too no
Its letter perfect in its weigh
My chequer told me sew.*

Vivian Wadham, soldier and airman *John Seaman*



Vivian Hugh Nicholas Wadham was killed in action on 17 January 1916 while flying over enemy lines. He is buried at **Tyne Cot** in **Belgium**.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records that he had served both in the army and the fledgling Royal Flying Corps (later to become the Royal Air Force)¹.

He entered World War One early, being one of 34 pilots who flew from **Salisbury Plain to France** on 12 August 1914. He had gained his aviators licence from the Royal Aeronautical Club in 1912 and from that we learnt that he had been born in 1891 and had learned to fly at **Brooklands**. A later note on his card (see below) records his death.

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WADHAM, Vivian Hugh Nicholas.
Born 31st Dec., 1891 at Teddington
Nationality British
Rank or Profession
Certificate taken on Farman Biplane
At The Sopwith School, Brooklands
Date 16th July, 1913
Killed in action 17th January, 1916, in Flanders

There is no GRO registration for **Vivian Hugh Wadham**, which caused a puzzle initially, but fortunately his army service record included a copy of his birth certificate². This shows that he was originally registered as **Wyndham Hugh Wadham** in the **Kingston** registration district during the first quarter of 1892 and that he had been born at **Fairholm in Hampton Road, Teddington**. He was the son of **Hugh Davison Wadham** and his wife **Mabel Emily**. By the time he was baptised, his name had been changed to **Vivian Hugh Nicholas Wadham**. The birth was registered at **Kingston, Surrey** because the civil parishes of **Hampton, Hampton Wick and Teddington** were in the **Kingston** registration district until 1934 when they were transferred to the **Staines** registration district³. In 1901, he was away at school, a boarder at Hilcrow House in **Rugby**. He also attended **Malvern College**, was a sergeant in the school's Cadet Officer Training Corps and he is commemorated by the school war memorial⁴. By 1911 he had left school and was at the family home, **Lower Halliford, Shepperton**. On 18th September the same year, he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the 5th Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps⁵. He transferred to the Royal Flying Corps in 1912 and then to the Hampshire Regiment in 1914. While serving in the Hampshire Regiment in May 1915 he was commissioned as Temporary Captain⁶.

His Medal Index Card⁷ shows that while serving with the Hampshire Regiment, he was attached to the RFC. His service record⁶ shows that his left knee had been injured and that his right thigh had suffered a double fracture in France. This leg was shorter than the left and his left knee joint was permanently injured as it slipped out of joint occasionally. He claimed a wound gratuity and received £104 9s 4d. He was awarded the Victory Medal, the British War Medal and the '14 Star. The family's home address of Thamesfield in Shepperton is written on the back of the card. He is commemorated at Shepperton by the civic war memorial and at Saint Nicholas church.

Sources and notes

¹ www.cwgc.org

² WO 339/8252. Army Service Record. National Archives, Kew

³ Information from Kingston Local Studies centre

⁴ Information from www.stanwardine.com accessed 7 December 2021

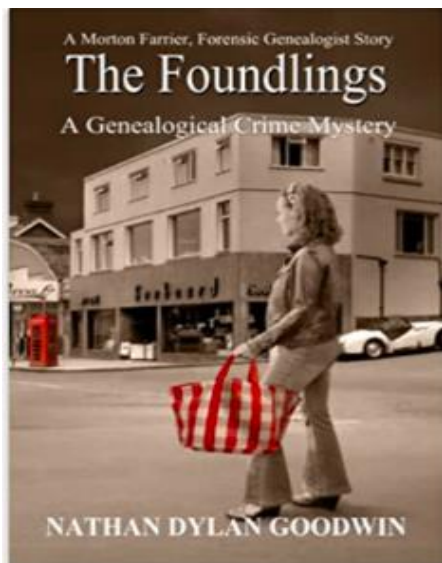
⁵ The London Gazette 30 October 1911 p 7198

⁶ British Army Lists. page 1182. Fold3

⁷ WO 372/20/161297. Medal Index Card. National Archives, Kew

Book review

'The Foundlings' by Nathan Dylan Goodwin



Welcome back, Morton Farrier, forensic genealogist. The genealogical research in the book was set in 2019, so before Covid brought our lives to a new level of strangeness.

Morton discovers that his Auntie Margaret (actually his biological mother, but that's explained in the book) has a half-sister, Vanessa. Having uploaded her DNA to GEDMatch, Vanessa discovered two further half-sisters. Morton's task is to work out how they are all related. Chapter 4 revealed so many names that I had to draw up family trees as they were revealed in order to follow Morton's logic.

It wouldn't be a Morton Farrier story without a visit to East Sussex Record Office and a run-in with the 'hostile dragon' of an archivist, Miss Deirdre Latimer. Sure enough, she puts in her customary belligerent appearance. I do hope the character in the book is not too closely based on a real archivist. The background stories are interspersed with episodes from Morton's family life with his 7-months pregnant wife, Juliette, and their 3-year old daughter Grace. Morton's brother, Jeremy, and his husband Guy, provide the light relief when they pop in with gifts of strangely-flavoured scones from their shop.

Nathan Dylan Goodwin certainly has the knack of writing page-turners. I finished this book in two days despite having had to go back to check some of the time-lines. There are some distressing twists in the tale, but the last page was a laugh-out-loud finale. However, if you do read the book - and I recommend that you do - don't start at the end because the joke won't make sense.

Family History Matters

The big news of 2022 was the release of the 1921 Census and that is rather old hat now, but we would like to hear from you about your experiences of it. My personal wish list included finding my grandfather, an elusive character to say the least. I didn't find him, but I did find out that one of my grandmothers was working at a luxury hotel in Southampton that catered for the needs of passengers from the liners. And the whereabouts of my father-in-law brought forth memories from other family members. Sometimes you lose, sometimes, you have an unexpected win!

Family History Fairs and events are still a little thin on the ground but there are some events being planned. Check GENEVA (www.geneva.weald.org.uk) for who is doing what when.

Most local and national archives are now open, but you may need to book your visit in advance and they will all have their own protocols for mask-wearing. Check ahead!

West Middlesex Family History Matters

St Thomas of Canterbury: Transcription of Parish Registers update

In the December journal we announced that we were looking for volunteers to transcribe the parish registers of St. Thomas of Canterbury, a Roman Catholic church in Fulham, and we did have three volunteers ready to contribute. The priest and administrator at Fulham were keen that we should do the transcribing for them. Unfortunately, the diocese authorities did not give their permission, so we have had to cancel this project.

New Members

A warm welcome to our new members! The lists below shows the names of our newest members and the latest additions to our Surname Interests.

Name	Membership Number	Address/Location
Mr J McCarthy	M252	
Mr R. Taylor	T99	

We regret to announce the death of
Douglas Russell (R140) of Bude, Cornwall
who passed away at the beginning of 2021

Surname Interests

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member's No.
Harris	1700-1900	Hounslow, Isleworth	MDX	A123
Penny	1800-1900	Brentford	MDX	A123
Dear	1800-2000			A123
Frampton	1800-2000	Chiswick, Brentford	MDX	A123
Pay	1900-2000	Feltham, Uxbridge	MDX	A123
Pay	1800-2000	Petersfield	HAM	A123
Pacey	1800-2000	Kingston upon Thames	SRY	A123
Anning	All	All areas	All	B352
Byrnes	1800-2000	Fulham	MDX	B352
Bishop	1800-2000	Fulham	MDX	B352
Elliott	1800-2000	Fulham	MDX	B352
Bunday	All	Chiswick, Strand on the Green	MDX	M252
Pearce	All	Chiswick, Strand on the Green	MDX	M252
Sangster	All	Chiswick, Strand on the Green	MDX	M252
Tuck	All	Hammersmith	MDX	M252
Bunker	All	Chelsea	MDX	M252
Jackson	19 th century	Chelsea	MDX	M252

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.

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.

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 sae.

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

Harmondsworth Parish Registers. Baptisms marriages burials 1670-1837.

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

mavikensib@aol.com For more than 3 names, please write for an estimate of charge.

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.

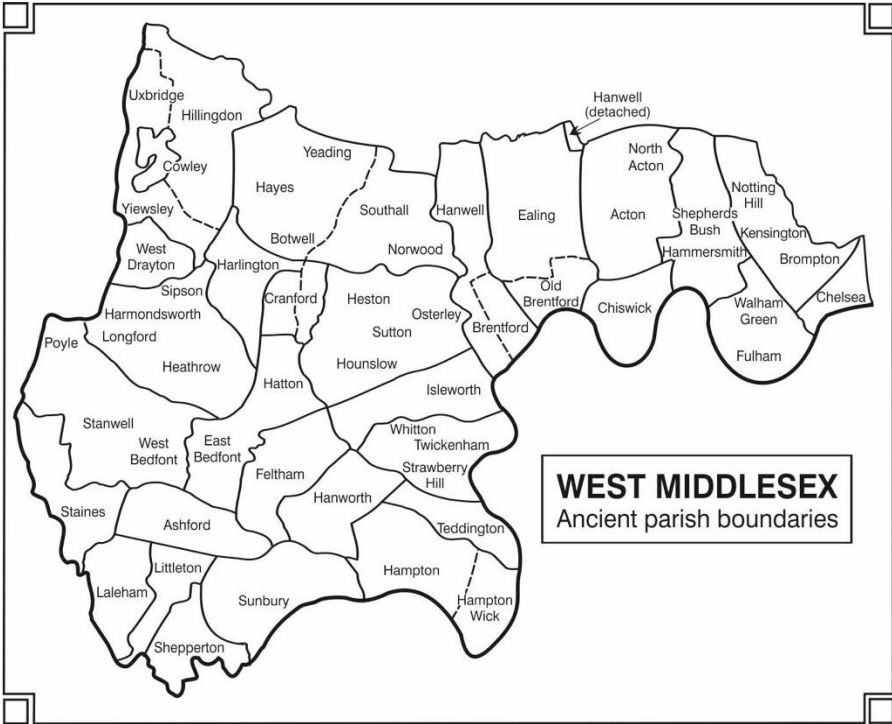
Front Cover

Image: Portion of a Universal Skytours 1961 poster advertising cheap holidays abroad.

Universal Skytours were part of the post-WW2 cheap travel boom. It was acquired in 1965 by the Thomson Corporation of Canada, along with four other travel companies and the airline Britannia Airways. It was renamed Thomson Travel and still operates as TUI.

Copyright: Thomsons travel

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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

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