



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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June 2022



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WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Subscriptions	Standard: £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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Queries concerning non-delivery or faulty copies of this Journal should be sent to:
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FUTURE MEETINGS

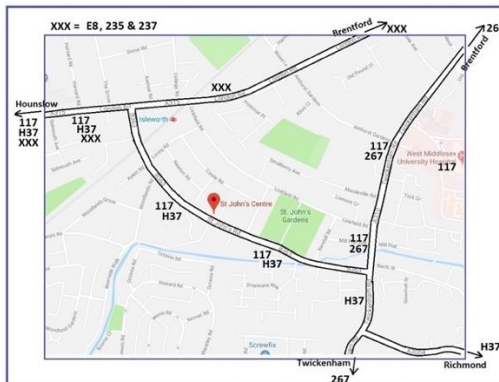


The following talks have been arranged:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 16th June | Jenny Mallin: My British Raj Family – early days |
| 21 st July | Rob Kayne: Old London Bridge: the one with the houses on top |
| 18 th August | <i>To be confirmed</i> |
| 15 th September | Alan Rice: The 1921 Census |
| 20 th October | Jessamy Carlson: The National Archives |

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at St John's Centre, St John's Road, Isleworth, TW7 6RU. Members and guests can attend in person or via Zoom.

St John's Centre is fully accessible. A small carpark is adjacent to the Centre which is also close to a mainline railway station (Isleworth – South Western Railways) and is well-served by local buses. The H22 now also runs where 117 & 267 are shown.



To access the Zoom meeting, go to and click <http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk/content/meetings.aspx> which will take you to our **Meetings** page. Halfway down the page you will see the instruction **Start Zoom**. Click on this and it will take you to the **Meeting Registration** page where you can fill in your details as requested

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: hiliary.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:

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.

West Middlesex Family History Matters

Our hard-working Membership Secretary, Pat Candler, has asked me to remind all our members about subscriptions and personal information.

- Our membership year runs from 1st January to 31st December. We allow a grace period of three months but if your membership subscription has not been paid by 31st March, then your membership lapses and you will be unable to access any of the Society's resources. Please check your status!
- We are bound by GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) to ensure that our records are kept up to date. Have you moved recently? Or changed your email address? Please let our Membership Secretary know! If you aren't sure of your membership number or which email address you have submitted, email membership@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk

Would you like help with your family history?

During the pandemic, we had to suspend our monthly face-to-face Advice Sessions at Feltham Library and began offering advice by email. The service was well received and allowed our more far-flung members to access help, so we decided to continue this rather than returning to face-to-face sessions. Email us at advice@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk with your query and give us an idea of what you want to achieve. If you prefer to make an enquiry by post, write to the Secretary (address on the inside cover of this Journal)

If we think your family history query is unusual or interesting, we may ask your permission to include it in the Journal but personal details can be omitted or altered at your request.

Book Stall

We no longer have room to display all our books for sale at our monthly meetings but we do still have books for sale. Our Bookstall Manager, Margaret Cunnew, has created a list of everything we have for sale and our Web Manager, Roland Bostock has added the list to our website so that you can purchase items from there. We don't have electronic sales so it's cash or cheques! Take a look at the page on our website and see if there's anything that takes your fancy.

Hello from the new/returning Chairman Kirsty Gray

Some members will 'know me of old'.

Back in 2016, I turned up as the booked speaker for a Members Meeting of West Middlesex FHS. I had a meal with Rob and Bridget Purr beforehand (having known them both for decades but not seen each other for years) and they told me the Society was preparing for closure. I was shocked. The Society was founded in the year I was born (there's a giveaway!) and so I questioned, "Why?".

Soon, I learnt that the main issue at the time seemed to be finding someone to take on the role of Chairman. I didn't say too much over dinner but mulled over what could potentially be done. Arriving at our old meeting venue in Hounslow, I saw the countdown to closure board and mentioned to Rob that I could take on the role of Chairman, if it helped to keep the Society going. We went from a handful of volunteers to more than 10 in just one meeting. Most of those volunteers had never met me, nor had any idea who I was!!

My first stint as Chairman was thoroughly enjoyable though very challenging. A committee very different from any other I had served with and also, an area (West Middlesex) that I knew very little about. I was welcomed with open arms by all and tried to learn as quickly as possible from getting the lovely Yvonne (caretaker at Montague Hall) on board with our needs for our meetings, to remembering to sign in at each meeting without Mary and Kevin Brown reminding me! (My excuse there is that I was never told I needed to!)

For the first few years, I travelled to Hounslow for every Committee meeting and Members Meeting. This soon became unsustainable and so, I encouraged the use of Zoom for Committee meetings. Who could possibly have known how useful this would be once 2020 came around? During my tenure, I also worked very hard to encourage the use of social media to expand our reach as a Society.

My initial term as Chairman came to an end in 2019 and Ann took over. But my connection with West Middlesex Family History Society didn't lapse!

During the initial lockdown in 2020, I popped up at the July Committee meeting and asked if we could consider online Members meetings and also

suggested that we should reach out to our members, on a personal level. I knew that the online meetings side of things would be met with some reluctance but, the Committee agreed to try it out with my technical assistance and also, with me booking the speakers. Although not what everyone wanted (or indeed, what every member could access), at least during the past two years we have managed to continue our monthly connection with members and enable those members who are not local to Isleworth to attend our meetings.

Then I heard in 2022 that the team were struggling again for volunteers plus a Chair and Secretary. I thought momentarily about sitting back and letting them find a new leader. But that thought didn't last long!

You may ask, why? Why volunteer to help run this Society? I have met some simply wonderful people whilst working with West Middlesex Family History Society. I have friends I would never have ever known if I hadn't stepped up. Is volunteering easy? Oftentimes, no. You give up your time to help. You offer your skills, and you work with people from different walks of life. You won't always all agree with the way you think the Society should go forward.

However, it extremely rewarding to know that the work you do, keeps the Society going whether this is as Chair or any other role!

All of you, as members, have skills. Pat Candler wants to hang up her Membership Secretary gloves soon. We need someone to help with Facebook management to promote the Society. There are lots of roles and also projects which volunteers can assist with. Do you have even a few hours a month to spare? Can you offer your skills to the Society? I'd be delighted to hear from you on chairman@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk.

Monthly Talks *Yvonne Masson, Ann Greene*

Did Your Ancestor Make A Will – well they should have

John Hansen February

Our first attempt at a hybrid meeting was not wholly successful due to a weak internet connection. However, although the physical audience missed out, the Zoom element was successful.

John's talk on Wills and Testaments was interesting and informative - what they are, what happens if there isn't one and where to find them. You need to understand the records and the process, plus what has changed over time. A will is a document which sets out a person's wishes about the disposal of his or her property. So why is it called a will **and** testament? Originally, wills related to land or "real estate" which was "devised" to another person, while testaments related to "personal estate", a person's goods and chattels, which were "bequeathed".

A glossary for wills and testaments:

Testator (male), **Testatrix** (female): the person making the will.

Intestate: description of someone who dies without having made a will.

Beneficiary: someone who has been left something in a will.

Executor: a person, named in the will, whom the deceased has chosen to carry out their wishes as stated in the will.

Codicil: an alteration or addition to a will - adding one saves re-writing the whole will.

Probate: The "proving" of the will - recognition by the court that the will is legally valid. Wills are not always proved. If dealing with a small amount (at present, not over £5000), it does not need to be proved to be executed. And a will is not always proved within a short time - John knows of one made in 1967 and not proved until 2005.

Administration (often shortened to "Admon"): the administration of the assets / wishes? of an Intestate, who left no will but there is an estate to sort out. **Administration with a will** meant there was a will, but it did not name executors, or they have since died, or have refused to act. The court then issues Letters of Administration (with will attached) to the Next of Kin. A crucial date to remember is 12th January 1858: this was the official start of a

new system for the jurisdiction of wills, to be administered by a single court (the Principal Registry of the Family Division). Before that they were dealt with by the various church courts, the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) being the senior court. There are over 1,000,000 PCC wills dating from the 14th century, 40% of them by women (free index and the wills downloadable – for a fee – on the TNA website). Pre-1858, which Church court dealt with a will depended on where the Testator held land or property. If all the land was in one Archdeaconry, the will was dealt with by the court of that archdeaconry. If lands fell in more than one Archdeaconry, but within a single diocese, the Consistory or Commissary Court handled it. If more than one diocese was involved but they were all in the Province of York, the Prerogative Court of York (PCY) managed it; the same for the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC). Phillimore's Atlas is a useful guide for this, but John advised going online to the FamilySearch Map section (FamilySearch Wiki): this will tell you what church court an area came under. The situation in every county was different. A Gibson guide '*Probate Jurisdictions*', can also be consulted along with Andrew Millard's additions and corrections. A free index to Scottish wills is in Scotland's People.

What does a will contain? In older wills, a lot of legal jargon - lawyers were paid by the word. But there are a number of basic details to look for: Name of Testator; his address at the time the will was drawn up; his occupation ditto; date when the will was made (perhaps several years before he actually died); some indication of the Testator's state of health; instructions for his burial (not always contained in a will, and not always carried out); names of beneficiaries (often family members), trustees, etc.; property details, Real and Personal; sometimes an inventory of the testator's goods; codicils; names of witnesses; the date the will was proved (often an indication of when the Testator died). Are wills useful for a family historian? Yes and No. A Testator might not name his wife or his children. Elder children may have already been provided for, so are omitted. Some wills may mention a "natural" child – acknowledgment of a child fathered outside of the marriage – useful information. John said he likes to look for the wills of spinsters and widows, especially widows who had no children, as they tend to leave items to nephews and nieces etc., providing information about the wider family.

Who could make a will? In 1540: a male over 14, a female over 12. This was amended in 1837 to 21 years of age for both. Lunatics, traitors, prisoners, heretics and slaves could not legally make a will, and until 1882 married women could not make a will without their husband's consent. But it was certainly not just the wealthy who made wills.

What if you can't find a will? Perhaps they had nothing to leave or they simply didn't make a will. If someone dies intestate, there are set rules of inheritance. Everything goes to the wife, then children, parents, siblings – immediate family. The modern-day online Bona Vacantia list gives a contemporary list of unclaimed estates. If unclaimed after a certain time, the money goes to the Treasury.

Are wills easy to read? Not always, especially early ones. There are tutorials on old handwriting on the National Archives (TNA) website. John advised making a photocopy or scan of the will to work from. Read it through. Transcribe the will a line at a time. Start with words you can read (highlighting them) and put in xx's for unread words. Use a magnifying glass. Changing the colour of the text may help.

Very few actual wills are online, although some Diocesan courts have put their wills online – check Ancestry or Find My Past - but there are indexes of wills online. The UK government website www.gov.uk/gives ?? is this correct? access to wills proved between 1858 and 1996, you can purchase probate records and wills, for £1.50 per item. Other sources are Ancestry, Find My Past, the TNA Discovery website, UKBMD, Cyndi's list, Society of Genealogists. For Ancestry check the Card Catalogue for "Terms of Probate", "Will" and "Wills". Include checking family trees – members may have uploaded personal documents. Modern Probate indexes (post-1996) give less information than before - the value of the estate is no longer included. TNA Discovery website is a useful tool; some PCC wills can be downloaded for free. Death Duty registers 1796-1903 (TNA IR26) have name of deceased, address, occupation, place and date of probate, information on executors, administrators, legatees, beneficiaries, court proved at etc., and might also contain any alterations to the will. Australian and New Zealand wills can be found on Family Search. **Note:** Australian wills are indexed by State.

Annie Besant and the Match Girls Strike of 1888 *Jef Page* March

Jef had always been fascinated by the story of the Matchgirls' Strike but no-one in his family could answer his questions. So he researched it himself.

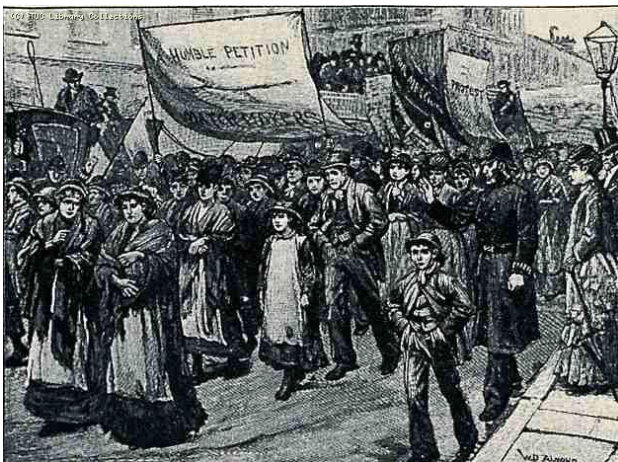
Bryant and May were only one of several firms which made matches but they came to symbolise the humble match. It began with **William Bryant** a Wesleyan Methodist and a trader in just about everything, including matches. Needing a London contact for his trade, he began working with **Francis May** of Tooley Street and in 1844 the official partnership of Bryant and May was born. They produced a number of different matches including the Safety match which could only be ignited by striking it against the box. From the start, Bryant was the major shareholder. When William's eldest son **Wilberforce Bryant** took over the firm, he urged modernization and mechanization of the business. Unhappy with this, **Francis May** withdrew from the business in 1864 although the firm was still known as Bryant and May.

Match-making was one of the few legal occupations that women could pursue at home and combine with child-rearing, but it was a grim life. White phosphorus, which was mixed with paraffin and sulphur to make the "head", was both hazardous to work with and toxic. "Phossy jaw" was agonizingly painful, disfiguring and could lead to death. And the wages were low. A match-maker's life was scarcely better than being in the workhouse. Children supplemented the family income by helping to make the matchboxes or by selling the matches on the street. Bryant and May opened their factory in **Fairfield Road, Bow** in 1861, signaling the end of home-working and the beginning of mechanization. In 1863, the Commission on working children noted that conditions there were good when compared to home working. The premises had light and ventilation.

In 1871, the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed a tax on matches. It made financial sense for the country; everyone used matches so a tax would raise revenue. The result, however, was disastrous. Protest marches were held which then degenerated into brawls. The proposal was rejected, but the matchmaking firms were also facing dissent among their workers. Bryant and May factory conditions had changed during the 1870s – and not for the better. By 1872 they were employing over 5000 children in the business and the factory needed more space. A first floor was added which reduced the amount of light and fresh air. Employee regulations were harsh.

Late arrival was punished by a fine. The money collected was possibly sent to missionaries, by way of salving the company's conscience. If a dropped match "flared", a fine was imposed. Under-bench areas needed to be kept clear and small children were employed for this purpose. Staff paid $\frac{1}{2}$ d a week towards the children's wages. They continued to be charged this amount even after this employment ceased.

And **Annie Besant's** involvement? As a young woman, she had been appalled by the living conditions of the poor. Leaving an unhappy marriage in 1873, she wrote feminist articles and gave lectures in order to support herself. She became involved with the Fabian Society and investigated the match-making industry. In 1888, she wrote an inflammatory article in *The Link*, about Bryant and May, entitled 'White Slavery'. Women who had talked to her about working conditions in the factory were instantly sacked. They took their grievance to Annie and the Match Girls Strike began. Some 1,500 employees (not all women) came out on strike. It needed organising and so a strike committee was formed, who hired a hall, discussed strategies and organised marches. The committee included **George Bernard Shaw** who acted as cashier and paid the strikers their wages. The strike lasted from early June into July. The case went to the House of Commons who momentarily agreed that the workers were entitled to strike. The directors of Bryant and May finally capitulated, restored the sacked workers to their positions, and improved working conditions. It was the first instance of organised labour being able to defeat their employers.



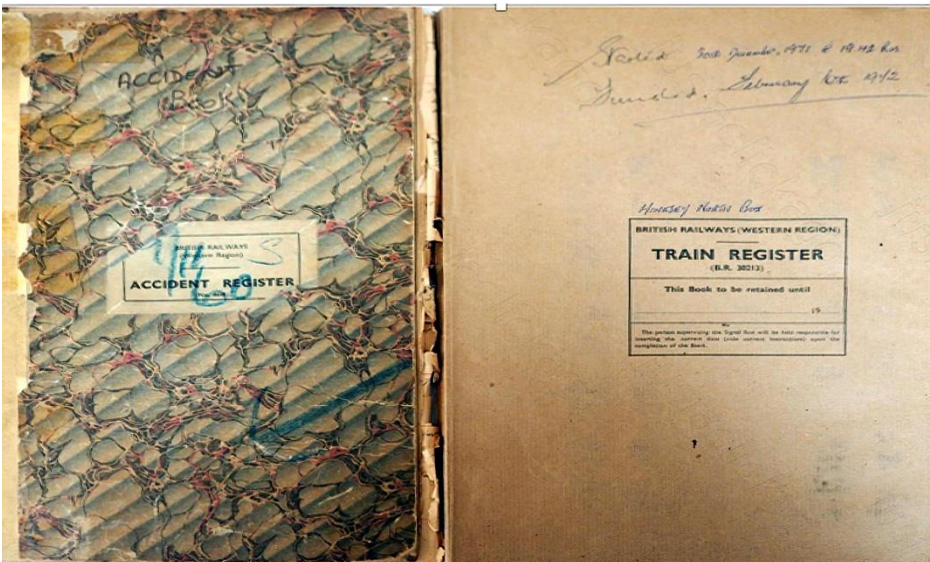
A great find!

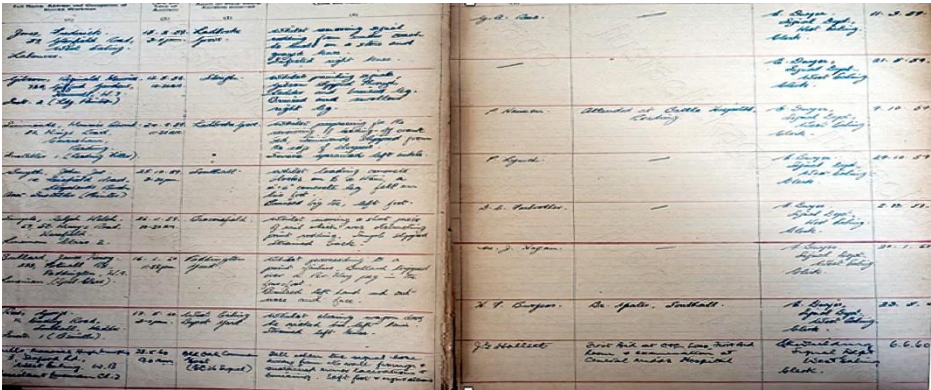
Sarah K Minney

As a dealer in militaria, I trawl the online auctions looking for items I can sell on. Most auctioneers now have an online presence these days, pushed into it by the COVID crisis.

I use a number of search criteria to search for forthcoming lots. Apart from the obvious “medal” and “badge”, I also search for places of personal interest. My other main ones are “Ealing” as I grew up there, “Acton” as I went to school there, “Twickenham” as I live there and finally “Middlesex” to cover all three. Usually, I don’t find too much of interest with these personal ones but in the middle of February, I came across what I term a “corker”. ***“2 x old British Railways Registers: 1. Train Register for HINKSEY NORTH Signal box, 1971/2. Hinksey was a signal box in Oxford. Good condition. 2. Accident register, 1948-88. West Ealing area. For BR employees, details of accidents at work. Poor condition some pages tatty but contents good and legible”***

The description and accompanying photographs supplied made one of the books really interesting





The photograph above shows that the “Accident Register” contained lots of names and addresses. Enlarging the images on my screen, I noted that many of these addresses are local to **Ealing** and the surrounding areas.

I checked further details about the auction. It was a “timed auction” rather than a live one, so one just places a bid and then can increase it if others out bid you, until the set time runs out. In this case, the starting bid requested - i.e. the reserve price - was £10 for both books. On top of that would be the auctioneers commission plus subsequent postage costs as the auction was in Leicestershire. **NB:** *A warning here, most auction houses now offer despatch services, but they have had to adapt to the restrictions that were imposed by Covid - check their terms and conditions first before bidding! I have found that some use transport carriers, even for a small item, and you can end up paying £25 for transport for an item that had a hammer price of £5.* I was happy with this auction house’s terms and decided to put in a maximum bid of £20. This means that they would start the bidding at £10 and that the system would bid for me automatically up to £20 if others also bid. I wasn’t prepared to risk more than £20 but as the auction had around two weeks to run, I decided I would just keep an eye on it. The system would tell me if anyone else bid above the £20 limit I had set.

For two weeks nothing happened and then I got an email from the auction house. I had “won” the item and as no one else had bid, I got it for £10. As I had not dealt with this particular auctioneer before, I emailed and asked if, when they sent me an invoice, they would include the cost of post and packing. They were incredibly efficient and sent me an invoice by return, 2with

everything included. Added all up, it came to a total of £19.00, which I was pleased with. I paid immediately by bank transfer and waited for the books to arrive. They actually arrived the very next day via Royal Mail and I couldn't wait to open up the package and smell that lovely old paper smell and dip into the little snatches of people's lives.

So, what I have got? Well, the second book is a record of the signal box of **Hinksey North** and from a genealogical point of view of no interest whatsoever! I am sure it will be of interest to someone, somewhere, there is bound to be a railway "buff" who would love it. The book I really wanted is *The British Railways (Western Region) for the station of Depot of West Ealing Accident Register*. It was started as a result of the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act of 1946 which required all industries and factories to record all accidents, no matter how minor.

The first entry relates to an accident that took place on 16th September 1948 at 11.05am. This first column gives the details of the man who had the accident. In this case, it was **Stanley Victor Eggerton** and his address was given as **79 Minet Drive, Hayes**. His job, "linesman, Class 2". The accident took place at Friars Junction, which I understand is near Reading and records "Knocked out by 11.00am passenger train ex **Paddington**, fatal head injury". Perhaps this particular event invites further research but that is for another day.

I have to say that, reading through this book, this is, so far, the only fatal accident that I have come found recorded. Perhaps the recorder of this entry was told that this book was actually really for only minor accidents.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Eggerton, Stanley Victor. 79 Minet Drive, Hayes. Linesman Class 2.	16. 9. 48. 11. 5 am.	Friars Jcn.	Knocked down by 11.0 am pass. train ex Paddington. Fatal head injury.
Anderson, Frederick Joseph. 160, North Hyde Rd., Hayes. Dist. Linesman Cl. 3.	20. 8. 48. 11. 30 am.	Portobello Jcn.	Jammed right thumb between signal wheel and frame. Bruised right thumb, which subsequently turned septic.
Adams, Trevor Miles. Barlisle Ave., East Acton. Ch. Dist. (District).	19. 9. 48. 9. 0 am.	Taplow.	Spanner dropped off signal, hitting him on the head. Cut in scalp.
Abington, Frank Charles. 10, Normandy Drive, Hayes. Guns hall.	24. 9. 48. 10-45 am.	Tanham Road.	Slipped on concealed object, presumably glass. Cut right ankle (inside)

The second page records what action was taken, names of any witnesses and name of the person entering the details in the record.

The final entry is dated 1st August 1988 and does not give as much detail.

Perhaps after this they started recording everything on a computer.

However, we have here a record of accidents covering 40 years and relating to local men and this is the sort of minutiae information that many family historians long for.

So, what do I plan to do with this book now that I have it? I think it calls out to be indexed/databased in some form and that is what I plan to do. It is a treasure trove with hundreds of names and addresses, some come up more than once, who worked for the Great Western Railway in the years following the Second World War. Once, I have done the index, I will be happy to search for names but please give me a year or two!

Marking Betty and Lucille's grave

George Hall

My Great Great Grandmother **Betty Totton** passed away nearly eighty-eight years ago, but only a few weeks ago, I was able to directly influence her legacy and help her story be remembered for generations to come. It wasn't the most impressive thing that I did, but I was able (with the help of many others) to mark her grave and allow her to be remembered properly after all these years.



Betty with my Great Grandmother Doris, probably outside their house in Hartshead

Why Betty? Well, answering that question is not an easy feat as, after all, I have sixteen Great Great Grandparents, all of who had remarkable lives in a plethora of different ways. I suppose Betty's life was one of the easier ones to learn about from the get-go as, although she was brought up on the **Huddersfield/Elland** border region of **Kew Hill**, she lived most of her married life in local areas such as **Hartshead** and **Clifton**. We have plenty of lovely photos of her and the wider **Totton** family, and the research into her life was also relatively easy as there were lots of sources available. I also felt a great connection to her as I saw her as a grandmotherly figure, which hit hard as she didn't meet most of her future grandchildren. It is also worth mentioning that the plot at **Liversedge** Cemetery where **Betty** was eventually buried was also the place of rest of her daughter **Lucille**, who died during infancy. Therefore, finding and ultimately marking the plot became even more poignant.

Another important aspect of the story we haven't discussed so far is that back in July 2020, none of this applied to me, well apart from liking and connecting to **Betty**. I didn't know where she was buried, nor did I have any idea where **Lucille** was buried. Towards the end of the month, I think around 19 July 2020, was when I first volunteered at the Friends of **Liversedge Cemetery** after finding the group on Facebook. I didn't go prepared, not even bringing any gloves, but sooner or later, I became a regular volunteer at the group.

After speaking to Tina, the group's brilliant founder, she recommended contacting the Cemetery Office to find out more about where Betty and possibly **Lucille** was buried. So, sooner or later, I rang up the office, and after a relatively quick search, they were able to provide me with plot details alongside some helpful maps. Furthermore, they also very kindly marked the plot as someone was up at the site the next day.



*Above left Above right : Richard Totton, the grave's
owner.*

The plot was literally grass, and there was no real indication that anyone was buried underneath it. Nevertheless, over the next month or so, it became apparent that was a feeling in the family that we should mark the plot in whatever way possible. After consulting with Tina again, she gave me some great advice, and I contacted the council again. After my conversation with the cemetery office, it became apparent that the process of marking and gaining ownership of Betty's grave was going to be more complicated than first expected. The first problem came because the grave owner was Betty's

deceased husband, **Richard Totton**, who died in 1945. Clearly, it was impossible to transfer ownership from **Richard** himself. Furthermore, as my grandfather was the son of Betty's youngest daughter, it ostensibly appeared to be even more complicated than first anticipated. However, after studying the rules and regulations of plot ownership in **Kirklees** Council and having these explained to me by a wonderful worker from the Cemeteries Office, I realised that my grandfather was first in line in being able to claim ownership. This was a stroke of luck and would make the process a lot easier.

The fact that it took so long to get to the solicitors was down to various uncontrollable factors. First, there was the October 2020 lockdown and then much more prominent January 2021 lockdown, then there were my GCSE exams or equivalent exams as the main ones were cancelled due to COVID. It may seem somewhat draconian to claim ownership of a family plot, as you have to go to the solicitors and sign a legal declaration, and a very formal one at that, but it does make sense from a legal point of view.

In early August 2021, the appointment was finally made to see the solicitors at an excellent firm in **Mirfield** and sooner or later, the declaration was posted off. Within a few days, the Cemeteries Office returned with confirmation that the family plot was now back in the hands of the living family. It was quite a sobering moment, to an extent, as Betty and Lucille were no longer forgotten.

My own procrastination and life generally got in the way now as we began to consider how we would like to mark the grave. There were the cemetery rules and regulations from **Kirklees** Council, which we had to follow, but we had to decide upon which way we wanted to follow them. There is a true variety of factors to consider when you finally get to the stage of choosing a monument – you have to consider cost, size, scope and trying to be as truthful as possible to the person whose grave you are marking.

In about October, we went through the list of approved masons by **Kirklees** Council and finally came across the stonemason we wished to use. There was an irony to this as it was located near Edgerton Cemetery in Huddersfield, the resting place of many of Betty's family and the wider Totton family's ancestry. We were lucky enough to contact a lovely lady from the stonemasons who helped us through the process, and eventually the order was placed by early November.

Christmas and New Year passed, and as we approached early February, I was notified that the stone was ready to collect. This was great news, and I looked forward to picking it up. However, down to a few reasons, we had to wait a short while until we could pick it up, and on Tuesday 22 February, we finally made the journey to **Huddersfield** and collected **Betty** and **Lucille's** stone.

I mentioned that once **Betty's** grave was back in the family's hands, it was a sobering moment, but seeing the name **Totton** engraved upon the stone truly trumped that moment. It was genuinely spine-chilling to realise that we now had directly impacted the legacy of **Betty and Lucille Totton**. Now the grave was to be marked, and they were no longer just another pair of forgotten souls in an unmarked grave.

Placing the stone was another interesting moment. We didn't come adequately prepared and had to make use of a variety of rather interesting tools to ensure it was placed safely and accurately in the plot. Once we were happy with it, some tulips, beautifully chosen, by my grandparents were placed into the vase. Finally, after nearly 88 years, the lifetime of so many, **Betty and Lucille's** grave was now marked as it always should have been.



Betty's plot in October 2021 marked after eighty-eight years

It was a long process, down to a variety of factors. If I were to give any advice to anyone who wished to undertake a similar process, I would beg you to do the research upfront and not just wing it as I effectively did. Find out what your local council needs, and be prepared to be disappointed, especially if it is an older relative who may have more children/descendants. Churchyards may be more flexible, and although this was the aboveboard method in

ensuring that the council does not 'mince 'or remove your monument, you can always just mark the grave, and I suppose there's a high chance no one will notice.

Regardless, it truly was a privilege in being able to mark **Betty** and **Lucille's** plot. They both deserve to be remembered properly and no longer have to rely upon glass jars or old wooden crosses in being able to be seen. There is nothing necessarily wrong with having an unmarked grave; many of my ancestors rest in unmarked ones. Nonetheless, it seemed wrong not doing something for **Betty** as I genuinely do connect to her and she is quite literally buried up the road. Furthermore, she's also not even necessarily that much of a distant relative, being my grandfather's grandmother. All in all, I hope that she's proud of the fact her plot is marked after nearly eighty-eight years.

***Editor:** George Hall is one of a growing number of young genealogists who are making sure that family history does not die out. If you enjoyed this article, have a look at George's website <https://genealogywithgeorge.com>*



Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society, held as a hybrid local meeting at St. John's Centre, Isleworth with Zoom connection on 17th March 2022. The meeting was attended by 18 members at St. John's Centre and a further 13 members attending by Zoom.

1. Welcome by the Chairman

Chairman Ann Greene welcomed all to this hybrid Annual General Meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence have been received from Betty Elliott and Hilary Blanford.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 17th June 2021

These were published in the Society's Journal of September 2021. Ann asked if anyone had any concerns over the accuracy of the minutes. None were raised.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report

This is quite a momentous occasion. For the first time in the society's history all our members, both local and remote, can attend the AGM. Ironically, it has taken a devastating pandemic to get us to this stage, but it has opened up new opportunities for engaging with our membership and hopefully attracting new members.

Our committee meetings have allowed committee members to attend virtually for a few years using Zoom and when we realised that lockdown was going to curtail our monthly talks for more than a few months, we decided to go virtual. We have greatly missed actually seeing members in the flesh, our audience for talks has expanded and we have benefited from being able to talk to members who had never before had the chance to attend our meetings.

Although we have been deprived of our normal meetings, we have not been idle.

- Our memorial inscriptions project continued as it could be carried out in the open-air and socially distanced.
- We have also been actively pursuing our quest for younger members and trying to engage with young genealogists. At our November committee meeting, we had a very interesting Zoom discussion with Daniel Loftus, a very active and committed young genealogist, on how we could achieve our goals and Muriel Sprott will be taking part in Family History Federation meetings on the subject. This will be a long-term project but one that is well worth the work.
- Virtual meetings and fairs allowed us to maintain contact with other family history societies so we took part in as many as we could.
- The Family History Federation virtual coffee mornings have encouraged us to discuss the issues that all of us have been facing for some time and which continue to vex us. Ageing membership, falling numbers, fewer volunteers.
- And we have agreed to put our Bookstall catalogue on the website. We haven't got as far as online purchasing, but now any of our members will be able to see what we have for sale, how much it costs and how to order it.

This list of issues brings me to a very important point. Six years ago the West Middlesex Family History Society faced the very real prospect of proposing the winding up of our operations because we could not fill the post of Chairman and were struggling to find Committee Members. At the eleventh hour we managed to scrape together enough members to keep the committee afloat and Kirsty Gray stepped in as Chair. This year we were teetering on the brink of another such crisis; it looked as if we would be reduced to four Committee members and minus a Secretary and Chair. Another eleventh hour rescue has occurred. Our current Treasurer, Muriel Sprott, has agreed to accept nomination as Secretary and Betty Elliott has offered to take over as Treasurer; we have managed to acquire two more committee members, and once again Kirsty has offered to stand as Chair. We can carry on for three years but inevitably future crises will occur. If we value our Society and the work it does, we must futureproof it. Lurching from crisis to crisis threatens the projects we take on as does relying on the same few individuals to carry out the work that make the society both viable and enjoyable. Those individuals are usually fulfilling more than one role – so if we lose them, a significant element of the Society disappears. If I can mention a specific person here - if Roland Bostock ever decides to stop doing what he does, we

will lose an experienced Webmaster, the coordinator of our memorial inscriptions programme (which earns us money!) and the person who willingly transports a laptop, a spare monitor, a projector and various bits of kit to our monthly talks and when we go to family history fairs. Our website plus our attendance at fairs are important outreach events that help to attract new members and keep us going.

In short, we need more people to join the committee and more people to volunteer for everything that keeps the society going - social media, the memorial inscription projects, submitting articles for the journal, helping with our email advice service, helping out at family history fairs (virtual and face-to-face), and so on. Ideally they would be a lot younger too! Please think about it - support and help from current and previous committee members and postholders will always be available.

Before I go, I would like to offer my thanks to everyone who has supported the Society so well over the past two years - in particular **Kirsty Gray**, our previous Chairman, who was instrumental in helping us set up our Zoom programme, **Roland Bostock** for tackling the management of the Zoom meetings, keeping the website fresh and informative and for keeping on with the memorial inscriptions work, and **Lesley Kinch** in Canada for her painstaking digitisation of the Society's Journal using Optical Character Recognition (OCR). And talking of contributions - before we were all locked down, I was due to make a presentation to **Pam and Brian Smith**. Without their unfailing attendance at our old-style face-to-face meetings, we would have had no tea, coffee or biscuits and no Christmas Party food. The lack of refreshments might seem a small thing, but the social element that the tea break gives is very important. Pam and Brian have kept us all fed and watered for a long time now and I can now present them with an appropriate token of our appreciation.

6. Treasurer's Report

Good evening, it's great to see so many of you joining us. The accounts for the year to 31 December 2021 will be published in the June journal, but a PDF copy can be seen on screen and is on our website.

I'll start by looking at the Statement of Financial Activities. Well, what can I say - 2021 was another strange year and, probably not surprisingly, that fact is reflected in our accounts. Thank you to all of you who have stood by us and paid your subs - without you we would have no reason to exist. Membership has slightly increased again. Thanks are also due to those of you who are

taxpayers and have gift-aided your subscription which has generated an extra £562 income with no corresponding expense.

We have experimented with colour in the journal which increases the cost, but enhances the image of the Society. With postage rates increasing every year, and another increase due shortly, all savings are very welcome, so if you would like to receive your journal digitally, and haven't yet registered, please let Roland know - secretary@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk

We hired a room for our November committee meeting, but all other meetings have been held on Zoom, and we now have our own licence. We intend to continue future meetings both in person, here at St John's Centre, and online.

It's in the sections headed 'Other Income' and 'Overhead Expenses' down to the bottom of the page, that the impact of Covid can really be seen. Open Days were cancelled, which meant minimal fees for attending virtual open days and no opportunity to sell our books. Consequently we made a surplus of £1941. We have begun to spend some of that surplus on sound and video equipment to enhance the Zoom link to our meetings now that we are holding both face-to-face and virtual meetings.

On to our Balance Sheet, about which I have very little to say. Our fixed assets and stock of hoodies have been depreciated to reflect loss of value over time. The main difference is in our Barclays Business Premium Account which shows an increase of £1251, and is broadly in line with our surplus for the year. It may seem strange that we have a Business account, but it is Barclays' policy to lump charities in with business customers. As long as we continue to receive free banking, they can apply whatever description they like. Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions, I shall do my best to answer them.

7. Receiving of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021

The committee recommends that the attached accounts be accepted. Maggie Mold proposed a motion that the accounts be accepted. Brian Smith seconded the motion, which was then carried unanimously.

8. Appointment of the Examiner

Our current examiner, **David Burton**, has expressed his willingness to continue as examiner for the current year. **Muriel Sprott** proposed the motion that David Burton continue as our examiner, which motion was carried unanimously.

9. Election of Committee and Officers

Roland Bostock (Secretary), **Patricia Candler**, **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.

Margaret Cunnew, **Cheryl Ford**, **Muriel Sprott** and **Hilary Strudwick**, having served three or more years on the Committee and being willing to continue, offer themselves for re-election. There was unanimous approval for their re-election.

Betty Elliott, **Kirsty Gray**, **Giz Marriner** and **John Seaman** have offered to serve on the Committee. There was unanimous approval for their offer.

Ann Greene proposed that **Muriel Sprott** be accepted as the new Secretary.

Kirsty Gray seconded the motion, which was then carried unanimously.

Muriel Sprott proposed that **Betty Elliott** be accepted as the new Treasurer.

Brian Page seconded the motion, which was then carried unanimously.

Ann Greene proposed that **Kirsty Gray** be accepted as the new Chairman.

Muriel Sprott seconded the motion, which was then carried unanimously.

10. Any other business

Kirsty expressed her appreciation to the new members of the committee for taking on their new commitments. There was no other business, so **Ann Greene** closed the meeting.

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity Number: 291906
YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2021
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	<u>Year to 31 December 2021</u>	<u>Year to 31 December 2020</u>
MEMBERS' SERVICES INCOME		
Subscriptions received for current year	1830	1890
Subscriptions received in advance last year	<u>1800</u>	<u>1580</u>
	3630	3470
Bank Interest	1	8
Tax refund on Gift Aid	<u>562</u>	<u>534</u>
	4193	4012
LESS: EXPENDITURE		
Journal production & delivery	2247	2065
Zoom expenses	210	0
Hire of meeting halls	15	297
Speakers	<u>545</u>	<u>200</u>
	<u>3017</u>	<u>2562</u>
	1176	1450
OTHER INCOME		
Bookstall sales	13	81
plus/minus Stock variation	59	125
less Purchases	<u>-62</u>	<u>-43</u>
	10	163
Donations	64	22
Isleworth baptism searches	75	86
Marriage index searches	412	503
Monumental inscription searches	211	349
Poor Law searches	70	0
Protestation returns searches	74	12
War memorials searches	76	88
Other research income	43	28
Raffles	0	0
Refreshments	<u>0</u>	<u>25</u>
	<u>1035</u>	<u>1276</u>
	2211	2726
OVERHEAD EXPENSES		
FHF Subscription, including insurance	99	97
Genfair charges	6	10
Equipment repairs & maintenance, incl website hosting	97	110
Honoraria & gifts	0	0
Library purchases	0	0
Postage, stationery & telephone	0	109
Printing of Leaflets, Posters & Flyers	0	0
Publicity, including attendance at open days	0	168
Polo shirts & hoodies - opening stock/purchases	311	389
Less: depreciated value of stock c/f	<u>-249</u>	<u>-311</u>
Sales of polo shirts & hoodies	<u>-16</u>	<u>0</u>
Net loss of value	46	78
Sundry expenses	0	0
Travel & subsistence	0	0
Depreciation & disposal of assets	<u>22</u>	<u>32</u>
	<u>-270</u>	<u>-604</u>
Surplus for year	£ <u>1941</u>	£ <u>2122</u>

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number: 291906

BALANCE SHEET AS AT:

31 DECEMBER 2021

31 DECEMBER 2020

FIXED ASSETS

	Cost, or		Value at	Cost, or		Value at
	Value at	Accumulated		Value at	Accumulated	
	30/09/1994	Depreciation	31/12/2021	30/09/1994	Depreciation	31/12/2020
Harmondsworth Manor Rolls	348	0	348	348	0	348
Lectern - Bought 2002	400	395	5	400	395	5
Amplification System - Bought 2006	235	231	4	235	230	5
Power Point Projector - Bought 2006	428	423	5	428	422	6
Viewing monitor for laptop B/t 2007	170	166	4	170	166	4
Display Stands & Table Cloths B/t 2008	1409	1386	23	1409	1379	30
LapTop Computer Bought 2011	915	874	41	915	861	54
	<u>3905</u>	<u>3475</u>	<u>430</u>	<u>3905</u>	<u>3453</u>	<u>452</u>

CURRENT ASSETS

Stocks:	Books	545			483	
	Ordnance Survey Maps	217			220	
	T-shirts & hoodies	249			311	
			1011			1014
Deposit paid for key to St John's Centre			30			30
Expenses paid in advance: 2021/2020			60			75
Cash at Bank & In Hand						
	Barclays current account	880			625	
	Barclays Business premium account	13214			11963	
	London Capital & Finance Account	1125			1125	
	Cash	52			52	
			<u>15271</u>		<u>13765</u>	
Total assets			16802			15336
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Due to St John's Centre & Oxley Hall for room hire		0			0	
Due to Bookstall Manager		5			0	
Subscriptions In Advance		1320	1325		1800	1800
Total assets less current liabilities		£	<u>15477</u>		£	<u>13536</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS						
Balance Brought Forward			13536			11414
Surplus for Year			1941			2122
		£	<u>15477</u>		£	<u>13536</u>

Muriel Sprott
Treasurer

Ann Greene
Chairman

Dated:

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 and going to their Login/Register page. The discount code is *****

PASSWORDS

APR-JUN 2022 *****

JUL--SEP 2022 *****

Family History Fairs

Just when we thought it would never happen

The **London Family History Show** is making a welcome reappearance at **Kempton Park Racecourse** on **24th September 10.00-16.30**. A full-on physical show with stalls, workshops, lectures and a chance to meet up in-person.

EarlyBird tickets are available 2 tickets for £10. Go to the website www.thefamilyhistoryshow.com for more information.

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
Ms Emma Hanlon-Perry	H294	

Surname Interests

Surname Interests are a key part of the Society. Registering your names with us can lead to connections and sometimes a member being able to do research for you on the ground.

If you think someone local may be able to help you, you can contact them directly (if they have included an email or other address) or you can ask via the Society. Don't be shy!

Isleworth War Memorial Centenary

On 22nd June 1922, the Isleworth War Memorial was unveiled.

Over the past eight years, the Isleworth 390 group has been researching and publishing the lives of the WW1 servicemen who are named on the memorial.

This year on 26th June, the group will mark the centenary of the memorial. Keep your eyes peeled for publicity.



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 ? should cheques for MIs and Settlements be to WMFHS?

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 a 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: This month's cover shows four cinemas in the West Middlesex area area.

Clockwise from top left the **Coronet Brentford**, the **Coronet Notting Hill**, the **Queens Hall Brentford** and the **Teddington Picture House**.

"Moving pictures" were already popular by 1912, but it was the 1920's that really saw their expansion.

Sadly the **Coronet Notting Hill** is the only one still standing and operating as an arts venue. It began life as a theatre in 1898, featuring such theatrical stars as Ellen Terry and Sarah Bernhardt. But in 1916 it began mixing theatre with cinema. In 1923 it became a full-time cinema and remained so until 2004 when it was acquired by the Kensington Temple, a Pentecostal church. In 2014 it was taken over by a theatre company called the Print Room. They reverted to the original name of the Coronet Theatre in 2019. The building is now Grade II listed .

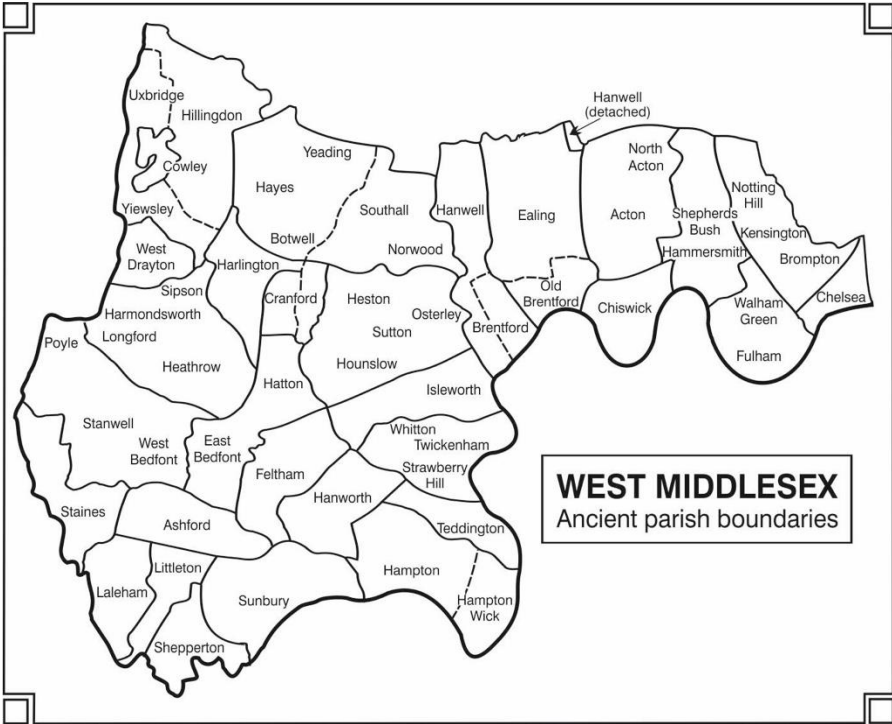
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The Coronet, Brentford: courtesy of the Newman family

The Coronet, Notting Hill: Made available under the *Creative Commons CCO 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication*

The Queens Hall, Brentford: Hounslow Local Studies

Teddington Picture House: *Despite searches, no copyright owner has been found. If challenged, we will remove this image.*



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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