



# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

**Joint Presidents:** Rob and Bridget Purr

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<b>Examiner</b>	David Burton
<b>Society website</b>	<a href="http://west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk">west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</a>
<b>Subscriptions</b>	Standard: £15 per annum.
<b>Subscription year</b>	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.

# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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All articles and other items for the Journal should be sent to:  
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39 Broughton Avenue  
Richmond  
Surrey TW10 7UG

Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to:  
Mrs. Margaret Cunnew  
25 Selkirk Road  
Twickenham  
Middlesex, TW2 6PS

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

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

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The following talks have been arranged:

December 15<sup>th</sup> Society Christmas Party – hybrid meeting.  
Expect seasonal fun!

**2023**

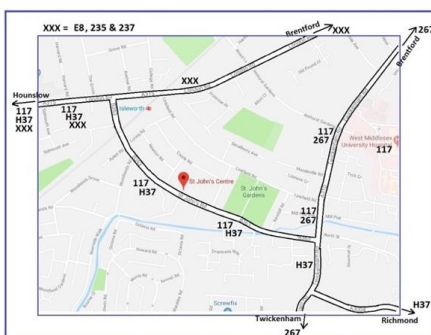
January 19<sup>th</sup> The Piccadilly Line, a talk by James Marshall

February 16<sup>th</sup> To be confirmed

March 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting *followed by:*  
Sidelights on the Victorian Workhouse, a talk by Ann  
Greene

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 this link <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.

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## Want a Lift?

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### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:hilary.strudwick@springgrove.org.uk)

Telephone: 020 8560 7492

You don't have to be a wizard to be a membership secretary. If you are keen to keep things in order and up to date – and can spare some time - the position may interest you. People often hesitate to help run an organization, but mostly it is about routine tasks, and you soon learn the drill. Should you run into early difficulties, committee members will always help you.

I never expected to be a membership secretary, but in 2015 West Middlesex FHS needed someone to take over the mantle. I'd been using "Word" and the Internet for a long time but had to go to a local college to learn the basics of "Excel". Betty Elliott visited me to talk about the position and she left me a useful instruction guide and notes. Jill Williams called in, too, and showed me how to use the external hard drive, because I hadn't used one before.

It is interesting to enrol members from all parts of the UK and occasionally from Canada, Australia and New Zealand. We record member particulars on computer and on a card system. Although the membership secretary doesn't have to attend all committee meetings, a brief report must be prepared for inclusion in the minutes. Keeping the meeting attendance register is another key task.

In January the subscriptions begin to pour in; the bank staff get to know you as many members still prefer cheques or cash. Then the flood dries to a trickle until the AGM.

I've managed to keep on top of the work – the only *chore* is the annual task of reminding members who have forgotten to pay the subscription – and some who promise to pay - then forget again! It is important to know how many members we have at a given time, because the membership secretary has to estimate the number of quarterly journals we require from the printer and know how many journals will be sent to members as email attachments by the Webmaster.

West Middlesex FHS has been in existence for nearly 45 years. Volunteers are needed to help keep the Society running, so do give it some thought. We are looking out for younger members to volunteer – younger than 80, anyway!

Quite how we have found ourselves racing towards the end of 2022 is beyond me. It hardly seems like yesterday that we saw in the New Year, hoping for better times ahead. Who would have dreamed of the year we have had in Britain? I am sure that other countries would say much the same! Having managed in 2020 to move our society online in the most challenging of times, we spent 2022 struggling with the next level -running hybrid monthly members meetings. Not a simple task! But we have invested in new equipment and been trying out new arrangements while Hilary has been working hard to book dynamic speakers on topics of interest to our global membership. Giz Marriner has kindly agreed to take over organising the programme for 2023. If you have any ideas for topics or speakers, I am sure she would be delighted to hear from you.

Ever since our Zoom meetings began, we have welcomed members who would never have been able to attend in person, and even managed to attract a new Committee member and Vice Chairman living in Scotland! We still hire our meeting room at St John's Centre Isleworth but the number of people attending in person has dwindled recently. Are you a member who is within striking distance of Isleworth? Why not come along in person to meet other members! If you are stuck for transport, see our ***Want A Lift*** page. Non-members are welcome so you could bring along interested friends as well. If you are a member of another society or local group, please do let them know what we are doing each month. Many of our speakers talk about topics suitable for a wide audience – keep an eye on the website for details. We meet the third Thursday evening of every month so pop a note in your diary. If you live a fair drive away – like me – you can join the meeting via the Zoom link which remains the same for all meetings.

In March, we will have our Annual General Meeting and we will be looking to the membership for volunteers to join the Committee and/or carry out roles within the society. If you feel you have some time/skills to offer, do let me know. You do not have to be able to attend meetings in person – Giz and I join from the comfort of our own homes – but we do need people to share the 'committee load' going forward. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the festive season and the New Year ahead.

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## West Middlesex Family History Society AGM

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Members are advised that the next Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society will be held on:

**Thursday 16th March 2023  
at St John's Centre, St John's Road, Isleworth.**

***Members will be given advance notice of any change to these arrangements***

The full agenda will be published in the March 2023 Journal. A main item on the agenda will be to accept a new version of our constitution. Our current constitution does not take account of the AGM (or an EGM) now being a hybrid Zoom meeting. All the main elements of the constitution, such as committee members standing down after 6 years of service are retained, but several sections of it have been reworked for better clarity.

The current Constitution can be viewed on our website for comparison, accessible from the **Objectives** page under the **About Us** tab

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## CONSTITUTION

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### 1 NAME & AREA

- a) The name of the Society shall be the **West Middlesex Family History Society** (the Society);
- b) The Society's defined area is that of the western part of the historic county of Middlesex shown on the map included herein.

### 2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Society shall be:

- a) To promote and encourage the public study of family history, local history, genealogy and heraldry;
- b) To publish, co-ordinate and make accessible documents, records or other archival material by transcription or otherwise;



- c) To encourage the preservation, security, accessibility and presentation of such material;
- d) To hold lectures and discussions, give advice and guidance, and organise events and visits for Society members and the general public;
- e) To develop and maintain the Society's website so as to provide a range of research resources, searchable databases and reference materials for use by Society members and, if practicable, to extend this to interested members of the public;
- f) To collaborate with other Societies and organisations as appropriate, and as agreed by the Committee.

### **3. AFFILIATIONS**

- a) The Society may affiliate with local or national organisations whose objectives are deemed by the Committee to be compatible and mutually supportive;
- b) The Society shall seek to remain a member of the Family History Federation whilst the Committee deems this to be beneficial;
- c) In connection with such affiliation or membership, to guarantee the debts of such organisations up to a limit of no more than one pound [£1].

### **4. MEMBERSHIP**

- a) Membership of the Society shall be open to all persons showing an interest in support of the Society's objectives. Those under eighteen years of age should be accompanied by a responsible adult when attending any meeting or activity;
- b) The Society shall consist of 'Members', being both fully paid-up members and any honorary members nominated by the Committee in recognition of their services to the Society and elected by the membership;
- c) Membership shall be extended to those who have paid a current subscription to the Society. The Society's membership secretary shall report on membership to each meeting of the Committee;
- d) Subscriptions shall be renewable by all members annually on 1st January at a rate determined by the Committee, and confirmed at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) or an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). Increased levels of subscription, related directly to rising costs of journal production and postage, will be determined by the Committee; proposed changes in levels of subscription for any other reasons will be

brought to the AGM for approval. Any such changes will take effect from 1st January each year;

e) Only members included in the Society's membership list will have full voting rights, provided that person is a member at the time of the issue of the formal notification of the proposed meeting, election or vote. A person attending a meeting virtually shall have the same rights to receive notice, speak, vote and otherwise participate in the meeting as they would have if attending in person

f) The Committee shall keep a record of the current names, addresses and emails of members of the Society in compliance with current UK law relating to data protection. In turn, members are required to advise the membership secretary of any changes to their contact details;

g) The Committee shall have the right to refuse or remove membership from any person or organisation if it is considered to be in the best interests of the Society so to do. If the Committee, by a simple majority, resolve that a member is working actively against the Society, or is bringing the Society into disrepute, or for any other reason determine that it is in the best interests of the Society, that membership will be refused or terminated with immediate effect;

*i)* A decision to refuse an application or remove membership shall be given in writing to the applicant or member within 14 days of the decision, giving the reason(s) for refusal;

*ii)* The affected person or organisation may make written representations about the decision. The Committee must consider these and give notice of its decision within 14 days. The decision will be final;

*iii)* If any sum due to the Society from any member remains unpaid in full within three months of it falling due, unless the Committee resolves that there are extenuating circumstances, membership will be automatically terminated.

## **5 ADMINISTRATION**

a) A Committee shall manage the affairs of the Society. The Committee shall consist of not less than three executive officers ('Officers'), together with up to a maximum of nine ordinary members of the Committee, all of whom must be members of the Society;

- b) A quorum of the committee shall consist of one third plus one of those elected members of the Committee, provided that at least one Officer is present;
- c) Members of the Committee shall be elected annually by the membership and their terms of office shall commence with the declaration of the results at the AGM. Nominations should be submitted in writing or digitally not less than 14 days before the day on which the AGM is to take place. Any member of the Society is eligible for nomination to the Committee provided they have been a member of the Society for at least the full preceding subscription year. A list of nominees will be published on the full AGM agenda and circulated to members as in 7(c) 14 days prior to the meeting. If insufficient nominations have been received to fill the vacancies, the Chairman of the meeting may, at their discretion, take nominations from the floor;
- d) At the first meeting of the Committee following the AGM, the members of the Committee will elect from their number the three Officers: Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer;
- e) The Committee shall review annually the rate of subscription(s) in accordance with paragraph 4(d);
- f) The Committee shall have the power to invite persons to attend, speak, but not vote at Committee meetings, in order to give assistance or specialist advice;
- g) In the case of an emergency, the Officers have the power to make a decision on behalf of the whole Committee;
- h) Members of the Committee shall retire at the end of three years' service but may submit themselves for re-election on an annual basis for a further three years. No individual shall serve on the Committee for more than six consecutive years; such an individual may, however, be re-elected after a lapse of one year;
- i) The Committee, or individual Committee members so designated, shall produce periodic Journals and other relevant publications which will be sent to members by post or electronic means as agreed by the Committee;
- j) The Committee may appoint annually sub-committees, either ad hoc or permanently, which under the authority and approval of the Committee may nominate such persons as they consider appropriate including persons

not members of the Committee;

k) The Committee shall meet at least four times a year, and shall determine the rules and procedures to govern its own meetings.

## **6 FINANCE**

a) The income and property of the Society, however or whenever derived, shall be applied solely towards the promotion and execution of the objectives of the Society referred to in 2. above. No portion thereof shall be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly, in any manner by way of profit to any member of the Committee and/or Society, providing that nothing herein shall prevent the repayment, in good faith, of reasonable and proper out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of the Society, and as agreed by the Committee;

b) The Society's financial year shall commence on 1st January;

c) The Committee, or its treasurer on its behalf, shall keep proper books of account, with respect to all moneys received and expended by the Society. Payments are to be signed by two Officers, whether in the form of cheques or by electronic means;

d) An Independent Examiner of the accounts of the Society shall be appointed at the AGM who shall, at least once a year, inspect the Society's accounts after being approved by the Committee and before being presented to the members at the AGM.

## **7 GENERAL MEETINGS - AGM & EGM**

Any meeting may be held physically, online as a virtual meeting, or utilising some other facility enabling all persons participating in the meeting to communicate interactively and simultaneously with each other, or by telephone conference, or as a hybrid meeting combining attendance in person and use of other means as described, as the circumstance allow and the Committee decides.

a) An AGM shall be held during the month of March each year unless circumstances make this impossible. Notice of the meeting shall be given in writing or by electronic means to all members entitled to vote at least 28 days prior to the event. If the meeting is to be virtual, an appropriate link will be sent to each member as part of the notification. The business of the AGM shall include the election of members of the Committee whose nomination is confirmed; the

- appointment of an Independent Examiner of the accounts; the consideration of reports by, or on behalf of, the Committee regarding the activities carried out by the Society since the last AGM; the adoption of the inspected accounts; and to confirm the level of membership subscription after the AGM as referred to in 4(d);
- b) An EGM may be convened either at the request of the Committee or at the request of 20 Society members having voting rights. Prior notice must be furnished to all members at least 28 days before the EGM takes place, setting out the provisional agenda of the business to be discussed. If the meeting is to be virtual, an appropriate link will be sent to each member as part of the notification. When formal notification of an EGM is sent to Society members entitled to vote, allowance must be made for all members including those who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend the EGM in person, to comment upon the business to be discussed and to propose amendments. These amendments must be received by the Committee at least 14 days prior to the EGM, and be considered by the Committee, whose decision upon them is final. The Committee must then inform the membership of the final agenda within seven days of the EGM by relevant means;
- c) Formal notification of the AGM or EGM will be sent to members either by post or digitally. Notice will be deemed to have been received if it is not returned as undeliverable by Royal Mail or email provider. In all instances the last address or email address as notified to the membership secretary will be used as the member contact;
- d) Decisions at an AGM or EGM shall be taken on a show of hands, (or if the Committee agrees, electronically where the meeting is being held virtually or as a hybrid meeting) by a simple majority except when the Committee has deemed the matter to be of such importance that the views of all members must be sought. Matters of importance would, for example, include aspects of constitutional change or the potential dissolution of the Society. In such circumstances the notification of meeting shall designate the resolution to contain matters of importance requiring a majority in favour of three-quarters of members participating in the meeting. A ballot will be arranged to include all those entitled to vote;
- e) A declaration by the chairman that a resolution has, on a show of hands or electronically, been carried unanimously or by a particular

majority, or lost, shall be final. An entry to that effect in the minutes of the proceedings of the Society shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof or proportion of the votes recorded;

f) Every member shall be entitled to one vote however they are present and participating at an AGM or EGM, providing they were a member at the time of notification of the meeting;

g) No business shall be carried out at an AGM or EGM unless a quorum is present. A quorum shall be 12 members of the Society attending and participating in the meeting in accordance with 4(e);

h) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the time appointed for the AGM or EGM or, if during the meeting a quorum ceases to exist, or if technical issues at a meeting held virtually or as a hybrid prevent the chairman postponing or adjourning the meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned or deemed to be adjourned to such time and place as the Committee shall determine. A minimum of 14 days' notice of the date, time and place of the re-convened meeting must be given to all members entitled to vote but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.

## **8 CONSTITUTION**

a) The constitution may only be changed at an AGM or EGM of which proper notice to all members has been given by means deemed relevant by the Committee at the time: mail, newsletter, journal, website, electronic mail or other suitable means. The notice is to include a resolution setting out the terms of the proposed alterations. The resolution must be passed by a two thirds majority of the members attending and participating in the meeting in accordance with 4(e) and 7(f);

b) Proposals for constitutional amendments shall be submitted to the Committee at least 56 days prior to the day on which the AGM or EGM is to be held;

c) No such alteration may be made which would have the effect of making the Society cease to be a Charity at law;

d) No amendment may be made to Clause 1(a) (Name clause), Clause 2 (Objectives clause), Clause 6(a) (Committee members not personally interested clause), Clause (9) (Dissolution clause), or this clause without the prior consent in writing of the Charity Commissioners;

e) The Committee should promptly send to the Charity Commissioners a copy of any amendment made under this clause.

## **9 DISSOLUTION**

a) The Society may be dissolved by a resolution passed by no fewer than three quarters of those members voting in person, by paper ballot, or by electronic means at an AGM or EGM called by the Committee following the decision that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society and for which 28 days' prior notice has been given by means deemed relevant by the Committee at the time: mail, newsletter, journal, website, electronic mail or other suitable means stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed.

Notification of the meeting should be served on every member either by post or by electronic mail. Notice will be deemed to have been received if it is not returned as undeliverable by Royal Mail or email provider. In all instances the last address or email address as notified to the membership secretary will be used as the member contact;

b) Any assets remaining on dissolution of the Society, after satisfying all outstanding debts and liabilities, shall not be distributed amongst members of the Society but shall be given or transferred to The Family History Federation or some other charitable organisations or institutions having objects similar to those of the Society.

## **10 INDEMNITY**

a) Members of the Committee shall each be indemnified by the Society against any liability, claim or demand arising from any action taken or omission in good faith by them on behalf of the Society or its members in the administration or management of the Society;

b) A member of the Committee may benefit from relevant indemnity insurance cover purchased at the Society's expense.

## **11 TRUSTEES**

The Committee, who shall be deemed to be Charity Trustees, may appoint Committee members or other members of the Society to be Holding Trustees for the Society to hold any property owned by it or to be held in trust for the Society.

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## Monthly Talks *Muriel Sprott, Roland Bostock, Yvonne Masson*

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### ***The 1921 Census***

Jessamy Carlson

August

Jessamy introduced herself as the Lead on Family History at The National Archives (TNA) where she has worked for about 15 years.

TNA is a non-ministerial department reporting to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. It is the sector Lead for Archives and comprises the National Archives, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, the Office for Public Sector Information and the Historic Manuscripts Commission. Between them these organisations hold records which cover over 1,000 years of history. All this data is free to access at Kew. TNA has 160km of shelving, onsite at Kew and offsite at Cheshire. In an average year, it receives more than 50,000 remote enquiries, 1.5 million visits to the website each month and 450 million electronic records delivered online. The records have been created when people's lives and Government departments interact. They include records from the armed forces, Government departments past and present, censuses, wills, divorces, courts, prisons, hospitals and lots more. Current policy is that where possible local records should be held at local archives. The 1921 Census was taken on 19 June 1921. It was delayed due to a threatened general strike and is the most detailed census taken to date. It was released digitally via Find My Past (FMP) in January 2022. It can be accessed free of charge at Kew, the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth, or Archives Plus in Manchester but there is a pay-per-view if accessed simply through FMP. Access should eventually become part of the FMP subscription

### ***Stop Press! See Page 20***

As on the 1911 census, we can see the original household schedules showing the names of the persons present at an address and their relationship to the head of the household. What's new on the 1921 census is that the ages of the people is shown in years and months - but this is not guaranteed to be accurate! If someone didn't know, or couldn't remember, their date of birth, then this figure was incorrect. For people aged 16 or over, marital status is shown. Children aged 15 and under were asked to state which of their parents (if either) were still alive. Place of birth and nationality are shown and a lot of backroom work is still going on to try and ensure that place names are not only entered correctly but consistently from household to household.



Details of employment are shown. Employers were given instructions for their employees to try and ensure consistency of recording but it was only partially successful! There are three fields in the employment section: personal occupation which is expected to match the coded list of employment which can be downloaded free, from FMP; type of employment - usually the company or organisation for which the person worked; and the place of work - where relevant, an address is supposed to be listed.

An additional group of data relates to statistical information. Fathers and all widowed mothers were supposed to mark with an X the ages of their children, but these entries were so frequently entered incorrectly that the columns were written off as being of no practical use.

A small box at the bottom of the page shows the number of people in the household and the number of rooms in the house, in order to calculate whether or not the property is overcrowded.

When looking at images, remember that the form is double-sided. As with the 1911 census, the address and household return pages are separate. The address page is always to the right of the household return page, even though it is the front of the form.

There are four search options: *Find an Ancestor* with associated *Advanced Search*, and *Find an Address* with associated *Advanced Search*. *Find an Ancestor Advanced Search* allows for searches based on almost every field of the form. The *Advanced Address Search* can restrict searches to geographical locations and allows for addresses to be traced.

Additional resources include maps of divisions of every enumeration district and are available for every entry in the 1921 census. There is a list of the employment occupation codes referred to above. There are three reports: - the 1923 Preliminary general Report; the 1927 full General Report with appendices; and from 1927 to 1929 County Reports were published which are available on [www.histpop.org.uk](http://www.histpop.org.uk). Integrated Census Microdata at the UK Data Archive I-CeM project database allows users to filter over 180 million census records based on 20 key variables.

Transcripts were taken directly from the image. If you buy the image you also receive the transcript. Transcripts are constantly being improved, updated and corrected, so if you spot something wrong, select the *Report an Error* button which then takes you to the *Transcription Error Report Page*. Jessamy was thanked for a most interesting talk.

**Getting the best from TNA's website** Simon Fowler September

Simon began by emphasizing that the great majority of the archives at TNA are not online. So far, about 5% of the archive is online, with plans to place another 5% online over the coming years, but 90% of their resources will only ever be available at TNA itself. He then moved on to recommend that any visit to the archives should be well planned, using the available online catalogues to confirm and identify the documents you wish to see. If you leave ordering of the documents to when you have arrived at the archives you will have to wait about one hour for them to arrive. Ordering documents in advance - and you may order up to twelve documents in advance of your visit - saves valuable time when actually at the archive but you have to order the documents at least one week in advance.

The Home page of The National Archive's (TNA's) website provides access to three main sections – *Help with your research*, *Search the Catalogue*, and *Find online collections*. Simon went through each in turn.

Under *Help with your research* there is a comprehensive set of Research Guides, about 150 in all. These are well-written and detailed, and there is a keyword search facility to help you find the right guide. Advice on research is also available by chat, by email, or by telephone.

The *Catalogue* (also known as *Discovery*) is of course of great importance for locating actual documents. It is vast, as it refers to some 11 million items. Most are held at TNA, but items from other archives are also included. It is also under constant review. For instance, some 22,000 items are still classified as *Miscellaneous* which, as Simon noted, is not very helpful to the researcher.

TNA records are referenced by their item number, which is in four parts; the Government department (e.g. WO for War Office); the type of record (e.g. Service records WO 95, WO 96 or WO 97); the piece number and the item number, so that a complete reference might be for example WO 95/213/4. Simon issued a warning here against expecting the catalogue to identify documents containing a person's name. Such detail simply isn't there except in rare cases. For most searches, you must concentrate on the type of record you are interested in, e.g. Muster Rolls, rather than any specific individual. The results of a search will clearly identify the potentially relevant archive items, and will say if the item can be retrieved online, or be requested to view at the TNA, or if it is held by some other archive. A key tip when

searching is to use double quotes if searching on more than one keyword. For example, a search on John Smith will find any items including the word John or including the word Smith, but a search on “John Smith” will only find items which include both John and Smith in their title. This is a common rule among search engines.

When search results are returned the result can be further filtered, first by location of the records (TNA archive; available for download; or located at other archive), and by date ranges, which can be highly useful if the original search finds too many records.

There is also an ‘advanced search’ option in which strings of words may be looked for, with further words to be included or avoided in the search, and date ranges can be given. There is also the option to sort the results of the search by reference, by title (ascending or descending) or by date (ascending or descending). The most used online collections include WWI service records, war diaries and squadron record books, and pre-1858 wills. Previously a charge of £3.50 was made for each retrieved document, but at present all documents in the online collection can be retrieved free of charge. He did not know for how long this free access may continue.

Simon concluded his talk and invited questions. A member of the audience at St. John’s, asked specifically about the removal of printers at TNA. When she wanted to print off some sheets from the 1921 census she was advised to email the documents to herself. She did this with some assistance, but then the documents exceeded normal A4 page width producing unsatisfactory results. Simon acknowledged that printing records was an issue for the TNA, with best advice being to get your grandchildren to do the printing for you.

***The MIs and More at Feltham Prison*** Roland Bostock                      October  
WMFHS committee member, John Seaman, made the initial discovery of graves at Feltham Prison when looking at a map showing a burial ground alongside the chapel in the Feltham Borstal grounds. The National Archives catalogue indicated two documents, one from the Home Office and one from the Prison Commissioners, while British Newspapers Online included two news reports about Danish prisoners of war. One mentioned a memorial which the Governor of the Borstal undertook to look after, and the other reported a group of Danish POWs returning to visit the Borstal where they had been confined. They met one of their former guards, with whom they were obviously on friendly terms.

All this resulted in Roland Bostock contacting the Prison and asking how he could see the graves. He was advised to write to the Governor and after some delay, a visit was duly arranged for September 20th. Security was tight. All those visiting (Roland, Annie Greene and Yvonne Masson) had to supply their name, address, email address and National Insurance Number in advance of the visit. And Roland had to supply the make and serial number of his camera. Any pictures taken would be inspected by Security immediately after the visit. They were to be accompanied throughout by a warder and had to go through a sealed chamber (one door closed before another opened), in order to get out to the graveyard in the grounds. But everyone they encountered was friendly! The visit revealed that not all the gravestones are now visible – only about a dozen. Those included a small monument shaped like a prehistoric dolmen, made up of several stones and bearing carved writing, in Danish. The warder looking after the group told them of another stone and they found a group of several stones in a neglected area of pampas grass and bramble bushes, all lying flat and much broken. Even with secateurs it was still impossible to get to the stones let alone lift and read them. A second visit would be needed. Roland's request to bring along his garden shears met with a quick "No!" They promised to get their own gardeners to clear the area. However a fortnight later on the second visit, the brambles were still in place. After a mild complaint to the guardian warder, a gardener appeared with shears and cleared away the brambles. Despite the condition of these stones, most of the inscriptions could now be read. But how had the stones been broken? Had there been a (WWII) bomb blast in the grounds? This would also account for the destruction of the chapel, the only physical evidence of which was now a series of low walls incorporated into the neatly-kept grounds. A week after this first visit, Annie went to the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) to seek out any records held there, but found nothing. A more fruitful visit was made by Roland, Annie and John to Hounslow Local Archives. It produced three boxes of records and photographs of the Feltham Institution, including extracts from the death and burial registers, plus plans of the burial ground. Among the boxes was a treasure trove of photos and correspondence relating to the Danish Memorial. Describing it as a "Bantasten", an obscure word which required some research! There was also a translation of the Danish inscription which made it clear that the four men buried beneath the

monument were Danish Prisoners of War, 1916-19. The stones that made up the monument had been brought from Denmark. There were also some photos of the broken headstones when they were still undamaged and upright. But no information of how they came to be broken, or what had happened to the chapel. We had suspected bomb damage but no reports have been found of a bomb hit in the grounds and a funeral had taken place at the chapel in 1945, so it was still in place then.

Roland then handed over to Annie for some background on the Institution. In 1853 Edward Antrobus JP had proposed a reformatory school for young offenders in the County of Middlesex. This attracted support, and a large school for 800 boys was built in Feltham. It was so large in scale that it was not finished till 1859. In the meantime, the Industrial Schools Act (1857) had been passed, so it opened as the Middlesex Industrial School for Boys, accepting boys aged 7-13 years. Industrial schools were intended for the better training of poor and neglected children to stop them becoming criminals. Boys were educated to elementary level with some industrial training. At 13, they were found suitable jobs and discharged – some as far away as Canada. In 1889 the London County Council took over the school. It closed as an Industrial School in 1909, re-opening the next year under the Prison Commissioners as a Borstal. From 1916-19 it was used as a Prisoner of War Camp, the 100 boys then at the school being transferred to a Borstal at Rochester, Kent. Some 300 Danish sailors were received, plus German and Austrian POWs. This ended 1919, and it returned to a Borstal till 1991, when the site changed to its present use: Feltham Young Offenders Institution, known as HM Prison Feltham.

Deaths inevitably occurred at the Institution. From 1862-9, burials were carried out at St Dunstan, Feltham. After that, the Industrial School burial ground was recognised as a private burial ground. The number of burial records recorded at Feltham Library was 165, over a period of 50 years. Deaths were rigorously recorded, dates, ages, grave numbers (no headstones, but the graves were mapped), and causes of death. Many of the deaths were from tuberculosis (phthisis), not surprising as most were from poor homes and unidentified fevers. There were a few cases of typhoid and small pox but no epidemics. Accidents and suicides occurred. One boy, aged 10, committed suicide by hanging while alone in a cell – this was reported in the papers as far away as Cornwall. Another boy was crushed by a falling

wall while working on the school's "training ship". There was a strong Naval theme at the school., and inevitably there were a lot of drownings at sea. After 1919, boys who died at the Borstal were given headstones in the form of plain crosses, some of which are still standing. Staff and Officers were buried in a different section from the boys with their position on the staff and some biographical details written on their gravestones. There was a photo of some of their headstones at Feltham Library, plus a photo of the Chapel, erected in 1865-6. Some of the still-standing stones were easy to read, some harder, like one on which the only decipherable words were: Henry, aged 59, but he was identified from the records at Feltham Library.

POW burial records (including the four Danish men mentioned on the Bantasten) at Feltham Library revealed the death and burial of nine Germans and two Austrians, and correspondence indicated that in 1962 these were disinterred and moved to Cannock Chase, Staffordshire where there is a large German military cemetery. Amongst these, a Franz Chidzik is recorded - the gravestone bearing his name is still lying flat in the grass at Feltham.

Roland has recorded the inscriptions and burial records and mapped the graves. By 18<sup>th</sup> October the records discovered were up-dated and transcribed on the WMFHS website. A copy of Roland's PDF has gone to Feltham Prison. Thanks go to the staff there for all the help received by the WMFHS group. Perhaps a journal article will follow.

### ***STOP PRESS***

*Since Jessamy Carlson's talk in September, Findmypast have now announced the introduction of a Premium subscription which gives unlimited access to the 1921 Census. The cost is £199.99. If you already hold a Pro subscription, you can upgrade it to Premium - the cost will vary depending on when your existing subscription is due for renewal.*

*For example – upgrading a subscription due for renewal in May 2023 would cost around £20.00.*

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## Book Stall

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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 Webmaster, Roland Bostock has added the list to our website so that you can purchase items from there. We don't have an online shop so it's cash or cheque! Please note post and packing are not included in the prices.

Take a look at the following (long) list and see if there's anything you fancy – or anything that might be a stocking-filler for Christmas.

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Price</b>
Dorothy L. Ash	Memories of a London Childhood - Fulham (2nd hand)	£1.00
Clive Aslet	Villages of Britain (300 villages that made the countryside)	£7.50
Frances Austin	The Clift Family Correspondence 1792-1846 (2nd hand)	£2.50
Stuart Bagnall	Isleworth - Fire & Water - Firefighting in Isleworth, Heston & Hounslow 1744-1941	£3.00
G. Eglinton Bate, Helen Evans & Brian Grumbridge	Hounslow - the 800 years story of the Priory & Church of Holy Trinity	£4.00
Marian Baxter & Peter Drake	Moseley, Balsall Heath & Highgate (2nd hand)	£5.00
Guy de la Bedoyere	The Home Front	£3.30
Michael Bentinck	Wartime Women - True Stories (2nd hand)	£5.00
Margaret Black	West Middlesex University Hospital - A History (2nd hand)	£3.50
Henry T. Bradford	Tales of London Docklands (2nd hand)	£4.00
Diana de Brienne	The Quest (re: Margarita Clarkson)	£2.50

J. A. Brookes	Ghosts of London - The West End, South & West (2nd hand)	£1.00
Mary & Kevin Brown	Isleworth	£7.50
Mary & Kevin Brown	Isleworth - the Second Collection	£7.50
Mary & Kevin Brown	Isleworth - the Second Collection (2nd hand)	£7.00
Mike Brown	Evacuees of WWII	£4.00
Andrea Cameron	Hanworth - St. George's Church (leaflet)	£0.50
Mike Cherry, Ken Howe & John Sheaf	Twickenham, Teddington & Hampton (2nd selection)	£5.00
Mike Cleary & Chris Rhys	Twickenham - 100 years of the Five & Six Nations Championship 1910-2010	£8.00
Gillian Clegg	The Chiswick Book, past & present	£10.00
Ruth Cohen	A Nurse at the Front - WWI Diaries of Sister Edith Appleton	£1.00
Susan Cohen	The District Nurse - a Pictorial History (2nd hand)	£12.50
Mona Colabek & Lee Cohen	The Children of Willesden Lane - Beyond the Kindertransport - a Memoir of Music, Love & Survival (2nd hand)	£2.50
Jessie Lobjoit Collins	Key of the Fields	£4.50
Jim Corke	War Memorials in Britain	£4.00
Country Life	Bedford Park (Reproduced from Country Life 1867 & 1975)	£1.00
Anne Daltrop	Charities (2nd hand)	£1.50
Sheelagh Davison	A History of Sunbury Park	£2.00
Victoria Bolt Dennis	Discovering Friendly & Fraternal Societies - their Badges & Regalia (2nd hand)	£4.00
Barbara Denny	Chelsea past (2nd hand - good condition)	£7.50
Barbara Denny	Notting Hill & Holland Park past (2nd hand - good condition)	£7.00
Alton & Jo Douglas	Birmingham at Work (2nd hand)	£3.00
Alton & Jo Douglas	Birmingham in the Fifties (2nd hand)	£4.00



Alton & Jo Douglas	Birmingham - The War Years (2nd hand)	£4.00
Alton & Jo Douglas	Birmingham Shops (2nd hand)	£4.00
Alton Douglas, Gordon Stretch & Clive Hardy	Birmingham at War - A Pictorial Account (2nd hand)	£2.50
Peter Doyle	The Blitz	£4.50
Peter Duckers	The Victoria Cross	£4.00
Peter Duckers	British Gallantry Awards, 1855-2000	£4.00
Peter Duckers	British Campaign Medals	£3.50
Peter Duckers	The Victorian Soldier	£3.30
Peter Duckers	The Victorian Undertaker	£3.50
Peter Duckers	The Victorian School Room	£3.50
Peter Duckers	The Victorian Public School	£4.00
Peter Duckers	British Orders and Decorations	£4.00
David L. Edwards	Lambeth Palace - brochure (2nd hand)	£1.00
Beryl E. Escott	The WAAF	£3.30
Steve Foster & Alan Clark	The Soldier who came back (2nd hand)	£3.00
Mike Galer	Layton's Legacy (Thomas Layton of Brentford & his collection)	£3.80
Anton Gill	Empire's Children (2nd hand)	£4.00
Rupert Godfrey (ed)	Letters from a Prince, March 1918 - Jan 1921 - Edward Prince of Wales to Mrs Freda Dudley Ward (2nd hand)	£4.00
Jim Golland (ed)	Pinner to Paradise	£3.00
Gareth Griffiths & Phil Philo	A Stitch in Time (Clothing in West London 1880-1990)	£3.50
Garth Groombridge	Teddington, Twickenham & the Hamptons past and present	£10.00
Brian Grumbridge	Hounslow - the story of St. Paul's Church, Hounslow Heath	£4.00
Brian Grumbridge	Hounslow - the story of St. Paul's Church (slight damage to front cover)	£2.00

Brian Grumbridge	Isleworth - the story of St. Mary (damaged cover)	£1.50
Brian Grumbridge	Isleworth - the story of St. Mary the Virgin, Worton Road	£3.00
Hammersmith & Fulham Archives	Old Hammersmith in Pictures (2nd hand)	£2.50
Hammersmith & Fulham Historic Buildings Group	Hammersmith- Bradmore House (Brocmore)	£1.00
Carolyn & Peter Hammond	Brentford then and now	£7.50
Carolyn & Peter Hammond	Chiswick then and now	£10.00
Peter & Carolyn Hammond	Life in an 18th Century Country House - Grove Manor, Chiswick (2nd hand)	£5.00
David Hanks	Cheltenham past and present (2nd hand)	£7.00
Ed Harris	Kneller Hall, Looking backward - Looking forward	£5.50
Eileen Harris	Osterley Park	£5.00
M. Hedgcock	Sport in Twickenham	£2.00
Kenneth Y. Heselton	A History of Sunbury Pubs	£1.50
Hounslow & District History Society	Hounslow as it was	£5.00
Hounslow & District History Society	Hounslow as it was (2nd hand)	£1.50
L. B. Hounslow	Bedfont, Feltham & Hanworth	£5.00
L. B. Hounslow	Brentford as it was	£5.00
Ken Howe	Edwardian Teddington - The Journal of Ellen "Nellie" Stocker 1895 - 1991 (2nd hand - good condition)	£3.50
Norah King	The Grimstones of Gorhambury	£2.30
David & Amanda Knights	Acton through time	£12.00
Peter Laslett	The World we have lost (2nd hand)	£1.00

Richard H. Lawrence	Growing up in Sunbury & Shepperton	£4.00
J. M. Lee	The Making of modern Twickenham (2nd hand - good condition)	£2.50
Paul Leslie Line & Adrian Boggett	Maps & Sketches - Birmingham (2nd hand)	£2.50
John Masefield	Sealife in Nelson's time (2nd hand)	£2.00
Mary Mason	Ashford - the Gordon Road Estate	£1.50
Trevor May	Military Barracks	£3.30
Kate McEwan	Ealing Walkabout	£2.50
Daniel McKie	What's in a Surname - A Journey from Abercrombie to Zwicker (2nd hand)	£2.00
R. A. McKinley	A History of British Surnames (2nd hand)	£2.00
Candice Millard	Hero of the Empire - The Boer War - A daring escape & the making of Winston Churchill (2nd hand)	£4.00
D. Moore	Notting Hill - a brief history & modern photographs	£7.00
Gillian Morris	Isleworth - The Blue School	£2.00
National Trust	Care of Clothes - in History (2nd hand)	£1.00
John S. Payne	A Faithful Servant indeed! (The story of an Acton housekeeper)	£3.00
Geoffrey Payton, (revised by John Paxton)	Dictionary of Proper Names (2nd hand)	£1.00
Ken Pearce	Cowley through time	£10.00
K. R. Pearce	Uxbridge from old photographs	£12.00
Robert Pols	Victorians in Camera - The World of 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Studio Photography (2nd hand)	£5.00
Paul Rabbitts	London's Royal Parks	£12.00
C. W. Radcliffe	Middlesex - The Jubilee of the County (2nd hand)	£5.00
Daphne Rance	The Yeoman of Ippolyts - a Country Parish before 1800 in Herts (2nd hand)	£2.50

Norman Reeves	The Leon Valley, Herefordshire (2nd hand)	£2.00
John Richardson	The Local Historians Encyclopedia - 3rd edition 2003 - (2nd hand)	£10.00
John Sheaf & Ken Howe	Hampton & Teddington past (2nd hand - good condition)	£5.50
Philip Sherwood	Around Hayes & West Drayton - Transport & Industry	£8.00
Philip Sherwood	Around Hayes through time	£10.00
Philip Sherwood	Hayes & West Drayton (3rd edition)	£7.00
Philip Sherwood	Around Heathrow through time	£10.00
Philip Sherwood (ed)	The Villages of Harmondsworth (Harmondsworth, Heathrow, Longford & Sipson)	£3.50
Donald Simpson	Twickenham past (2nd hand - good condition)	£7.50
James Skinner	Growing up in Uxbridge	£10.50
James Skinner	West Drayton & Yiewsley	£10.50
Thomas & Averil Harper Smith	Acton in old photographs	£5.00
Carolyn Starren	The Kensington Book	£10.00
Bruce Stevenson	Middlesex (2nd hand - ex Library)	£1.00
Neil R Storey & Molly Housego	Women in WWII	£4.50
Iain Swinnerton	Identifying your WWI Soldier from Badges & Photographs	£4.00
Daniele Sybulskie	Life in Medieval Europe - Fact & Fiction (2nd hand)	£6.00
The Teddington Society	Teddington as it was (2nd hand)	£2.50
Geoff Thomason	Family Business (A History of the Middlesex Chronicle)	£4.00
Paul Thompson & Gina Harkell	The Edwardians in Photographs (2nd hand)	£3.00
Nan Trimble	The Royal Manor of Kempton	£3.50

Harry Turner	Growing up in Fulham (2nd hand)	£4.00
Brian Twigg (ed)	A Passage through time in a Warwickshire Parish (2nd hand)	£2.00
Mark Wallington	The Autobiography (2nd hand)	£2.50
James Walvin	Victorian Values (2nd hand)	£2.00
Simon Webb	Kensington & Chelsea - Not a guide to	£3.50
Diana Willment	Sir Montague Sharpe (forgotten man of Middlesex)	£1.00
Jessie Millar Wilson	Aunt J. - Wartime memories of a Lady YMCA Volunteer in France 1915-1918	£2.50
	Hampton Court - The story of a village	£5.00
	Historic Birmingham (2nd hand booklet)	£0.50
	A History of Uxbridge (Extracts from an 1818 Publication - 2nd hand)	£2.50
	Syon Park (2nd hand - good condition)	£2.00
	London Buses - a brief history	£3.50
	The Private Life of the Tudors (2nd hand)	£1.00
	When Peace Broke Out - Britain 1945 (2nd hand)	£3.50

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## The Victorian lady and the Bounder Yvonne Masson

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For some time I have been assisting Roland Bostock in the recording, on behalf of this Society, of gravestone inscriptions in churchyards and cemeteries in the West Middlesex area. The legibility of the gravestones varies from good to impossible, and we encountered a particularly difficult one in Hounslow Cemetery. The name and details of the main person on the stone were clear; but below this was another person whose first name, **Harriet**, was clear but whose surname was very difficult to decipher. We came to the conclusion that this was because the name had been altered (re-carved over the top of the original name) at some stage, presumably because of an error. The death date for this individual seemed to be in March 1887, the same date as the main person on the stone. On investigating various "Harriets" who had died in the Registration District of Brentford, Roland at first thought that the one on this stone might be one **Harriet Fourdrinier**. This turned out to be incorrect, but our original research into **Harriet Fourdrinier** revealed an interesting character.

According to several articles in Victorian-era newspapers, **Harriet Fourdrinier**, who was a cousin of **Cardinal John Henry Newman**, had made quite a name for herself as the authoress of two well-received books. "*Hints for Happy Hours, or Amusement for All*" (1851) giving suggestions for games and amusements for family get-togethers. The *Morning Advertiser* comments: "The fair authoress must be a pleasant companion ... there is a healthful, joyous, cheerful tone which her wit and vivacity must enhance" <sup>1</sup>. In 1852 she produced "*Our New Parish, its Privileges and Progress*", "a collection of moral tales, remarkable throughout for a deep religious feeling and a homely eloquence, at once pathetic and powerful" <sup>2</sup>. This book also contained a loving eulogy to Harriet's father<sup>3</sup>.

**Harriet** was born in 1805 and baptised on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1805 at St Luke, City of London. Her parents were **Henry** and **Sarah Fourdrinier**. **Henry**, descended from "an ancient family" of France, which they had left because of religious persecution, was born in **Lombard Street, City of London**, in 1766, the son of a paper maker and wholesale stationer, into which profession he followed his father.

Around 1800 **Henry** and his brother developed and patented a revolutionary papermaking machine designed to replace the process of making paper by hand. It seems to have been a great international success and should have made them a fortune. However, a lack of capital to defend the patent resulted in its being “grossly pirated”, and in 1810 the brothers became bankrupt. A change of fortune should have ensued in 1814, when the **Tsar Alexander** , through an agent, purchased the right to use the machine in the



Imperial paper mills at **Peterhoff** for £700 a year for 10 years. **Henry's** son went to **Russia** to supervise the installation. But the promised “rental” was never paid, despite **Henry's** repeated applications via the Russian Consul, and even writing personally to the Tsar. But he was nothing if not persistent. At the age of 75, accompanied by his daughter **Harriet**, he went to St Petersburg with a petition, which passed through various hands (including a certain “**Prince Wolkonski**”), but he was told to apply to the relevant agent for

payment. He enlisted the aid of the English Ambassador, who pleaded unsuccessfully on his behalf. **Henry** even accosted the **Tsar (Nicholas I)** himself while he was walking in the Imperial Gardens, but still to no avail. Finally **Henry** and his daughter returned home, their mission a failure. However, during a debate in the House of Commons in 1839, evidence from none other than “**Mr Brunel**” and **Mr Lawson**, printer of *The Times* newspaper, was presented “to prove that the machine of the **Fourdriniers** was one of the most splendid discoveries of the present age. An increase in revenue was stated to have been £500,000 a year, and the saving to the country effected by it, £8m”. In 1840 the sum of £7,000 was voted by Parliament to **Messrs Fourdrinier** as some compensation for their loss by the defective state of the Law on Patents. As this was considered by some inadequate, some influential firms of the paper trade proposed to raise a sum sufficient to purchase annuities for **Henry** and his two unmarried daughters. **Henry** died in his 89<sup>th</sup> year at **Mavesyn Ridware, Staffordshire**, where he had retired to a “humble cottage”. The 1851 census for **Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent**, states him to be a Widower, aged 84, and “Independent”. His daughters **Harriet** (stated to be 35 - should be 45!) and **Mary Ann**, 30, are also there,

together with a granddaughter and grandson of **Henry** <sup>4</sup>.

The Russian trip forms the background to an unfortunate episode in **Harriet's** life a few years later. In 1857 *The Dublin Evening Mail* states that on 21<sup>st</sup> December Miss **Harriet Fourdrinier** appeared as a witness for the defence in an action at the Court of Exchequer to recover £100 of money loaned by a **Mary Jones** to a Polish gentleman <sup>4</sup>. The *Belfast Newsletter* of that month made some cynical comments about the case <sup>5</sup>. *"Ladies about to marry distinguished foreigners without too much knowledge of their character and previous history would do well to read all about **Count de Wozkowski** and the **Hon. Mary Jones**. The mania for interesting refugees with melancholy faces ..... is somewhat on the decline, but time was when it was sufficient for a refugee ... to proclaim he was a Count, a Duke, or a Prince, and straightway the hearts of all the young ladies for ten miles round glowed with a noble ardour to pour balm upon the wounded spirit of the banished lord, ..... This kind of thing ... constitutes irresistible claims to the favour and goodwill of the fair sex, and distinguished foreigners can draw upon their imaginations for their misfortunes and titles."* The newspaper adds that the end of such affairs generally is that the "Count" runs off with something belonging to the lady,



or borrows money, which it would be monstrous to ask him to return.

*"Miss Jones"* however seems to have been made of sterner stuff. She was the **Hon. Mary Matilda Jones**, a wealthy unmarried lady of 42 and sister to **Lord Ranelagh** who resided in an apartment at **74 Ebury Street, Pimlico**. In the same house was living a "noble Pole", **Charles Frederick Augustus Wozkowski**, 28 years old, styling himself **Count de Wozkowski**, the son of Prince

**Vichenstein** and claiming to be a professor of science and languages. He had previously been "engaged" to several other wealthy ladies. In one case he got £300 for the return of the lady's letters while his relationship with a Miss **Chadwick** was brought to a premature conclusion by her father when the



Count tried to borrow £50. At **Ebury Street** he had proposed to the landlady's elder daughter, then to her younger sister, but had been refused. He then, via her maid, showered **Miss Jones** with bouquets and letters. **Miss Jones** at first found this a nuisance, but intending to remonstrate with the Count, fell for him instead! He had only to rave about his misfortunes, exile, his noble father, his succession to £40,000 a year when said father was gathered to his ancestors (not mentioning that his father was in fact already deceased). They became engaged. But apparently **Miss Jones** did not think **Wozkowski's** clothes were up to the mark and, as he was very hard-up and had pawned his watch and chain, lent him £100 for a wedding suit and other items. The *Dublin Evening Mail* tells us that **Miss Harriet Elizabeth Fourdrinier** told the court she was acquainted with some members of the defendant's family when she was in **Russia**, and had known him ever since he came to this country. She took great interest in him and made great efforts on his behalf, such as soliciting a situation for him from Lord **Harrowby**, a friend of her father's. **Wozkowski** had introduced her to the plaintiff [**Miss Jones**] by her particular request - on one occasion **Miss Jones** told her of her approaching marriage and said "I love him very much, and I suppose you have heard of my liberality to him some weeks ago, when I made him a present of £100". In effect **Harriet** was claiming that the money was not a loan. She further said she had written to many persons in the interests of the defendant but without success, but she denied having been "referred to the **Mendicity Society**. This charity helped beggars by finding them work and supplying meals but also investigated "professional" beggars, imposters and begging letters. The mention of this organisation in court shows how much **Harriet's** involvement with **Wozkowski** must have put her reputation on the line. She said that in writing to perhaps 50 people asking for a loan of money, and "offering to become jointly liable to a note", she had received the most kind, respectful and gentlemanly answers. However during a visit to Lord **Harrowby's** residence in Staffordshire "when he took her on his own arm into luncheon", he showed her a letter which he had received from the **Polish Association** which apparently stated **Wozkowski** was an imposter, and therefore refused to give money to him. Harriet declared she had no personal interest in the applications for assistance to the defendant. The defendant had acted to her as a brother, had carried her father up and downstairs, and closed his eyes in death. She was activated by feelings of

gratitude to him. Another witness, **Henry Davis**, said **Woszkowski** had tried to borrow £100 from him to repay **Miss Jones** after she had ended the engagement (certain enquiries having been made, and on certain facts coming to the lady's knowledge). He refused to lend the money, but **Woszkowski** came again, this time with **Miss Harriet Fourdrinier**, who offered to become security for him, but he again refused. **Davis** also stated that **Woszkowski** had "gone by other names besides the present one". Another fact which particularly shocked the newspapers was **Woszkowski's** "impudent" counter-plea for a reduction in the amount to be paid back to **Miss Jones**. He produced a list of items bought with the £100: £10 paid to **Messrs Nicoll**, tailors, for wedding clothes; £27 to **Messrs Davis & Son** for other clothes; £15.10s for a guitar; £21 paid to a pawnbroker to redeem his watch and chain; £2.2s for wedding cake; 14s for a wedding ring; 5s paid for a photographic likeness of himself. The complete list amounted to £91 [which would have left **Miss Jones** with £9!]. It was suggested (provoking laughter in court) that the Count was determined that if his image did not live forever in her heart, at least she should have it on paper. **Woszkowski** stated to the court that immediately on his coming to **74 Ebury Street**, **Miss Jones** had "sought an introduction at the foot of the stairs, through the eldest daughter of the landlady". The story of his giving bouquets was an invention and he had never claimed to be a Count. After their becoming engaged, he told **Miss Jones** he could not afford the nuptial expenses as he had been getting his living by teaching. She pressed him to accept £100, and they went to **Drummonds** bank. All the items in the reduction were paid at the lady's request. **Mr Davis** had told him that by law he did not owe her anything; she knew when she lent the money that he could never repay it. He and **Miss Fourdrinier** had not written begging letters. He got money from pupils in Staffordshire, where he had the best lady pupils, but he had never been back since receiving £300 from **Mrs Swinfen**. He had "done away" with the guitar and refused to say what he had done with it. The wedding cake was still in existence, and he would like to treat the learned counsel to a little of it. He alleged that **Miss Jones'** solicitors did not make enquiries of the Polish Association and that she broke off the engagement because he would not settle all his money upon her [i.e. she wanted a marriage settlement!]. He had never represented himself as a son of **Prince Vichenstein** nor had he claimed a picture of **Prince Vichenstein's** residence in an almanac as his

father's place. After the Judge's summing-up, the Jury immediately found for the plaintiff **Miss Jones**, a result which was received with applause.

One wonders why **Harriet** so staunchly supported and defended the bogus Count. Could it be that she had also been influenced by his charming manner, perhaps even becoming somewhat besotted with him. Was this why, according to the 1851 census, she had taken 10 years off her age? Was it she who had invited him to come to England in the first place? In 1856, when he was paying court to **Miss Jones**, **Harriet** would have been 51. If she had met him in **Russia**, presumably in c1842, he would have been 14 and she 37, so, perhaps maternal feelings came into it. No doubt if he had indeed helped her with her dying father in Staffordshire, she had reason to be grateful to him. She might have had second thoughts after what was revealed in court! In 1861 the *Illustrated London News* reports that **Harriet** and her sister had been voted £100 from the Civil List [apparently a one-off payment] in recognition of their father's great contribution of his papermaking machine, and because his daughters were destitute. In the 1861 census, Harriet is living alone in lodgings in **Fulham** <sup>7</sup> I could not find her in 1871. She appears in the General Register Office death index as dying at Brentford in the last quarter of 1878, but she was buried at **Nunhead Cemetery**, not **Hounslow** <sup>8</sup>. All the above has been gleaned from a single (originally mistaken) name on one gravestone!

### **Sources:**

1. *Morning Advertiser*
  2. *Morning Herald*
  3. *Illustrated London News*
  4. *1851 Census*
  5. *Dublin Evening Mail* 25<sup>th</sup> December 1857
  6. *Belfast Newsletter* 26<sup>th</sup> December 1857
  7. *1861 Census*;
  8. *General Register Office Death Index*
- Family Search website*  
*Wikipedia*

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## West Middlesex Family History Matters

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A warm welcome to our new members! The lists below shows the names of our newest members.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Membership Number</b>	<b>Address/Location</b>
Moira Corke	C290	
David Lewing	L125	
Beverley Waukey	W269	

### 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!

#### **Invitation to our Christmas Party!**

This year's Christmas Party will be a hybrid event and we hope as many of you as possible will join in – either in person or remotely. Mince pies and mulled wine do not transmit well via Zoom but we have great hopes for the festive cheer

This year, we would like you to bring along family traditions or recipes or stories. Perhaps bring along an object that brings to life family memories for you? If you want to do this, please contact Kirsty, our Chairman – email on the inside cover.

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## Members' Discounts

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### 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](http://www.forces-war-records.co.uk) and going to their Login/Register page. The discount code is \*\*\*\*\*

## PASSWORDS

Oct-Dec 2022	*****
Jan-Mar 2023	*****

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## The Caswill Family (continued): Otterhampton to Melbourne: Albert Henry Caswill, 1876-1937. Chris Caswill

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**Albert Henry Caswill** was born in the small village of **Otterhampton**, near the **River Parrett** in **North Somerset**, on 29 October 1876. He was the son of **Henry Robert Caswill** and his wife **Anna** (sometimes **Hannah**).

The **Caswills** had several connections to **Otterhampton**. **Albert** may have been a direct descendant of **John Caswill**, who married **Jane Leave** there on 10 March 1744. **Albert**'s great uncle **Henry Pinn Caswill** worked there as an agricultural labourer in the early 1840's and two of his children, **Edwin** and **Thomas** were born there in 1840 and 1842 respectively. **Albert**'s mother **Anna** also spent her youth in **Otterhampton**, with her parents **Elizabeth** and **James Bowman**, who was a farmer. **Albert**'s parents named their house (in **Beaumont Road, Chiswick, West London**) **Otterhampton Cottage**. In his late 50s **Albert**'s father **Henry**, still found time to visit his widowed mother in law **Elizabeth** in **Otterhampton**. It is only a few miles from there to **Stockland Bristol**, where **Henry** grew up with his father **John Pinn Caswill**, and mother **Sophia**, and where they were living in 1876. **Henry** married **Anna** in **Edmonton, London**, in 1875. In 1881 their son **Albert** was living in **Stockland Bristol** with his grandmother and some of his uncles. His grandfather had just died and his parents were by then back in **London**. The family frequently travelled between London and Somerset. **Albert**'s brother **Arthur Robert** was born in **London** in 1878 but his sister **Annie** was baptised in **Otterhampton** in 1883.

By the 1890s **Albert**'s whole family were living at **Otterhampton Cottage, 56 Beaumont Road, Chiswick**. His mother **Anna** died there in 1893, aged only 46, leaving **Henry**, a carpenter and joiner, with five children to look after. **Albert** was the oldest, aged 17 at the time. He followed his father into the carpentry trade, and no doubt helped his father with looking after his younger siblings **Arthur Robert**, b. 1878; **Constance Emma**, b. 1880; **Annie Elizabeth**, b. 1883; **Beatrice Mary**, b. 1885 and **Ernest James**, b. 1888. **Albert** was a regular football player, playing regularly for **Albion Alliance** as an inside forward, in 1896. The local papers carried many reports of the games.

At the end of 1898 **Albert** married Annie **Sophia Schleider**, the daughter of a baker, **Jacob**, who had emigrated from **Germany**. They had three daughters, **Annie Elizabeth** b 1899; **Ada Sophia** b. 1904; and **Elsie Constance** b. 1907. In 1899, he joined the **Chiswick** branch of the **Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners**, of which his father was already a member. In the 1901 Census, he and **Annie** and their eldest daughter were living at 20 **Rothschild Villas, Rothschild Road**, in **Acton** with a widow **Sophia Carter** and her son. He was still working as a carpenter. His younger cousin **Arthur Edward Caswill**, son of his uncle **Walter**, later married **Elsie Byrt Bishop**. In 1901 **Elsie** and her family were living in **Belmont Villa**, on the corner of **Rothschild Road** and **Cunnington Street**. **Arthur** and **Elsie** later moved to 55 **Rothschild Road**.

His father **Henry Robert** had become a publican in **Uxbridge** and died there in 1909. **Albert** ('Bert' to his relatives) was present at his well-reported funeral, along with many of his **Caswill** relatives – his brothers and sisters, uncle **Walter** and cousins **Percy Walter**, **Arthur Edward** and **Harry Augustus**. Among other things **Albert** inherited his father's carpenter's tools. By 1911 he and his family had moved to **100 Rothschild Road** and he was working for the **Acton Urban District Council** as a carpenter and much involved with the **Acton Men's Adult School**.

**Albert** must have been dissatisfied with his job or London at the time because he and his family embarked for **Australia** in October 1912. He took with him a letter of recommendation from the Chairman of the Adult School. His brother **Ernest** and family had left for **Canada** in April so the **Caswills** were looking for better things overseas. **Albert** wrote a letter back to the Adult School and they published it in the Middlesex County Times in March 1913. It gives fascinating insights into his journey and arrival in **Melbourne**, and Christmas 'down under'. Carpenters were in short supply. He found a job straightaway and rented what sounded like a nice house in the suburb of **Upper Northcote, Melbourne**.

He returned to England for WW1 and worked in munitions. His return to Australia in July 1919 was on the *SS Bahia Castillo*, a transport for 'Australian munitions workers returning to Australia without dependents'. The Australian Munitions Workers Scheme had started in 1916, recruiting skilled volunteers to work in British war industries. The scheme paid travel, special allowances and repatriation. Married men had further allowances, paid to their families.

We know little about Albert's life in Australia after that. When he died in **Austin Hospital, Heidelberg, Preston, Melbourne**, his occupation was given as shopfitter. He died on 29 April 1937, aged 60. His widow Annie survived him by 28 years, dying in 1965, aged 87. She was then living at **2 Edwin Street, South Preston, Melbourne**.

In the meantime, their daughter **Annie Elizabeth** had married **John Rainbow** in **Victoria** in 1922. In 1927, age 23, **Ada Sophia** married another **Rainbow, (Harry)** also in **Victoria**. She died a widow in September 1994 in **Reservoir**, a suburb of **Preston**. **Elsie Constance Caswill** married **Percival Naughton** in the **Victoria** area in 1933. The **Preston** suburb is where Albert and family seem to have set down their roots.

As yet no **Rainbow** and **Naughton** descendants have been traced.





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## Family History Events and Fairs

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Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September was a momentous day for us.

It was our first face-to-face Family History Fair since March 2020 and we loved every minute of it.

The event was organised by the Family History Show and was held at Kempton Park. From the word go, fortune smiled upon us. The weather was fine, if a little breezy, and we had a lot of visitors to our stall. The Book Stall did particularly well.

Their next outing will be an online Family History Show on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023. It will run from 10am to 4pm and tickets are £7. Along with your ticket purchase you get a free copy of the next issue of **Discover Your Ancestors** (delivery charge - £2 UK). Promised contents are articles on: Downton Abbey, Charles Dickens' 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, DNA and the real world of Peaky Blinders and the Krays.

If you are getting the bug for online events, you don't have to wait for a full-on show. The Family History Federation run a Really Useful Podcast, introduced by Joe Saunders.



**Really Useful Podcast**

A new series of podcasts, introduced by Joe Saunders, discussing various family history research topics.

Now available - **Series 2 Episode 1: Beginning Your Family History**

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## Indexes held by members

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

### **WEST MIDDLESEX FHS INDEXES**

*Roland Bostock, [bostocr@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto: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.

### **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.

*Ms. Carol Sweetland, 36 Diamedes Avenue, Stanwell, Staines, TW19 7JB.*

*[carol.sweetland@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:paulbarnfield@hotmail.co.uk)*

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

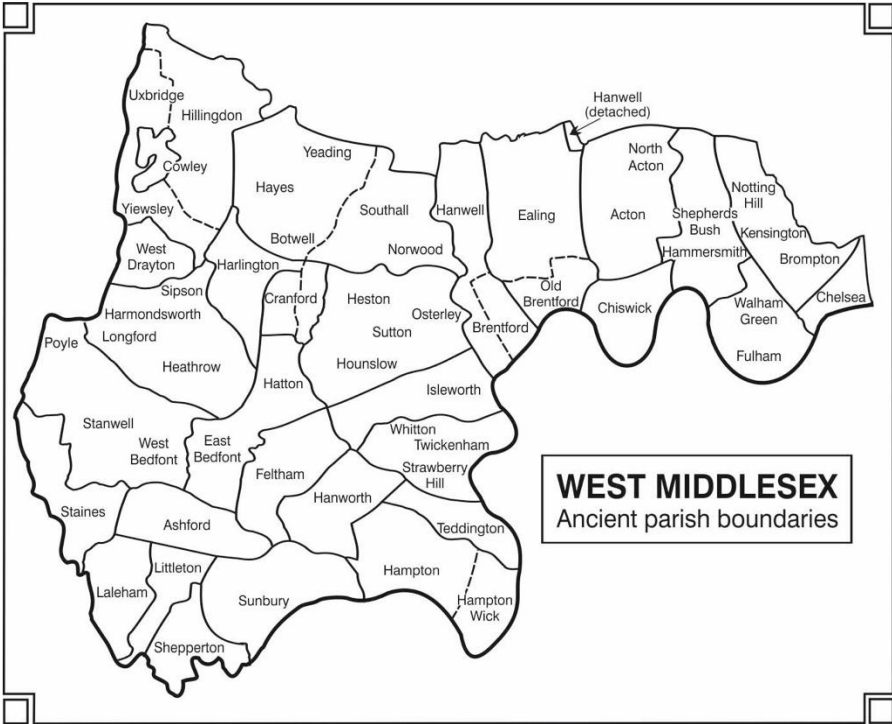
## Front Cover

*Image:* **Southall Manor House.**

Southall Manor House is a Grade Two listed building, one of the few surviving Elizabethan manor houses in the country. It was built around 1587 for Richard Awsiter, a member of the family who were lords of the manor of Norwood. The Awsiters owned Southall Manor House until 1754 when it was sold to the Child family of Osterley.

Over the intervening centuries it has been so extensively altered and added to that little of the original structure remains. The Manor House has undergone substantial repairs and renovation since 2012 and in 2022, its future use is under discussion.

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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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