



# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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If you wish to contact any of the above people, please use the postal or email address shown. In all correspondence please mark your envelope WMFHS in the upper left-hand corner; if a reply is needed, a SAE must be enclosed. Members are asked to note that receipts are only sent by request, if return postage is included.

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All articles and other items for the Journal should be sent to: Mrs Ann Greene 39 Broughton Avenue Richmond Surrey TW10 7UG	Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to: Mrs. Margaret Cunnew 25 Selkirk Road Twickenham Middlesex, TW2 6PS
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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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## Rob Purr (1931-2022)

Bridget Purr

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Rob, an only child, was proud to call himself a Londoner and as he was born at home in North Hammersmith, he was also a native of West Middlesex. The War had a significant affect upon the small family; his father, a member of the Home Guard, manned an anti-aircraft gun on the Little Scrubs. It was this period no doubt that sowed the seeds of his lifelong passion for aviation, particularly the aircraft of WW2 and those who flew in them and he remembered standing at his bedroom window watching a doodlebug flying past.

He was educated at St. Clement Dane's School in Ducane Road and often remarked that the school supplied inmates to the other two establishments along the road: Hammersmith Hospital and Wormwood Scrubs Prison! He represented his school as wicket keeper for the cricket team and ultimately became Head Boy. After taking his Highers he went on to the London School of Economics, where he gained an Economics Degree. He then did his National Service and of course elected to join the RAF. Due to his poor eyesight he was unable to fulfil his ambition to become a pilot, but served in the Education Department, stationed at Warrington. It was here that he experienced the social life that he felt he had missed at University, still living at home and commuting each day into central London. The recruits to the Education Section were all recent graduates, like himself; there was also a hospital on site, staffed by recently qualified doctors and, of course, plenty of nurses. He enjoyed his time in the RAF.

His first employment was at Heathrow in the Headquarters of the British Overseas Airways Corporation, the forerunner of BA, and here he was able to join the BOAC Flying Club and achieve his ambition to become a pilot by gaining his Private Pilot's Licence and I think he regarded this as his greatest achievement and his times flying alone in his Chipmunk aeroplane were some of the most memorable of his life.

Married in 1960, we moved to Twickenham and subsequently to Hampton where we settled with our three children. He left BOAC and joined Esso Petroleum. He was a member of the Hampton Methodist Church and

became a Society Steward and then a Circuit Steward. He was a Parent Governor of Hampton Junior School and then joined the Board of Management of the Richmond-upon-Thames Churches Housing Trust, an association he enjoyed until we moved away from Hampton in 2006, thus becoming the longest serving member on that Board. He continued his interest in social housing for the rest of his life.

It was not until he retired that we both became seriously involved in family history. Having an unusual surname he did some research of the 1851 Census in Somerset House, following on the work initiated by an uncle in the 1930s, who employed a professional genealogist to discover records of anyone with the surname PURR. In 1994 we attended the Society of Genealogists' Family History Fair in the Horticultural Halls in central London. We purchased the *Oxford Guide to Family History* by David Hey, and found the West Middlesex Stall – later that year we attended our first meeting and rarely missed a meeting until Rob's health deteriorated around 2019. He became Chairman in 2002 and we were amazed to become Joint Presidents in 2016.

Being a Londoner his ancestry fanned out to many parts of England (and as one Grandmother was a DUNCAN, presumably to Scotland, although that was way back and he never found the link). We enjoyed exploring the various towns where his forebears had lived and visiting the County Record Offices i.e. Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Bedfordshire, the City of London, Hampshire, Bristol, Devon and Cornwall.

He enjoyed family life with our three children, taught them to use tools and do DIY and our daughter remembered lying beneath the car, when around six years old, learning how to drain the oil! When our youngest granddaughter reminisced at the funeral about the memories of her grandfather, she related that when she and her older sister stayed with us, after they had gone to bed Grandad would creep upstairs and give them a Kit-Kat, "Don't tell Granny", he said, and they didn't, even taking the packaging home with them. A secret well-kept for over 18 years!

After he retired we enjoyed travelling, visiting many countries and in particular his cousins in Australia. We continued with our canal boat holidays and exploring the Norfolk Broads and with English cousins took many City Breaks both in the UK and Europe. By this time Rob's family history interest

focussed on those who had died in WWII and over many visits to TNA discovering what had happened to them.  
A life well lived.

The following poem '*High Flight*' by John Gillespie Magee Jr was read at Rob's funeral.

“Oh I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds, - and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air  
  
Up, up the long delirious burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew –  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand and touched the face of God”

*(Copyright: This poem is in the public domain)*

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

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The following talks have been arranged:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
March 16 <sup>th</sup> 2023.  Hybrid meeting. Speaker will be present at St John's.	<b>The Annual General Meeting</b> Followed by <b><u>Sidelights on the Workhouse</u></b>  Some of the lesser-known elements of the workhouse system. Bickering in the Guardians boardroom, confusion over entitlements to poor relief, the life of a workhouse governor and the not-so-downtrodden inmates.	       Ann Greene
April 20 <sup>th</sup> 2023. Hybrid meeting. Speaker will be on Zoom.	<b><u>My Average Ancestor.</u></b>  During a lifetime most people, whatever they do, will have left a large number of records (probably at least 100). In this talk Ian explains where those records might be found and what they may tell us.	       Ian Waller
18 May 2023 Hybrid meeting. Speaker will be at St. John's	<b><u>The 1841 Brentford Flood.</u></b>  Val's talk covers how the Brentford community coped with the devastation following the Brentford Flood of 1841, helping those made homeless and removing wrecks to enable the reopening of the waterway.	       Val Bott

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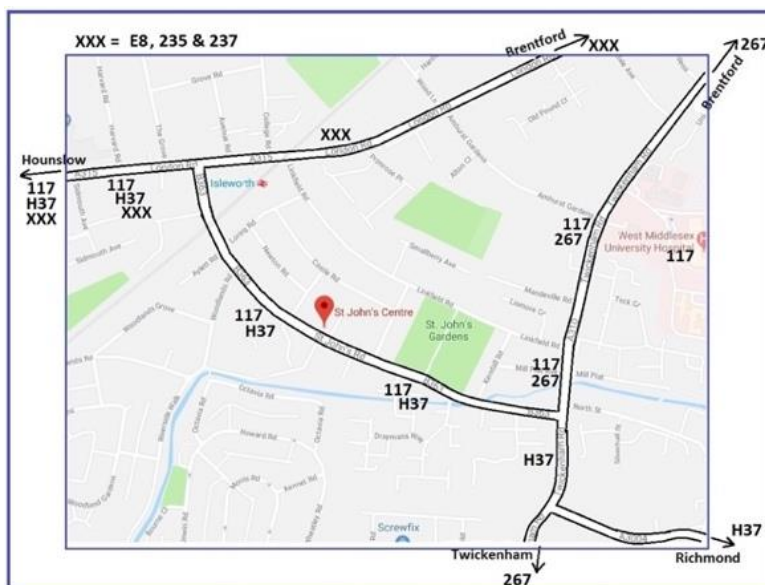
## When, where and how do we meet?

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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.

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.

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 along Twickenham Road from West Middlesex Hospital.





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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

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## Contributions and Advertisements

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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](mailto: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:

15<sup>th</sup> January, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 15<sup>th</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## Would you like help with your family history?

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Have you ever thought how nice it would be to have a West Middlesex expert to help you break down your brick walls?

While we no longer hold our face-to-face “surgeries”, we do still offer family history advice and help.

You can email us at [advice@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk](mailto:advice@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk) with your query and give us an idea of what you want to achieve.

Or if you prefer to make an enquiry by post, you can write to the Secretary (address on the inside cover of this Journal).

Other members may be able to help with your query. Putting your enquiry in the Journal may help, please contact us if you would like to do this.

Replies can be directed to you through the advice email (see above) if you do not want your contact details published.

**Please note:** we do **not** offer a genealogical research service.

If you would like to use the services of a paid genealogical research agent, the best place to start is the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives ([www.agra.org.uk](http://www.agra.org.uk)). They have a list of people who are trained and accredited and will help you interpret their findings.

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

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### Pursuing surnames

*Julie Goucher*

*November*

Julie began by discussing the importance of surnames. Surnames are reflective of history and linking to community. As they have been traditionally inherited from the paternal line, they can indicate whether someone is from “our” people. Even though an illegitimate child will bear its mother’s surname, the presence of a middle name may indicate the possible identity of the father and so link to that family.

Why do we bother studying surnames? There are myriad reasons. They may help with a brick wall; there may be family tales that inspire curiosity; the geographical distribution of a surname sparks questions about migration; there may be an interest in the different spellings of surnames – are they connected?

### Types of surname.

Patronymics, diminutives, nicknames, occupations, ethnic linkings.

Patronymic surnames clearly indicate the father’s name e.g. **Erickson**, the son of Eric while matronymic surnames reference the maternal line, **Megson**, son of Meg or Margaret. Surnames ending in “kin” are diminutives, while other surnames allude to a geographical location, an occupation, an official position or a person’s appearance or nickname (Redhead).

A nickname based on an accent or origin may give rise to a surname and indicate the migration of an individual e.g. Geordie denotes someone from the North-East of England – the son of someone nicknamed Geordie could acquire the surname **Jordison**.

The surname **Lee** (or **Lea** or **Leigh**) has a topographic origin but is also a name frequently found in Gipsy and Traveller families. To confuse matters further, there is also the name **Li** which is one of the most common surnames in the Far East – there are 93 million **Li’s** in China alone.

The surname **Wardrobe** has its origins in the North of England, Scotland and the Normans. An occupational surname, it means the official who was the Keeper of the Wardrobe for a nobleman.

There is always the danger of assuming that all countries share the same naming patterns. In Germany or Scandinavia, you may encounter instances where people are known by a name that reflects their family landholding – men might change their surnames to match the estate or farm of their in-laws. And while women tended to change their surname to that of their husband when they married, they might, on migration, revert to their maiden name and possibly even alternate between the two surnames.

Julie then told us about the Sorbs – a very specific group who inhabited the area of Germany that bordered on Western Poland and Northern Czechoslovakia. They clung tenaciously to their own culture, identity and surnames in the face of attempts to assimilate them into Germany. Many migrated in the 1850s in search of economic opportunity and religious freedom, and tended to gather in **Texas** and **Southern Australia**. They still retain their cultural identity and their surnames. The ending 'ue' is traditional for Sorb names. Julie's own ancestry contains a **South Australian** family named **Nowak** – a Sorb name meaning **Newman**.

Migration could also mean a change of surname. Contrary to popular myth, immigrants arriving at Ellis Island did not have their names deliberately changed by officials. However, misspellings and mishearings may have crept into the records and in some cases an English translation of their name might have occurred.

### Naming patterns

Among the different naming patterns, Iceland stands out. Inherited Icelandic surnames are relatively scarce – only about 10% of the population. Instead, a child has a given name and a last name that is a combination of the father's given name plus the suffix 'son' or 'dottir'. **Magnus Magnusson** is '**Magnus the son of Magnus**'. Inherited surnames are only recognised if they can be proven to exist before 1925. Farm-names or landholding names are used to identify different individuals. **Denmark, Sweden** and **Norway** had similar patterns but, probably as a result of having been ruled by other countries for many years, rationalised them earlier. Hereditary surnames became mandatory in 1828 for **Denmark**, 1801 for **Sweden** and 1923 for **Norway**. Italian families can bring their own problems. As with other cultures, surnames are occupational – **Contadino** indicates a farmer, **Panetiere** a baker and so on - but the strong family-oriented culture leads to a tradition of

using certain family names on a regular basis with the result that several individuals may have identical names.

Spanish surnames traditionally included both parents' surnames, with the father's surname coming first and the mother's last e.g **Garcia y Rodriguez**. This was helpful for family historians, but the passing of the 1999 gender equality act now brings potential chaos as some couples may choose to have the mother's name first and the father's last.

In Portugal, naming patterns are also strongly linked to families; Portuguese surnames can include up to four surnames to honour particular families in the lineage. There is not always a strict order of precedence and this can result in siblings having a variation of surnames.

### Surname Project

When starting a surname project, you should begin by thinking about how big your project may be. To estimate this, Julie suggested entering your chosen surname in Ancestry or FindmyPast. If your name appears in the top 100, you may want to choose another surname or see if there is a group researching that name who can help with your research.

Are all your ancestors in one place? The website **Forebears** includes maps showing the distribution of your chosen surname.

As well as looking at distribution it is important to consider potential variations in spelling, Julie mentioned some of the variants she has found for her own family. **Orlando** appears as **Orlanda**, **Orlande** and even **Urlando**, while **Butcher** can be **Butchers** and **Bucher**. She stressed here that it is important to differentiate between variants (different versions of the same name) and deviants which are really typographic errors or mistranscriptions. In Julie's case, she is still not sure whether **Urlando** is a deviant or a variant.

### Clans, Septs and Tartans.

These bring their own complications. The sept is a division of a major clan and links various families of differing surname under the protective umbrella of the clan. The clan offered protection to smaller family groups. The clan **Buchanan** has over fifty affiliated families.

### Slavery

For people researching the history of their enslaved ancestors, there are a different set of problems. They would originally have been given the name of

their owner or a place where they were set to work. After emancipation however, they might well have changed their surname. A name they liked better, the name of someone who had helped them, the name of a place they remembered or loved. And they may have adopted further changes of surname as time went on. A very different notion of "surname".

## Show and Tell

*Various members*

*December*



"I've never seen anything like it..." said Dr Dolittle, and neither had we when the normally civil Roland Bostock opened our December 'Show and Tell' meeting by turning his back on us. Of course, he wasn't really being rude, he was just showing us his bomber jacket inscribed "Bostocks Hamburger Grill & Bar". Some 20 years ago Roland had entered

into email correspondence with a **George Bostock** of **South Carolina**, who turned out to be no relation. **George** had an autobiography of his father, **Mark Bostock** which he sent page by page to Roland - all 150 pages of it. Then, out of the blue, Roland received a parcel containing a rather bright green jacket, which is what he was wearing to the meeting. There haven't been many occasions when Roland could wear it, but this evening was the perfect excuse. **George's** son, also **George**, runs a hamburger grill and bar in **Stephenville, Texas**, and we can assume that the waiters at this bar wear such jackets.

**George's** generosity did not end with the jacket - a few weeks later Roland received another gift from **George**. This time it was a **South Carolina** number plate for the year 1991 which simply reads '**BOSTOCK**'. Not allowed over here, of course, but quite OK in **South Carolina**.

Next to Show and Tell was John Seaman with a book which had belonged to his great grandfather **Isaac**. The book was *The Voyage of the 'Fox' in the Arctic Seas. A narrative of the discovery of the fate of Sir John Franklin and his companions'* by **Captain M'Clintock** and had been presented to **Isaac** on 29 April 1861 for General Proficiency by the Department of Evening Classes at King's College London. A detailed report of the prize giving was published the

next day in *The Times*. **Isaac** had been baptised at **Marylebone** on 6 September 1835. His parents were **Joseph** and **Sarah Elizabeth**. In the 1851 census the family was recorded at **St Pancras**. **Joseph** was a dairyman whose sons **Joseph** and **Isaac** were apprentices, almost certainly in the family business. By 1861 **Sarah** was a widow and her occupation was recorded as '*formerly dairymaid.*' **Joseph junior** was a clerk and **Isaac** an elementary schoolmaster. A step up from being dairymen.

By 1871 **Isaac** was married and living with his wife at **Southampton Street, Strand** and gave his occupation as a newspaper publisher. By 1881 **Isaac** was a widower and he and his brother **Joseph** were living with their brother-in-law **James Buckingham** who was a dairyman. **Isaac's** occupation was shown as Journalist as it was in 1891. In 1901 it was recorded as Dramatic Critic. **Isaac** died on 16 December 1923 and an obituary recorded that he had retired from journalism in 1896.

Roland introduced Ann Greene by saying she was carrying a weapon (it certainly looked very fearsome). But it was, in fact, a confectioner's palette knife which had belonged to Ann's father who owned a small baker's shop, in **Ludlow, Shropshire**. He was noted in the town for his wedding, christening and Christmas cakes, all made with plenty of fruit and alcohol (properly matured!) and beautifully decorated. One of Ann's childhood memories was watching him use this very palette knife to spread the apricot jam over the cakes ready for the application of marzipan and then to create a lovely smooth sweep of royal icing before the final decoration. It also has Christmas memories for Ann. Her father's family lived about 40 miles away so visits were regular.



At Christmas, catering for seven children, their partners and (eventually) ten grandchildren could be a challenge for Ann's Nan, so her Dad's contribution was a large Christmas cake, a Christmas Yule Log and heaven knows how many mince pies. There was always a certain amount of chaos with so many people. With no fridge, the jelly often didn't set properly; at least one child



always ate far too much and was sick; and an uncle once had too much Christmas spirit at the pub and started a family argument which culminated in him taking his entire family home before lunch had even started. Ann has used the palette knife herself, but for very different purposes. Spreading and smoothing Polyfilla isn't so different from icing a cake!

Kirsty Gray then continued by showing us photographs of a family decoration called a *tomte*. Kirsty's parents had planned to drive over to her house with the actual *tomte* so that Kirsty could do a proper "Show and Tell". The winter weather however pre-empted this and we had to settle for photographs. Kirsty's family *tomte* had entered the family through her aunt who married a Swede. A *tomte* is a Swedish gnome or pixie – very similar to our English gnomes with beards. – in Norway they are called *Nisse* and in Finland they are *tonttu*. Essentially they are house-elves, dedicated to a homestead. If they are treated well, they care for the homestead and its animals and protect the family – often helping with chores. But if they are ill-treated or insulted, they may begin to play tricks, to hide or steal things and even kill livestock.



There is an English equivalent to the *tomte* known as the hob or brownie.

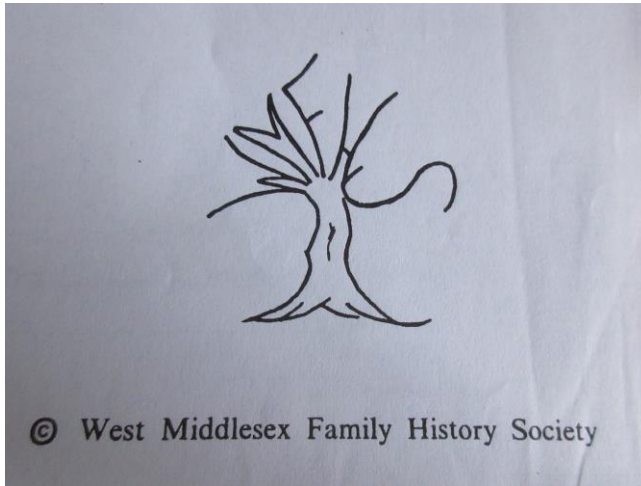
How many of us remember the sort of stone hot-water bottle which **Giz Marriner** showed us? She chose this for two reasons - firstly, it belonged to her Dad's parents and when the family went to stay with them when Giz was 'very wee' it was used to warm her cot, well wrapped-up in a thick towel. Giz remembers it being lovely and warm. It is marked with the words 'Ye Olde Fulham Pottery Estd 1671'. Secondly, the bottle was responsible for filling in a chunk of her family history.

Giz's great-grandfather was a potter and when she went to photograph the house where her grandfather was born (**21 Burlington Road, Fulham**) she found the one remaining kiln from the **Fulham Pottery** at the end of the road. Realising that that was where her gt-grandfather had worked, she set about researching the fascinating history of the pottery. The original **John Doulton** served his apprenticeship there (completing it in 1821) and one of the **Martin Brothers** of the Wally Bird fame had also worked there before the brothers set up their own pottery in **Southall**.

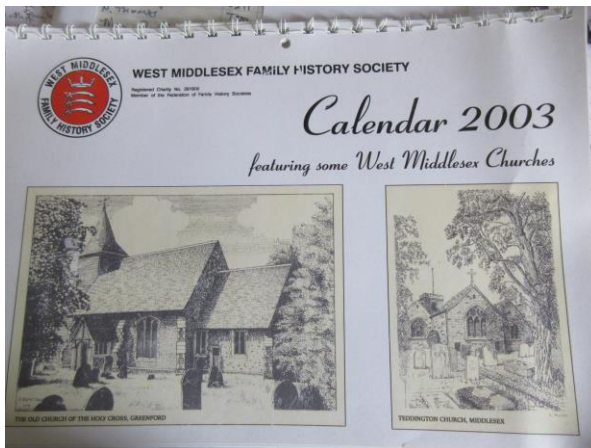
Giz's second item was made by her grandfather's eldest brother who had followed in his father's footsteps at the **Fulham Pottery**. It is signed on the underside with WM for **William Marriner**. It was found on Ebay and bought for nostalgic reasons. **William** had retired about 1950 and bought a house in **Littlehampton** with a kiln attached where he had made the item.

**Julia Zouch** was able to show something most of us have only heard of - a smallpox vaccination certificate. Not only that but an original certificate from 1863. Vaccinations were a legal requirement after the Compulsory Vaccinations Act was passed in 1853. It compelled all parents to have children vaccinated against smallpox within three months of their birth. The legislation was vigorously opposed and there were even some outright refusals to comply. Eventually the Act was "eased" to allow non-vaccination on grounds of conscience. Julia's fragile piece of brown paper was issued on the vaccination of **Clements Zouch**, aged 6 months, the child of **Clements Zouch of 8 Dorchester Place, St Leonard's, Shoreditch** on 7 April 1863. He was actually vaccinated late – at the age of 6 months – but the reason is not known.

Our Society Archivist, **Yvonne Masson** had trawled through our archive and came up some highlights of the Society's history from its beginnings in 1978. There was a handwritten letter from **Russell Grant** the TV astrologer. He had founded the **County of Middlesex Trust** to try and ensure that our historic County name was not lost and had written to our then membership secretary, **Valerie Walker**, thanking us for our support of his initiative. Her next offering was a drawing of our original logo. It was to be a tree (*pictured on the next page*) with the branches being arranged to form the letters WMFHS.



And finally, one of our calendars from 2003. It featured illustrations of West Middlesex churches, produced by **Ken Huckle**, husband of our former chairman **Janet Huckle**.



**Hilary Blanford** showed us an apprentice's chest. Hilary's grandfather was a totter. He had previously acquired a similar, but nicer chest but then sold it on. As the original chest had been for Hilary's mother, her grandmother

demanded that he replace it with another one! As a child, Hilary recalled being sent to the fishmonger's with a bag full of newspapers to ask for **Mr Parrott's** fish. She was puzzled when told she wouldn't need any money for the fish, but it was true. "Payment" for the fish was the newspapers. Bartering was still clearly alive and well in the mid-20th century.

Having opened the meeting somewhat unconventionally, Roland closed it in a more traditional manner. He explained that he had a flying start when it came to collecting the details of his own Bostock ancestry, for his father and grandfather were both enthusiasts of the hobby. In 1951, Roland's grandfather, **Geoffrey Rowley Bostock**, commissioned the College of Arms to produce his official Armorial Bearings (ie a coat of arms) which Roland now has on his living room wall. To read more about this, see the article that Roland wrote for the March 2019 Journal.

He then told us of a Family Reunion of **Bostocks**, including folk from **Australia, New Zealand** and the **USA**. This two and a half day event took place in **Bostock, Cheshire**, in 2004. When the participants went visiting they used a rather handsome coach, emblazoned **Bostocks** and supplied by **Bostock's Coaches of Congleton in Cheshire**. His last slide was of one of their group visits, to **Bostock Hall in Bostock Green, Cheshire**; no longer the home of any **Bostocks**, but a rather posh set of apartments for those with deep enough pockets.



***Moving Millions: Hounslow Borough's Place in the History of Public Transport in London***                      *January*                      *James Marshall*

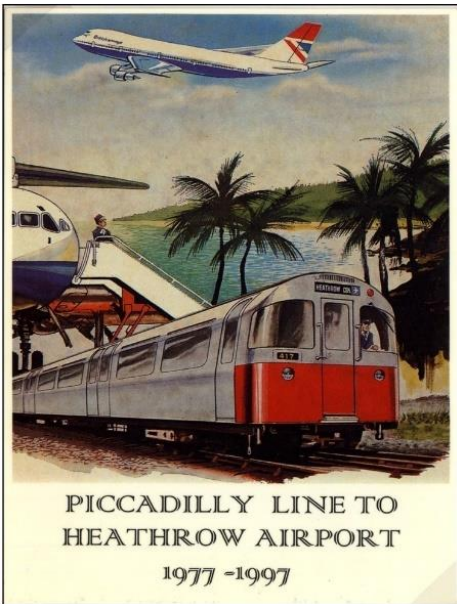
James divided his talk into five sections starting with the construction of London's first underground lines which were the Metropolitan and District lines, forming an elongated circle round central London, with the first Metropolitan trains running in 1863. The very first lines were constructed in cuttings below street level, but in the open. This was necessary as in the beginning engines were all steam powered, with the steam causing problems in any covered-in section of the railway. James showed a picture of Baker Street station as it was in 1864. The station was roofed, but air vents were necessary to mitigate the large outpouring of steam from the engines as they came and went. Despite the shortcomings of steam it was used to power the trains for 40 years up to 1903, while other means of haulage were investigated. It was not until the late 1880s that electric motors began to be attached to the trains. The Waterloo and City line, which opened in 1898 was the first fully electrified underground line. Once electric propulsion had become the norm in 1910, the underground rail system could expand rapidly.

The District line formed the southern half of the underground circle. This was largely built using the 'cut and cover' method. Existing roads above ground were closed to allow the excavation and construction of the underground rail; finally the underground route was covered over and the roads reopened. The central part of the District Line opened in 1883. There was competition to provide public transport, and in 1883 this mostly came from horse-drawn buses. The District Line Company then extended its reach by running spur lines westwards to Richmond, Ealing Broadway and Hounslow West.

James's second section was on trams, tube trains and trolleybuses. Trolleybuses were the alternative popular mode of transport. By the 1920s much of the original rolling stock of trains was in need of replacing and modernising. Train carriages, which had previously needed a guard for each carriage, were modified to allow a single guard to operate the doors on all carriages at once, a significant saving in operating costs. The 1920s also saw new forms of trams and trolleybuses being built, with Feltham providing the necessary factory space. The Feltham 'Diddler' trolleybus (*pictured on the next page*) with a single headlight on its radiator was one of several new designs.



**A Feltham 'Diddler'  
Trolleybus**



**PICCADILLY LINE TO  
HEATHROW AIRPORT  
1977 -1997**

In Part 3 James dealt with the extension of the Piccadilly line out to Heathrow airport, where the demand to get passengers to and from the airport was increasing year by year. The government gave permission for this extension of the Piccadilly line in 1967, but it was not until 1977 that the new service was finally opened. In 1996 the Modern Railways magazine reported that the Piccadilly Line was London Underground's busiest route, and was carrying 140 million passengers each year.

In Part 4, James moved on to 'the bus we loved', London's iconic big red bus.

From 1939 to 1958 the standard red bus was the RT (from Regent), and almost 7,000 of these buses were built. But the ones that many of us remember were more likely to be the Routemaster, manufactured from 1959 to 1968, of which 2,760 were built. It remained in general service to 2005. The Routemaster was known for its smooth ride, its power assisted steering, and automatic gearbox, thus endearing itself to both passengers and the drivers. The Routemaster



remained in daily use on two central London ‘heritage routes’ until discontinued in 2021. These were the No 9 service from the Albert Hall to Aldwych and the No 15 service from Trafalgar Square to Tower Hill.



James

completed his talk by reviewing the architecture of some of the newer stations along the Piccadilly Line. He gave credit to the managerial and visionary skills of Frank Pick, who became assistant to Sir George Gibb, the managing director of Underground Electric Railways Company of London (UERL) in 1906, and to the architectural skills of Charles Holden, whom Pick recruited in 1915, for their rebuilding of several of the Piccadilly Line stations. Hounslow West Station was rebuilt in 1931 using Portland stone; Chiswick Park Station was rebuilt as a circular brick building with large glazed windows which light up at night in 1932; and Boston Manor and Osterley stations were opened on the same day in 1934, both with striking designs. As his final slide James showed Hounslow East Station as it was in 1909, and the highly modern design by the Acanthus Architects’ Partnership, including a curved green roof, which was completed in 2003.

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# Annual General Meeting

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**The Annual General Meeting of the  
West Middlesex Family History Society  
will be held on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023,  
at St John's Community Centre, St John's Road, Isleworth**

## **Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2022
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Receiving of Financial Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022
8. Appointment of Examiners
9. Election of Committee
10. Amendments to the Constitution
11. Any other business



## **Election of Committee**

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

**Kirsty Gray**, **Giz Marriner** and **John Seaman** having served less than three years on the Committee and being willing to continue, do not need to be re-elected.

**Cheryl Ford** and **Hilary Strudwick**, having served less than six years, are standing down.

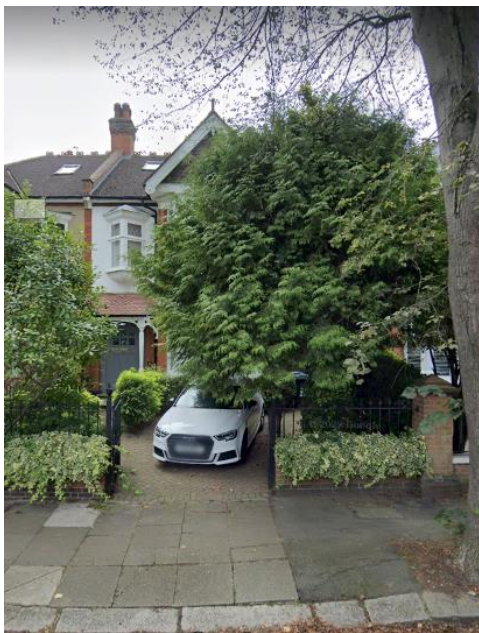
**Emma Albery**, **Roland Bostock**, **Pat Candler**, **Ann Greene** and **Yvonne Masson** have all offered to serve on the Committee

## **Financial Statements**

The Balance Sheet and Receipts and Payments Account for the year will not be completed in time for the print deadline of the March Journal. Once the accounts have been approved by the independent examiner Roland will provide a link to the accounts from the Notice Board page of our website, and will mention this has taken place in the Society News panel at the left of all website pages.,

I always loved the house that I grew up in in Ealing.

28 Oakley Avenue, London, W5, was purchased by my parents in June 1955; a



five-bedroom, semi-detached house in the west London “Queen of Suburbs”, Ealing.

Ealing, of course, is synonymous with the nearby famous studios, where many comedy films were made in the 1950’s. However, many serious films were made there over the years and later on, such well-known TV programmes as Dixon of Dock Green, Colditz, Porridge and many more. The exterior was also used in the episode of Miss Marple “The Mirror Cracked” with Joan Hickson.

However, I digress! I was saddened when my siblings and I had to part with the house, following my father’s death in 1989

and my mother’s in 1991. It would have been nice to keep it but none of us four children could afford to buy the others out. A shame, but probably a story often repeated in many families. So, I like to look back and find out more about the people who owned/rented number 28 and who maybe loved it as I did.

**Oakley Avenue** was developed in the Edwardian period, along with other nearby local roads, **Western Gardens** and **Montague Road** by a developer, **William Daley**. **Oakley Avenue** was named after **Mr. Daley’s** foreman who was called **Oakley**. Much of the surrounding area had been developed following the arrival of the underground, the nearest station being **Ealing Common** which serviced the District and Piccadilly lines.

The house was built for a householder with at least one live-in servant, with lounge, dining room, breakfast room on the ground floor, 4 bedrooms and one bathroom, with a separate toilet on the second floor and a door that opened to reveal a staircase to the second floor, where a room in the attic area served as a bedroom for a servant or two. There was also a built-in coal storage area, which could be accessed from inside the scullery, and an outside toilet. The latter was probably for the servant's use.

The earliest resident we find is **James Taylor**, a grocer, aged 47, and his family in 1911. He was born in Bedfordshire but his wife **Jane** had been born in far-away **Orkney**. Their two daughters, **Dorothy**, aged 17, and 14-year-old **Ethel**, were shown as still attending school. Both had been born in **Chiswick**. There was no live-in servant.

By 1921, the **Taylor** family had moved on and a new family had arrived. The Middlesex County Times of 12<sup>th</sup> January 1921 carried an advertisement:



This was probably placed by the family found at Number 28 at the time of the 1921 census. This was a young widow, **Gwladys Amy Jane Clifton-Mogg**, 32 years old and a native of **Deal, Kent**. With her is her young son **Desmond Alan Clifton-Mogg**, aged 5 years and 8 months. **Desmond** had been born in **Chorley Wood, Hertfordshire**. Completing the household was 40-year-old **Annie Simmonds** who had been born in nearby **Brentford**. A little research shows that **Gwladys** had been married to **Henry Raymond Clifton-Mogg** in 1910 in **Deal**. He had been born in 1883 in **Locking, Somerset** and died on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1915 as a result of pneumonia. He is buried in **Shotley St Mary** cemetery, in **Suffolk**. He was a regular serving officer of the Royal Navy having enlisted in 1903 at the age of 20 as a Naval Cadet and had reached the rank of Lt. Commander by the time of his death.

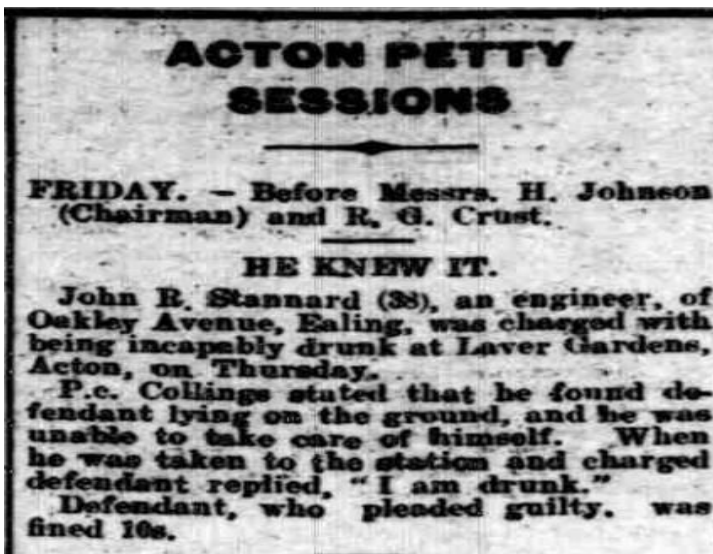
**Gwladys** must have arrived at number 28 after **Henry's** sad demise as his address was given as **Lapford, Devon** when his will was probated in 1917. He had been in command of *HMS Destroyer Milne* when he was taken ill. At some stage between 1921 and 1926 (we do not know precisely when)

**Gwladys** and her son **Desmond** moved on and settled in the **Kensington** and **Fulham** area.

An advertisement in the Middlesex County Times of August 1926 shows a **Dr. Whitmore** of **28 Oakley Avenue, Ealing** requiring a “daily help from 9am to 2pm”. This was **Dr. Fielding Charles Whitmore** and he appears in the local telephone directory for 1927 and in the electoral registers for 1926 and 1927 at Number 28.

**Gwladys** died in 1946 in the Kensington area; she never remarried. **Desmond** did not follow his father into the Royal Navy but instead enlisted into the Royal Air Force. He was an aeronautical engineer. By 1939, he was living in **Paddington**. He died in 1997 in **Fulham**.

By 1939, - sorry no 1931 census available! - the house was occupied by **Fanny B. Stannard**, a widow who had been born in 1868 and her adult children: **John R.** born 1895, **Jane E.** born 1897, **Bessie M** born 1903, **Dorothy Minnie** born 1905 and **Belinda M.** born in 1912. We know the family had arrived before 1935 as a report from the West London Observer shows that John was arrested for being drunk in nearby Layer Gardens.

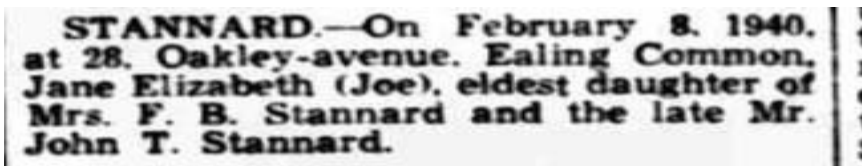


Prior to their move to **Oakley Avenue** in around 1934, the family had been living in **Mill Hill Road**, near **Acton Town** station.

The 1939 Register shows that all the children are working in various clerical jobs and **Fanny** seems to be looking after them all. No servants were listed as “living in” but maybe **Fanny** had a “daily” to help her out as my mother did 20 years later.

A house as old as number 28 will have seen its fair share of deaths; my father died there suddenly in 1989, and evidence of another death appears in the Middlesex County Times in 1940:

**Fanny** herself died at the good age of 92 in 1961 in the **Willesden** registration district.



STANNARD.—On February 8, 1940, at 28, Oakley-avenue, Ealing Common, Jane Elizabeth (Joe), eldest daughter of Mrs. F. B. Stannard and the late Mr. John T. Stannard.

It is not known when the **Stannard** family left **Oakley Avenue** but by 1948/1949 they were living at **24 Tudor Gardens** on the nearby **Tudor Estate**, between **West Acton** underground station and the **North Circular Road**. Interestingly, another former resident of number 28, **Dr. Whitmore** also moved to the **Tudor Estate** after leaving **Oakley Avenue**.

On 17<sup>th</sup> November 1950 the West London Observer contained an advertisement that **Edward Majchrowicz** has applied for British Naturalisation. His address is given as **28 Oakley Avenue, Ealing**. My parents always said that the previous owner of the house had been Polish; there was a huge influx of Poles to the area after World War 2, and they had expected to sell to another Polish person. It seems that all the labels on the electrical fuse box, showing which fuse related to which room were written in Polish. This isn't surprising as the residents at number 30 next door around 1955 were the **Kramskoys** followed by the **Lubkowskas!** I often wonder which bedrooms these myriads of former residents slept in. I slept in four different rooms over the 27 years that I lived there.

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## Book Review

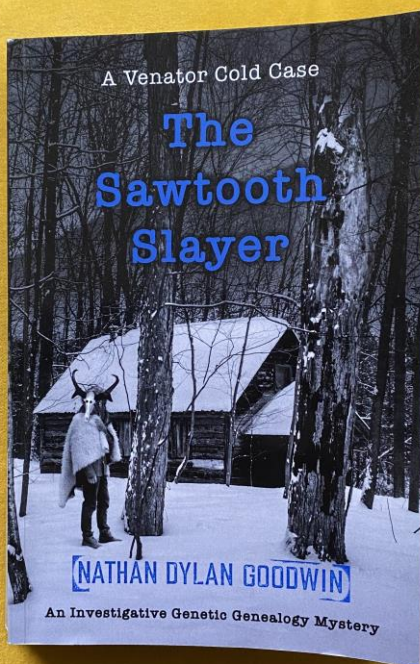
### The Sawtooth Slayer by Nathan Dylan Goodwin

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The second in a new series by the man who brought us Morton Farrier is set in the United States.

Detective Maria Gonzalez is hunting a serial kidnapper/killer who preys on young women and there is a fear that he may strike again soon. With few leads apart from DNA, Maria contacts Venator, an investigative genetic genealogy company. But this is April 2020. The COVID pandemic has isolated the Venator team from each other impacting on their work and they have their own personal troubles to deal with.

This is not simply a crime novel with a genealogical twist; it is a masterclass in



DNA. It also provides an excellent description of how individuals and families coped with COVID lockdown – something that we are all beginning to forget.

The plotting is both complex and riveting, something we have come to expect from Nathan Dylan Goodwin.

**Alert:** This is not cosy-crime - it is a gritty and, at times, uncomfortable read, but well worth it for the denouement.

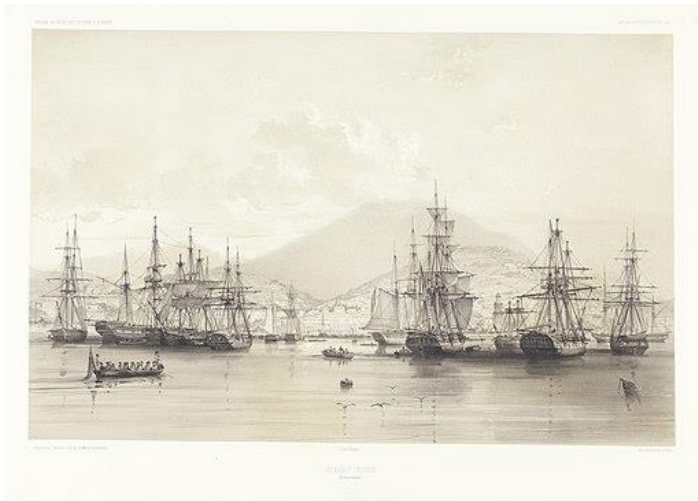
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## The Hampton Court Robbery and what Mary did next

Barry Pursdon

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In the September issue of the Journal I wrote about **Mary Ann Goatley** of **Hampton Wick** who burgled a Grace & Favour apartment in **Hampton Court Palace** and was transported to **Hobart, Van Diemens Land (Tasmania)** in 1843. So, what happened to her thereafter? Some indication can be found online but firstly taking a step back, she was born **Mary Ann Elizabeth Goatley** on 8 May 1823 to **Henry Goatley**, a carpenter, and **Agnes Goatley**. She was baptised at **All Saints Church, Kingston upon Thames**, on 14 September 1823.



*Hobart Town, Tasmania*

Following her conviction and transportation, when she arrived in Hobart her prison description (held in the Tasmanian State Archives at [https://stors.tas.gov.au/CON19-1-2\\$init=CON19-1-2p109](https://stors.tas.gov.au/CON19-1-2$init=CON19-1-2p109) ) was given thus:

Trade: Cook and housemaid

Height (without shoes): 5ft ¼in

Age: 20

Complexion: Fair

Head: Round  
Hair: Light Brown  
Visage: Small  
Forehead: M.S.S. [medium size/small]  
Eyebrows: Brown  
Eyes: Blue  
Nose: M.L. [medium length]  
Mouth: M.W. [medium width]  
Chin: Small  
Native Place: Hampton Wick  
Remarks: None

So she was a fairly diminutive young woman, perhaps of mousy appearance? In April 1845 she was given a 'convict permission to marry' a widower named **Solomon Hill**, a free man. **Solomon's** first wife was **Sarah Ann Griffiths**, also a convict who had arrived on the *Navarino*. He and **Sarah** had married on 14 Nov 1842 in **Hobart**, **Solomon** then being described as a servant. Just ten months later, **Sarah** died on 17 Sept 1843, aged 28, having delivered a daughter.

**Solomon** and **Mary's Hobart** marriage certificate dated 23 June 1845 described him as a boarding house keeper, so it's not unreasonable to suppose that **Mary** was assigned to him on arrival from England, given her trade as cook and housemaid. Did she help **Solomon** with his then two-year-old daughter?

**Mary's** convict record at [https://stors.tas.gov.au/CON40-1-4\\$init=CON40-1-4p212](https://stors.tas.gov.au/CON40-1-4$init=CON40-1-4p212) states that on 3 January 1847 she had been given permission to remain as proprietress of the **Macquarie Hotel, Hobart** but to be under the surveillance of the Convict Department. We learn that **Solomon Hill** died almost exactly a year later on 31 January 1848 from an epileptic fit. The death informant in the register is a **Stephen Stanley**, servant at the **Macquarie Hotel**. **Solomon's** occupation was recorded as hotel keeper although his age is misgiven. Perhaps **Solomon** had suffered other fits previously and had transferred proprietorship of the hotel to **Mary** as he was unable to work effectively.

Just eight months later, on 15 September 1848, **Mary** applied for a second 'convict permission to marry'; this time to **Stephen W Pierce**, who was also a



free man (i.e. not a convict). The lieutenant-governor's approval was gazetted on 27 September 1848 in the *Colonial Times and Tasmanian* which also confirmed that both parties resided in **Hobart** and that **Mary** had a Ticket of Leave (which allowed her to work freely within a specified area). They wasted no time and married at **St George's Church, Hobart** on 3 October 1848. Stephen was named as **Stephen Wilson Pierce**, timber merchant, aged 27 years and **Mary** simply as a widow, aged 26 years.

On 1 Feb 1849 Mary petitioned for a Conditional Pardon for her crime which would allow her freedom of movement within the colony. This was recommended by the [Governor General] on 27 Feb 1849 and her record shows that it was approved on 16 April 1850.

I can find no further online records for **Mary** apart from an Ancestry family tree that gives **Mary's** death as 22 May 1850 in **Hobart** but there is neither source nor citation to support this. If correct, then **Mary, Solomon** and **Sarah** his first wife all died in their late twenties. Sadly, it was a very tough life out there.



*Sarah Island, Hobart Tasmania*

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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 10% on all new subscriptions, or Pay as You Go payments, taken out by our members. All you have to do is to enter the appropriate discount code as given below:

For Subscriptions the discount code is : \*\*\*\*\*

For Pay as You Go the discount code is : \*\*\*\*\*

***NB** These codes were valid at the time of going to press (February 2023) but may have changed. Please check our website for up-to-date information.*

### 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

Jan to Mar 2023           \*\*\*\*\*

Apr to Jun 2023         \*\*\*\*\*

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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 and the latest additions to our Surname Interests.*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Membership Number</b>	<b>Address/Location</b>
Julia Zouch	Z1	Hayes, Mdx
Randy West	W270	Utah, USA
John Bates	B353	Uxbridge, Mdx

### **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!

We regret to announce the death of Mr John Steward who passed away in January 2023.

We also heard this week of the death of local historian Eddie Menday. He was an integral part of the local history landscape and was involved with a number of local activities - hospital radio, the Boys Brigade, the Rivers Academy and the Feltham Choral Society. He was a regular visitor to Hounslow Local Studies, researching material for his column. He was made an MBE in 2010 for his voluntary work at Rivers Academy.

## A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE ! *by Anonymous*

On Council Streets  
Was it that bad, our council house ?  
Playing football in the street.  
Chalking hopscotch on the pavement,  
With plimsoles on our feet.  
The open fire that warmed us,  
Lino on the floor.  
Clothes that came from jumble sales ,  
An unlocked kitchen door.

When we went to sleep at night  
With frost inside the glass,  
A water bottle warmed us -  
Although it wouldn't last!

Our bikes, our prized possession,  
Made from bits and bobs.  
Keeping watchful eyes out  
For roaming gangs of dogs.

Cubs and guides and "Bob-a-Job"  
Local Fetes and church bazaars.  
Some dads on weekend mornings  
Working on their cars.

Cigarette cards and marbles,  
Saturday morning flicks.  
Pea soup foggy mornings,  
Pushing hula hoops with sticks.

A local copper on the beat  
We even knew his name.  
When mischief came upon him  
He knew which kid to blame.

The sirens that still sounded  
A memory of the past.  
Go carts made with pram wheels  
Pushed by mates to make them fast.

Coal men with their open trucks  
Counting sacks they carried in.  
The rumble as they poured them out,  
Into the shed or concrete bin.

Jamboree bags, penny sweets,  
Pocket money too.  
Friday nights with fish and chips,  
That freezing outside loo!

Paraffin delivered  
For heaters in the hall.  
Radios on sideboards  
A chained mirror on the wall.

Alleyways with hide and seek  
War games in the fields.  
Bamboo bows and arrows  
Dustbin lids used as shields.

Summers spent on roller skates  
Or playing football in the park.  
Running back for tea time  
Before it got too dark.

Sunday dads down at the pub,  
Mothers cooking roast.  
The bath time in the evening  
Tea of jam on toast.

A pure and happy age gone by  
With memories held so dear.  
Walking streets around us  
With no worries or no fear.

What happened to those good times?  
Where did they all go ?  
Memories I still treasure  
I miss them don't you know

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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.

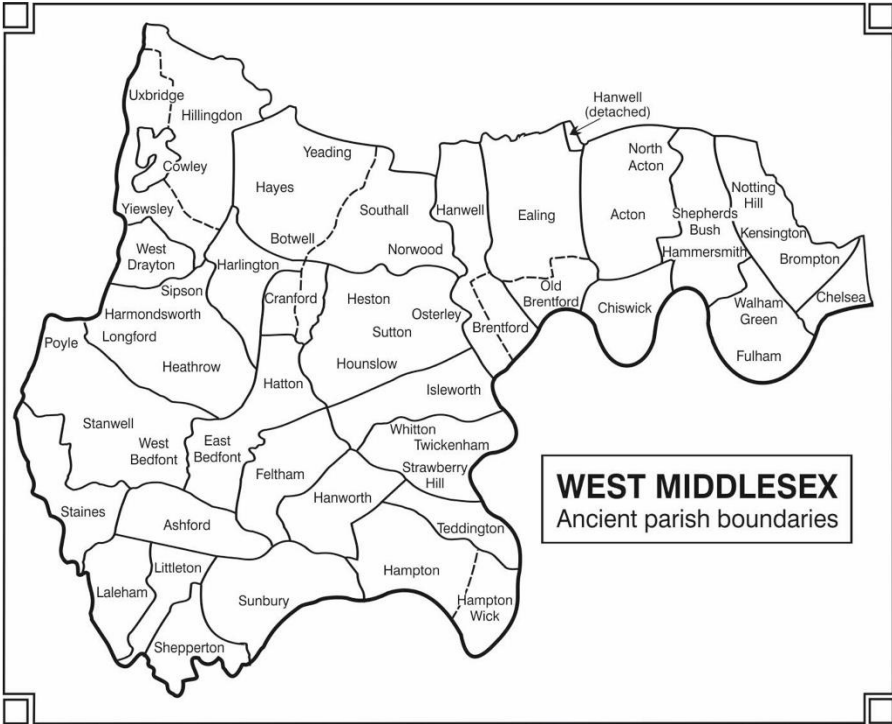
## Front Cover

*Image:*

This month's cover is a photograph of the late Donald Robin (Rob) Purr, Joint President for several years with Bridget Purr. Rob's obituary can be found on page 2 of this Journal

*Copyright:*

This photograph is used with the permission of Mrs Bridget Purr



**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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