



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Obituary Paul Jourdain Kershaw

7th October 1935 – 10th March 2023



Paul was born on 7th October 1935 in Chiswick. His father, Wilf, celebrated by painting the railings around the front garden of the family home in Craneford Way, Twickenham.

When war was declared, Paul and his sisters were evacuated first to family in Stanbridge, Bedfordshire and later to Bramhall in Cheshire. Returning to Twickenham in September 1940, he started school at St Mary's which was to be such a large part of his life. In 1951 he was one of the founder members of St Mary's Guild which was effectively a youth club associated with the Church that brought together

the younger elements of the choir, the bell-ringers, the scouts and guides to meet up for social evenings - quizzes, talks, table tennis, cricket matches, drama productions and Bank Holiday hikes or trips.

On leaving school, Paul was offered a job with Printa Inks and Paints Ltd, a firm run by his Uncle Denis, and started work on 31st August 1953. A year later, on 20th April 1954, he began his National Service in the Royal Engineers. He valued this time and considered he got more from it than from going to university. After National Service, he began to study for a qualification in business administration, becoming a Chartered Secretary.

On the 8th July 1961, at a Fete Day and Dance, Paul began dating Janice. They had both been pupils at Thames Valley Grammar School but really only got to know each other through the Old Thamesians' Association social committee. They got engaged on Saturday 5th January 1963 and married on 31st August 1963 at St. Mary's Church, with a relative of Janice's officiating. They had planned to honeymoon in Devon and Cornwall but the volume of traffic forced a change of plan and they went west to St. David's. No surprise really that in August 1964 when their son was born, he was christened David and in November 1965 their daughter was named Mary! The family lived at 14

Copthall Gardens, Twickenham, and when David and Mary reached school age, they enrolled at St Mary's, following in their father's footsteps. Needless to say, Paul was an active member of the Parents Guild of St Mary's, undertaking over the years the roles of Auditor, Treasurer and Chairman; and when the children joined the St. Mary's Brownies and Scouts, it wasn't long before Paul became involved with that, taking on the role of Treasurer of the Scout Group's committee, organising many events and initiatives during his ten years there.

Paul's job had become something of a family affair. When he was short-staffed and had an over-load of office work, Janice stepped in, working from home whilst the children were small, then commuting to the office for the hours while David and Mary were at school. From 1975 to 2000 when Janice retired, she and Paul worked full-time together. Determined to avoid the mistake of others who could not decide when to retire, Paul set a date and stuck to it! That date was 31st August 1998, 45 years to the day after he had first been employed.

As well as being a very supportive and proud parent and grandparent, Paul had many interests and lived up to Rotary motto "Service above self", being a member of the Brentford and Chiswick Round Table, both Paddington and Twickenham Upon Thames Rotary Clubs and the Probus Club of Twickenham, all organisations which raise funds for local, national and international causes. As well as being actively involved in the social and fundraising elements of these organisations, he also accepted invitations to be President of all four clubs. He was presented with the Paul Harris Fellowship award and the Rotary Service Award which recognised his years of service. In his retirement, he volunteered at the local Help a Neighbour in Distress (HANDS) charity, where he helped by driving their "shopping bus", was a member of numerous local amenity and history societies including the York House Society where (unsurprisingly) he became their Auditor and later Treasurer, and was a volunteer guide at the Twickenham Museum.

A self-confessed addict of local and family history, his earliest attempt to trace his ancestors and relations was written down on the reverse side of a roll of wallpaper. With the help of his sister Sue, his research culminated in a gathering of 130+ of his mother's relations at the RAF Brize Norton Airbase in 2003 when the "piece de resistance" was a family tree that covered two six-

foot trestle tables. A similar reunion for the Kershaw side of the family was held in 2016. Paul enjoyed keeping in touch with old friends and classmates and was never happier than when he was organising and attending reunions. One of the many tributes at his funeral was “Paul is bringing us together for one last time today. A true and loyal friend to all”

In 2019, Paul began to suffer from mild cognitive impairment which subsequently developed into vascular dementia. His life was enriched by regular visits from HANDS befriender John, and respite care at the Whitton Homelink Day Centre; and modern technology allowed him to retain contact with various organisations and friends on Zoom. However, in January 2023 he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Support from Blue Ribbon Community Care, District Nurses, Richmond Response and Rehab, and the Princess Alice Hospice enabled him to remain at home where he died peacefully on Friday 10th March – six months short of his and Janice’s diamond wedding anniversary.

Paul, in the autobiography he had begun, said he had had something of a charmed life and that he would never have been involved in half of his many activities if he had learned to say “No’ . He named particularly the people whom he felt had ‘ *turned a shy snivelling stuttering wretch into something like a human being Janice, who has been my rock for over 60 years; my parents, especially my mother, Gwen, who fought so hard to get me into Thames Valley Grammar School when I failed the eleven-plus; National Service in the Royal Engineers that got me away from home and taught me to stand on my own two feet; Chris Ward who invited me to join Round Table; all the members of that organisation who decided I should be Minute Secretary and made me stand up and read what I had written. This got me on my feet and conquered my stammer*”.

FUTURE MEETINGS



The following talks have been arranged:

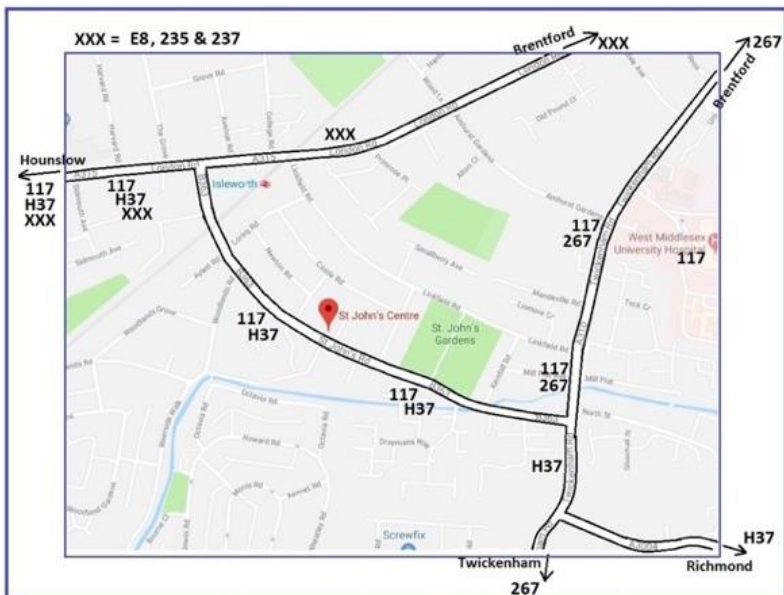
Date	Topic	Speaker
<p><u>Midsummer Social</u> 15 June 2023 Hybrid meeting, The speaker is at St. John's.</p> <p><i>Please see page 7 for details of the Midsummer Social</i></p>	<p>'Historical crimes in Middlesex' The talk examines three different types of crime in Middlesex from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries; housebreaking, murder and espionage. It also surveys the sources from which to investigate those involved in these events.</p>	<p>Jonathan Oates</p>
<p>20 July 2023 Hybrid meeting, speaker is remote</p>	<p>The experiences of an evacuee to Canada during WWII.</p>	<p>Patricia Williamson</p>
<p>17 August 2023 Hybrid meeting, speaker is remote</p>	<p>DNA</p>	<p>Mia Bennet</p>
<p>21 September 2023 Hybrid meeting. Speaker is remote</p>	<p>Why I am a Suffragist, not a Suffragette</p>	<p>Adele Emms</p>

When and where do we meet?

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 where 117 & 267 are shown.



Midsummer Social



Our June meeting sees a new event – the Midsummer Social. Traditionally our December meeting was always the social event of the year with wonderful refreshments (courtesy of Pam and Brian Smith!), quizzes, and chatter. And we also held a Members meeting in July where people could share their own histories, discuss how they managed their files and how they did their research.

Since 2020 and the pandemic restrictions, our meetings have become very different. Although we now have a thriving online community who attend our meetings on Zoom, fewer people are attending in person. Weather, travel, health anxieties, and our increasing age, mean that some find the Zoom option much more convenient. The downside of this is that we lose the social buzz that we used to have.

And so the Midsummer Social has emerged. A chance to meet in person, hear Jonathan Oates' fascinating talk on crime in West Middlesex, chat and enjoy refreshments. Please come if you can – and tell your friends and invite them to come along as your guest.

This will also be the last appearance of the Book Stall at any of our meetings – see **West Middlesex Family History Matters** on page 37 for details!

Contributions and Advertisements

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

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

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

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

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

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

Copy submission dates:

15th January, 15th April, 15th July and 15th October.

Advertisements

NB: We only accept advertisements relating to family history.

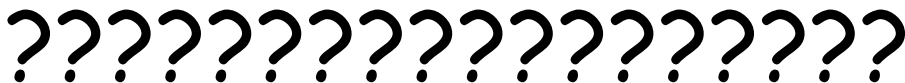
Rates:

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

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

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

Would you like help with your family history?



Since the pandemic, we have cancelled our monthly face-to-face Advice Sessions at Feltham Library and have now begun offering advice by email. This allows our more far-flung members to access help. Email us at advice@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk with your query and give us an idea of what you want to achieve. If you prefer to make an enquiry by post, write to the Secretary (address on the inside cover of this Journal).

Other members may be able to help with your query. If you think putting your enquiry in the Journal may help, please ask us to do this. Replies can be directed to you through the advice email (see above) if you do not want your contact details published.

And if you think you could help with answering enquiries on particular area or subject, please contact us on the advice email (see above) and we will be happy to add your name to our list of helpers.

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). They have a list of people who are trained and accredited and will help you interpret their findings.

AGM 2023 Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society, held as a hybrid local meeting at St. John's Centre, Isleworth with Zoom connection on 16th March 2023. The meeting was attended by 10 members at St. John's Centre and a further 20 members attending by Zoom.

1. Welcome by the Chairman

Chairman Kirsty Gray welcomed all to this hybrid Annual General Meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence have been received from **Mary Brown, Janice Kershaw** and **Emma Albery**.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 17th March 2022

These were published in the Society's Journal of June 2022. Kirsty asked if anyone had any concerns over the accuracy of the minutes. None were raised. **Giz Marriner** proposed that the minutes be accepted. **Pam Smith** seconded the proposal, which was then passed unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report

As is the custom at this point I shall look back over the last year's events, and anticipate what lies ahead for the Society. I shall have a few thank-yous to say along the way.

Perhaps the most obvious change this last year has been the way we hold these Members' meetings. Before Covid we all met at St. John's Centre, and then during Covid, after a short break, we all met online using Zoom. Now we have settled down to these hybrid meetings with some enjoying the social meet-up at St. John's while others are able to enjoy the meetings from the comfort of their living rooms. Those of us living far from Isleworth really appreciate that this has become the norm. It is a really good feature of how we now run our meetings that every member of the Society with a computer at home now has the chance to attend every meeting. As most of you appreciate, setting up the equipment at Isleworth is quite a technical

challenge. It has not always run smoothly, but we have always managed to hear our speakers give their talks, whether they are present at St. John's, or are themselves sitting comfortably at home. Most of the credit for getting it all to work on the day goes to **Roland**, with **Ann** also providing some support as necessary. So thanks to **Roland** and **Ann** for making this possible. And while talking of our meetings I must also thank our Vice-Chair **Giz** for covering for me on the several occasions that I have not been able to chair the meetings myself. And this goes for some of our committee meetings as well as these Members' meetings, so a big thank-you **Giz** for your reliable stand-in support as Vice-Chair.

The other most obvious change this last year has been the way that Family History Fairs have been organized. Although Covid does not stop public gatherings there has been a permanent change to the way that Family History Fairs are run. The costs of laying on a fair are so much greater when some large public place is booked, as compared to organizing a virtual fair, that I think physical fairs will now be much rarer events than they used to be. Virtual fairs are very good indeed if you as family historians wish to hear quality speakers address the matters that interest us all, but they are poor when it comes to the Societies wishing to meet potential new members. We have held on to our membership these last 12 months, but it is ever a challenge to us on committee to find good ways to contact and welcome new members, and all Societies in the long run must find themselves new members.

Perhaps this is a good time to single out one new member who joined us just over a year ago, and whom we soon found was a fan of Facebook. When I joined the Society in 2015 I knew that it was vital for the Society to have a Facebook and Twitter presence, but the committee at the time was just not ready for it. I did provide some presence on these media, but I ran out of time that I could afford to give to it. The new member is **Emma Albery**, and she has recently been developing our Facebook presence. Meantime **Ann Greene**, alongside her much applauded role as Journal Editor, keeps our Twitter pages active. **Emma**, I am delighted to say, has agreed to join us on committee as from today, provided you all approve her nomination to do so. Your committee members do their work for you without fuss or fanfare, but let me just mention them all by name. **Roland** and **Ann** I have mentioned –

they always attend committee, but actually they are both now finishing their sabbatical year, when they stand down for a year having served on the committee for 6 years. Presently you will be voting them back onto the committee. Well, you had better! **Muriel** will shortly be addressing you as stand-in Treasurer which important role she has undertaken for many years. Where would we be without you, **Muriel**? Thanks for all you do for us. But there are others. I think you will all know **Pat**, our Membership Secretary. This is no minor role in the Society. The Membership Secretary has the decidedly unenviable task of persuading sometimes forgetful members to do the right thing and pay their subs when they are due. **Pat** also maintains all our addresses and supplies the printer with a list of names and addresses for each issue of the Journal. A big thank-you to **Pat**, who has been in this role now for 7 years. If anybody is up for taking over from **Pat**, she will quite gladly step aside. Another long-term stalwart is **Margaret**, who has been Bookstall Manager now for 13 years so I am informed (before my time). Obtaining and selling local history books has changed radically over the last few years. Obtaining the right sort of book at the right price is ever harder these days, and we have very few opportunities to sell what we have at actual physical fairs. Books are however a vital source of information on our area, that we as a family history society do our best to be knowledgeable about. Thanks **Margaret** for your work as Bookstall Manager and for your contributions to us as a committee member. **Hilary** has been our Programme Coordinator for 5 years now, and has provided an excellent and varied programme which we have all enjoyed. She is now stepping down and my dependable Vice-Chair **Giz** has gamely volunteered to manage our programme of talks from this day onwards. My thanks again to **Giz**.

I am almost done on thanking committee members, but we do also have **John, John Seaman**, a sort of minister without portfolio, who I understand **Roland** puts in charge of our roving video-camera at these meetings. **John** is a strong contributor to our discussions at committee. Thank-you for your contribution, **John**.

My final thanks go to a couple whom I have known for 20 years plus, long before I joined the committee as Chair in 2015. I met **Rob** and **Bridget** first in the early 2000's when I was in my early 20s, and attended my first ever genealogy conference in St. Neots, Cambridgeshire. They were immediately friendly towards me, and we have been firm friends ever since. Indeed, if it

was not for a meal that I had with them before coming to speak to this Society in 2015, I don't think this Society would still exist. For that was when they said to me that no-one had come forward ready to chair the Society. At the Society meeting, which was an Extraordinary General Meeting with a motion before it to close the Society, I said I would volunteer to chair the Society. Other members rallied round, and we ended that meeting with a re-invigorated full committee of 12 members.

In 2016 I suggested that **Bridget** and **Rob Purr** should be elected as Joint Presidents of the Society. As you will know **Rob** died in November last year, and **Bridget** contributed his obituary for the March journal. **Bridget** decided to resign as president just last month. I pay tribute to **Rob** whom I know served the Society as chairman from 2002 to 2005, while **Bridget** was editor of the Society for 10 years from 2008 to 2018.

At present the Society does not have a president. Your new committee will consider if it is appropriate to invite someone to fill this role, which is an honorary position. If anyone here would like to make a nomination to be our new president then do please contact me. I shall be pleased to hear your thoughts.

6. Treasurer's Report

Good evening. I'm reading this report on behalf of **Betty**, who is unable to be with us this evening. There are a few copies of the accounts in the room here and a PDF copy on our website as mentioned in the March Journal.

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) is the name given to a charity's Profit & Loss Account and is, I think, the more interesting document.

Thank you, as always, for paying your subs and thanks are due to the taxpayers amongst us who have signed a Gift Aid form. You are the main source of our income - without you, the Society would cease to exist.

As you will see, the cost of printing and mailing our journals has increased by £500 this year, due to two main factors - the introduction of some colour where it enhances an article and also the ever-increasing cost of postage. If anyone does not already receive their journal electronically and would like to, please let **Roland** know.

Hire of meeting halls is back to pre-pandemic levels. A group of us meet here, at the St John's Centre, every month and would be very happy to see more of you join us. Obviously, for those of you who live a long way away,

the Zoom facility is the only option, but the number of you joining us on Zoom has decreased. Why? What are we doing that you don't like, or not doing that you would like us to? It's your Society, so please tell us how we can entice you back.

Hurrah! As you will have seen in the September Journal we attended a live family history fair at Kempton Park in the autumn. It was so exciting to see real people again, meet some of our members face-to-face, give lots of advice and sell some of our books. To help with book sales at live events, we now have a machine which allows us to accept payment by card. But please note that we can only use this machine when the cardholder is present, so please don't email or write asking to pay by card at any other time.

The other main sources of income are the sums received as a result of our data being available to researchers worldwide who use Find My Past. Many thanks to the transcribers and indexers who have provided the data, and to **Roland** who submits them to Find My Past.

We finished the year with a small surplus. There is nothing to say about the Balance Sheet - as mentioned above, we have bought a card reader which will be written off over its expected life.

Thank you for your attention. If there are any questions I shall do my best to answer them on **Betty's** behalf.

7. Receiving of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022

A copy of the annual accounts was published in the March journal. **Ann Greene** proposed that the accounts be accepted. **Brian Smith** seconded the motion, which was then carried unanimously.

8. Appointment of the Examiner

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

9. Election of Committee and Officers

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.

Kay Dudman proposed that all those making themselves available to serve on the committee be accepted. **Julia Zouch** seconded the motion, which was then carried unanimously.

10. Amendments to the Constitution

A revised version of the society's constitution has been prepared in order to properly take account of the AGM, or an EGM, now being a hybrid Zoom meeting, and copy of the full constitution was included in the December 2022 Journal. **Ann Greene** proposed that the revised constitution be accepted.

Margaret Cunnew seconded the motion, which was then carried unanimously.

11. Any other business

Kay Dudman asked if the Society is likely to return to members' meetings, where we bring the Society's books, exchange journals, and raffle, and provide refreshments, to improve the social element for members attending at St. John's Centre. **Roland** pointed out that refreshments had been planned for this meeting, but **Ann**, who was to bring the tea and milk had travel issues and was unable to attend at St. John's. **Margaret** did bring biscuits and these were made available at this point. **Giz** mentioned that her programme of talks deliberately included several where the speaker would deliver their talk at St. John's. **Pam** and **Brian Smith** suggested that we should make an extra effort to make a social occasion with refreshments etc for one of the summer talks, and it was further agreed that we should do this for our June meeting on 15th June, when the speaker would be giving the talk at St. John's. This concluded the AGM.

Monthly Talks *Yvonne Masson Muriel Sprott, Ann Greene,*

Leave No Stone Unturned

February

John Vigar

As a church historian, John Vigar said he walks through many churchyards, and enjoys looking at the gravestone inscriptions. He has come across some very familiar names, and for his talk had gathered together some interesting characters from English history.



Jerome K Jerome was born at **Walsall, Staffordshire** in 1859. His father owned a small coal mine, but sold it and the family moved to London. **Jerome** worked in a railway ticket office, and later joined the professional stage, but it was a precarious living. He began writing up court cases for newspapers, earning a penny per line, and he enjoyed the work; this led to an offer of a full-time job – as Agony Aunt for the *Girl's Own* paper. As this involved answering questions about etiquette, fashion

etc., he did what **Mrs Beeton** did (she came from a well-to-do family and didn't know how to do a lot of the things in her book, but she asked her servants). **Jerome** asked his lady friends. We now remember him best for his book *“Three Men in a Boat”*. He knew the **River Thames** well, living in **Oxfordshire** and his local parish church was **Ewelme**, and he is buried there, in one of three **Jerome** family graves. What did the “K” stand for? **Klapka** – this had been in the family for over 500 years.

Florence Nightingale was a heroine in her lifetime. Her father being a diplomat who had to travel abroad, she was named after the place of her birth, as was her sister **Parthenope** (the original name of **Naples**). **Florence** surprised her parents by telling them she wanted to become a nurse; this might well have been forbidden, but she saw an advertisement in the *Times* for nurses in the **Crimea** – an administrator was needed. She probably got the job because she came from a well-to-do family and would be able to write letters back to family and friends about the conditions out there, and

they would send money. One of her friends, **Angela Burdett-Coutts**, heiress of Coutts Bank, sent something useful – a clothes drier, writing to Florence: “I hope you like this apparatus: the wet clothes give in as soon as they see it”. After her return to England, **Florence** for the rest of her life was mostly out of the public eye - when in 1907 it was announced she was being awarded the Order of Merit, a lot of people thought she had been dead for years. She died in 1910 and is buried at **East Wellow** parish church, **Hampshire**; her grave bears just her initials and dates.

John said he was once asked the question: in what period of history would you like to have lived, and as whom? He had no ready answer then, but would now say: **Bess of Hardwick** - one of the most powerful women in late 16th century England. She had four husbands, each more wealthy than the last. At the age of 70 she started building **Hardwick Hall** in **Derbyshire**; it bears the initials E.S., for her last name, **Elizabeth Shrewsbury**.



When she died, Bess lay in state there, and her funeral procession was over a mile long. She is buried in the parish church of **All Saints, Derby** (now **Derby Cathedral**). Hers is the largest monument and was erected during her lifetime, which was standard practice – the future deceased could choose what was written on

it, a gap being left for the date of death – Bess left money to cover that. But her marital “pre-nup” hadn’t included adding her last husband’s death date to his monument. Thirty years ago, the **Earl of Shrewsbury** finally paid for it. **Chatsworth House, Derbyshire**, is also associated with Bess through her first husband. Much later the lake there acquired the tallest fountain in the world, installed for a visit of the **Tsar of Russia** and designed by **Joseph Paxton**. He was working, aged 20, as a trainee gardener for the Royal Horticultural Society when the **Duke of Devonshire** offered him the job of Head Gardener at **Chatsworth**. The Duke, a plant collector, had been unable

to get his giant water lily to flower. **Paxton** designed a large glasshouse for it and it flowered. **Paxton** later became wealthy and an MP. The Royal Society of Arts had proposed a Great Exhibition, and invitations to send exhibits went out across the Empire. Where to hold it? **Paxton** said he could build an exhibition hall of iron and glass in six months, the materials to be recycled afterwards. His design was accepted and became the **Crystal Palace**. The exhibition was a huge success - one in three people in the country attended (including of course our ancestors). After it closed it was deemed a shame to demolish the building. **Paxton** founded a company to re-erect it close to his house in **Sydenham, South East London**. Back at **Chatsworth**, he had designed a village for the Duke, and this is where he is buried, in a large tomb in the churchyard.

Samuel Morton Peto, 19th century builder, MP, entrepreneur, millionaire, Baronet. His construction firm built a number of famous buildings and monuments such as **Nelson's Column** and the **Houses of Parliament**. In partnership with **Edward Ladd Betts**, as railway contractors they brought railways to Britain, Europe and North America. But in 1866, the business went bust and **Peto** was forced to sell his country estate at **Somerleyton Hall, Suffolk**. He rented a house at **Tunbridge Wells**, died in obscurity and is buried at **Pembury Church, Kent**.

Also linked to Kent was **Benjamin Disraeli**. Born into a poor family, he was not good with money and was always short of it – ironically he later became Chancellor of the Exchequer! In the 19th century, MPs owing money could not be put into debtor's prison - so Disraeli thought it a good idea to become an MP. The MP for **Maidstone** died, leaving a wealthy widow, who was popular locally. **Disraeli** married her, got into Parliament, and eventually became Leader of the Conservative Party. Previous Leaders had come from the landed classes. **Disraeli** asked a colleague, **George Cavendish-Bentinck**, to loan him money to buy an estate – **Hughenden** in **Buckinghamshire**. **George** did so, then died. His Executors called in **Disraeli's** loan – he would have to give up the estate. To the rescue came a wealthy widow, **Mrs Bridges Williams** of **Torquay**. She would pay off his debt, on condition that she could be buried with him. His wife did not object, the loan was paid, and when the widow died, he used her fortune to extend the house. He is buried in the local churchyard alongside his wife – and **Mrs Bridges Williams**.

George Cavendish-Bentinck was a direct descendant of **Bess of Hardwick**. His family estate was **Welbeck Abbey, Nottinghamshire**, which has a private church where the ancestors are buried together. His older brother, the **Duke of Portland**, constructed a 1½ mile tunnel from the house to the railway station so he could come and go (in his carriage) in private. The house also has an underground ballroom with the largest unsupported ceiling in the world. The Queen Mother's mother, **Lady Nina Cavendish-Bentinck**, was born there – but lived in a small house in the grounds.

John said a man he would like to have been was **William Beckford**, who made his money in the sugar plantations of Jamaica. His family had laid out **Soho** with its squares and surrounding streets; their townhouse there still stands. **William** needed somewhere to display his large collection, so in the 1810s he built **Fonthill Abbey in Wiltshire** - one of its towers was 300 feet high. However in 1821 his income collapsed and he was forced to sell up; only one tower of the house now survives. He moved to **Bath** where he built a tower to house some of his collection, and died in 1845 leaving instructions to be buried in the garden. The authorities said no, but the site was turned into **Bath Cemetery**. His funeral was attended by 50,000 people.

William Harvey was a doctor in the first half of the 17th century and became physician to James I and Charles I and his children. He discovered that it is the heart which pumps blood around the body, but did not publish his findings in England, perhaps due to an unfortunate previous experience: he had earlier believed that he had proved that men were cleverer than women by working with two parrots, male and female - the male did cleverer tricks than the female. Unfortunately when it died, a postmortem revealed it was also female! Harvey never received proper recognition in his lifetime for his discovery of the circulation of the blood. He is buried at **Hempstead, Essex**. The church tower was erected by the Royal College of Surgeons in his memory.

Sir Francis Dashwood of **West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire**, is best remembered as the founder of the notorious Hellfire Club. A religious man, when he went on the Grand Tour he saw rituals in churches there which he had in mind to re-enact. But back home with lots of drink flowing, these would get out of hand. He rebuilt the parish church at **West Wycombe** in classical style which had a coffee house for himself and his friends at the top

of the tower. In 1765 a friend died, leaving £500 to build a “temple”, which was built at the end of the churchyard. Another friend, poet **Paul Whitehead**, left his heart to **Sir Francis**, who decided to put it in the temple; he would take visitors there to see it. But one day years later, a visitor grabbed the heart and swallowed it.

Nonsuch Palace was built by **Henry VIII** near **Epsom and Ewell** in **Surrey**. 100 years later, when the Palace needed a lot of work done on it, **Charles II** gave it to one of his mistresses, **Barbara Villiers, Lady Castlemaine** (she had lived with her husband at **Dorney Court near Windsor**). But she was supplanted by **Nell Gwynne** and went to live in **Paris**: later, to pay her gambling debts, she had the Palace demolished. When she came back from **Paris**, **Dorney Court** was not accessible to her, so she rented a house on **Chiswick Mall**. She has no known monument, but is buried somewhere in the churchyard of **St Nicholas Church, Chiswick**.

When John heard the church at **Stow Bardolph, Norfolk**, housed the **Hare** family monuments he drove up there to **Stow Hall**, met **Sir Thomas** and had coffee, and was given a key to the church. **Sir Thomas** said “don’t forget Sarah”. John made notes and took photos of the monuments in the church, but didn’t find a **Sarah**. It was growing dark. In a corner was a cupboard. He opened it, and there was **Sarah**: a wax effigy. Monuments are as individual as the people they commemorate.

Sidelights on the Workhouse

March

Ann Greene

Ann began by saying that she is not an expert on workhouses and recommended Peter Higginbottom’s website www.workhouses.org. as the perfect place to start when you research workhouses.

Ann wrote her MA West Midland History dissertation on the history of the West Bromwich workhouse hence the geographic focus of the talk. During her research, she became aware that our view of the Workhouse (and history in general) is not always accurate.

At the turn of the 18th century the Poor Law was in crisis due to industrialisation, rural depopulation and a rising demand for relief. So Parliament developed a more cost-effective and efficient way of managing the problem, designed to “deter the idle, punish the immoral, reform the

redeemable and treat the physically unable". Parishes were grouped into Unions to create economies of scale (a surprisingly modern notion for pre-Victorian England) ; poor relief would only be given within the workhouse; and there was to be no outdoor relief. In spite of this last stipulation, there are instances of outdoor poor relief being given well into the century. Despite the unpopularity of the plan and vigorous opposition, the Act was passed in 1834.

At a national level, there were the Poor Law Commissioners, their clerks, and Inspectors. At a local level, each Union had its own Board of Guardians to manage affairs in their area. Below them came the administrative layer of the Relieving Officers, the Collectors of Taxes and finally at the bottom, the workhouse staff. From being a simple parish operation, poor relief became a complex institution.

The workhouse conditions were intended to be worse than those of the poorest workers outside and paupers had to work for their board and lodging. The much talked-of "Workhouse Test" was a simple and brutal decision. Were you desperate enough to go there? And if you were, would the Relieving Officer let you in? He alone held the power of deciding if someone satisfied the criteria for relief. So, far from the popular image of people being forced into the workhouse, it was more likely that they had to beg and plead to be admitted.

Being a Guardian sounds impressive but in fact they had comparatively little power. The Board of Guardians was caught between the Poor Law Commissioners, the workhouse, and the ratepayers. They were answerable for every aspect of workhouse operation and the Poor Law Inspectors were a particular thorn in their flesh. The Poor Law Commissioners' correspondence in the National Archives is a wonderful resource, casting a strong light on the daily administration of the workhouse. One letter related the predicament the West Bromwich Guardians found themselves in. Outdoor relief for an illegitimate child had been granted under the Old Poor Law, but then revoked under the New Poor Law. The original payment should have been reclaimed from the father of the child but he claimed he could not pay as he had his own family to support. Jailing him for non-payment would have meant the parish having to support his legitimate family and to add to the confusion, the mother had married a man who could support the child but

was not obliged to. Illegitimate children always provided the Guardians with a dilemma. If they took the mother and child into the workhouse this was an increased expense; if they gave the mother outdoor relief they were accused of encouraging immorality; and if they denied any kind of poor relief and the mother or child died, there was a public outcry.

The crushed apathetic pauper is another semi-mythical creature. In 1834, a West Bromwich pauper challenged his refusal of relief, leading to the Clerk asking the Commissioners “Can he do that?”. And in 1844, **Thomas Wild**, an inmate of **West Bromwich Workhouse** complained to the Poor Law Commissioners about the conduct of the Master, **Thomas Greenland**, in such strong terms that they were obliged to investigate.

By and large, the Guardians’ job was not an enviable one and in 1839, 23 of the 26 West Bromwich Guardians rebelled against the restrictions of the Poor Law Commissioners and refused to act. It was left to 3 men to manage the poor relief for 6 parishes.

With the increase in volume of inmates, the New Poor Law workhouse required staff to run it. Every workhouse now had a Master or Governor, a Matron (often the Master’s wife), a Clerk, a schoolmaster, and other staff to manage the kitchens, the laundries, the infirmary and so on. The paupers themselves performed the unskilled work. Looking at all these posts, Ann wondered if the New Poor Law was responsible for creating a whole new class of worker – the municipal employee. Having been employed by the workhouse in one Union could lead to another, possibly better post, in another Union.

Workhouse staff come in for frequent, often justified, criticism for their treatment of paupers. But, to be fair, their role was to oversee an intentionally harsh regime and they were, for the most part, simply people looking for a secure job. No-one really knew how things should be done. West Bromwich certainly had its fair share of the lazy, the incompetent and the near-criminal, when it came to the Masters. The Guardians and the Poor Law Commissioners have to be held partly responsible as they appointed the staff. This was especially so in the case of **Thomas Mollard**. He had been reprimanded for incompetence when he was the Master of **Wednesbury Workhouse** (part of the **West Bromwich Union**) but was still appointed to

the **West Bromwich Workhouse** Governorship. There were some exceptions, however. **Wolverhampton's** first Master under the New Poor Law, **James Wright Evans**, was conscientious to a fault, religiously filling in the weekly report, recording numbers of inmates and overcrowding, worrying about a nearby tavern that he thought was a brothel and getting very stressed about the shortage of bedpans in the infirmary. He left after four years and became Master of the **Liverpool Workhouse** but died in 1851, still only in his early 50s. Was he worn out with the stress of running a good workhouse?



Mr and Mrs Adcock, Master and Matron of the West Bromwich Workhouse. West Bromwich Local History Society

The quality of Masters in general did improve as the century wore on. Public attitudes towards paupers softened and so did the regime. By 1881 **West Bromwich** had found a good, conscientious Master, **James Gilpin**, who stayed until his death in 1896. His successor was **Healey John Adcock** and his wife who often arranged small treats for the inmates

Workhouse buildings were a constant source of difficulty. **West Bromwich** had had a parish workhouse since 1735, but it

wasn't purpose-built - it was a disused nail warehouse. The Vestry had been threatened with legal action if money intended for poor relief was spent on a new building. In spite of several extensions, it was never adequate, but plans for a new workhouse, did not materialize for over 100 years. Many New Poor Law Unions had cramped and dilapidated workhouse buildings but were reluctant to spend the money on replacing them. The **Poor Law Commissioners**, took this issue of inadequate accommodation very seriously and **Guardians** were regularly castigated for their failings, there is perhaps some justification for the reluctance to build. The **Guardians** were responsible for public money and just like today, there was no shortage of people ready to complain and to challenge expenditure. **Dudley** and **West Bromwich** were singled out for especial criticism in a damning report written by **Poor Law Inspector Andrew Doyle** in 1853. He declared that **West**

Bromwich was only second to **Dudley** in inadequacy because it had 2 workhouses while **Dudley** had 3! **West Bromwich's** new workhouse finally opened in 1857. It was deemed to be a handsome building with the **Guardians** having a proper Boardroom for the first time, but as with many public building projects, costs overran. The original estimate had been £12,000 but with bonuses required for early completion, a new well, and various other considerations, the final cost was over £27,000. Worse still, it required more staff than before to run it!

If being poor was bad enough, being poor and ill under the New Poor Law was ten times worse. Pre-1834, a pauper could obtain sickness relief from the parish. Post-1834, the Workhouses had their own infirmaries, but they were only open to inmates of the workhouse and there was (theoretically) no outdoor relief. Infirmary buildings varied from adequate to appalling and trained nurses did not exist before 1860, when **Florence Nightingale** set up the first training school at **St Thomas' Liverpool's** trailblazing infirmary with Nightingale-trained nurses, probationers and support workers could not have happened had it not been funded by a local philanthropist **William Rathbone**. A change came in 1869 when the **Metropolitan Asylums Board** began to provide certain types of medical care for all of **London's** poor. The scheme spread and by the 1880s, all paupers could apply for admission to workhouse infirmaries. Applicants were assessed by the **Relieving Officer** and might be required to contribute towards their maintenance whilst resident in the infirmary, but this marked the beginning of public hospitals and eventually the NHS. The old workhouse infirmaries became the hospitals we see today and many of the buildings still exist! Our own **West Middlesex Hospital** was one of these. An oddity of the poor relief system was that, before 1918 receipt of poor relief disqualified the recipient from voting! The 1885 Medical Relief Disqualification Removal Act acknowledged the widening of access to workhouse infirmaries and as long as you were only receiving poor-rate-funded medical care, you kept your vote! Doubly ironic when being so poor probably meant you had no vote anyway.

If you were physically or mentally disabled, there was no option but to enter the workhouse for care and shelter. You might easily have spent your whole life in the workhouse, entirely dependent upon the staff. You would have had shelter, clothes and food, but there was nothing more apart from the

routine performance of such tasks as you were deemed capable of. Those who were likely to harm themselves or others were sent to the local asylums - reluctantly because that took money out of the Union's funds. In 1911 **West Bromwich** and **Walsall** joined forces to acquire **Great Barr Hall**, a large local estate. And in 1918 they began to construct housing for what were then known as "mental defectives" and "incurables".

It was not unusual for children to be raised by the Poor Law institutions, due to the death or abandonment. Ann has found an example in her own family. Such children remained in the workhouse until they were old enough to be apprenticed out. While life there would have been harsh, life outside would not have been that soft either. But the New Poor Law did not regard children as being responsible for their pauper state and there is evidence that, in the **West Midlands** at least, the general public and the press felt some responsibility for the welfare of children and in particular took a strong stance against cruelty. In 1868, a cruelly-treated workhouse apprentice ran away from his master. The Stipendiary magistrate was outspoken in his condemnation of the employer, wished he could have jailed the man and recommended that future cases should go to the criminal court where a prison sentence could be imposed. He declared that there were too many employers who thought they could get away with ill-treating pauper apprentices because they had no-one to speak for them. In the same year, a local newspaper reported that a young child in **West Bromwich Workhouse** had been beaten so severely by the schoolmaster that his body was covered in bruises and weals. The report brought a swift rebuttal claiming that the child had been actually set upon by other workhouse children. Whatever the truth of the matter, a new schoolmaster was appointed in the following year. Concern for pauper children existed even before the New Poor Law. In 1828, a pauper apprentice in **West Bromwich**, was committed to **Stafford Assizes** for attempting to murder her master and his family. Her guilt was not contested but she was sentenced only to two years with hard labour, possibly because of her treatment by her employers. Legally, once her sentence had been served, her employer could have demanded she return to finish her apprenticeship with him; but the **West Bromwich** townspeople submitted a petition that she should on no account be returned to her employer, obviously fearing further ill-treatment.

Education for workhouse children had always been mandatory but it was probably rudimentary before the 1870 Education Act. There was also a growing feeling that children could only be disadvantaged by constantly being around



*Wigmore Schools, West Bromwich.
Copyright: Ann Greene*

adult paupers, acquiring habits and behaviours that had brought them to the workhouse. **West Bromwich** and **Walsall** Unions collaborated to build a school well away from the workhouse where children could live and be educated in a proper way. The **Wigmore Schools** were a success - the children were reported to be healthy, trained in useful trades, well-disposed and open in their manners. Social taboos around the workhouse still existed however. In the 1920s the

Local Education Authority was reluctant to accept workhouse pupils in one school as they did not wish it to acquire a “Poor Law atmosphere”.

What caused the eventual end of the workhouse? The early 20th century had seen the introduction of various Liberal Acts of Parliament which eased the burden on low-income families and meant that illness and disability could be treated outside of the workhouse infirmary. Municipal administration which had been growing and the workhouses were now a costly and unnecessary solution to poverty. Following the Public Assistance Act of 1929, the West Bromwich Administrative Scheme specifically declares that “all assistance to necessitous persons to be provided by virtue of various welfare Acts instead of by way of poor relief”. In other words, the workhouse was redundant. There has been no workhouse now for nearly 100 years and yet the shadow of the workhouse is a long one. Ann hoped that she had put to bed a few of the myths.

Sources

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Ian said that there was an idea that the “average” ancestor generated no records and left no evidence of their lives. This is not so. To trace your average ancestor, you just need to know where to look. He then listed an astonishing number of categories where records might exist.

Birth and baptism; family bibles; marriage and divorce; tax lists; censuses; business and commercial; naval and military; trade licences; court appearances; directories; voting; house or land deeds; death and burial; newspapers; poor relief; illness; local Rates; Trades Union membership.

Births and marriages have always been recorded. Before civil registration, church records recorded marriages and baptisms. Baptism records sometimes recorded the birth date as well as the baptism date and a certificate of baptism may exist in your family archives. Family Bibles and Birthday Books may include other valuable information such as mother’s maiden name, births of other siblings – even a family tree. Parish magazines can also be helpful. If your ancestor was born in the workhouse, there would also be a record of birth or baptism and it is important to remember that workhouse births were not all illegitimate. The **Dr. Williams Library** contains details of non-conformist births and these can be found on the subscription family history site **The Genealogist**. Church confirmation records can be a boon. Confirmation usually took place in a child’s early teens and so gives a clue to their birth date. They may also have received a Confirmation Book containing their name and dates of birth and confirmation. As well as the register of marriages, there were the Banns books. Banns of intended marriages had to be read on three consecutive weeks before the actual marriage and the Register of Banns records the dates, the names of the couple and whether they were of the parish. A couple might opt to marry by licence, allowing them to marry without the calling of the banns. In this case an Allegation or bond might be required. The survival of these Allegations is sporadic, but they can provide names, occupations, sometimes their ages and also the names of people offering surety for the marriage.

We tend to think that universal primary education began in 1870, but there were charity schools before then although the survival of their records may be patchy. Once state education began, schools kept various records. The

Schools Admission Records are often digitised and appear on Ancestry or FindmyPast. School Log Books detailing the daily life of the school, epidemics, absences and exam results may include your ancestors name. There were also other types of education. The Industrial Schools were set up to house and educate children who were at risk in their home environment or were already known to the Juvenile Courts, while the Naval Training Ships kept many boys out of the workhouse.

Illness could strike at any time, but in the 19th century, attempts at public health began. Vaccination records are very valuable as they can give a fairly precise notion of birth date. Babies, by law, had to be vaccinated within a certain period after birth and each child was given a certificate as proof of vaccination. Registration of the birth triggered the process of ensuring the vaccination. The downside was that parents who were rigidly opposed to vaccinations often deliberately avoided registering a birth to elude being called to have the child vaccinated.

Before the New Poor Law, the Vestry was responsible for administering sickness relief and admission to infirmaries would be recorded in the Poor Rate books. Later on when workhouse infirmaries were opened to non-resident paupers, the hospital admissions registers would record names and the cause of their admissions. There is a Hospital Records database, a joint project between the **National Archives** and the **Wellcome Trust**, and available on www.data.gov.uk. Although it has not been updated since 2012, it can still prove useful. Military Field Hospital records, also available at the **National Archives**, exist from the Boer War onwards. Patient Visiting Orders which were required may survive in family archives or local Record Offices. Records of some asylums from 1846-1921 are online at **Ancestry**.

Having survived vaccination, illness and education, working life was far from unrecorded. Apprenticeships would have been a common route to work and generated various records. The indenture giving the name of the master, the apprentice and the trade he was to learn; the register of apprenticeships; and the Freedom certificate which the apprentice received at the end of his training. London apprenticeships are online through **Ancestry** but it is worth checking even if your ancestor lived in the provinces. He or she may have served their apprenticeship through a London Livery Company.

If your ancestor achieved their own business, however small, they may well have appeared in a trade directory or street directory for their locality. Linking this to addresses in the nearest census may give you even more information. Professional directories, Yearbooks and specialist trades magazines may also help you.

Large estates created their own records. Diaries and log books may mention the names of particular workers, perhaps a complete list of employees, their job-titles and even their rate of pay.

Taxes have existed since the 13th century – poll taxes, hearth taxes, window taxes, bachelor taxes – and all of them required lists to be compiled. The Servants Tax records provided the name of the servant, his master and his rank.

National employers or organisations such as the police, the Post Office, trades unions and the railways maintained records for all their employees, giving their work locations, their progress. Even small employers may also have kept detailed records. Many of these are available at the **National Archives**. Their *Discovery* programme can be used to find employment and work records at other archives. Two major holders of employment records are the **Modern Records Centre** at the **University of Warwick** (particularly for trades unions) and the **Museum of English Rural Life** at **Reading**.

The average ancestor probably also made appearances in public events from time to time. He or she may have been mentioned in local (or even national) newspapers. They may have changed their name. It can be difficult to trace a name-change as it can be done formally by deed-poll, or informally by simply announcing the change. If the change was done by deed-poll, there will be a legal document and this should be at the **National Archives**. Local clubs and societies kept their own archives of members, financial accounts and events, often with photographs. If they have survived and the club is still active, these archives will probably be with them. If the club has been wound up, then the archives may have been donated to a local Record Office.

Holding local office may have been part of your ancestor's life. If they were a churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor, their names will appear in the Vestry minutes. Or if they were a Non-Conformist or a Recusant, they may have had to swear the Oath of Allegiance and there will be a record of that

If your ancestor was alive and in the UK in 1939, they will have appeared on the 1939 Register so that they could receive an Identity Card. Their name and address will be accompanied by a date of birth; and for women who married (or re-married) the Register has been updated with the original surname being struck through and the new surname written in above in red ink.

Travelling and working abroad was not uncommon even in the 18th and 19th centuries and to travel abroad required a passport. While the format may be very different from today's versions, the purpose is the same. If your ancestor went to India, they could be found in the records of the East India Company. The Company maintained its own army so many men travelled to India as Company Soldiers. Births and Deaths abroad were registered exactly they would have been in the UK.

Serving in the armed forces generated several records. Medal Rolls and Index cards record awards for gallantry and also indicate if the recipient died in action. Occasionally other brief remarks might be added. Paylists, muster rolls, registers of soldiers' effects, Prisoner of War records, ships' musters, merchant seamen's records, seaman's pouches and soldiers' pension records are among the many resources held by the **National Archives**. Many of these are online and can be accessed on **Fold3** via **Ancestry**. Soldiers often kept a personal diary. If they have not been retained by family, they may be in the **Imperial War Museum** or the **National Army Museum**.

The average ancestor was likely to have experienced hard times and to have needed to call on the meagre amounts of relief that were available. As such relief came from the public purse, every penny was recorded in the Overseers' Accounts. Pauper children were apprenticed out as soon as they were old enough to work and the process was the same as for a standard apprenticeship, except that the paperwork stayed with the parish. Settlement was an important factor if a family fell on hard times. If they had left their place of settlement and needed poor relief, they were either sent back home or their original parish was re-charged for the cost of relieving them. The Settlement examinations would have given the names of the whole family, their original settlement and possibly their claim to settlement in their current place. Your ancestor might also have been named in a Bastardy Bond, either as the mother of an illegitimate child, or as the putative father of the child. A lesser-known poor relief benefit was the Militia Relief Order. If a

man was ordered to serve with the militia, he could claim support from the parish for his family while he was away.

When the New Poor Law came in, the workhouse records took over from the Vestry, but the costs were still recorded. Each week the Poor Law Union Gazette published a list of men who had deserted their families, leaving them chargeable to the parish. These men were to be arrested on sight by the police.

Another solution to the hard times was Assisted Migration, extending in time from the 17th to the 20th century.

Land tax records are useful for ancestors even if they didn't own the land they occupied. The records name the owner and the occupier, indicate what sort of land it was – a cottage, a cottage and garden, a field – and the tax payable on it. The amount of tax gives a clue as to how large a holding was and how rich or poor your ancestor might be. The Tithe Redemption Act and the Enclosures also name land holdings and occupiers while the 1910 Land Valuation Act was, in effect, a modern Domesday Book, mapping every piece of land, its acreage, its ownership, and its location.

Tithes, leases and deeds of ownership are sources of information that are sadly neglected. More often than not, they sit in solicitors' offices, uncatalogued. Sometimes when a firm closes down, the deeds are offered to a local Record Office and then they may appear on an online catalogue.

The final chapter in your average ancestor's life was its end. After 1837, there will have been a death certificate giving name, address, approximate age, cause of death, name of the person giving information about the death. Even in the workhouse, deaths were registered. Family archives may help here if a memorial card or photograph has been kept. Your ancestor's burial would certainly have been recorded even if there was no monument and parish registers give us the information we need. But if you don't know where they were living at the time of death, **Deceased Online** is a subscription site that can help you locate the precise part of the churchyard in which your average ancestor is buried.

In all, Ian thought that Mr or Ms Average would have generated about 100 records in their lifetime. So even if your ancestor was not rich or famous or notorious, they will still have left a footprint in time.

Finding Harriett Grubb: Reading the Unreadable

Yvonne Masson and Roland Bostock

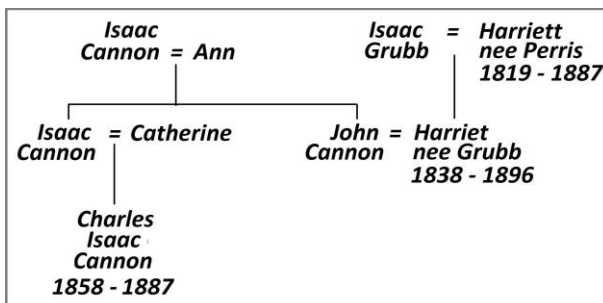


As a follow-on from Yvonne’s previous article about **Harriet Fourdrinier**, this article takes up the story of the enigmatic gravestone at **Hounslow Cemetery** which we came across during our recording of the inscriptions there. We could read the start of the inscription, which went as follows: “In / affectionate remembrance / of / **Charles Isaac Cannon** / late torpedo instructor / of H.M. Ship Vernon / died January 10th 1887 / aged 29 years”. Then comes the highlighted section “Also / in affectionate remembrance of / **Harriett ???**”. We could see letters in the surname, but it didn’t make sense, and it certainly appeared that there had been overcarving, i.e. the correction

of one surname to another. To our best efforts it looked like there were the two surnames occupying the same space, **Grubb and Perris**, so which was right, and how did the name relate to the young torpedo instructor **Charles Isaac Cannon**. The next line on the inscription looks like it ends in 87. it would appear that this **Harriett** also died the same year as **Charles Isaac**. Time for some serious family history digging.

Starting from **Charles Isaac Cannon**, he could be found in the 1861 census, age 2, with his parents **Isaac** and **Catherine**, in Twickenham, Middx. In 1871 he is no longer with his parents, but with uncle **John Cannon** and his wife **Harriett**, living in Reading, Berkshire, so this **Harriett** would surely be the one sharing his gravestone. Looking for the marriage of **John Cannon** and **Harriett** this is quite easily found to take place in Brentford in 1860, and her maiden name is **Grubb**. So far so good, and yes there is a **Harriett Grubb** who dies in Brentford in 1887, but she is 68 years old, out by a generation from **Harriett Grubb** who was caring for **Charles Isaac** in 1871. Could there be another **Harriett Grubb** to fit the bill? Time to check on **Harriett's** parents.

Using the 1851 census (with surname **Grub**) **Harriett** can be found, age 12, living with her parents **Isaac** and **Harriett Grub**. So we do have another **Harriett**, albeit a great aunt to **Charles Isaac Cannon**. Follow the trail back to the marriage of **Isaac** and **Harriett** which took place on 27th February at St. Giles, Reading, and what do we find but that her maiden name was **Perris**. In summary what we had found was that **Harriett Perris** had originally been carved on this gravestone, but that being a maiden name the correct carving of the surname should have been **Grubb**. Mystery resolved, let's move on to the next gravestone.





Gravestone of William Lofthouse Heald at Feltham Prison.
Copyright: Roland Bostock 2023.

The inscription on the headstone pictured above marks the grave of **William Lofthouse Heald** at **Feltham Borstal**. It records that he was an “Officer of this Institution, a member of Captain Scott's South Polar Expeditions 1901-4 and 1910-13 and that he died on 19 December 1929 aged 53”. It ends *'To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield'* from *Ulysses* by **Alfred Lord Tennyson**. The full inscription may be seen in the Members' Section of our Society's website.

William Lofthouse Heald had been born at York on 25 December 1875. The 1881 and 1891 census records that William's father, John was a Warder at York Castle Prison. Perhaps this explains **William's** final career choice as Warder at the Feltham Borstal. In 1891, aged 15, **William** is described as a draper's assistant, but this possibly proved too tame an existence for him. On Christmas Day 1893 (his 18th birthday), he began his engagement with the Royal Navy. His record describes him as 5'6" with brown hair, blue eyes and

fresh-complexioned and states that he had signed on for 12 years, with his discharge due in January 1906. In 1905 however, he received promotion to Petty Officer First Class for his services in HMS *Discovery* during the 1901-1904 Polar Expedition.

William left the Navy in 1908 and joined the Royal Fleet Reserve. Discharged in 1911, while still serving as Petty Officer with the Polar Expedition on HMS *Terra Nova*, he rejoined the Reserve in 1913 and joined up again in August 1914, serving until January 1918 when he was finally demobilised.

Awards of Polar Medals and Clasps for service during 1910 - 1913 were announced during 1913. **William** had already received the Polar Medal, which was augmented by a silver clasp.

On leaving the naval service, William joined the staff of the Feltham Borstal, as a warder, following in his father's footsteps. He married twice, wedding **Agnes Gittins** in 1913 and following her death in 1917, **Agnes Spilling**, a widow in 191. The following year, their only son **Arthur William Howatson Heald** was born.

In loving memory of / WILLIAM LOFTHOUSE HEALD / (Officer of this institution / and member of Captain Scott's / South Polar Expeditions 1901-4 / and 1910-13) / died Dec. 19th 1929 / aged 53 / "To strive, to seek, to find / and not to yield".

Sources

*The National Archives ADM 188/269/165788 continued on ADM 188/269/165785
'The Edinburgh Gazette' 29 July 1913 12585 p 794*

Members' Discounts and Passwords

Find My Past

In May 2016 the Society signed a new contract with the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) relating to the terms under which we supply data to Find My Past. As part of this contract Find My Past has made available a discount of 15% on all new subscriptions, or Pay as You Go payments, taken out by our members. All you have to do is to enter the appropriate discount code as given below:

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

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

These codes are valid up to the end of this year.

Forces War Records

The Society has arranged a useful discount for our members of 40% when you take out a subscription with Forces War Records. You should register your details with them by visiting www.forces-war-records.co.uk and going to their *Login/Register* page. The discount code is *****

PASSWORDS

April – June 2023 *****

July- September 2023 *****

West Middlesex Family History Society Matters

Subscriptions

Our hardworking Membership Secretary, Pat Candler is still chasing unpaid subscriptions after six months. The number of outstanding unpaid subscriptions will not be revealed here, suffice it to say the total is quite shocking!

We depend on subscriptions to keep the Society going, by paying for the hire of St John's Centre, for our monthly speakers, for our attendance at family history fairs, and for the production of our Journal.

If you are not sure whether your subscription has been renewed, please check your own bank statements before asking Pat to check this for you (her contact details are on the inside of the front cover).

If you have decided not to renew your membership for 2023, please let Pat know and she can remove your details from our files. We are obliged by Data Protection to ensure that our files are accurate and up-to-date!

Bookstall

Sadly, after many years of unstinting service and hard work for which she deserves a medal, Margaret Cunnew has announced she has to give up the Bookstall.

It has never been an easy job; bringing crates of books to meetings and family history fairs demands strength and agility. Storing it all is no joke either and Margaret would like her spare room back!

Sourcing books is also getting much harder. It is now standard practice for books to be published on-demand at Amazon; archives, and family or local history societies no longer have the money to publish on their area; and even the charity shops are now charging prices we cannot justify for books we would like to buy.

If we cannot find a volunteer to take on this task, we shall just have to dispose of the books in the best way possible

Members News

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

Name	Membership Number	Address/Location
Mrs C Kendall	K65	Herefordshire

We regret to announce the deaths of several long-standing members

Ken Cox, former Chairman and honorary member
. Passed away in February 2023

Paul Kershaw, honorary member, Examiner 1998-2002 and 2008-2016.
Passed away in March 2023

Malcolm Hallwood, member since 1982. Passed away in December 2022.

Joan Storkey, Committee member 2009-2015. Passed away in February 2023

Surname Interests

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member's No.
Kendall	Post-1760	Isleworth	MDX	K65
Kendall	Post 1847	Feltham	MDX	K65
Kendall	Post 1870	Twickenham	MDX	K65
Strudwick	Post 1820	Isleworth area	MDX	K65
Goddard	Post 1818	Isleworth	MDX	K65
Crook	Post 1826	Eton	BRK	K65
Lipscomb	Any	All areas	MDX	K65
Barnham	Post 1824	Isleworth area	MDX	K65
Weatherly	Any	Ruislip	MDX	K65
Bugbird	Any	All areas	MDX	K65
Bupbeard	Any	All areas	MDX	K65
Godliman	Any	Ickenham	MDX	K65
Beech	Any	Ickenham	MDX	K65
Rider	Any	Ickenham	MDX	K65
Platt	Any	Ruislip	MDX	K65

Indexes held by members

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

WEST MIDDLESEX FHS INDEXES

Roland Bostock, bostocr@blueyonder.co.uk

West Middlesex Monumental Inscriptions. Acton, Ashford, Cranford, Chiswick, Ealing, Feltham, Fulham (recorded 100 years ago), Hampton, Harlington, Hayes, Heston, Hillingdon, Hounslow (United Reformed), Norwood Green, Perivale, Staines, Teddington, Twickenham and Uxbridge.

West Middlesex Settlement Records. Chelsea, Ealing, Friern Barnet, Fulham, Hammersmith, New Brentford, Shepperton, Staines, Stanwell, Uxbridge.

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

Stanwell Parish Registers. Baptisms 1632-1906, marriages 1632-1926, burials 1632-1906. Also available on FreeREG. Name database 1632-1906.

MISCELLANEOUS INDEXES

Mr. A. Rice, 46 Park Way, Feltham, TW14 9DJ. secretary@feltham-history.org.uk

Feltham Index. An expanding collection of transcripts and indexes relating to the parish of Feltham. Donations welcome, payable to Feltham History Group.

Mr. Paul Barnfield, 258 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, TW3 3TY

paulbarnfield@hotmail.co.uk

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

Front Cover

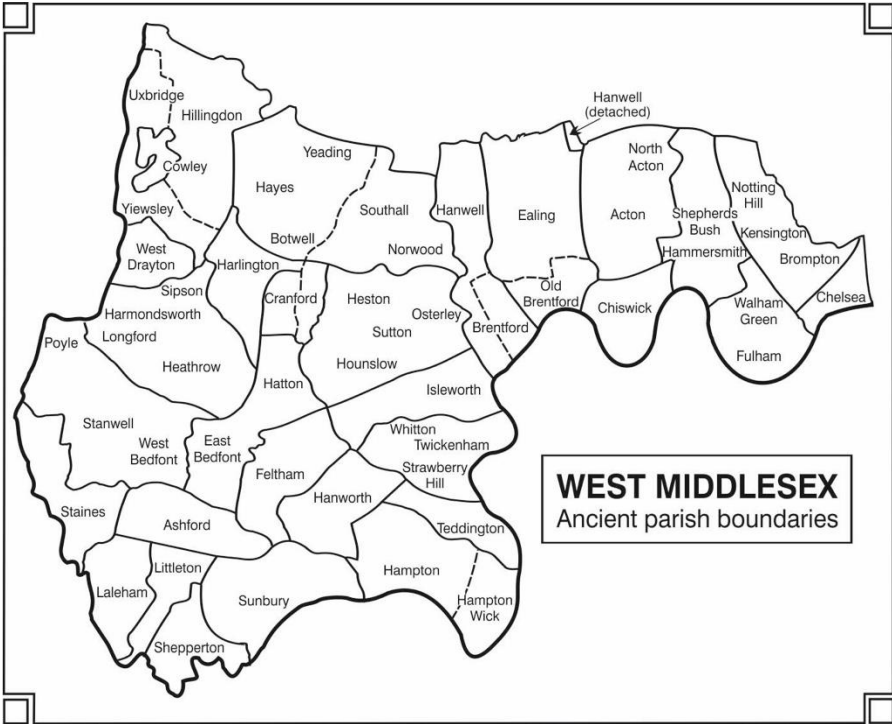
Image: This month's cover is a collage of images from Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1953

Clockwise from top left: Coronation Street Party in Haliburton Road, St Margaret's ; Place-ticket for the Mall; Programme of events for Haliburton, Northcote and Heron Roads, St Margaret's; Souvenir Programme for Coronation Celebration in Feltham; Street party, Haliburton Road, St Margaret's; Programme for the Midnight Matinee, Odeon, Isleworth; Souvenir Coronation Programme, Heston and Isleworth; Entry for window-dressing competition in Hounslow High Street

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Photographs of the Haliburton, Northcote and Heron Road street party and the programme of events by kind permission of Mrs Brenda Matthews; Place ticket for the Mall Wikimedia copyright-free; Souvenir Programmes for Feltham and Heston and Isleworth; Midnight Matinee Programme Odeon, Isleworth (*London Borough of Hounslow PR department*) by kind permission of Hounslow Local Studies Window-dressing competition entry Hounslow Photographic Society. (*Copyright not found*)

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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

If undelivered, please return to :

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