



# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

**VOL 42 No.2**

**JUNE 2024**



[www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk](http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk)



# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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<b>Examiner</b>	Stephen Rassall
<b>Society website</b>	<a href="http://west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk">west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</a>
<b>Subscriptions</b>	Standard: £15 per annum.
<b>Subscription year</b>	1 January to 31 December

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

# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

Volume 42 Number 2

June 2024

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All articles and other items for the Journal should be sent to:  
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Please send any post office mail  
c/o the Secretary

Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to:  
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25 Selkirk Road  
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Middlesex, TW2 6PS

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

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

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The following talks have been arranged:

Date	Topic	Speaker
20 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 Zoom meeting Speaker at St. John's	<b>The Fulham Pottery</b> - Fulham Pottery had a 300 year history from its founding in 1671 until its closure in 1965. Giz takes us through the ups and downs of its history. **Refreshments will be served at this meeting AND there will also be a raffle. ** DON'T MISS IT – PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!	Giz Marriner
18 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 Zoom meeting Speaker at St. John's	<b>Almshouses</b> - The contribution made by almshouses in caring for the elderly from medieval times to the present day will be examined.	Dr Judy Hill
15 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	To be Arranged	
19 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2024 Zoom meeting Speaker is remote	<b>Using DNA for Family History Research</b> This talk looks at some of the methods and techniques you can use when working with your DNA results. In addition, little tips will be given along with a few practical examples to help you visualise what you need to do to progress your family history research.	Mia Bennett

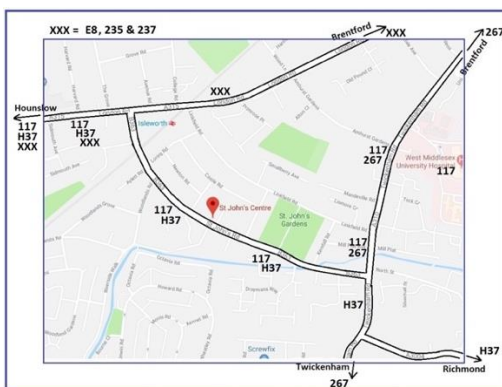
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## When and How We Meet

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

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



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

Members of Hillingdon FHS ([www.hfhs.org.uk](http://www.hfhs.org.uk)) and East Surrey FHS ([www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](http://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)) have an open invitation to join any of our Zoom meetings without charge and offer our members a reciprocal invitation.

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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 narrow 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)

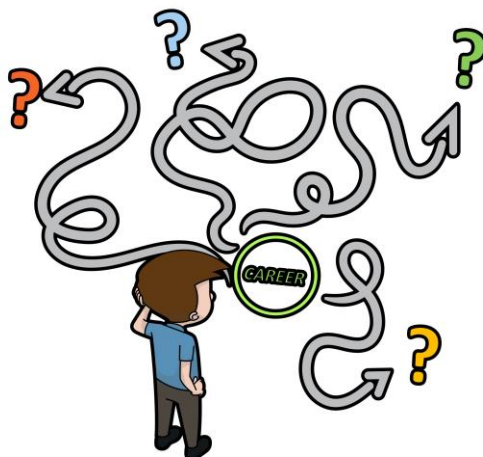
Half-page        £10 (members) £15 (non-members)

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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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](mailto: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.

**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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# Annual General Meeting

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The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society, held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 as a hybrid local meeting at St. John's Centre, Isleworth with Zoom connection. The meeting was attended by 11 members at St. John's Centre and a further 13 members attending by Zoom.

## 1. Welcome by the Chairman

Chairman **Giz Marriner** welcomed all to this hybrid Annual General Meeting.

## 2. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence have been received from **Diana Wells**.

## 3. Minutes of the AGM held on 16th March 2023

These were published in the Society's Journal of June 2023. Giz asked if anyone had any concerns over the accuracy of the minutes. None were raised. **Giz Marriner** proposed that the minutes be accepted. **Ann Greene** seconded the proposal, which was then passed unanimously.

## 4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

## 5. Chairman's Report

I am going to keep this report extremely simple. I just want to say a huge thank-you particularly to committee members. You work tirelessly, and without you there would be no Society. You are fantastic, thank-you so much for all your hard work. And that is really all I want to say. We will continue with our hybrid meetings – we have our ups and downs occasionally – but overall, we are willing, and I think that that is fantastic. So, thank-you all of you.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

Good evening, you should all have sight of a copy of the accounts, even though I'm sorry that the numbers may not be very clear on the screen. The accounts will be printed in the June journal and you can always raise any queries after you have had a good look.

To break with my usual habit of starting with the SOFA (Statement Of Financial Activities), this time I'm going to start with the Balance Sheet and the Fixed Assets.



We scrapped the old Amplification System, having bought various more modern items which - being low value - have all been written off in the year of purchase. We have bought a new Projector, so the old one will be written off next year.

Current Assets – as hoped, our stock of books and maps has reduced. As Margaret is both retiring from the committee and resigning as bookstall manager, we are waiting to see what will happen to the books in the coming year. The polo shirts and hoodies have been fully depreciated, even though we still have some in stock. It's not too late to treat yourself.

Cash at bank – In May 2023 we moved £10,000 of surplus funds to an account with Skipton Building Society. It was quite a challenge to find a financial institution which would allow a charity to open a deposit account. At the time, the rate of 2.85% looked good. Even now, it is a lot better than the 1.5% we are earning at Barclays. The transfer of funds was not straightforward – Barclays bounced our cheque. On investigation, the bank admitted an error had been made so when we come to look at the SOFA you will see that we received £50 in compensation.

That's really all I have to say about the Balance Sheet, so will now turn to the SOFA.

Total membership, and therefore subscriptions and Gift Aid were down slightly on the previous year. Bank interest is up and in May we shall receive a year's interest from Skipton Building Society.

The Expenditure on members' services is higher – largely due to the increase in postage costs for mailing our journals. If anyone would like to receive their journal electronically, please do let our secretary know.

Other Income shows a good increase, largely due to having more records on Find My Past. Many thanks are due to Roland and his team of transcribers for this. You will also note that monies which had been hiding since pre-Covid days came into the treasurer's hands for banking.

Overhead expenditure has almost doubled mainly due to two items – the printing and postage of the subscription renewal letters and the final write-down in the value of the polo shirts and hoodies. The separate subscription renewal letters have brought a good response – at 31 December 2023 we had

received £1245 in subscriptions for the coming year, whereas at 31 December 2022 the equivalent figure was £840.

Overall, we spent £749 more than we received in income. I cannot stress too strongly that if volunteers do not come forward to help run the Society, we shall be back where we were a few years ago and facing closure. Whatever is still in the bank will have to be distributed, probably to FHF.

**I for one will be standing down at the 2025 AGM.** I first became Treasurer in 1995 and have continued, either officially or unofficially, most of the thirty years since then. A charity must have a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. There are no options. If someone is confident with Excel and online banking, please let us know. I shall be happy to work in partnership with our new Treasurer until s/he feels comfortable.

## **7. Receiving of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023**

A copy of the annual accounts is available in the members area of our website, and will be published in the June journal. **Roland Bostock** proposed that the accounts be accepted. **Giz Marriner** seconded the motion, which was then carried unanimously.

## **8. Appointment of the Examiner**

Our current examiner, **Stephen Rassall**, is suffering bad health, and the Society is looking for an alternative. In the meantime, however, Stephen has agreed to continue in the role. **Muriel Sprott** proposed the motion that Stephen Rassall continue as our examiner, **John Seaman** seconded it, which motion was carried unanimously.

## **9. Election of Committee and Officers**

**Margaret Cunnew**, having served on the committee for the last six years, stands down.

**Emma Albery, Roland Bostock, Pat Candler, Ann Greene, Giz Marriner, Yvonne Masson** and **John Seaman** having served less than three years on the Committee and being willing to continue, do not need to be re-elected.

**Muriel Sprott** having served three or more years on the Committee, and being willing to continue, offers herself for re-election.

**Lesley Kinch** has offered to serve on the committee.

**Giz Marriner** proposed that all those making themselves available to serve on the committee be accepted. **Ann Greene** seconded the motion, which was then carried unanimously.

## **10. Any other business**

**Kay Dudman** acknowledged the thanks already expressed to members of the committee by Giz. She wished to express her thanks in particular to Roland for his work bringing the Society's equipment to these meetings, and overcoming the various technical issues that have arisen. Kay asked for applause for Roland, which was duly given. This ended the AGM.

**AGM Postscript** - *Those of you who attended our AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> March, either in person or on Zoom, will be aware of the short hiatus whilst an Honorary Member Certificate was handed to Kevin Brown. We didn't have an opportunity to explain the story behind the presentation, so here it is.*

Many years ago, when a member was awarded Honorary Membership all they received was a round of applause from members at the meeting. It's only in fairly recent times that a beautiful commemorative certificate has been issued.

Back to the past again. When we held our meetings at Montague Hall in Hounslow, we were greeted by Mary Bickle and Mary Brown. The ladies always welcomed everyone – whether a member or a guest- with a smile, and ensured that we signed the attendance register. As a mark of thanks for having undertaken this job so happily for so many years they were both made Honorary Members.

Sadly, Mary Bickle died in 2016, but Mary Brown is still with us, albeit rather frail. When Margaret Cunnew visited Mary earlier this year, Mary wistfully remarked that it would be nice to have had a certificate marking the award of Honorary membership.

Roland Bostock to the rescue (what would we do without him?) and a certificate was produced. Mary was invited to attend the AGM. Margaret ensured that Mary's son, Kevin, knew the reason for the invitation. He said that if Mary wasn't well enough to attend, he would collect the certificate on her behalf. On the evening, following several days of poor health, Mary was unable to attend, so Kevin did indeed, come to collect the certificate.

Mary was delighted and sent a letter of thanks the very next morning.

Those of us who have been members for many years were saddened to learn that Wendy Mott, one of our founder members was in hospital. We asked Kevin to pass on our best wishes to Wendy. We have since learned that Wendy died in Hospital on 28<sup>th</sup> March. She had arranged her own private funeral, so there will be no further announcements. However, our condolences to the family.

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## Added notes from the Editor!!

I have to say, I feel like I knew Wendy although of course we had never met. She did a huge amount of work for West Middlesex Family History Society. With my digitising the old journals her name comes up constantly. In the December 1983 Journal she wrote an interesting article, which also shows her sense of humour! Wendy's profile appears in the April 1982 Journal and in the same edition, an article she wrote on doing MI's in Heston Churchyard.

These digitised versions are now available on the website, so why don't you browse through and have a look, see how family history research was done in the days before computers!! I just can't imagine!

It has been suggested that we try a project using themes to entice more articles from members. We all have interesting stories, I am sure; we have already started this with the **"My Brick Wall"** stories. If you have one, please do send it in. A suggestion has been **"Things my Granny told Me – True & Untrue!"** (thanks Muriel). How about we start with that one. Aiming for the end of the year journal, that gives you lots of time to put your thinking cap on and start writing about what your Granny (or Nan) told you!

I also wanted to mention particularly new members. Do you realise that along with announcing your names by way of a welcome to the Society, we also have an area for Surname Interests. There seems to be very little activity in this area of late. You never know what may come of listing your **Surnames of Interest**, giving the approximate years and area you are looking for. This of course is available to all members, why not send in a list of what you are looking for as your research evolves. You never know you may be related to someone already in the Society.

Hmmmm.....Any Kinch, Tracey, Linstead or Pickering people out there?

# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number: 291906

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT:

31 DECEMBER 2023

31 DECEMBER 2022

### FIXED ASSETS

	Cost, or Value at 30/09/1994	Total cumulative Depreciation 31/12/2023	Value at 31/12/2023		Cost, or Value at 30/09/1994	Total cumulative Depreciation 31/12/2022	Value at 31/12/2022
Harmondsworth Manor Rolls	348	0	348		348	0	348
Lectern - Bought 2002	400	395	5		400	395	5
Amplification System - Written off 202	0	0	0		235	231	4
Power Point Projector - Bought 2006	428	423	5		428	423	5
Viewing monitor for laptop B/t 2007	170	166	4		170	166	4
Display Stands & Table Cloths B/t 201	1409	1395	14		1409	1391	18
LapTop Computer Bought 2011	915	892	23		915	884	31
Sum-Up card reader Bought 2022	179	78	101		179	45	134
Projector Bought 2023	153	38	115		0	0	0
	<u>4002</u>	<u>3387</u>	<u>615</u>		<u>4084</u>	<u>3535</u>	<u>549</u>

### CURRENT ASSETS

Stocks:	Books	308			422		
	Ordinance Survey Maps	186			198		
	T-shirts & hoodies	<u>0</u>			<u>199</u>		
			494				819
Deposit paid for key to St John's Centre			30				30
Expenses paid in advance: 2023/2022			50				0
Cash at Bank & In Hand							
	Barclays current account	405			938		
	Barclays Business premium account	7500			17250		
	Skipton Building Society	10000			0		
	Cash	<u>55</u>			<u>62</u>		
			<u>17960</u>				<u>18250</u>
Total assets			19149				19648

### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Due to St John's Centre for room hire	180				360		
Due to Editor for catering at December meeting	25				0		
Subscriptions In Advance	<u>1245</u>	<u>1450</u>			<u>840</u>	<u>1200</u>	
Total assets less current liabilities			£ <u>17699</u>				£ <u>18448</u>

### ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Balance Brought Forward	18448				15477		
Net compensation LCF	0				2750		
Deficit / Surplus for Year	<u>-749</u>				<u>221</u>		
	£ <u>17699</u>				£ <u>18448</u>		

Muriel Sprott  
Treasurer

Giz Marriner  
Chairman

Dated:

*Giz F. Marriner*

22 - January 2024

**WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**Registered Charity Number: 291906**  
**YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Year to 31 December 2023		Year to 31 December 2022	
MEMBERS' SERVICES INCOME				
Subscriptions received for current year	2190		2100	
Subscriptions received in advance last year	<u>840</u>		<u>1320</u>	
		3030		3420
Bank Interest		93		17
Compensation from Barclays Bank		50		0
Tax refund on Gift Aid		<u>395</u>		<u>479</u>
		3568		3916
LESS: EXPENDITURE				
Journal production & delivery		2830		2749
Zoom & Internet expenses		280		224
Hire of meeting halls		1020		800
Speakers		<u>555</u>		<u>610</u>
		4685		4383
		-1117		-467
OTHER INCOME				
Bookstall sales	221		256	
less Stock variation	-126		-142	
less Purchases	<u>0</u>	95	<u>-15</u>	99
Donations		60		25
Baptism index searches		84		81
Burial Index and NBI searches		73		50
Marriage index searches		451		444
Memorial inscription searches		421		359
Poor Law searches		36		28
Protestation returns searches		32		21
War memorials searches		78		88
Raffles (Pre-Covid income banked in 2023)		98		0
Refreshments (Pre-Covid income banked in 2023)		<u>10</u>		<u>0</u>
		1438		1195
		321		728
OVERHEAD EXPENSES				
FHF Subscription, including insurance		98		103
Genfair charges		6		8
Card reader charges		1		1
Equipment repairs & maintenance		0		0
Library purchases		0		0
Postage, stationery & telephone		378		15
Printing of Leaflets, Posters & Flyers		0		41
Publicity, including attendance at open days		276		229
Polo shirts & hoodies - opening stock	199		249	
Less: depreciated value of stock c/f	0		-199	
Sales of polo shirts & hoodies	<u>-60</u>		<u>0</u>	
Net loss of value		139		50
Sundry expenses		68		0
Travel & subsistence		21		0
Depreciation & disposal of assets		<u>83</u>		<u>60</u>
		-1070		-507
Deficit / Surplus for year		£ <u>-749</u>		£ <u>221</u>
Sundry expenses = Catering at Midsummer Social £18.00				
Catering at December meeting £25.00				
Donation to RAF Benevolent Fund in memory of Rob Purr £25.00				

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## Monthly Talks – Ann Greene, Roland Bostock & Yvonne Masson

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### ***Ancestors on the move***

**FEBRUARY**

***Janet Few***

Janet began by saying she has as many genealogical brick walls as anyone. She offers no guaranteed solutions to the problem of disappearing ancestors, only strategies for finding them and possibly working out where they moved to and why.

Ancestors “on the move” tend to fall into two categories: those who appear from nowhere and those who disappear. In either group, there will be emigrants who have moved out of an area or country, immigrants who have moved in and migrants who have simply moved around an area or country. There is a widely-accepted idea that in the past people didn’t move much from place to place, but this is not the case. If you have elusive ancestors, Janet offered the following advice for trying to trace them.

Cast your net as wide as possible and try and think like your ancestors. Why might they move and how? It helps here to think about times in your own life when you have moved. There are various reasons for leaving (or moving into) an area: economic, educational, family, religion, politics, avoiding natural disaster, assisted emigration, escaping justice and enforced relocation such as transportation or being returned to a home parish under the Settlement laws.

Settlement rules were strict. The place you were born was your home parish and the only place where you could ask for relief if you fell on hard times. If you wanted to move away for work, you had to have settlement papers but you could still be “removed” to your home parish if you needed help later on. The settlement system did create documents but their survival rate varies.

How might your ancestor travel - by land or water? Where are the large towns that might offer work? Local directories can help here. They will show not only local trades and businesses but details of local transport (stage-coaches, carriers and railways) and the destinations they served. Think about likely travel routes. I know Janet didn’t say this, but don’t forget canals and rivers.

When did they move? What was going on in the area that might have created the need to leave or arrive in a certain place? How old were they when they moved? Did they move alone or with their family?

Some occupations would involve regular moves. A soldier in the army could be sent to Ireland, to India, to Africa or just about anywhere. The National Archives Army Records (WO397) can help here. Other mobile occupations include the Royal Navy, the Merchant Navy, railways, Customs and Excise employees, Coastguards, the police and clergymen. Customs men, coastguards and policemen were probably moved more frequently than anyone to guard against them becoming involved in local criminal activity. Domestic servants and estate workers might find themselves moving along with their employers. Following a particular occupation might also involve relocating as the trade or profession itself moved. Agricultural workers might move around an area with the seasons. When the Belfast Wire Works needed wire weavers, they advertised in local papers as far away as Leeds. When the Devon coalmines were in decline, miners travelled to work in Northumberland mines where strikes created a demand for blackleg labour.

Your missing ancestor may have fallen foul of the criminal justice system and been imprisoned or even transported. National records will help you here, both in the UK and the country they were sent to; but if your ancestor went on the run to escape either of these fates, they may have changed their name to avoid detection. It is still possible to track them down, if on later censuses they might have entered their original birthplace and their correct age. Newspaper reports may also help and these days there is also DNA. An unexpected match in a different area may be the clue you're after. Try exploring extended family to see what records are available for them. Australian death records, for example, record the names of parents of the deceased.

Thinking about **why** you can't find your ancestor may help you work out where next to look. Has the name been spelled incorrectly in an original record? If you suspect a mishearing of a name spoken in a strong regional accent, try speaking the name aloud in the accent of their local area and ask someone to write what they have heard. Try losing an H from the start of a name or inserting one. Think about letters that can be commonly confused – S, T, L and so on. Use wildcard functions in online sources. Forenames may have been wrongly entered – Mary Jane may have become Jane Mary or she may have



become known by a nickname - Jenny or Molly. Check other sources to see what appears. And remember that children could be registered without a name – check the births of “male child” or “female child” in the right area and date range. Children could even be registered under the wrong surname if someone got confused at the Register Office. It might also be that mistakes crept in when copying entries from local registers to transcripts for the General Register Office. Try the Register Office local to where your ancestor “should” have been. There are occasions when an event might not have been formally registered. For example, in earlier times the lack of a dead body meant no death certificate could be issued. The deceased would still have been buried or cremated so it is worth checking for a memorial stone, an obituary, or a newspaper report recording the death of your ancestor.

It is also worth considering whether an online data set is actually complete. Sometimes records simply may not have survived. Other sources that might help are: family information; census returns (but bear in the mind the wife may not be the mother of all children entered - a widowed man with young children would probably remarry quite quickly); baptism records instead of birth certificates; a family will may mention your ancestor; a gravestone; the birth certificate of a full-blood sibling may provide more family information.

### **Questions to ask yourself.**

**Do you** have the right date? Try broadening your date range, use as many different sources as possible to try and create a range. Consider the possibility of late birth registrations or adult baptisms.

**Do you** definitely have the right place? Birthplaces can sometimes get changed in a census entry. Where was your ancestor’s mother born? It was not uncommon for women to return to their original parish to give birth. Was the family away from home, or overseas, at the time of a birth? And bear in mind that changing county boundaries might create confusion if your ancestor only wrote the county of their birth.

**How** do you work out which of a vast number of birth entries refers to your ancestor? If time and money are not a problem, you could try researching each one – they might turn out to be a family connection! Otherwise try going back to previously discovered information; look for infant deaths that match the birth entries; then deaths in later life. If you can’t find when or where your ancestor’s parents married, try the bride’s home parish, a traditional place of

marriage. Or use the marriage indexes on Ancestry, FindMyPast or FamilySearch – but be aware that not all indexes are complete; think about clandestine marriages i.e. those conducted at Gretna Green, or at Fleet Prison or Holy Trinity Minories, in London. Such marriages would get around the legal requirements – being of age, marrying with parental consent, waiting for the banns to be called. They were common in the 1740's and eventually led to the Clandestine Marriages Act of 1753.

### **Use the Four R's: Redo – Restart – Reset – Review.**

Try checking research on your family surnames – one-name studies, or the Surname Atlas on CD-ROM compiled by Archers Software. If you have an unusual surname or first name, looking at the geographical “spread” of the name can help to focus your search.

**What did your ancestor do for a living?** You may find some answers in Apprenticeship records, records of the Freemen of a city or the records of a trade Guild. Even if your ancestor had minimal schooling, there may still be a record. Check local school records – the National School records often give the name of previous schools attended, as well as the child's birthdate, name of a father and if they went on to another school.

**Was your ancestor an immigrant or emigrant?** If he or she arrived from another country or decided to make a new life overseas, there are some possible sources of help. Registers of Aliens, Passenger Lists, Naturalisation records etc. Between 1600 and 2000, around 25 million people left Britain and Ireland for places where they could practice their chosen religion freely; where land was available; where work might be obtained; or where family had already moved. Records of such ancestors can include Indentured Servants registers or records of the East India Company for example.

Think about your ancestor's community. Was it a community that was affected by various historical Acts? Roma and Traveller communities were very much affected by the Vagrancy Acts and the Turnpike Acts. The story of various immigrants is documented on the website [www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk](http://www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk)

Janet ended her talk by saying that there was no shame in calling in the professionals if you get really stuck. The Association of Genealogical Record Agents has a list of trained and accredited researchers.

WRITTEN BY ANN GREENE

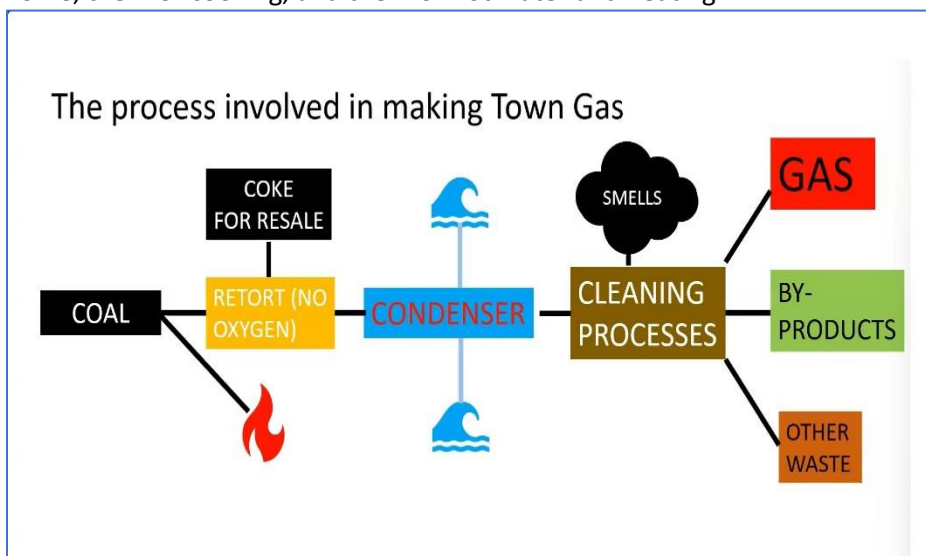
## ***Brentford Gas***

**MARCH**

***David Shailes***

Most of us will be able to recall the sight of a group of gasholders, sometimes at their full height, often much lower. Gas was the main source for lighting in homes and the street long before electricity began to take over. One of the earliest among gas providers was the Brentford Gas Company, which was formed in 1820, and whose works did not close until 1988. David has researched the works thoroughly, collecting many photographs from its history to illuminate his talk.

The first use of gas was for street lighting, then came its use for lighting in the home, then for cooking, and then for hot water and heating.



The manufacturing process to produce gas from coal, is that coal is placed in a sealed oven (the retort) and the retort is then heated from the outside. This produces the gas, and a coal residue, which is called coke. The gas is cooled down in a condenser, and then passes through a cleaning process. It was the cleaning process that caused most of the bad smells associated with gas works. The gas was obviously sold, its first use being for street lighting. Coke was also sold as a heating fuel, and there were other by-products such as tar, sulphur and ammonia, initially treated as waste, but later finding their own markets.

The Brentford works was established on the south side of the High Street and needed river access for coal deliveries, railways as yet were in their infancy and roads were totally inadequate. The photo below was taken in 1948. Prominent



in the view is the gasometer, which was 235 feet high, and also the enclosed conveyor belts used to transport the coal and coke. The dark band which is seen going round the gasometer is in fact the walkway, which was used to reach the top of the gasometer for maintenance purposes. It was a long walk. No wonder the engineers preferred to use a hoist as an alternative and much faster means of getting to the top.

Gasholders were of two types. The earlier design stored gas in a dome which sat on water.

The pressure to move the gas through the pipes to consumers was delivered by the weight of the dome. The later design did not have the water seal and pumps were installed to produce the required pressure to distribute the gas.

Original gas lighting came simply from using a gas flame, but this was an extremely inefficient way of obtaining light. The first change was to burn the gas within a gas mantle (remember those gas lamps), this was ten times more efficient than the simple flame. Strangely, the cost of home gas was initially calculated simply on the number of gas lights a home contained until a gas meter was invented and billed quarterly. It was 1889, before less wealthy residents could access gas, when the slot meter was invented. These meters accepted 1d coins, and you needed a lot of them.

The first gas cooker, for commercial use, was installed at the London Reform Club in 1841, but gas cooking in the home only became fashionable after 1914. A domestic gas cooker was a major capital expense, so the gas company rented it to you, or sold you one on hire purchase.

Gas production increased year by year. In 1841 Brentford Gas manufactured 16 million cubic feet of gas. This grew to 135 million in 1861, 1,807 million in 1900, and 15,500 million cubic feet in 1948. The Brentford Gas works grew and was enlarged several times and was totally rebuilt by the then owners, the Gas Light & Coke Co (GLCC), between 1929 and 1935. However, by 1948 gas was beginning to be overtaken by its new competitor, electricity. Domestic electricity was introduced quite slowly. In 1910 it supplied just 2% of the domestic energy market. In 1920 this had increased to 10%, and it then took off, supplying 66% of market needs by 1939. Brentford converted its street lighting to electricity in about 1960.



Post World War II, all gas companies were nationalised. The GLCC was the largest independent gas company, and in 1949 it became the North Thames Gas Board, one of twelve boards created nationally. Quality and price increases of coal meant that in 1960 Brentford coal gas cost 6d per therm to produce, whereas other companies that could produce gas from oil, the cost was 3d per therm. As a result, gas production at Brentford ceased in 1963. It was the competition from oil-produced gas that sealed Brentford's fate, not a result of the introduction of North Sea gas. The main works were demolished in 1965, leaving the main gasholder in use until 1988 when it was dismantled.

WRITTEN BY ROLAND BOSTOCK

## ***Date and Identify your Family History Photographs***

**APRIL**

***Ann Larkham***

For her talk Ann invoked the spirit of film actor John Wayne who said: “talk low, talk slow and don’t say too much”. Her interest in family history was sparked by the contents of an old cardboard box owned by her grandmother. After various non-genealogy occupations, Ann later qualified as a genealogist, with a special interest in photo-genealogy, and is producing a book on the subject for Pen & Sword books. Starting with a brief introduction covering caring for and enjoying your family history photographs and creating a legacy with them, she went on to say that for people new to photo dating and identifying she has devised a simple step-by-step method to help identify photographs and which may help to fit names to faces to go with the family tree. This method should help with both physical and digital photographs: photo-dating computer programs are not a substitute for dating them ourselves. A good tool kit to start with would include: gloves, magnifying glass, pencils, possibly digital callipers, plus reference books and websites.

### **THE TEN-STEP METHOD:**

1. **CONTEXT** of the photo? From where or whom did it come? Did it come with other photos or documents? In what sort of enclosure? Did it come with a story? If so, record the story, plus the story teller if possible. This sort of information should be noted and recorded.
2. **LOOK** for the obvious: it is easy to overlook it. Check for a date on the photo – any printed information is usually reliable. Some dates are handwritten, some stamped. But remember the photo might be a much later reprint. If a handwritten date: was this when the photo was taken? It might even be an unrelated date, nothing to do with the photo. Is it in pencil, ink, ballpoint? Biro’s date from May 1945. Look for the style of handwriting. Formerly all children were taught handwriting at school so tended to have the same style; nowadays it tends to be a modern scrawl!
3. **PHOTOGRAPHIC PROCESS** can be used to date a photo. Throughout the history of photography, there have been over 150 processes, some obscure. Not all would be represented in a family collection.

4. **PHOTOGRAPHIC TYPE** – there might be different types of photos in a family collection. Each type is indicative of the period when it was taken. This is not an exact science, but together with other clues provides a starting point. From 1839:

**DAGUERROTYPE**, 1839-1860s. On silver-plated copper, covered by glass and in a protective case, each daguerrotype image is unique, and laterally reversed. They can look positive or negative, depending on one's angle of view, and are highly reflective, rather like a mirror. But they were expensive, so are rare in family collections.

**AMBROTYPES**: 1855 – 1860s. A glass negative against a dark background, in a protective case. Again, a unique image which always looks positive and is laterally reversed, again expensive, so rare.

**TINTYPE**: from 1853 in the USA, in Britain: 1870s-1910s. On a sheet of iron, it always looks positive, each image unique and laterally reversed. They have usually been taken outdoors, e.g. at the beach. They were affordable. All three of the above look similar.

**CARTES DE VISITE**: NOT BEFORE 1854. These were very popular and were in production for a long time. Printed on thin photopaper which required a mounting card. They were a characteristic size and are more likely to be in a family collection.

**CABINET CARD**: NOT BEFORE 1860. Similar to Cartes de Visite, but three times larger. On thin paper and mounted on cardboard. Very popular in family collections.

**POSTCARDS**: NOT BEFORE 1902. A standard size and will say "Post Card" on the back where messages could be written. The image is printed directly on to the card stock. Not all postcards were actually posted. Can contain useful printers' reference codes and date stamps.

**LARGE, MOUNTED PHOTOS**: NOT BEFORE C1900. High quality images, a response by the professionals to amateur photography. On thick card with borders. The back is plain or with the name of the Studio.

**ROLL FILM (FOR AMATEURS)**: NOT BEFORE 1888. A range of different formats. They are often family snapshots. On thicker photopaper.

**COLOUR PHOTOS**: 1950s ONWARDS.

Several photo types overlapped – at least five at the same time.

5. **BACK OF PHOTOS MAY HOLD CLUES** - With Cartes and Cabinets the presence of negative numbers (a studio reference) can help to put them in date order. If the photographer's address is on the back, research it for when the business was there, using directories; newspapers; ads; electoral registers; local libraries. Royal Patronage claims can help with dating. The design of mounting cards evolved - but it could also be old stock being used up by the Studio. Rounded corners went in and out of fashion.

6. **FRONTS OF PHOTOS** - Look for clues such as: Writing on the front? The subject of the photo? "Walking" photos: taken by street photographers, often at the beach. Location: where taken? Do you, or anyone else, recognise it? Are there any clues in the background - posters, ads, buildings? An interior photo: Was it taken in a studio? Studio backgrounds changed: perhaps a plain or draped curtain. 1863: painted backgrounds. 1865: scenes from windows, perhaps with a bike (after 1890), columns, balustrades. 1880s: backgrounds again. 1882: seaside scenes; 1890: plain again, but with potted plants or perhaps a mirror. Furniture could initially be a support during long exposures, but later was used only as "set dressing". Props: perhaps showing their hobbies, or status, or were only for effect. Oriental styling: towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Poses: 1860s: People taken in long shot, standing or sitting. 1870s: Medium long shot, sometimes semi-profile or looking off-camera. Head and shoulders: 1890s, but still also long shots: especially women – they wanted to show off their latest outfit.

7. **FASHION** - Ann said she is not a fashion historian but there are webinar recordings by fashion experts. Other resources she regularly uses are Jayne Shrimpton: "Tracing your ancestors through family photographs" plus books by Robert Pols, Avril Lansdale and Madeleine Ginsburg. Plus, websites like the V&A Museum's collections page: search fashion by year. Women's fashion is much more useful than men's: women's photos can be dated to within five years or less, men: a decade. If people were poor, they lag behind fashion. Also, hair and beard styles and especially accessories. Find My Past blogs have many useful posts. Family history magazines often have articles about fashion in old photos.



8. **OCCASION**: *when* a photo was taken. Occasions or milestones in their lives which may have occasioned a trip to a studio. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century: **Baptism** photos were formal. They might be the only photo taken of the baby - baby photos were not popular (due to wriggling etc). There were “hidden mother” photos – her face, or her arm might be visible holding on to the baby. **Before WW I**: very young boys in dresses with long hair. Around 4 years old: they went into trousers (being “breeched”): perhaps a photo taken for the occasion. Or perhaps a photo on each of their birthdays. Another milestone: 21? Or starting work. **Christmas photos**: you might be able to work out which Christmas - how old are they? Or perhaps date the toys? **Engagement photos**: might be taken separately and then exchanged between the couple. **Wedding photos**: the white dress is a modern phenomenon; in earlier days, they just wore their Sunday Best. **Anniversaries**: a couple or the whole family - you can estimate the children’s ages. A gathering of **four generations** was an occasion for a photo; again, estimate the ages. **Military personnel**: often in uniform (military uniforms are a specialist subject). A man with his family before being posted, or a family photo might be sent to a man serving overseas. **Post-mortem photos**: adults or babies after death. Perhaps no other photo had ever been taken of them, so this was the only way to preserve their image. **People in mourning clothes?** In black and white photos, the woman’s dress might *not* be black – it could be, say, red. So perhaps not in mourning - look for dull fabric textures, e.g. crêpe, plus distinctive jewellery, e.g. jet. Someone might be holding a photo of a dead family member. Then there are the one-off (national) occasions: e.g. VE Day would give an exact date.

9. **WEDDING PHOTOS** - Arrangements of people in wedding photos was formulaic which can be used to identify people.

10. **NAMES TO FACES, FACES TO NAMES** - Crowd sourcing? But consider your family’s privacy, and also copyright. Photo sharing: on social media? Computer programs (such as Photo Dater available on the My Heritage website: this offers an estimated date). Study photos closely: try to work out a date or location. Date, age, estimated proof-date? Make a list of ancestors who might meet the criteria for the person in the photo. Beware of old photos that have later been copied.

Work through the above steps methodically. Not all the photos are of your ancestors. Never assume. Good luck - You will at least have fun trying!

A handout from Ann will be available to WMFHS members on our website but Ann's email contact is: [www.photogenealogy.co.uk](http://www.photogenealogy.co.uk)

WRITTEN BY YVONNE MASSON

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## Are you related to Tom & Ivy POOLE?

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We have received an enquiry from Brenda Batho who is a member of the Hertfordshire Family History Society. She has found a photo album belonging to a POOLE family, and would like to pass it on to any descendants there might be. A couple of pictures from the album are below and her letter follows on the next page.



Tom & Ivy POOLE & family



Perhaps POOLE relatives?

Brenda just hates to throw it away and figures this is worth a try. Thank you, Brenda!

*Hello*

*I have a photo album belonging to a family by the name of **POOLE, Tom and Ivy** who lived at **48 Holden Road, Barnet** between about c1900-c1960, there are many lovely early family pictures.*

*I realise Barnet is not your society's base but the descendants probably have moved further away.*

*We believe Tom Poole to have had a printing business and might have belonged to the local Masonic order.*

*My husband's aunt had it in her possession when she died and we would like to return it either to descendants of the Poole's or anyone able to prove a relationship with them. One photograph is of a grave headstone which reads:*

**Floss wife of Richard F Poole**

28 September 1928 age 62

also

**Richard F Poole**

29 November 19[3] [?] age 70

and on the footstone:

**Lieut. I.S.R. Poole R.A.F.**

and

**Lieut. B.C. Poole R.A.F.**

France 1918

Kind regards

Brenda Batho (Tel: 01582 792996)

Email: [bd.batho@ntlworld.com](mailto:bd.batho@ntlworld.com)

Hertfordshire Family History Society member

Wouldn't it be fantastic if they turn out to belong to a WMFHS member!!  
If this photo album belongs to your family please contact Brenda directly,  
her phone number and email address are listed above.

# BRICK WALLS

GZ

RB

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Why can't I find my grandfather in the 1921 Census? Giz Marriner

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My grandfather, **Alfred Mouldsdales**, was born in **Moston, Cheshire** on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1887. His father was a gardener on a big estate in Moston and in the 1901 census Alfred was obviously following in his father's footsteps because he was still living with his family and his occupation was given as "gardeners boy".

By the 1911 census he was one of four assistant gardeners working under a foreman in the gardens of **Byram Hall, Ferrybridge RSO, Yorkshire** but by 1914 he had moved south and is listed in the 1914 electoral registers as living in a cottage on the **Wisley Gardens Estate in Surrey**.

My husband is a keen alpine gardener and an acquaintance of his who is on the staff at Wisley Gardens kindly did a wee bit of research for me. She found my grandfather mentioned in the **Garden Club Journal** from 1913, (the Garden Club is a club for staff and students at Wisley and continues today) even managing to find a photo of him in the 1915 journal in which he was given as a journeyman gardener. He apparently joined in 1912.

I found further references to my grandfather in various electoral registers from 1918 to 1923 living in **Filbert Cottage, Parish of Send and Ripley**, Ripley Ward with **Ada Mouldsdales**, nee **Wakeford** and I found their marriage in **Guildford** in 1914, plus the baptisms of their two children but I could not find them in the 1921 census on Find My Past, which was rather strange.

Eventually I tried entering **Alf\*** in the first name box, **M\*** in the surname box, **1887 +/- 2 years** in the date of birth box and **Send and Ripley, Surrey, England** in the address in 1921 box. There were seven hits:

7 results					
First name(s) ▾	Last name ▾	Birth year ▾	Birth place ▾	Parish	Registration district
Alfred	Macdonald	1886	Chester, Cheshire, England	Send & Ripley	Guildford
Alfred A	Martin	1885	Westerham, Kent, England	Cobham	Epsom
Alfred	Marven	1889	Guildford, Surrey, England	Guildford	Guildford
Alfred	Meech	1887	Bermondsey, London, England	Guildford	Guildford
Alfred	Miles	1886	Reading, Berkshire, England	Guildford	Guildford
Alfred	Morton	1888	Islington, London, England	Guildford	Guildford
Alfred	Mersh	—	—	Woking	Guildford

*Fig 1, results of 1921 census search on Find my Past*

Only the first result in the list was in Send and Ripley but that was for an **Alfred Macdonald**. Frustrated I clicked on that one anyway and found the very family I was looking for: Alfred Mouldsdales, head, with his wife Ada and the two children, **Walter Henry** and **Bertha Tryphena**, all with the right ages and correct places of birth!

So, the reason I couldn't find my grandfather in the 1921 census was down to a simple mis-transcription, probably one of the most common reasons for losing ancestors in the records and indexes.

Please don't get me wrong, I fully appreciate the value of transcriptions in this modern, on-line age but it certainly can make the life of a genealogist difficult at times. But - I ask you, does the following entry really look like Macdonald? Mouldsdales is an unusual surname and I know I am familiar with it, so will recognise it more easily than most, but I think the transcriber was in a bit too much of a hurry to try very hard on this one.

			years	months		
1	Alfred Mouldale	Head	34	9	M.	Married
2	Ada Mouldale	Wife	31	4	F.	Married
3	Walter Henry Mouldale	Son	6	11	M.	both
4	Bertha Trappene	Daughter	5	9	F.	both
						alive
						alive
						Cheshire
						Guildford
						Surrey
						Stanford
						Forfolk.
						Ripley
						Surrey

Fig 2. Alfred Mouldale and family in the 1921 census, Find my Past

This record actually proved to be very useful because it told me that my grandfather was no longer working as a gardener in Wisley but was working as a power station engineer at the **Whitehead Aircraft Corporation** in **Feltham, Middlesex**. The power station had supplied power to both the Whitehead Aircraft factory and to the local population during the war. The Aircraft factory had folded soon after the end of WW1 when orders from the government for airplanes for the war dried up. The power station continued to operate though, supplying electricity to the local area.

One thing I discovered was that the Whitehead Aircraft Factory held open days in **Hanworth Park** and took part in very popular football matches with **Hanley's**, another local aircraft factory, all as part of morale boosters during the war.

So why had I put forward this brick wall for our Christmas meeting, when my grandfather was born in Cheshire and lived in Surrey? Simply because a few years later (when his marriage broke up) he moved first to **Spelthorne** (in those days part of Middlesex) and then to Feltham in Middlesex where I found him in the 1939 Register.

I note that, although the day and month of his birth had remained constant, he had shaved some seven years off the year of his birth, probably because he was living with someone 24 years his junior. He died in 1957 of a heart attack.

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## When you have to create a Brick Wall..or two Roland Bostock

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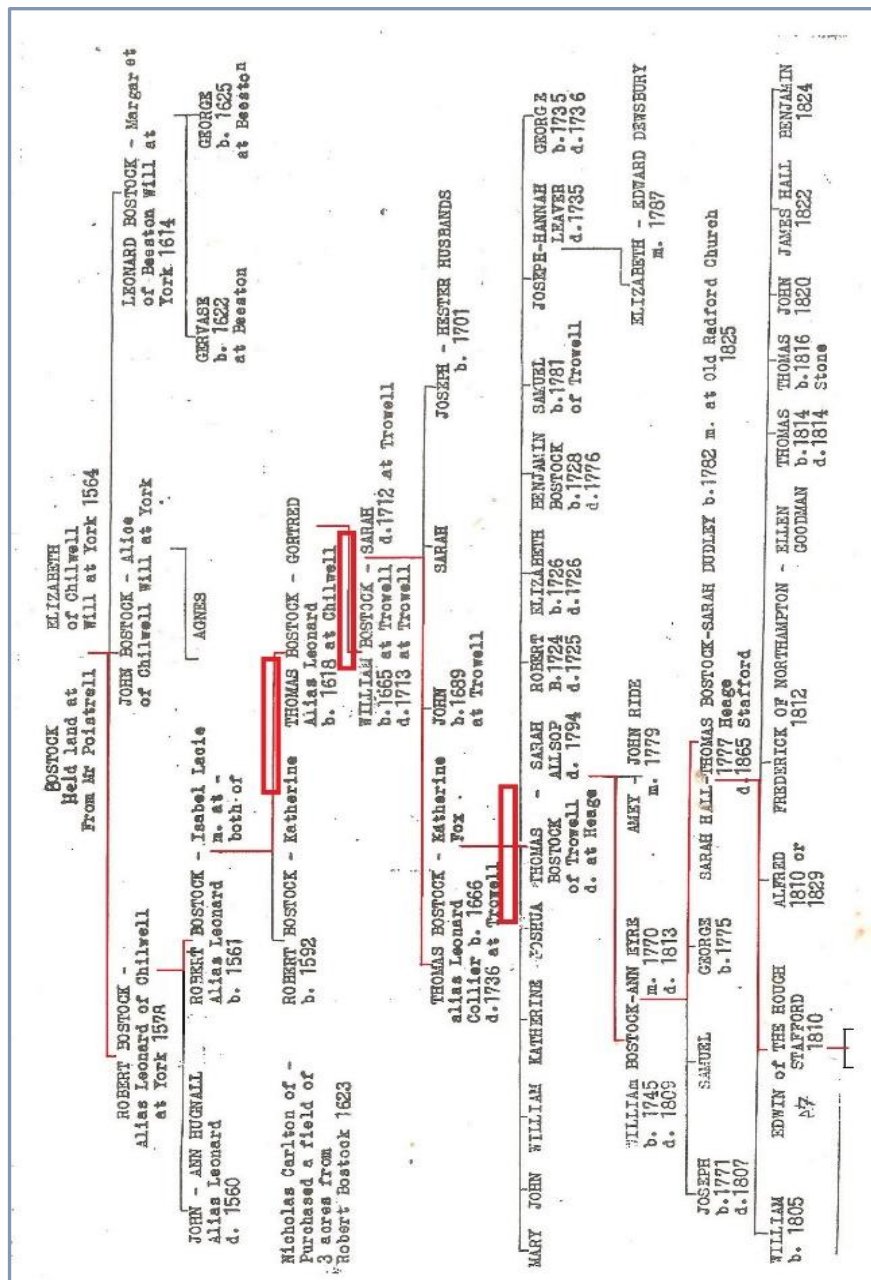
At our December meeting members were invited to talk about how they had met brick walls in their family history research, and how they subsequently were able to break them down. Well, I may have a few of those, but in my case, I seem to have done my family history the other way around, and I have ended up creating several brick walls. This is how this came to pass.

My grandfather, **Geoffrey Bostock**, was certainly interested in our family history. Being a busy City of London accountant, he hired professional genealogy researchers to put together his ancestry, and he then presented the resulting family tree to the **College of Arms** and requested approval of a Coat of Arms for himself.

I have written about the Coat of Arms, which I have on my wall at home, in the March 2019 issue of the Journal. This article is about the family tree which was part of the authority supporting the Coat of Arms.

The red line on the family tree (see next page) marks the direct line from **Elizabeth Bostock of Chilwell, Notts.** who died in 1564, down to **Edwin Bostock**, of the **Hough, Stafford**, who was born in 1810, and is the grandfather of my grandfather. The three issues I later found with this family tree are marked by pictorial brick walls. Of course, it is the latest of these which defines how far I can trace my own ancestry, which goes back to **Thomas** who died at **Heage** in 1776, and was married to **Sarah Allsop**, but I shall tell of the issues in the order that I found them, which was from the front of the tree.

So, **Issue 1** was whether Thomas Bostock, born in 1618, was really the son of **Robert Bostock** and **Isabel Lacie**. The tree, with just those two children of Robert and Isabel, was how it was shown in this early version. But you must be suspicious of how come Robert and Isabel have just two children, the one born 26 years after the other. Once I got my hands on the parish registers of **St. Mary, Attenborough, Notts** it just looked less and less likely.





The old parish register only gave the names of the father, and not much else

### St. Mary, Attenborough, Notts baptisms

(Robert Bostock marries Isabel Lacie at Bramcote, Notts on 24/5/1592)

29/7/1592	Robert	son of Robert Bostock alias Leonard of Chilwell
1/1/1597	Elizabeth	dau of Robert
2/10/1598	Maria	dau of Robert
27/8/1600	Edward	son of Robert
29/9/1600	Agnes	dau of Robert
7/9/1602	Robert	son of Robert
8/10/1603	Katherine	dau of Robert
16/8/1607	Elizabeth	dau of Robert
1/11/1607	Walter	son of Robert of Chilwell
9/8/1609	Grace	dau of Robert
23/2/1612	Mary	dau of Robert
17/11/1615	Robert	son of Robert
3/4/1618	Thomas	son of Robert
15/8/1621	Ann & Alice	twin daus of Robert

besides. The bracketed entries immediately show that at least two parent Roberts must be involved. Overall, rather a nightmare to try and disentangle, but I had seen quite enough to erect my first brick wall. Thomas, born in 1618, was most unlikely to be the son of Robert who married Isabel Lacie in 1592.

**Issue 2** was more straightforward, and conveys the simple message not to stop your researches at baptisms and marriages, but be sure to check for burials as well, much easier now than when the International Genealogists Index (IGI), which only includes baptisms and marriages, was the main available index (on microfiche).

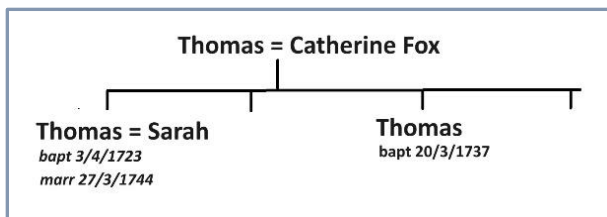
So, in the very next generation of the family tree it shows there was a **William Bostock**, son of **Thomas and Gartred**, who was born in 1665 in **Trowell, Notts**, and died there in 1713. Certainly, the parish registers of St. Helen, Trowell show William, son of Thomas and Gartred, who was baptised on 7th May 1665, but a quick check on the burials then shows that William, son of Thomas and Gartred was buried just a year later on 4th March 1666. That certainly creates a brick wall in place of this William's being anyone's ancestor.

**Issue 3** was a bit more subtle than the burial issue, but is a good illustration of how we run out of dependable information as we trace our family history back past 1837, after which available birth, marriage and death registrations make creating family trees pretty straightforward and reliable. The earliest reliable event in my family tree comes from the parish registers of **St. Alkmund, Duffield, Derbyshire**, when on 4th March 1744 **Thomas Bostock**, of this parish, married **Sarah Rley** of this parish. Furthermore, although the registers of St.

Alkmund go back to 1598 this is the first Bostock entry I have been able to find. It appears Thomas Bostock was not baptised at Duffield, but if not then where?

The researched family tree claims that Thomas of Duffield was baptised at St. Helen, Trowell on 30th April 1715, the son of Thomas Bostock and **Catherine Fox**. The date and place are certainly possible, but more information would be helpful.

And there is more information, **Thomas and Catherine** had another son called



**Thomas** baptised on 20th March 1737. We have all seen situations like this. The only natural conclusion is that the first **Thomas** died sometime before 1737,

and the parents then christened their next son as another Thomas, so Thomas, born 1723, does not seem viable to be Thomas who married Sarah Ryley in 1744. As for Thomas, born in 1737, well he certainly could not have married in 1744, and so the third brick wall, which defines the limits of my own paternal line, has to be created.

## Did you know...?

Many of you will know that Harlequins Rugby Club home ground is The Stoop. BUT did you know that Brookwood Cemetery has two memorials to members of the **STOOP** family?

**Frederick Cornelius STOOP** (1854-1933) was a Dutchman who came to Surrey because of his work for Shell Petroleum.



A son of Frederick Cornelius was **Adrian STOOP** (1883-1957). He played rugby for Harlequins and England and was president of Harlequin Rugby Club for 40 years. After his death, the club ground at Twickenham was named The Stoop in his honour.

Source:

Jenny Mukerji, West Surrey FHS Journal, June 2021

How often have you found a wonderfully precise address for an ancestor and still been unable to find it on a map? Sometimes the original map was lacking in detail and now the buildings no longer exist, having been demolished or replaced by a new development or a busy road. Whatever the cause it is a frustrating problem. If you multiply that frustration by 21, you have the problem facing the Isleworth 390 group in 2017. They had spent five years painstakingly researching the 390 servicemen named on the Isleworth War Memorial and having published a book and created a website, they were trying to map the homes of every one of the men. In most cases, a less-than-precise location was acceptable but when it came to Linkfield Road, the group struck a problem. There were no fewer than 21 servicemen who had been living in Linkfield Road between 1911 and 1918 and many of the houses they lived in either no longer existed or had fallen victim to redevelopment, demolition or renumbering. How could the position of those houses be traced and mapped? We had to go back a long way in time and use all the resources to hand – Enclosure records, Tithe maps, Ordnance Survey maps, census schedules, electoral rolls and poll books, and street directories. We also had to use that most basic of historical tools – boots on the ground.



*Moses Glover map*

Beginning with documents in Hounslow Local Studies, we found that history was on our side to some extent. Linkfield had always been there, noted on the seventeenth-century Moses Glover map as a piece of land mostly used for arable. In the Enclosure records, there are two plots described as “part of Linkfield” or “formerly part of Linkfield” implying that it had originally been common land. The map shows very little housing around the plots.

After the maps, came the visual inspection of the road. Walking up and down Linkfield Road taking photographs and peering down alleyways on a cold wet day got some suspicious looks. Estate agent? Escaped lunatic? Who could tell. But the activity reaped some benefits; some of the cottages still exist and bear their original names and their dates of construction. Grove Cottages and Albion Cottages, both built in 1842, still have their original nameplates, and with their modern numbers (88 and 90 for Grove Cottages, 80-86 for Albion Cottages), helped us to plot the populating of the road.



*Grove Cottages*

As any family historian knows, the 1841 census is less than helpful. Houses are not named or numbered, relationships between residents and heads of households are omitted, but the enumerator's schedule for Linkfield Road shows some 42 households. The evidence from the census is that Linkfield Road was not a wealthy street. Respectable but not fashionable. Agricultural labourers,

bricklayers, a market gardener, two or three brewers, a butcher, a couple of laundresses and a professor of music. But Linkfield Lane, as it was called then, was obviously beginning to be populated. This is borne out by the Tithe map of 1839 which shows small houses lining the northern side of the road. The southern side is still undeveloped.

By 1850, Isleworth was being developed. Mr. Warren's map of 1850 (Hounslow Local Studies) shows the railway line cutting across the London Road and skimming the top of Linkfield Road. On the northern side, houses were increasing - pairs of cottages, individual villas, pairs of villas, small houses, large houses, and the 6 tenements of Bell's Almshouses. The southern side was still occupied only by a market garden, a large water supply and a house, buildings and yard. Part of the market garden area is still an open space, now known as St. John's Gardens. The Schedule accompanying Warren's map shows how built up the area has become since 1841. There are only 40 land holdings recorded but many of these are terraces of small cottages as well as individual houses and pairs of villas.

The 1851 Census bears out the increasing population. At that time the road was called Link Lane and still had no house numbers or names. Subsequent censuses do give houses names, but there are still problems to be solved. A run of four cottages named Red Lion Row or Red Lion Cottages on the east side of the Red Lion pub vanished between 1891 and 1901 while Princes or Princess Terrace has survived unscathed.



*Princes or Princess Terrace*

House names were changed too. Between 1871 and 1881 Woods House seems to have been renamed Holly House, and after 1891, the romantically-named houses Nos 1 and 2 Cottage of Love have been renamed more prosaically Stella Villas.

Working out the position of houses, was helped by the census enumerators between 1841 and 1891 following the same route. A fixed point of reference from 1871 onwards is Bells Alms-houses. It never moves position; it never changes its name and it always has seven dwellings. It's a much bigger plot today stretching back from the road towards Mandeville Road and named Raybell Court. However, the helpfulness of the census couldn't last



*Stella Villas previously 1 & 2 Cottage of Love*

and in 1891 the enumerator's route misses off Albion Terrace at the eastern (London Road) end and begins Linkfield Road at Bounty Cottages. But an unexpected bonus was the enduring nature of Linkfield Road residents. As mentioned earlier, they were not rich but nor were they among the poorest. They were a mix of small traders, artisans and those with reasonably secure

jobs, largely free from the necessity to move house frequently. They might need to take in lodgers or share a house with another family but by and large they could afford to remain in a particular house for some time. This longevity of residence was another help when trying to place cottages.

Development of the southern side, when it came, was an organised affair. Kelly's Street Directory for 1901 showed 98 houses, all built to the same style and numbered 1-98 Lydford Terrace, Linkfield Road. In the 20 years between the publishing of the Ordnance Survey maps of 1895 and 1914 the entire southern side from the London Road to the Twickenham Road was filled with brick-built terraced houses.

But the chickens were coming home to roost. The separate development of the two sides of Linkfield Road, the random development of the northern side, and the creation of new streets along its length which meant the demolition of older houses, had all combined to create a problem. How could letters, parcels and telegrams be delivered if houses could not be identified? More importantly, how could taxes be collected? The sensible solution was to give one side even numbers and the other odd numbers. So, starting from the London Road, the northern side of the road became even numbers 2 to 222, while the southern side became odd numbers 1-199. By 1907 the chaos of Linkfield Road had been tamed.

One has to feel sorry for the residents during the process. Some of them were still confused in 1911. Charles Perkins lived at what used to be No. 4 Bounty Cottages, but in 1911 it had been renumbered as 32 Linkfield Road. Probably wanting to be as accurate as possible, he wrote his address as 32 Bounty Cottages Linkfield Road. And several neighbours followed suit. The renumbering has also given historians a headache. Taking to the streets with a camera and a notebook revealed further anomalies. Take, for example, the mystery of numbers 184, 186, 188. They simply aren't there today. 180 and 182 are post-war houses – do these two houses occupy the space once occupied by 5 cottages? It is entirely possible since we also found number 168 preceded directly by 162. Looking at them, these two houses could easily have been four small cottages converted into two small family dwellings. So, it's back to Hounslow Local Studies, the Rate Books, the Council Minutes and the Electoral Rolls. It's a dirty job but somebody has to do it!

### Sources:

Ordnance Survey maps 1895,1914 (Hounslow Local Studies)

Mr. Warren's Map 1850 (Hounslow Local Studies)

Enclosure Records (Hounslow Local Studies)

Tithe Map 1839 (Institute of Historical Research, online resources)

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## Members Discounts & Passwords

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### Find My Past

In May 2016 the Society signed a new contract with the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) relating to the terms under which we supply data to Find My Past. As part of this contract Find My Past has made available a discount of 15% on all new subscriptions, or 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 as currently given on the Family History Federation's website, but are likely to be updated!*

### 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 for accessing the Members' Area of our website

Apr-Jun 2024                      \*\*\*\*\*

Jul-Sept 2024                    \*\*\*\*\*

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# West Middlesex Family History Society Matters

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## WENDY MOTT – HONORARY MEMBER WMFHS

With great sadness and regret we announce that Honorary Member Wendy Mott died on 28th March 2024. Wendy had a special interest in our memorial inscriptions and led the work to record these over many, many years. Wendy also created and maintained our Strays database for West Middlesex and her book is acknowledged on the Green School, Isleworth website: “The first 200 years of The Green School Isleworth, 1796-1996” written by Wendy Mott (alumni) 1996.

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## New Members and Surname Interests

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

Name	Membership Number	Address/Location
Mark Chapman	C292	Ilford, Essex
Ms. Arlene Widdowfield	W272	Exeter, Devon
Alyx Jenkins	J91	Brentford, Middx
David Mann	M253	Warwick, Warks

### Surname Interests

No new surname interests have been registered in the last three months.



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## Family History Fairs and Events

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### *The Family History Show – London*

Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> 2024 - 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Kempton Park Racecourse

<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>

Advance Ticket Price: £8.00 per person ^ Tickets on the day: £12.00 each

**SPECIAL OFFER**

Buy your tickets early and get two for £12!

Free Parking

Wheelchair Friendly

Trains – direct from Waterloo to Kempton Park every ½ hour

Family History show sponsored by “The Genealogist”

*Speakers:* Nick Barratt – Historian, Author & Professional Genealogist

Donna Rutherford – DNA Expert

Keith Gregson– Professional Researcher and Social Historian

***Time slots are booked on a first come-first served basis***

### WSFHS SURREY FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 - 10:00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

At

Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Rd, Woking, GU22 9BA

More information to come!

\* WMFHS will have a stall at these events.

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## Records held by members

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These records 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, record holders are happy to receive enquiries by email. Unless stated otherwise, cheques should be made payable to the holder of the index, not the WMFHS.

*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.

*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

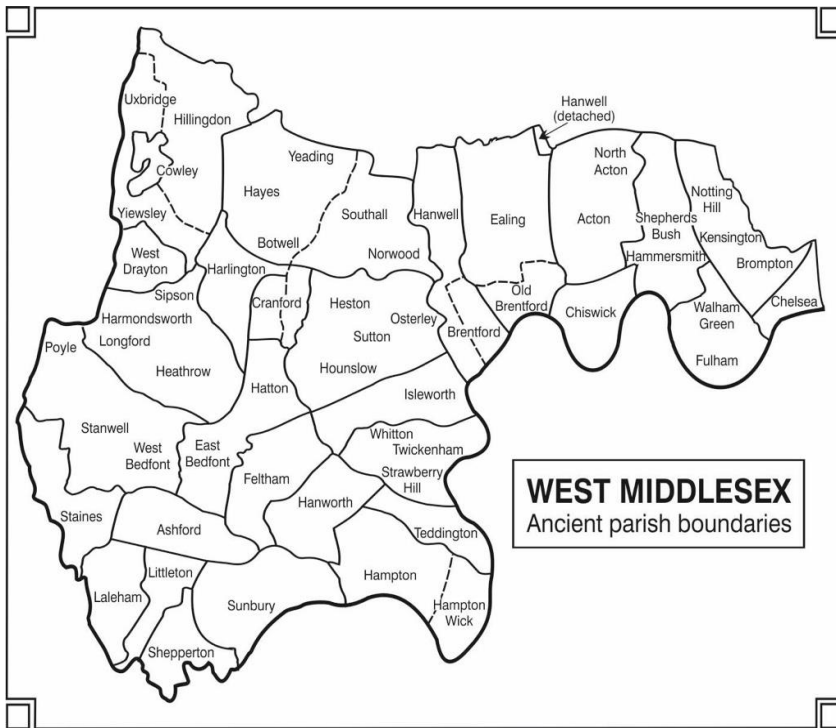
*Image: This month's cover shows the gas holding tower of Brentford Gas Works. The Gas Works were a real presence in Brentford, remembered for their smell and domination of the skyline. The plant shut down in 1963 but the 235 feet tall MAN waterless holder remained until 1988. Early in the year, the roof was demolished by explosives, making it collapse inside and the sides were removed in section by a crane, the work being completed by the Autumn. This ended Brentford's 160 years of association with the gas industry.*

### *Copyright:*

The above copied from Wikipedia – information provided to them by David Shailes who was the speaker for our February meeting on the same subject.

Image copied from the internet - image supplied by ANDUN Engineering. Andun have been involved with a number of demolition engineering projects on gas holders from London to Liverpool.

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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 :

West Middlesex FHS

c/o Pat Candler, 57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0JZ

Printed by Joshua Horgan Print and Design

Unit 2, Glenmore Business Centre, Range Road, Witney, Oxon OX29 0AA

[print@jhorgan.co.uk](mailto:print@jhorgan.co.uk)

Published by West Middlesex Family History Society

Registered Charity No. 291906

ISSN 0142-517X