



# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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<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, an SAE must be enclosed. Members are asked to note that receipts are only sent by request, if return postage is included.

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Volume 43 Number 2

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## Contents

Future Meetings	2
Minutes of Annual General Meeting	6
Monthly Talks	9
The Book Corner	23
Old Postcards	24
The MIs at St. Mary Abbot, Kensington	29
Family History Fairs	32
Jet Plane	33
Help Wanted: Daar, Dar, Dare, Goulding	34
Social Media Policy	36
Be Scam Aware!	37
A Note from the Editor	37
Members Discounts & Passwords	38
New Members & Surname Interests	39
Indexes held by Members	40

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All articles and other items for the Journal should be sent to:  
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c/o the Secretary

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

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

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The following talks have been arranged:

Date	Topic	Speaker
<u>19 June 2025</u> Zoom meeting speaker at St. John's	<b>Our Memorial Inscriptions and other online data</b>  This is an overview of the process of putting our data online with special focus and examples from our memorial inscriptions.	Roland Bostock
<u>17 July 2025</u> Zoom meeting speaker is in Australia!	<b>Family History &amp; Artificial Intelligence: An Introduction</b>  Discover how AI is transforming the way we research, document, preserve and share our family histories. This webinar will explore some of the current AI technologies being used in family history along with some of its limitations and areas of concern including bias, accuracy and security.	Andrew Redfern
<u>21 Aug. 2025</u> Zoom meeting speaker at St. John's	<b>Hampton Court Palace in Old Photographs</b>	Ian Franklin & Robert Hoare
<u>18 Sept. 2025</u> Zoom meeting speaker at St. John's	<b>Help! What do I do before 1837? Researching your Ancestors before Civil Registration</b>  Navigate the challenges beyond the 1841 census in tracing ancestors. Explore a variety of records, uncovering where and how to access them. Demystify the pre-1837 research journey.	Linda Hammond

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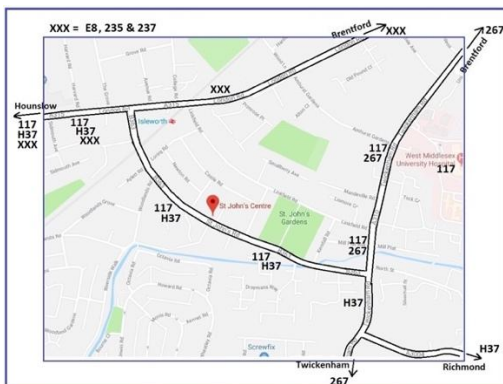
## When and How We Meet

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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.

Doors open at 7.00 p.m. most people are there by 7.30 p.m. meeting proper starts at 7.45 p.m.



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.eastsurreyfh.org.uk](http://www.eastsurreyfh.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)

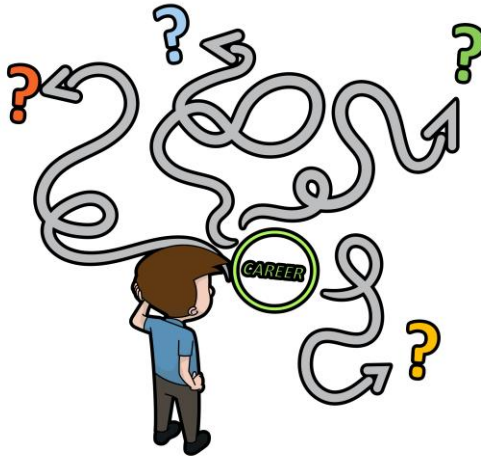
Half-page       £10 (members)   £15 (non-members)

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 20th March 2025 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** and **Mary Ghrist**.

## 3. Minutes of the AGM held on 21st March 2024

These were published in the Society's Journal of June 2024. Giz asked if anyone had any concerns over the accuracy of the minutes. None were raised. **Giz Marriner** proposed that the minutes be accepted. **Yvonne Masson** seconded the proposal, which was then passed unanimously.

## 4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

## 5. Chairman's Report

All I want to say is a huge thank-you to all the committee members that have worked their socks off so hard and attended all the meetings etc. I am very, very grateful, you are absolutely wonderful.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

Good evening. You should all have seen the accounts, which were printed in the March Journal. I do realise that the print is, of necessity, rather small, but I believe the accounts are also available on our website for those of you who have computers.

This year I am returning to my usual starting point - the Statement of Financial Activities, or SOFA.

Membership has remained fairly stable during the year. Many thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership and especially those who have Gift

Aided their subscription. Sadly, some of our older members have died, but we are pleased to have welcomed some new members – we hope you enjoy reading our new-look Journal, for which I must thank Lesley.

The cost of printing and mailing the Journals continues to increase. As in past years, I remind you that if anyone would like to receive their Journal electronically, all you have to do is let Roland know.

Many thanks are due to our small band of volunteers who are collecting and indexing data which is distributed worldwide via FindMyPast and which generates useful royalty income.

The bookstall appears to have made a significant loss, but this is entirely due to the fact that we have written off a substantial amount from the value of the books and maps. Many of these are very old and many were donated to us, so we feel that a lower value is probably a fair estimate of our likely future income from their sale.

Now to the Balance Sheet.

This year we have scrapped our old Powerpoint Projector; there are no other changes to our Fixed Assets. The amount of money in our bank accounts has decreased. As described just now, we have written off a substantial amount from the value of the books and maps. These changes do not alarm me, for reasons I will shortly explain.

As mentioned last year, I am standing down as Treasurer, having first taken on the role in 1995. I shall be leaving with a smile and a snarl. First the smile. I was amused to note that most of the ladies who renew using Parish Chest can supply their membership number – thank you. On the other hand, most of the men don't seem to have worked out how to do this. If you need to know, just ask a woman!

Now for the snarl where I risk treading on Giz's toes. If anyone is offended, so be it. Many of you kindly took the trouble to complete the questionnaire which was circulated with your renewal notice last year. However, not one of you said you could do anything to help the Society. Four of our existing committee members will be 83 in 2025. If you are younger than this and still mentally alert, aren't you embarrassed at the thought that these elderly people are giving up their time for your benefit? Please do consider whether there is anything at

all you could do for the Society. Contact details for committee members are listed inside the front cover of every Journal. If no new members come forward to help and, preferably, join the committee, we really shall have no option but to wind up the Society. Please think about it.

Thank you for listening and it's goodbye from me as I leave you in the safe hands of Roland.

At this point Ann Greene presented Muriel with a bouquet of flowers and a certificate which said "Thank-you for 30 years of devoted service". Roland then presented Muriel with a large 'Thank-you' card which had been signed by committee and other members, the card having travelled to Scotland, Canada, Ruislip and High Wycombe to obtain personal messages. Ann then presented Roland with a bottle of red wine and a certificate in recognition of his contribution in enabling these meetings to happen.

## **7. Receiving of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024**

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

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

Our current examiner, **Stephen Rassall**, is suffering bad health, and is unable to continue as Examiner. **Muriel Sprott** agreed to take on the role, supported by all present.

## **9. Election of Committee**

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

**John Seaman** having served three or more years on the Committee, and being willing to continue, offers himself for re-election.

**Muriel Sprott** having served on the committee for the last six years, stands down.

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

## 10. Any other business

**Roland Bostock** took the opportunity to mention that it has been reported to him that his emails often go to spam. There is not much he can do about it. But all computer users should check their spam emails regularly, every day or so, in case perfectly good emails get diverted there. So please do check your spam boxes regularly. This ended the AGM.

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PS – Muriel sent a note of thanks to everyone for the lovely flowers and to those who wrote the kind words on her Goodbye card.



*Muriel*

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

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## **The Whitehead Aircraft Company and Hanworth Air Park March** **James Marshall**

At the start of World War 1 in the Spring of 1915 the **Royal Air Force** had just 84 airplanes on the Western Front, and a further 50 planes reserved for home defence against Zeppelins, but this was about to change.

As the Great War settled into trench warfare across **Belgium** and **Eastern France** artillery became the crucial weapon for both sides, but artillery was only as effective as was the selection of enemy targets, which is where airplanes were most used at the time.



The BE2C (Wikimedia Commons)

The aircraft of choice for Britain was the **BE2C**, which was slow, stable, and easy to fly, but it was no dog-fighter.

The Germans then introduced their **Fokker Scourge** aircraft which pioneered the concept of mounting a machine gun at the front of the plane to fire bullets through the rotating propeller blades, thereby making it a formidable fighter aircraft, and a scourge of scouting aircraft.



The Fokker Scourge (Wikimedia Commons)

Along with the German **Albatross D** series of fighters the Germans started inflicting major losses to the British aircraft. “Bloody April” 1917 saw the worst month of the war for British aircraft with 270 British aircraft lost in a single month.

The British response came from the **Sopwith** Company’s ‘**Fighting Scout**’ aircraft. Designed by the Sopwith Company of **Kingston** and **Richmond** the aircraft was built by the **Whitehead Aircraft Company** at Richmond, and was assembled at **Hanworth Park** assembly works in **Feltham**. Like the Fokker Scourge aircraft, the Sopwith Scout also had a forward machine gun which fired its bullets through the propeller, and proved to be an excellent fighter aircraft. Whitehead manufactured a total of 820 of these aircraft.

**John Alexander Whitehead**, the man behind the company, had a background working with timber, when in 1915 he presented himself to the War Office in search of an order to build aircraft. He impressed the War Office and received his first order to build six BE2 aircraft.



The Sopwith Flying Scout (Wikimedia Commons)

At the start of the war Whitehead was manufacturing his aircraft in Richmond but had to transport the manufactured planes to **Brooklands** (the motor racing circuit) near **Weybridge, Surrey** in order to fly them. He needed an airfield much closer to Richmond in order to be able to build more planes more efficiently. He found **Hanworth Park House**, temporarily being used as a soldier's convalescent home, and which had hundreds of acres of flat open parkland attached, which had once been part of **Hounslow Heath**. He bought the house in 1916 and built his airfield on the surrounding heathland, having it operational a year later. As part of construction of the airfield he had to cover over the **Longford River** as it ran through the park.

Towards the end of 1917, the **Royal Flying Corps**, which became the **RAF** the following April, took over part of **Whitehead's Hanworth** airfield to use as an **Aircraft Acceptance Park** and depot for flight-tested, new-built aircraft, which were awaiting despatch to their operational stations. War emergency powers enabled the government to move in upon Whitehead's recently completed flying field and to share it, test flying aircraft brought to Hanworth from all over Britain.

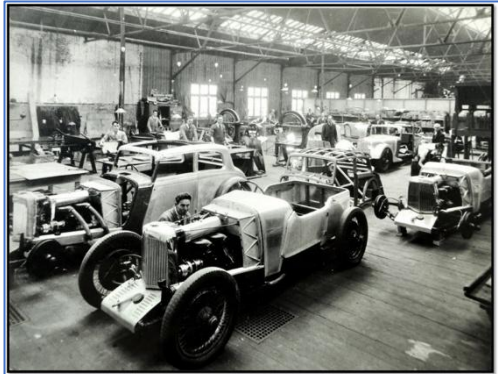
In the Spring of 1918, the Whitehead Aircraft Company floated a £1 million stock issue on the London financial markets. The war might go on for years to come... throughout 1917 the Allies looked to be a long way from winning it, even with the arrival of American forces along the Western Front.

As the German Spring Offensive surged into Allied lines the outlook became even bleaker. Lost ground was regained by the Allies in the summer and early autumn, as Germany's 'last fling' ran out of steam. But the German army remained intact and unbeaten. No one could then foresee Germany's sudden

economic and social collapse, which undermined its fighting capabilities in October and early November of 1918.

The end of the war caught a ballooning British aircraft industry – and the Whitehead Aircraft Company – unprepared. Rapid expansion required investment before income. The burgeoning British aircraft industry was heavily indebted; and living on promises of future income from wartime aircraft manufacturing contracts, which were already being cancelled by the government.

In July 1919, Whitehead Aircraft went into Receivership. But John Alexander Whitehead was not beaten yet. He had ideas and plans for a motor car factory that would build both luxury and popular cars. He did not succeed in this venture, and in 1922 the Whitehead Company was finally liquidated.



The Aston Martin works at Feltham in the late 1930's

However, Whitehead had brought significant manufacturing capability to **Feltham**, where he had built his hangars and aircraft assembly sheds. Other businesses acquired these assets, among which was the '**Feltham Car**' Trolley Bus Company. **Aston Martin** was another

company which used the old aircraft buildings to manufacture their prestige cars.

Today a leisure complex occupies what was once the Whitehead manufacturing complex at Feltham. A small token of its past history can be seen with the propeller structure which now stands in front of the leisure buildings. WRITTEN BY ROLAND BOSTOCK



from Wikimedia Commons

## Behind the Scenes at “Who Do you Think you Are”

April

Nick Barratt

Nick said he would take us behind the scenes of the show, and back in time - it is now 21 years since the first series (they had thought there might be a second series!).

On television at the time were mostly historical programmes with professional historians. They tended to focus on the great and the good rather than the people affected by their decisions. An exception was “**Time Team**” where a non-expert, **Tony Robinson**, was our voice, asking our questions, so breaking away from the professionals. “**Who Do You Think You Are**” attempted this: a slice of social history. One particular theme each week, where a celebrity goes back to explore something relative to them. When the first series came out, the newspapers were condescending, calling it “self-indulgent navel gazing”. The academics showed how they thought of family history – a “hobby for retirees”.

Nick had done a Ph.D in 13<sup>th</sup> century state finances and fiscal history, researched from the accounts rolls of the medieval Exchequer. This was his background and it made him unemployable! But one place did take him in: the **Public Record Office**, now **The National Archives**.

He joined the Early Medieval and Modern enquiries team and thought he would be working with historians, but had a shock – it was people asking questions about their families. He was condescending at first, but came to realise a truth: our passion for the past, the excitement of the detective process, causing shrieks of delight. Family historians want to know about people who don’t appear in history textbooks. And we have a methodological approach to our research: we organise information we find, verified by Censuses etc., into a Family Tree, but we also put flesh on the bones - where they lived, occupations, etc. Use of local history provides more layers of understanding. Family historians have great sophistication, they deserve Ph.Ds! So, it is *not* just a hobby - it is proper history.

**Lesley Garrett** wanted to find out about music in the family, but her background was coal mining. She was delighted with an interesting story

which emerged: her 2x great grandfather had a traditional butcher's shop and cleaned his work bench with concentrated acid. One evening he and his wife were having some "wine" – she drank some, choked and died. He claimed it was a mistake. But why would she drink it? The coroner was a distant relative - the verdict was Death by Misadventure. But there were rumours. Two weeks later the butcher ran off with a younger woman. They showed Lesley the newspaper reports – a murderer in the family! If you open Pandora's Box... be careful. Nick's own great uncle was a Soviet spy in the 1930s.

**Filming the series:** There are six to nine months background and location research, plus eight to ten filming days, 12 hours a day, so 100 hours for a one-hour programme - there tends to be a lot of, e.g., background noise which has to be cut out, and filming from different angles for the action shots, plus adding the voice over. Editing takes six to eight weeks for the one hour. Yes, some of it is a bit fake, such as how they find something interesting straight away. But the TV audience doesn't see the research that is done. They used a production company, **Wall to Wall**. In 2002, a short-list of potential celebrities – over 100 names, grouped into categories. They asked them: has anyone in your family done some research? Yes, Auntie Doris. After talking to the family historian, they don't talk to them again during filming, and they keep the celebrity far away from any research being done. Although there is a script, the celebrity's reaction must be authentic - they genuinely don't know what they will find. **Jeremy Clarkson** was tricky. They showed him a family tree with little portraits of the people. He thought they were boring till, in his maternal family tree, he saw a name he recognised. He was descended from the inventor of the **Kilner jar**. Might there still be millions of pounds? But he was disappointed - by the second generation they had lost all the money.

**Don't show a celebrity anything in advance.** **Ian Hislop** was already fascinated by military history, and there was a connection with military history in his family. His mother, growing up in the **Channel Islands**, was there during the German Occupation together with his two grandfathers. They went to where one grandfather's unit would have been on the eve of a **Big Offensive** during **WWI** - he had led his men when they had to go "over the top". But they were mown down and ran back to their trenches, then had to go a second time. Ian said he could not have gone a second time: being on the spot allowed him to connect with his granddad. His other granddad was in the **Boer War** and

was also involved in horrific action at **Spion Kop**. Another story was needed - they went back to Ian's cousin, a family historian. Was there anyone else in the family? One was mentioned in the **Pension Records** at the **TNA**. But there was another man of the same name, in the same regiment. Ian's cousin had a tin containing the man's medals with his regimental number. And he was also in **South Africa**, 100 years earlier.

With **Bill Oddy**, they wanted to cover the **Industrial Revolution** in **Yorkshire**: about his family being small tenant farmers with some weaving on the side, but after industrialisation, with the **American Civil War** in the **1860s** and factories closing from lack of supplies, the family moved to **Rochdale** and experienced hardship. But Bill wanted to talk about his mum – her mental health problems and that she was often absent from home. They said okay, we'll explore it. It was a tragic story, told by three documents: the parents' marriage certificate, then, to Bill's surprise, a first-born sister's birth certificate, then, days later, her death certificate. His mother suffered depression and did not recover - she was in and out of hospital. Bill had not known the cause. A challenging subject, but it got huge ratings, people phoned in. Bill said something profound. "I wish I knew then what I know now, because I could have made a difference." Why it is called *Who Do You **Think** You Are*: it has transformed what people think of themselves. The power of TV to change lives. So, a shift in the approach of the show. What people are actually interested in.

**Jeremy Paxman** was one of several celebrities who wept (when he saw the poverty his great grandmother lived in). He had not wanted to do it. "What is there to know?" But he had recently had an unpleasant encounter with an interviewee, who accused him of being Middle Class, out of touch – he should know about **Glasgow**! They found he wasn't actually so Middle Class, his family going from **Suffolk** to **Lancashire** to work in the mills. His great grandmother lived in Glasgow, had nine children, was living on an **Army** pension, which was withdrawn when the Army discovered some of the children were born after her husband died. Moving to a two-room tenement, she had to split the family up. Some children were sent out to relatives in **Canada**, some to **England**, including his grandfather, who was brought up by a travelling salesman relative and did well.

**A final paradox:** We are looking over our shoulder into the past, but what about *our* stories? We should share them with those to come: this is powerful. Our lives are history – even quite recent events are now ancient history. Increasingly, AI is manipulating history, like bringing old photos up-to-date. But this is fictitious. We must tell our stories as they were.

WRITTEN BY YVONNE MASSON

## Bletchley Park

May

Ian Thomson

**Bletchley Park** is probably the most important **World War heritage site** in the United Kingdom - if not the world. The code breakers helped save us from **German** and **Japanese** aggression; and in doing so thrust us into the computer age. Sharing of intelligence is what the US-UK special relationship is about and it began at Bletchley Park in 1942. The work of the code breakers arguably shortened the war by at least two years and possibly even affected the actual outcome of the war. What began as the breaking of a few enemy messages turned into the biggest intelligence operation the world has ever seen.

The earliest and most influential codebreaking event was during **WW1**. The **Zimmerman Telegram**. **Arthur Zimmerman**, the **German Foreign Minister**, sent a coded telegram to the German ambassador in **Mexico**. The ambassador was to persuade Mexico into an alliance with Germany with the promise of returning **Texas, Arizona**, and other lost territories. The breaking of the code brought America into the WW1. A radical piece of codebreaking.

After WW1 all the small code-breaking units were merged into one unit called the **Government Code and Cipher School**, GCCS. Nominally, it came under the control of the **Foreign Office**; in reality it came under the direct command of **MI6**. Code breakers and MI6 personnel shared the same workplace but had different jobs. In the late 1930s, they were in **The Broadway**, near **St James Park**. With a real prospect of war and air raids on **London**, the head of MI6, **Admiral Hugh Sinclair**, began looking for safer premises. Bletchley Park lay about 45 miles northwest of London on the outskirts of **Milton Keynes** and was up for sale. It was far enough from London to escape air raids but still close enough to reach easily and quickly with good transport links. The main London to **Scotland** railway line ran through Bletchley as did the “**Varsity Line**” which ran from **Oxford** to **Cambridge**. It was also the **A5** trunk road for London to the

North. The large **GPO** underground cable network nearby was also going to be very useful in the advent of electronic communication.



The house and about 200 acres of land was up for sale at a price of £7,500. A huge sum at a time when you could buy a new semi-detached house for £750. The government of the day was reluctant to produce the money, with each department passing the financial responsibility to another. Eventually Sinclair

paid for it himself. This fact was not known until 1991. The government was going to demolish Bletchley Park and build a housing estate when they found out they didn't actually own it. It belonged to Sinclair's, by then very elderly, sister who sold it to the government for about 50 pence - the lowest amount of money that can be put forward to exchange property.

The purchase in **May 1938**, was completed and so an emergency drill took place in the summer. Intelligence staff were told, that, on receipt of the code: "Aunt Flo is not too well", they should go as quickly as possible to Bletchley Park. Sinclair, attempting to avoid local curiosity, told the **Bletchley Gazette**, the local newspaper, that it was a conference considering the effects of air raids on the United Kingdom. Local anxiety on hearing this ensured that it made the national newspaper headlines. In addition, the code breakers were all middle-aged men, and their assistants were all young ladies; the local community thought the worst. For further disguise, the event was named **Captain Ridley's Shooting Party**, despite there being no shooting arrangements, dogs or guns in evidence. After the drill weekend, everyone returned to London and carried on.

Two major inventions of the early 20th century had a great effect on military operations and intelligence. The effect of the internal combustion engine in war had been seen in WW1, but the radio proved even more dramatic. Foreign

powers could do nothing to stop the **British Intelligence Service** opening mail, but radio messages could not be easily intercepted. However, the “open channel” meant everyone could hear it, so it had to be encoded. All countries were trying to develop machines that could randomly encode messages. One of these - the **Glow Lamp** - eventually became the **Enigma** machine. Between the wars, they were for sale on the open market for about \$19,000, an extortionate price for the times. Britain bought some to see how good they were and possibly create its own version.

The Glow Lamp didn't type, print or send messages. It simply encoded them. It had only 26 keys showing the letters of the alphabet. No punctuation marks or numbers. Above the keys were 26 light bulbs each marked with a letter. And at the heart of the machine were three rotors or wheels, each with the letters



The Glow Lamp Enigma machine

of the alphabet round the outside. When the operator pressed a key, an electric current would go through the machine, through the first, second and third rotors, hit a reflector and come back through the three rotors. Then one of the lettered light bulbs would light up indicating the first letter in the message and the first rotor moved around one slot. This process was repeated every time a letter key was pressed until the first rotor had moved 26 times, then the middle rotor began to move round, eventually the third rotor began its

movement. A major limitation was that no more than 240 characters could be used, because by then the machine was back in the start position. It also needed three people to complete a cipher operation. One read out the message, a second pressed the keys, and a third noted down which bulbs lit up and took the message to the Morse code operator who actually transmitted it.

The first operator had a “calendar” showing the current month, the dates when specific rotors were to be put in the machine and the order in which to place them. Machines could have three rotors or five. The rotors were then turned, so that certain letters showed at the top. At the front of the machine was a plug board which allowed the operator to change some letters manually according to instructions before beginning to cipher. The machine was

reciprocal which was its big advantage. Provided the transmitting and sending machines were on the same network and the operators had the same “calendar” of rotor orders, the encoded message could be typed into his machine at the receiving end and show the original text.

The odds on breaking a WW2 Enigma are 158 million to one. But there were still weaknesses. No letter could ever be enciphered as itself; no keyboard numbers meant they had to be spelled out in letters. A further weakness lay in sending daily messages with essentially the same content. The Germans sent a daily report at 7am giving their call sign and a “nothing to report” message. As the machines were reciprocal, it led to some of the greatest breaks in Enigma. Despite the daily changing of codes, once a daily message was decoded, Enigma was effectively broken for 24 hours.

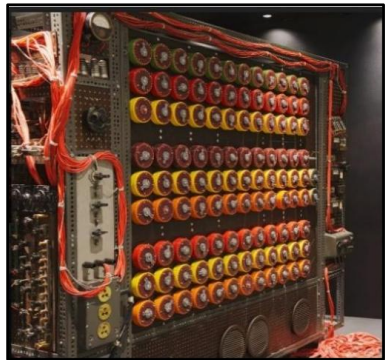
Having obtained information from Enigma, it had to be sent where it was needed. Simple for the Navy and the Air Force who could be telephoned, but the Army was spread across the whole world. And so, liaison units were created consisting of a Lieutenant-ranking messenger. Attached to a General they had 24-hour-a-day access to him. To ensure the message did not get jeopardized, the General could not handle the message – only read it and take notes. After this, the liaison messenger took the message back, burned it and reported to Bletchley Park that this had been done.

A key element in all this was the Y services - listening posts - people who actually transcribed the Morse Code messages. Accuracy in this work was crucial; if they got it wrong, Bletchley Park couldn't break it.

The Poles were the first to break Enigma. Poland knew they would be at risk from both Germany and Russia once war broke out. So their survival as a country depended on it. They were helped by **Hans Thilo Schmidt** who worked for the German cipher bureau. He had a taste for high living, and in return for money he provided them with information about the Enigma machine. **Marian Rejewski**, a Polish mathematician, was the first to break into Enigma in **1938**. The Poles met with Britain and **France** just outside **Paris** to find out what they knew about Enigma and were dismayed to find they knew virtually nothing. The following year, **1939**, at another meeting, Britain received a Polish-made version of the Enigma with three rotor wheels and wiring identical to the

German Enigma. It was taken to Bletchley Park and in **January 1940** was involved in the very first Enigma code break in Britain. All due to the Poles without whom we might not have won the war. At Bletchley Park, there is a memorial to the work of the Poles.

Research now suggested that a machine-generated cipher was best broken by another machine and so the **Bombe** came into being. 36 Enigma-style rotors, wired up to search for message inconsistencies such as a letter appearing as itself. A Bombe could take an average German Air Force message and they could help break a message in 10 hours. Hundreds of these machines were operated at Bletchley Park by **Wrens** who had to be 5' 8" tall in order to reach the top of the machines. If the wiring came undone, it had to be repaired very rapidly by hand. Standing on a ladder would not have worked.



The Bombe Enigma machine

Looking at the pre-Enigma machines Britain had bought earlier on; it was decided that their level of security just wasn't good enough for British use. They took the best parts of Enigma and produced the **Type X machine**. It had five rotors and unlike the Enigma machine, it could type the message onto paper and could be plugged into a teleprinter. It was about 10 times heavier than Enigma – hardly portable - but typing a message meant you could see at once whether it was right or not. Type X was never broken. Some of them were captured, but the Germans didn't try to break it. They were convinced that Enigma was infallible and assumed Type X was also foolproof.

Another machine made its appearance. A mystery signal was heard by the Y service while listening to Enigma messages. Man-made, very high speed and too quick to be deciphered. With Bletchley Park totally focused on trying to break Enigma it was sidelined. But like all messages it was recorded by a listening station at **Knockholt, Kent**. It was in fact the product of yet another machine – the Lorenz. Senior personnel in Germany wanted to send longer messages than was possible with Enigma and they wanted to use teleprinters.

So the **Lorenz** was developed. It could be plugged into an Enigma and then into a radio, allowing messages to be typed, enciphered by the Enigma, and transmitted via radio to the other side. When it was picked up from the radio it would go through the Lorenz machine, and appear on the teleprinter screen. Some of the German admirals and field marshals carried their own Lorenz with them. At this time, you could only break into wireless signals traveling through the air. You could listen to them but didn't know what was going on until the message was decoded. Until **August 1941**, when an operator in **Athens** was sending a message to **Vienna**. He was heard on the radio un-enciphered, announcing his location, name, rank and number. He then said that he was about to send a message of x number of characters and was checking that the recipient was ready to receive. Having received confirmation, the message was typed and sent and a confirmation of its transmission was received. On this occasion, the recipient hadn't been able to get all the message because of atmospheric conditions and asked for it to be resent.

The sending operator did so, but crucially failed to change the rotor settings and took shortcuts wherever he could. Two messages on the same setting but with different numbers of characters arrived at Knockholt and were sent to Bletchley Park. **Colonel John Tiltman**, one of the top codebreakers at Bletchley Park, broke it in six and a half weeks. Having broken the message, he passed the information on to **Bill Tutte**, who unravelled the workings of Lorenz. Not just three or five wheels but twelve and all of different sizes; some having 30 characters, some with 50. A million times more powerful and secure than Enigma, but six and a half weeks to decipher one message was no good. The information was needed within an hour or so.

**Tommy Flowers**, a **Post Office engineer** realised that valves would provide a quicker connection than electro-mechanical means and he built **Colossus**, the world's first programmable computer which could break a Lorenz message in about three hours. But Colossus had a rather sad ending. Towards the end of the war, the **Russians** during their advance captured multitudes of Lorenz machines. They were aware that Enigma had been broken because at Bletchley Park there was a spy, **John Cairncross**, passing messages to them. To prevent them finding out that Lorenz had also been cracked, all except two of the Colossus machines were broken up. Engineers being engineers however, took photographs of everything and were able to reconstruct Colossus, using some

of the original **1944** valves. Whatever they discovered from Lorenz was still secret for another 70 or so years.

### *What did Bletchley Park's code breaking actually achieve?*

The North African campaign:

During **Rommel's** advance through **North Africa**, Britain knew all his moves as Bletchley Park were reading all the signals for his supplies. They knew the names of the ships, the cargo they were carrying, their arrival dates enabling Britain to pick out the ones they wanted and sink them. When Rommel arrived in **Tunisia**, Britain continued to sink ammunition ships, but ships carrying food were spared to avoid the prospect of having to feed several hundred thousand prisoners.

The Battle of the Atlantic:

This was pivotal to the outcome of WW2. Under the command of **Admiral Karl Donitz**, the German naval strategy was to cut the supply lines across the Atlantic, effectively starving Britain into surrender. Breaking the Enigma codes, allowed the Allies to decipher German messages and reroute convoys to protect them, as well as attacking U-Boats.

The D-Day landings:

The **German Secret Service** used a four-rotor Enigma machine which was broken at Bletchley Park in **1941**. As a result, every spy either in this country or coming to this country was captured, and were either imprisoned, hanged, or ended up working for us. The ultimate end was the D-Day invasion. A committee known as **Double Cross** used double agents to send messages; the replies from the Germans showed whether the misleading messages were believed or not.

One such agent was a **Spaniard - Juan Garcia**, code name **Garbo**, masquerading as a German spy, double agent. His mission was to visit British ports and send back information about the ports, the ships coming, their cargoes etc. In fact, he remained in **Portugal** radioing information from a friend to Germany. Ahead of D-Day, false information from Garcia about the scale and location of the invasion caused the Germans to change their plans. Without the workers at Bletchley Park, the outcome of WW2 could have been very different.

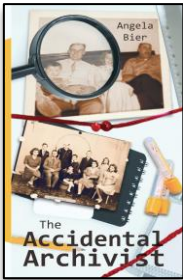
WRITTEN BY ANN GREENE

# The Book Corner



## THE ACCIDENTAL ARCHIVIST

Do you have someone in your family who tends to be the keeper of the family tree and family photos, the one you email when you want to know anything to do with the family?



In this book, **The Accidental Archivist** this is **Angela Bier**, the author, who is contacted on behalf of an adoptee, Kathleen, who, after taking a DNA test with 23&me and identifying her birth mother, believes that her father just might be a much loved and respected priest in Angela's family tree.

This is the true story of the search to identify who is actually Kathleen's genetic father and incidentally finds a full brother, also adopted, *en-route*.

I enjoyed this book but it does make you think about weighing the desire to know who your family is against the effect your discoveries might have on others within the family.

GIZ MARRINER

## THE ANGEL OF MARHAM

This book, now available in our Library, is an affectionate portrait by Timothy Warner of his great grandmother **Constance Baker** née **Gunn**, born **1869** at **Marham, Norfolk** but as a little girl moved with her parents to West London.



She started work from ten years old in dressmakers' shops, eventually learning the craft herself sufficiently to open her own shop and going on to make dresses for some of the well-known stage performers of the day including **Marie Lloyd**, **Dame Nellie Melba** and **Lily Langtry**.

The book gives a down-to-earth picture of working class Victorian rural and city life and how people combined home life and the workplace in a period from the Victorian era to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

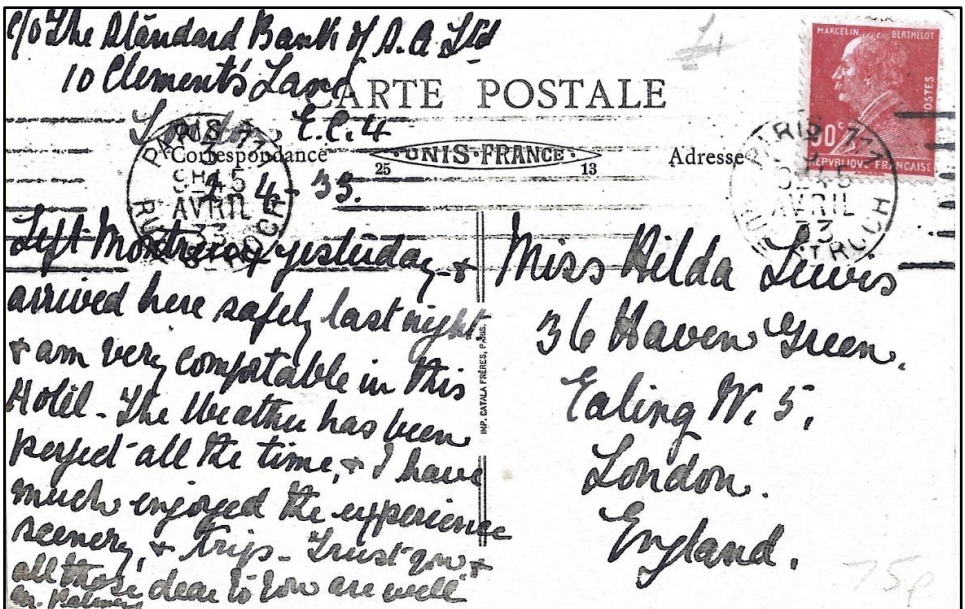
YVONNE MASSON

I love, whenever I go to an antique centre or fair, to look at old postcards. There is quite a collector's market for these. Some people, like me, collect the ones that were printed by my great-grandfather who had a stationery shop in Evesham, Worcestershire. Other people like to collect ones of places that have a happy memory or a family association.

The ones that interest me most are those considered "postally used". These often have a postmark with a date on and addressee's name and address. These are great as one can use genealogical research tools to find the people they were sent to.

I have recently been quite lucky and found two that relate to my "home" town of **Ealing** and one locally to where I now live. Two of these were sent from **Paris**. They generally cost around £1 each, so it is a cheap collecting hobby.





**T nuJEXT READS:**

c/o The Standard Bank of S.A. Ltd.  
10 Clement's Lane, London EC 4

2-4-33

Left Montreaux yesterday & arrived here safely last night & am very comfortable in this Hotel. The weather has been perfect all the time & I have much enjoyed the experience, scenery & trips. Trust [you?] and all those dear to {you?} are well. [M. Palmer?]

The one above, shows a lovely view of a Paris street scene and was posted in April 1933. As you can see, it was addressed to **Miss Hilda Lewis of 36 Haven Green, Ealing, London, W5**. However, a search of the **1921 census**, the **1939 Register** and **electoral registers** have failed to find Miss Lewis. *Do you know who she was?*

The next card was sent all the way from **Dayton, Ohio** in the **United States of America!** It was sent in 1988 to **Janet and John Folkard of 96 Fordhook Avenue, Ealing**. For those who don't know, Fordhook Avenue is quite close to

Ealing Common station and very handy for the District and Piccadilly Underground lines.



**CARILLON PARK, DAYTON, OHIO**

The Conestoga Wagon has been called the "freight bar of the turnpike" and the "ship of inland commerce." Sturdily built to haul heavy loads over rough roads, it did much to develop commerce and open the country west of the Alleghenies. It was used in George Washington's day and well into the 19th century.



**POST CARD**

Address

Jamet & John Folkard,  
96, Fordhook Avenue,  
Ealing,  
London, W5 3LR.  
England.

Dear J & J, Gone at last from Pink to Brown's 80-90% most days. Just back from 4 day-1000 mile round trip by car & camper to the Smokey Mountains down in Tennessee/N. Carolina. Photographed a wild bear helping himself to peoples' picnics, also many wild deer. Taken 13 rolls of slides so far. Grub is not up to much-always covered in some sort of over-sweet goo or "dressing" as they say! Will bore you with general details end of August/beginning Sept. All in all though it's been as they say here - an "adventure quencher." Kodak.

## TEXT READS:

Dear J & J, Gone at last from pink to brown; 80-90 f most days. Just back from 4 day – 1000 mile round trip by car & camper to the Smoky Mountains down in Tennessee/N. Carolina. Photographed a wild bear helping himself to peoples' picnics, also many wild deer. Taken 13 rolls of slides so far. Grub is not up to much – always covered in some oversweet goo or “dressing” as they say! Will bore you with general details end of August/beginning of Sept. All in all though, its been as they say here – an “adventure quencher” Rodney



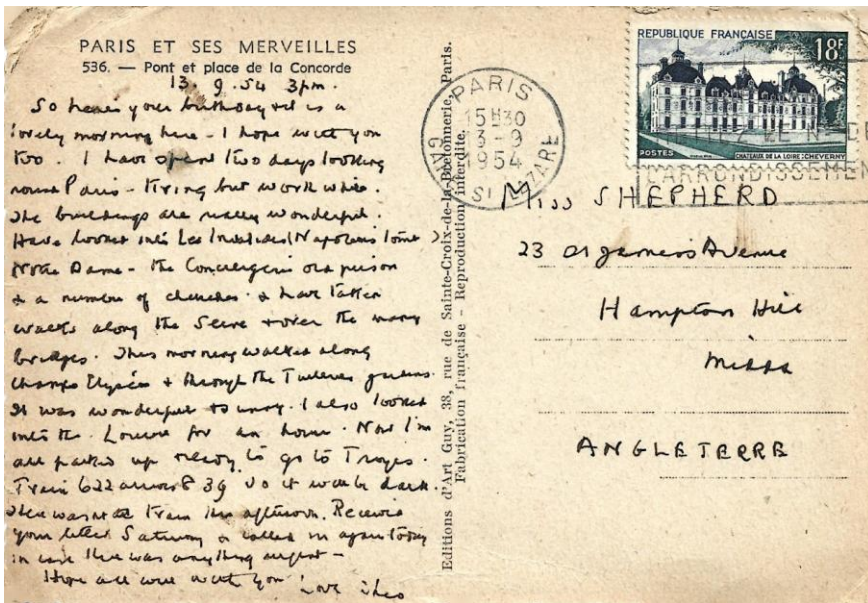
n

A search of Ancestry has turned up a death for a **John Julian Folkard** in Ealing in 1912, so we can assume that this is probably the same man.

The last postcard of local interest is one, again from Paris, dated September 1954 and addressed to a **Miss Shepherd of 23 St. James's Avenue, Hampton Hill**. A search of the 1939 Register for this address found:

- **Albert Shepherd**, a widower born in 1864
- **Albert T. Shepherd** born in 1894 and a
- **Winifred A. Shepherd** born in 1896

Albert was listed as a widower and the two latter were listed as single. Perhaps father and his two unmarried children? Winifred Shepherd fits the bill for the lady who was sent the post card but further research would perhaps prove this.



### TEXT READS:

13-9-54 3 PM

So here's your birthday & is a lovely morning here. I hope with you too. I have spent two days looking round Paris – tiring, but worthwhile. The buildings are really wonderful. Have looked into Les Invalides/Napoleon's tomb, Notre Dame & over the many bridges. This morning walked along Champs Élysées & through the Tuileries gardens. It was wonderful to .... I also looked into the Louvre for an hour. Now I'm all packed up ready to go to Troyes Train 622 arrive 8.39 So it will be dark. There wasn't a train this afternoon. Received your letter Saturday & called in again today in case there was anything .... Hope all well with you – Love Theo.

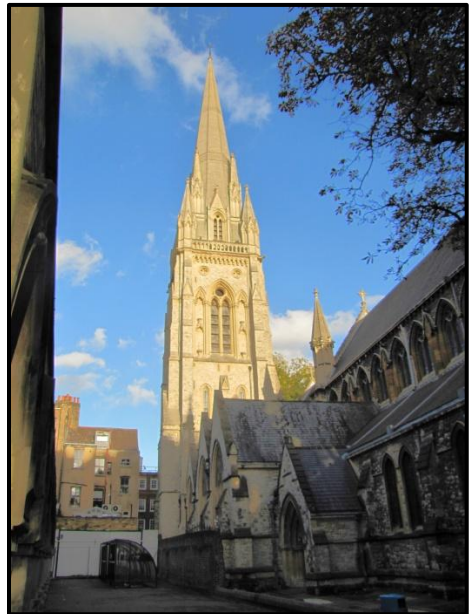
Do you know who Miss Shepherd was? I would love to pass on these postcards to a family member for the cost of postage.

## The MIs at St. Mary Abbots, Kensington

Roland Bostock

**Kensington** is on the eastern edge of our area, it is very built up, and has been in London's Ultra Low Emission Zone since the zone started. So it was always going to be a public transport trip to get there. St. Mary Abbots also has a bit of a reputation for being the odd one out so far as its parish records are concerned. They still have their baptism, marriage and burial registers at the church, having not yet submitted them to the **London Archives**.

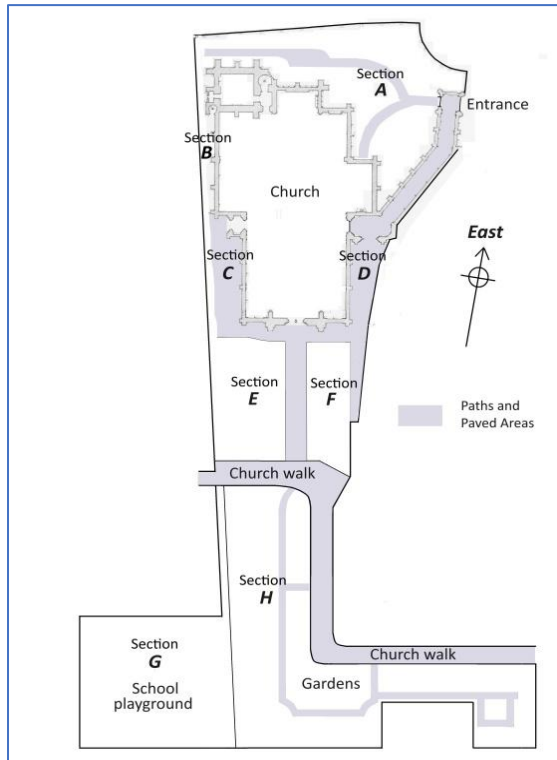
Because of this, I was rather guarded when I approached the vicar for permission to record all their memorials, but I had no need to worry; the vicar, **Mother Emma Dinwiddy Smith** was very interested in having all their memorials documented, and couldn't have been more supportive. I was invited to contact their two virgers who would help me to gain access to all their memorials as may be necessary. I was also given permission to park my car outside the vicarage when we were visiting, an unexpected bonus.



Thn h e church itself is very magnificent. It is large and cathedral-like, with a capacity of 1700 seats, a very tall nave, and a gorgeous spire tall enough to

look down on the other tall buildings nearby. It also has an interesting and large collection of memorials, 284 all told.

The church used to have an unusual shaped churchyard. In the diagram to the side, the original churchyard occupied the areas that I have labelled A, E, F, G and H. Area A is a small area to the east of the church. Areas E and F now consist entirely of flat stones, mainly ledger stones, but also headstones now laid flat. Area G is now a school playground, behind a locked gate at the entrance in **Church Walk**.



The entire length of the walls in this area are lined by re-erected headstones and ledger stones now erected upright. Area H is green space used by the locals as their local park, and also used by hyper-active primary school children waiting to be collected by their parents. Ledger stones were arranged round most of its borders.

Overall, there were another 376 memorials outside of the church. The condition of the stones varied enormously, with many being completely indecipherable.

In the playground area reading the inscriptions was made doubly hard, by there being a sturdy wire mesh fence protecting the gravestones from playground activities. It's not easy to clean up a headstone for reading when

there's a wire mesh fence in the way!

Inside the church the memorials were mostly quite accessible and in a good condition, but some of the older memorials were up high on the walls, and it had Yvonne and me experimenting



with the best way to read them. We had a powerful torch, binoculars, and a camera with excellent zoom capability. We did in the end get them all read.

As you can see from the photo the walls were well covered with memorials. The photo also shows one of the stained-glass windows. There are 17 stained-glass windows in all, and they all had short memorial



inscriptions written on the glass at the bottom.

The church had plenty of memorials to the distinguished, and quite a few were in Latin. One surprise was to find a life-size statue of an angel, with the inscription on its pedestal reading:

“Erected by a sorrowing sister to the memory of her two beloved brothers, **ALFRED Duke of EDINBURGH** and **SAXE-COBURG**, and **LEOPOLD Duke of ALBANY**. **LOUISE** fecit.”.

*Alfred, Leopold and Louise are all children of Queen Victoria.*

In the school playground area two gravestones caught our attention. One was for **Elizabeth Inchbald**, novelist, actress, dramatist and translator, 1753 – 1821. Yvonne Masson definitely thought that her memorial should be in the church rather than a playground.

The other, not far away, was for **George Charles Canning**, eldest son of the **Right Honourable George Canning**, and **Joan Scott** his wife, died March 31<sup>st</sup> 1820. George, the father, was prime minister for the period April to August 1827. Again, we rather expected such a memorial to be preserved in the church rather than the local school’s playground.

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## Family History Fairs and Events

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### *The Family History Show – London*

Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> 2025 - 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 £14!**

Free Parking

Wheelchair Friendly

Trains – direct from Waterloo to Kempton Park every ½ hour

Family History show sponsored by “The Genealogist”

## JET PLANE



Roland came across this while recording memorial inscriptions in the New Brentford Cemetery!!

Someone with a sense of humour, or perhaps a private joke?  
Inscription reads:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**LEONARD KENNETH EVANS**  
2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 1927 TO 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2000  
So kiss me and smile for me  
Tell me that you'll wait for me  
Hold me like you'll never let me go.  
'cause I'm leaving on a Jetplane...

Was Leonard a pilot? Or did he like to travel? Or did he just like John Denver?

What vdo you think?

**Alexander Daar**, *sent in the letter below hoping that a member in our Society can be of assistance:*

I am reaching out to seek assistance in my long-standing search for traces of my ancestors in London. Despite my intensive efforts, I have unfortunately not been successful so far.

In 1766, my family emigrated to Russia from England, accompanied by other relatives, including the sister of my ancestor's wife. They moved there at the invitation of **Empress Catherine II** and settled in a colony established by European settlers. This information comes from ship manifests documenting their arrival in **Russia** on July 25, 1766, as well as the colonist census dated June 15, 1767. Since these records were transcribed by Russian officials based on oral statements from the colonists, recorded phonetically in Russian, there may be inaccuracies in the spelling of names and abbreviations of place names.

My ancestor's name was **Nikolaus (Nicholas) lösef (Joseph) Dar**. His surname may also have been recorded as **Darr, Dare, Tarr, Tor**, or something similar. He was born around 1734 and was a master in gold embroidery. His wife, **Anna (Ann) Krestina (Chrestina)**, was born around 1731. Their daughter, **Marianna (Mary Ann)**, was born around 1762.

Nicholas' wife's sister, **Katharina (Catherine) Guldringa** (possibly **Goulder** or **Goldring**), was born either in 1716 or 1721, depending on the source. It is unclear whether this was her maiden name or if she was a widow at the time. The Dar family, as well as likely the family of his wife, originated from the city of **Natinka** (possibly **Nottingham** or **Notting Hill**) in **England**. Their religious affiliation was Roman Catholic, likely due to the absence of an Anglican church in the colonies.

At this time, **Count Musin-Pushkin**, the Russian ambassador to London, was recruiting settlers, as was **Count Vorontsov**.

During my research, I came across the "Search Query/FreeREG" website. There, I found references suggesting that families with the surnames: Dar, Dare

and **Goulding** were residents of London during the relevant period:

**Robert Dar** was buried on July 13, 1773, in London (City) **Farringdon: St. Andrew Holborn.**

**William Goulding** was buried March 26, 1779, also in London (City) **Farringdon: St. Andrew Holborn.**

**Ann Bowles** and **Nicholas Dare** were married on May 18, 1653, in London at **St. Olave, Hart St.**

There were also references in other churches such as **St. Helen, St. Benet, St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Michael,** and **St. Margaret Moses....**

Despite these findings, I have not yet been able to establish a direct connection to my family. It is possible that other relevant records or sources exist that I am not aware of, maybe emigration permits, legal documents, or other archives?

Since my efforts so far have been unsuccessful, I am now turning to the members West Middlesex Family History Society. I hope for your support in uncovering new insights about my ancestors. Perhaps some relatives still live in the region and could assist me? It would be a great joy to meet them, should this be appropriate.

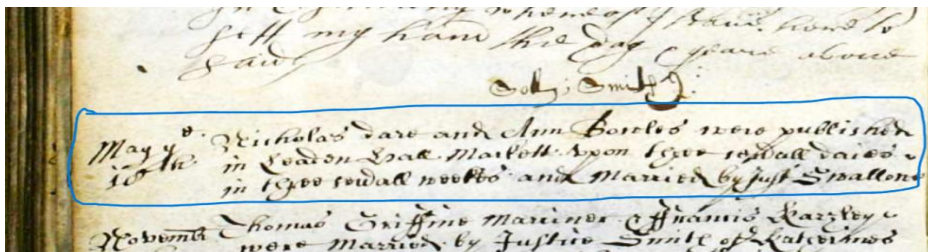
Perhaps someone is familiar with my family's history and could help with my search.

My greatest wish is to find the former residence of my ancestors and, after all these years, to visit the place of our origins. It would be a special honour for me to visit my ancestors' graves and establish a deeper connection to my roots.

Kind Regards,

Alexander Daar

[alexanderdaar@aol.com](mailto:alexanderdaar@aol.com)



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## West Middlesex Family History Society Matters

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### Social Media Policy

#### Purpose:

The aim of our social media is to promote our society and its work to societies and individuals in local and family history worlds according to our society's aim.

#### Ownership and moderation:

Responsibility for posts and interaction lies with the officer/officers managing the social media platforms that we use.

Inappropriate comments and hate speech will be reported and the person making the post will be blocked or removed from all of our social media platforms.

Political posts of any persuasion will be removed and the person making the post will be warned to refrain from such future comments.

#### Members/followers:

Followers are freely accepted provided they do not breach our code of conduct.

#### Code of conduct (Society Officers, members and followers):

Social media officers will not use our platforms to express their own opinions.

Conversations should be related to local and family history matters and should be respectful in tone.

Requests for advice/assistance should be general; more specific requests should be directed towards our advice email address.

Images may be added to illustrate a post but the person making the post is responsible for ensuring that copyright regulations are adhered to. If our platform receives a valid challenge to the copyright, the post will be removed and the person making the post will be notified.

If the Society suspects that any of our platforms have been hacked, followers/members will be notified without delay.

### **Be Scam-aware!**

We are all being warned about scams these days as there are more of them. West Middlesex Family History Society want to assure all our members that we will **never** phone, message or email you, asking you to transfer money to us by clicking on a link, or asking you to reveal personal or financial information. Calls or emails like this are scams.

#### **General advice**

1. Pause for a count of 10 before reacting. Then pause again.
2. Never click on a link!
3. Never click on an email address unless you recognise it as genuine.
4. Never move money to a so-called “emergency” account
5. Never use the telephone numbers or email addresses given by the caller. Find an accredited phone number or email (check your paper statements or Google them) and talk to them about the problem.
6. Phone a friend or relative and ask for help/advice.



*A note from the Editor*

*Help!!!*



Articles needed!! Please send in your articles for the journal, the pot is almost empty for the September Journal!!!

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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, (except Premium) and 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:

The discount code is: **\*\*\*\*\***

Code is 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](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 2025   **\*\*\*\*\***

Jul-Sept 2025   **\*\*\*\*\***

We regret to announce the deaths of  
**Mr. Kenneth F. Measures** OF Bracknell, Berkshire  
Member M222  
*And also*  
**Mr. Don L. Delacasa** OF Crewkerne, Somerset  
Member D179  
who passed away recently  
Our condolences go out to both families

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## New Members and Surname Interests

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

<b>Membership #</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Area/Location</b>
A125	Ms. Jeana Allen	Florida, USA
B355	Ms. Tina Bucknell	Bracknell, Berks.
C295	Mr. George Chappell	Hoddesdon, Herts.
D184	Mr. Gerard Doyle	Ashford, Middx
D185	Ms. Ingrid Demaerschalk	Twickenham, Middx
G160	Ms. Judith Gill	Ringwood, Hampshire
M254	Mrs. Debby Mitchell	Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

### **SURNAME INTERESTS:**

BINNS	1891-1902	Leytonstone area	ESS	A125
BINNS	1841-1891	Birstall area	WYK	A125
GIDNEY	1790-1865	Westminster area	MDX	A125
GIDNEY	circa 1842	Belgrave area	LND	A125
HOLDSWORTH	1758-1888	Birstall area	WYK	A125
KEEN	circa 1831	Chipping Norton area	OXF	A125
MILLS	19C	Douglas	IOM	A125
RAINBOW	1540-1883	Sutton under Brailes area	WAR	A125
WARING	1750-1820	Hardwick area	OXF	A125

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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:*

*St. Mary Abbots, Kensington is our most recently completed set of Memorial Inscriptions. The church is cathedral-like in its dimensions, and has a glorious towering spire. It is also full of memorials. The full digital document is available from our [Digital Library](#) page. The MIs with images can be searched from our [MIs Search](#) page.*

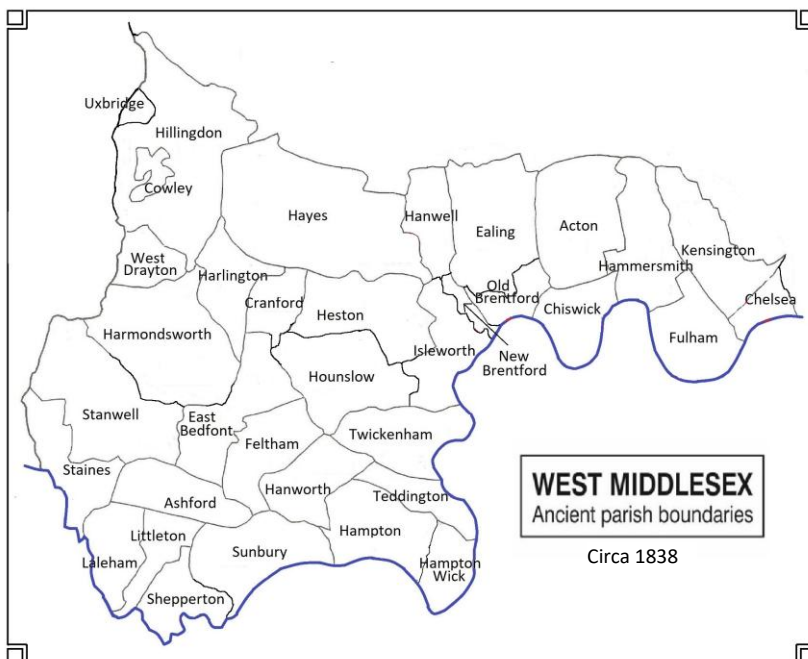
**Photo taken by Roland Bostock**

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### West Middlesex Family History Society

#### Area of Interest

Acton, Ashford, Chelsea, Chiswick, Cowley, Cranford, Ealing, East Bedfont, Feltham, Fulham, Hammersmith, Hampton, Hampton Wick, Hanwell, Hanworth, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Hayes, Heston, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Isleworth, Kensington, Laleham, Littleton, New Brentford, Old Brentford, Shepperton, Staines, Stanwell, Sunbury, Teddington, Twickenham, Uxbridge, West Drayton

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