

### HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Member of the Family History Federation



Randalls store built 1937/8 in Uxbridge (page 30)

#### **MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2024**

Unless stated otherwise meetings take place at Hillingdon Baptist Church, 25 Hercies Road, Hillingdon, Middlesex.

<u>NOTE:</u> ZOOM MEETINGS. The link to join each meeting will be included with the preceding NEWSLETTER

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Dave Annal	'Walls come tumbling
2.00pm (joint with U3A)		down'
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Judy Hill	'The role of the workhouse
2:00pm <b>ZOOM</b>		in the early 19 <sup>th</sup> century –
_		care or punishment'
Thursday 21st March	Keith Piercy	'Harefield as an industrial
2.00pm		village with emphasis on
A.G.M. followed by a talk:		pre-1914'

We always welcome visitors to our meetings, entrance  $\pounds l$ 

### O Hillingdon Family History Society & contributors

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Visit our website at: www.hfhs.org.uk
Contact us by e-mail at: enquiries@hfhs.org.uk

Contributions to the Journal are encouraged and should be sent to the e-mail address above or by post John Symons, (address on back cover).

# A LARGE PRINT VERSION IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

### JOHN'S JOTTINGS

By John Symons

Let's get the bad news out of the way first. Next year we have decided on the necessity of raising the membership subscription and details will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Put simply we face rising prices for rent, postage and other costs and without more income we will be unable to continue operating as we currently do. A further factor is that our financial reserves are quite limited which leaves us little room for manoeuvre.

We hope you understand the rationale for this decision and will still renew your membership at the end of the year. Membership numbers are holding at about the same level and if they continue to do so into next year the increase should give us some breathing space. Donations are of course always welcome and if you feel able to add a little extra to the standard rate, that also helps greatly. We exist to support and advise all family historians who either live locally or who have historic links to the area and look forward to doing so for many years to come.

It has recently come to our notice that there is a proposal afoot to close the Central Library in Uxbridge and operate instead a much-reduced facility in the Civic Centre. This will not include the Local Studies section and we wait to see what is planned for them. Considering that not so many years ago the Central Library was extended and rightly given pride of place as the centre of the community, many, including myself, would consider this a poor outcome.

Sadly, this does not surprise me as much as it should - we have witnessed a slow decline in services and opening times over recent years.

Some may remember our Saturday research sessions that we were able to operate in the Local Studies area for many years which were always popular and well attended. The library also provided space for exhibitions, performances and so on. If you wish to comment on the proposal, you can add your name to a petition here:

#### https://www.change.org/p/save-our-central-library-in-uxbridge

On a more personal note, one facet of this hobby which gives me most satisfaction is the unexpected turns the research may take. It has led me into subjects of which I had only a limited awareness. I have found that ancestors sometimes have an unexpected line of work or another area that can be interesting is how the family were impacted by social or national events beyond their control.

This is why I need to look further into the Indian Mutiny of 1757 as the most recent example, perhaps the subject of a future article. Maybe you have also found new areas of interest as a spin off from your family history research. Why not let us know if this is the case?

#### **EDITORS' JOTTINGS**

Journal Dates for 2024		
Edition	Dead-Line	
March	16 <sup>th</sup> February	
June	17 <sup>th</sup> May	
September	9 <sup>th</sup> Aug	
December	18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	

And so, another year passes and we look forward to the next.

In these straightened times we have endeavoured to keep our costs as low as we can but inevitably, we have been faced with increases in rent, postage etc. This has meant that our reserves are dwindling despite the continued reduction in journal printing costs, some generous membership donations and fund-raising efforts by the committee (Bookstall etc.)

To ensure that we as a society are able to continue to provide the members with research help, interesting talks, the (interesting?) journal and the general social contact, we have found it necessary to increase the subscription charges for the coming year.

The editors would like to thank all who have contributed articles, stories and information for inclusion in the journals without which four editions each year would be impossible.

Once again, a big thank you to Jenny Morrish for her excellent proof reading and thanks also to all those that support the research room meetings and the volunteers that man the computers. We hope that these sessions provide both the help sought and an enjoyable social contact atmosphere.

We received the following email from a non-member, Paul Dew. It is always a pleasure to receive something that is sparked off by a piece in the journal:

'Dear Sir,

I've just read the very interesting article (Journal 142) about restoring old photographs. Before retiring I was the curator of the Metropolitan Police Museum. During my day to day work we often dealt with family tree enquiries. More often than not these included a photograph of 'the unknown PC' thought to be a relation.

Identifying the person was sometimes possible as the photos often included a service number and sufficient clues, medals, detail of uniform which gave a date range for example. Sometimes we had a possible name or names and using our 'detective ability' we usually found the person.

However, I would urge every member to put names on any and all the photos they own.

Start now.

Turn the TV off, put the phone down and start tonight. 10 a day Monday to Friday is 50 a week, 2,500 a year so the job is soon done. Then and only then scan, copy, list or index them, it's the name on the back which will stay there and be most useful.

As an aside with these enquiries, we tended to ignore the stories of 'he was a senior Chief Inspector when he retired'. Usually this was a 'posthumous promotion', as we called it, for family prestige. Likewise, 'he almost caught Jack the Ripper' - half the men serving seem to have just missed him.

Finally, an old rule brought in during Victorian days specified left to right then right to left buttoning of overcoats to even out wear. This prompted the office joke - not really true – 'sorry we don't know the name but the photo was taken on a Tuesday'!

Hope you can use this

Paul Dew'

A Happy New Year to all our members and to all readers of the journal!

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

As mentioned elsewhere in this edition the financial situation of the society as it now exists means that we, the committee, have reluctantly decided that it is imperative that we increase the subscription and other charges.

We appreciate that these may well be hard times but the very cause of those constraints also applies to the society. Rental costs for the research room, the meetings room as well as the computer storage area have all increased. Postage and other sundry outgoings have also been subject to increases with the overall result that whilst we have made every effort to make the increases as small as possible, the following charges for 2024 are as follows:

#### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

#### United Kingdom Membership

Individual with printed journal	£ 15.00
Individual with pdf journal	£ 12.00
Joint (same address) with 4 printed journals	
Joint (same address) with 4 pdf journals	£ 15.00
oot of the World	

#### Rest of the World

Membership with pdf journal.....£ 12.00

<u>Please note</u>: - If you already pay your subscription by standing order, please ensure that you instruct your bank to pay the new rate.

#### RESEARCH ROOM CHARGES

For members £2.50/hour and £5.00/hour for visitors.

Visitors' concession: first two visits are charged at £2.50/hour.

MEETINGS: Members: No charge: Visitors £2.00

You will find a renewal form with this journal.



#### TRAGEDY FOR JOHN PINNER'S FAMILY

By Helen Bird

Reading Alan Rowland's article in the June journal, 'Has the sentence ever been a deterrent?', reminded me of the fate of my husband's 3 x great uncle, John Pinner, in Essex.



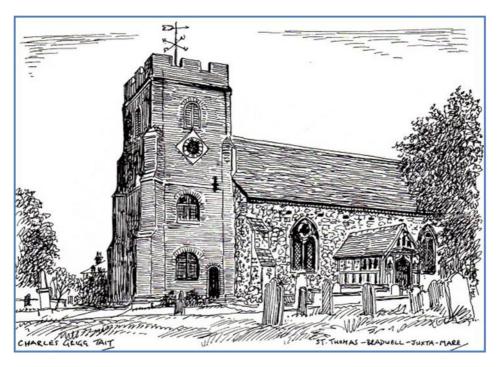
High Street, Bradwell-Juxta-Mare c1906

John Pinner was baptised on 22nd December 1805 in Bradwell-Juxta-Mare, an Essex village on the Blackwater estuary where it meets the North Sea.

Situated in the Dengie Hundred, Bradwell is a parish of Maldon, about 10 miles distant. It is a remote community and in the winter months a bleak place to live. The village straggles along the road from the shore of the Blackwater to the main part of the village further inland. In 1831 the population of Bradwell was 956.

In 1828 John Pinner was found guilty of stealing two sheep and received a prison sentence of 19 months. (contd.)

Essex Assizes did not pass the death penalty as had happened at the Oxford Assizes for sheep stealing, so John was very lucky to have only received a relatively light prison sentence for his first offence.



After serving his sentence he married Jemima Boosey in 1831 at St Thomas Church, Bradwell and started a family.

Their first born was a son John in 1831, followed by Ann in 1833 who died at a month old, then came Jane in 1835 who died age 4 and finally Sarah in 1838. In April 1839, after eleven years of 'going straight' John was tried and convicted for receiving stolen goods - a lamb. On this occasion he was sentenced to transportation for life.

John was an agricultural labourer and his offence was in the spring, perhaps the winter had been hard and he had not had any work but still had a family to feed. No doubt the temptation of a lamb to provide a few good meals for his children was too hard to resist.

Eleven months elapsed between his conviction and the actual transportation which seems a long time. Perhaps he lodged an appeal against his sentence during this time, but in March 1840 he was on board ship and five months later arrived in New South Wales, Australia.

What happened to his wife and children when he left shows the inhumanity of the sentence. Jemima was left with two children John, age 10, 3-year-old Sarah and no income. She was still a young woman but she couldn't remarry as her husband was still alive although he was gone forever.

In 1841 Jemima and Sarah were living with her parents-in-law in Bradwell. Her father-in-law was the sole breadwinner at 70 years old working as an agricultural labourer. Her 10-year-old son John was living with an uncle and aunt a few doors away. The whole family would be affected by the severity of the punishment, his parents knowing they would never see their son again and his wife left alone and unsupported with the children.

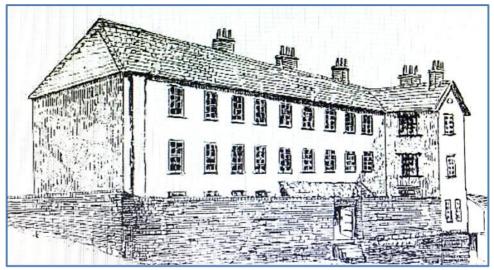
Jemima's parents-in-law died during the 1840s and it appears that she now had nowhere to go. The next record I found was a birth, in the Maldon Union Workhouse (mother Jemima) of a daughter, Eliza in 1846. Eliza was registered as Eliza Jordan with John Jordan, a labourer, as the father and Jemima Pinner her mother,

Maldon Union Workhouse housed 50 inmates and was built in about 1715. A much larger workhouse and infirmary was built in 1872 which accommodated 450 inmates. This old workhouse building still exists and is now flats, although much altered; it bears a blue plaque commemorating its former history.

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Part of Eliza's birth certificate

Ten months later when Eliza was baptised at Bradwell she was baptised as Eliza Pinner and no father was listed. In all future records Eliza was called Eliza Pinner and the name Jordan did not appear again. (Part of Eliza's birth certificate)



Maldon Union Workhouse

Jemima remained in the workhouse with her daughters Sarah and Eliza until her death from phthisis (tuberculosis) on 30th January 1851 aged 40, she was buried at St Thomas' Church, Bradwell, where she had been married twenty years earlier in happier times.

In 1848 John and Jemima's son John joined the navy and his enlistment papers show him to be 17 years old but only 5' tall, his small stature was quite possibly due to malnourishment during childhood.

Later John joined the crew of a ship sailing from Southampton to New South Wales which made me wonder if he was making the voyage hoping to see his father again.

In the 1851 census the half sisters, Sarah 13 and Eliza 5 were recorded as paupers in the Maldon workhouse. Sarah gave birth to a daughter in the workhouse in 1859 who was registered as Jemima Bundock.

Sarah married James Bundock in 1863 but they are recorded in the 1861 census as living as man and wife in Church Street, Maldon. Two more children followed before Sarah died in 1870, also from phthisis.

In 1871 James was bringing up the two younger children but Jemima who was 12 was back in the Maldon Workhouse as a pauper.

She remained in the workhouse until her marriage in 1889. Eliza Pinner remained in the workhouse, she was born there, educated there and appears there in the 1851, 1861 and 1871 censuses. In the 1871 census she is recorded as a mother with a son, William who was a year old.

She finally found a way out of the workhouse in 1872 when she married Daniel Creasey in Maldon.

The poverty that the family endured after John was transported affected his wife, his children and even his grandchildren. Without a breadwinner the family was dependent on the parish to survive.

In Australia John served his sentence and in 1852 was granted a conditional pardon for good conduct. A conditional pardon was recognised all over the world except Great Britain, so he still couldn't come home even if he wanted to. Possibly there were more opportunities for him down under and he seems to have made a good life once he got his freedom. In 1858 there is a marriage in New South Wales of John Pinner to Mary King, although I don't know if this is the same John Pinner.

He died at the age of 87 and the following obituary was placed in the Maitland Mercury, New South Wales on 12th September 1891: 'It is our painful duty to chronicle the death of a very old and respected resident of Liverpool Plains in the person of Mr. John Pinner, who expired on the 21st August, at the residence of Mr. E. S. Holmes, at the advanced age of 87 years. The deceased came to the colony in the year 1839, and he was for a number of years in the employment of the Collaroy Co. For the last 27 years he had been in the employ of Mr. E. S. Holmes, who always found him a faithful servant'.

John's life as a prisoner was probably extremely hard but after being pardoned, he made a good life for himself. (contd.)

The transportation caused immense hardship for the family he had to leave behind and their poverty continued to affect the next generations. The whole family was punished for the sake of a lamb.

In answer to the question 'Has the sentence has ever been a deterrent?' in John Pinner's case the answer was no.

John had already served one term of imprisonment but he was still prepared to take risks to feed his family, sadly the second time the punishment was much worse.

It seems that punishments were a lottery depending on where you lived. Oxford Assizes handed out death sentences quite liberally. In Essex, where John Pinner was convicted, sentencing appeared less harsh. Perhaps that may have encouraged his second offence, if he had been executed for sheep stealing the first time, he certainly wouldn't have reoffended!

NB The irony is that whichever way it went, the verdict would have produced the same penury for John Pinner's family!

#### **HELP BEFORE 1837**

By Alan Rowland

These days, when we happily subscribe to Ancestry, Findmypast, FreeBMD or whoever, we avidly research our ancestors' records from 1837 onwards. We eventually reach a point however when we need to cross over the general registration date to earlier times into parish registers. There are many original images of parish records available on line for baptisms and marriages, but they can be difficult to sort out. The 1841 census is of very dubious help when it comes to an individual's birth place and age. It can only tell you if the person was born in the county in which they resided on census night. (contd.)

If there is a single letter 'Y' entered on the census form it indicates that the person was born in say, Essex but if the letter is an 'N' it just means the person was not born in Essex. Hardly helpful!

The ages given on the 1841 census sheets are sometimes accurate sometimes not. For this census the enumerator's instruction regarding age was given in detail, see below:

'Age and Sex' – Write the age of each person opposite to the name in one of the two columns headed 'Males' and 'Females', according to sex.

15 years and under 20 write 15	45 years and under 50 write 45
20 years and under 25 write 20	50 years and under 55 write 50
25 years and under 30 write 25	55 years and under 60 write 55
30 years and under 35 write 30	60 years and under 65 write 60
35 years and under 40 write 35	65 years and under 70 write 65
40 years and under 45 write 40	70 years and under 75 write 70
and so, on up to t	he greatest ages.

Write the age of every person under 15 years of age as it is stated to you. For persons aged 15 years and upwards, write the lowest of the term of 5 years within which the age is. If no more can be ascertained respecting the age of any person than that the person is a child or is grown up, write 'under 20', or 'above 20', as the case may be.

In practice, many census officials either did not round down at all or only rounded down for higher ages, such as over 20. Sometimes but less frequently, they would round down ages below 15.

If the stated age is under 15 it is probably accurate, above 15 ages should all end in '0' or '5' if they don't then they could be accurate in which case a vote of thanks should go to the enumerator for disobeying the instruction.

In general, the age of a person under 15 is probably accurate to within a year or two. For persons over 15, any age that is not a multiple of 5 is likely also to be accurate – for example, if a person is listed as 27, he or she probably really is 27 or thereabouts, rather than 25.

The area you have to be careful of is persons over age 15 whose age is a multiple of 5 – they may be up to 4 years older than their census listing shows – so if your ancestor is listed as 50, remember they could be between the ages of 50 and 54 inclusive.

Remember too, that it was the householder who was responsible for completing the form (or supplying the information to the enumerator) - the ages and birthplaces of adopted children, stepchildren, servants and visitors are particularly likely to be incorrect.

Ages can also be adjusted, perhaps to reduce a large gap in age between husband and wife, or to reduce the age of an unmarried daughter.

Many people didn't know where they were born, so it was not unusual for them to think they were born where they grew up.

Where does all this leave us? We might have a clue as to which county the ancestor was born (or not!) and within certain parameters, their age.

Not a lot to go on, but if the individual appears on the later censuses a more definite place of origin especially if it agrees with the 1841 'Y' or 'N' can be discovered. With this information a search can be undertaken using the Parish registers available on line. A lot of these are digital images of the original records but there are also many parishes where the registers have not been photographed and transcriptions of these are all that is available.

Once again when dealing with transcriptions it should be remembered that they are prepared by humans reading hand written records. We all know how some examples of handwriting is easy to read and that others are hard to decipher.

Sometimes the transcriber having done the best they can may make a guess at a particularly obscure hand.

One useful aid to crossing the 1837 divide is if a party married after that date. If the records have been transcribed or photographed then the marriage certificate will give the names of both father's and their occupations which can help to arrive at the correct family in the pre-1837 records. (contd.)

The surname given at the baptism of an illegitimate child could be the mother's maiden name or the father's (if different to the mother's). This is particularly so if the mother later marries the father.

Whilst on-line resources make life easier to research before 1837 it is, or may not be, easy. Persistence is the key to progress but if the brick wall seems insurmountable put it to one side, research some other topic and return to the wall later – you never know when new on-line material will provide the answer.

#### WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the following members who recently joined our society:

Sharon Hodge	from Hillingdon
Maggie Scott	from Stoke Poges

This brings the total membership at present to 141.

#### SORRY AGATHA, YOU WON'T BE JOINING ME!

By John Bridger

It seems, from John Bridge's recent articles, that Familysearch have embarked on a policy of linking registered members with famous or well-known people. Presumably this is not a ploy to increase their influence on family history researchers because they only make these connections for registered members and it is difficult to see how for example, it would increase registrations to their organisation.

Nevertheless, we are pleased that their actions have inspired John to produce the interesting piece that follows:

Another of the names that Familysearch suggests might be connected to me is AGATHA CHRISTIE!

Agatha, according to them, is my 11<sup>th</sup> cousin once removed. If so, this would be remarkable since apart from her books, a family favourite, she had never been mentioned anywhere in our family particularly by the older relatives and nowhere does a connection appear in my family tree.

As often happens there could be a grain of truth somewhere in their findings and I decided to probe a little myself.

Family Search shows the common ancestors as Nicholas Locke (1517-1558) and Eleasar Locke (1515-?).

I must stress at this point that nothing has been verified.

My ancestral connection starts with my grandmother Elizabeth BRIDGER (née Frayne). Her father, Peter, was born in North Molton, Devon and his father was Richard.



Richard (father John: grandfather Richard) married Mary HUXTABLE. Grandfather Richard married Elizabeth LOCKE.

This marriage leads onto the LOCKE line and back for five LOCKE generations to Edward Locke (1540-1578), son of the common ancestor Nicholas LOCKE. (*Please refer to chart at end of article*).

Interestingly, Fraynes, Huxtables and Lockes were all North Molton families up to c.1650. Before that the LOCKES, including our Nicholas, were Dorsetshire families.

The results so far gave no cause to doubt their veracity or the continuity through the generations. (contd.)

Nicholas was born 1517 in Brockhampton, Dorset and was said to have had at least seven sons and two daughters with Eleasar. He died in 1558, Alton Pancras, Dorset and was buried in Somerset.

However, verifying the Agatha line proved to be more difficult because of Nicholas and wife Eleasar. She has been attached to Nicholas, by Familysearch, without any data whatsoever of her birth, marriage death, locations or who her parents were.

All this hardly filled me with confidence!

Nicholas was born and died in Dorset and together with Eleasar was unlikely to have lived elsewhere. But what of their children?

I looked for where any likely children were born and found:

John Locke born 1535 no location.
Edward Locke 1540 Plush, Dorset
Edith Locke 1542 Brockhampton, Dorset
William Locke 1544 Brockhampton,
Dorset
Joan Locke 1545 Ormesby, Yorkshire
Peter Locke 1546 Brockhampton, Dorset
Ralfe Locke 1550 Ormesby, Yorks.

I can't help thinking that those born in Ormesby and Suffolk were not part of the family of Nicholas and Eleasar. Ormesby and Dorset are some 200 miles apart, distances that were no joke in 1555.

I discovered another setback when I found that the father of Thomas was Nycolas LOCKE and not Ralfe LOCKE, as given in the chart below, who is the person carrying the line from Eleasar's down to Agatha Christie.

A closer look at Ralfe LOCKE's credentials on Familysearch revealed only one source for him, an entry for a Sarah Locke (christenings 1538 – 1975 England) in 1573. Is this the Sarah Cutter Locke mentioned later? There was no other source material and the Ancestry site was also unable to provide any information.

Added to my initial doubts over Eleasar, also with no source material, I felt my doubts outweighed the credibility of the suggested link. But there was more exploring to be done, however, before I could definitely concede defeat.

I eventually found on Ancestry a Ralfe LOCKE born in Ormesby, Yorkshire in 1550 who died in America before 1610 some years after the birth of a daughter in 1573. This daughter, said to be Sarah Cutter LOCKE, who married in Norfolk which poses the question – why not in Yorkshire?

#### I have two explanations:

Firstly, I found that there is also an Ormesby St. Margarets located in Norfolk where LOCKE families already existed.

Secondly. In Paul Brooker's 'Journals of a Time Traveller' he refers to a publication, 'Norfolk Surnames in the Sixteenth Century' by R. A. McKinley (Leicester University Press). In the section entitled 'Locative Surnames Originating Outside Norfolk' he says:

'this suggests quite few had been moving from other parts of England into Norfolk between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.....here is another surprise, Yorkshire turned out to be a common origin' and continues 'However, it is evident there must have been considerable movement from Yorkshire to Norfolk'.

So, was Ralfe part of this movement in a later period? If so, it could account for his daughter's birth and marriage in Norfolk.

Familysearch has a note about Sarah Cutter LOCKE 1573-1625:

When Sarah Cutter LOCKE was born in 1573 in Norfolk her father, Ralfe LOCKE was 23 and mother Elizabeth Burnap was 18. She married George Judah GOODY in 1592 in Caistor St. Edmunds, Norfolk. They had one daughter. Sarah died in 1625 in Caistor St. Edmunds aged 52 and is buried there.

Sarah and George's daughter, Mercy Priscilla GOODY, provided the next link when she married Thomas MARSHFIELD (b. Exeter, Devon) in 1627 in Devon but I was surprised to see, at Windsor, Hartford, Connecticut in America! (contd.)

Wiki tree suggests that Thomas emigrated to New England during the Puritan Great Migration (1520-1640).

It is possible that as part of this migration Ralfe LOCKE, George Jacob GOODY, Thomas MARSHFIELD and Thomas MILLER, all noted as born in England, died and were buried in colonial America.

The next link was via Thomas MARSHFIELD's daughter Sarah who married Thomas MILLER and then, through his son Ebenezer, to the MILLER line in America which takes us right down to AGATHA.

I now have to decide; do I accept or reject that Agatha and I have a connection? On the one hand, I could assume that the link is a fact, after all would Familysearch have notified me without some degree of certainty?

Alternatively, my overwhelming doubts on Eleasar and Ralfe weigh so heavy that I have to say 'SORRY AGATHA!' The ancestral line charts follow:

John Bridger
John R D Bridger
John F Bridger <mark>m</mark>
Elizabeth Frayne
Peter Frayne
Richard Frayne m
Mary Huxtable
John Huxtable
Richard Huxtable m
Elizabeth Locke
Thomas Locke
John Locke
John Locke
Thomas Locke
Nicholas Locke
Edward Locke
Nicholas Locke (b)
Dorset 1517 <mark>m</mark> Eleasar

Agatha Christie (née Miller)
Frederick A Miller
Nathaniel F Miller
Alvah Miller
John Miller
Jacob Miller
Ebenezar Miller
Thomas Miller m
Sarah Marshfield
Thomas Marshfield m
Mercy P Goody
George J Goody m
Sarah C Locke
Raife Locke m
Elizabeth Burnap
Eleasar
·

NB. This is the second Familysearch 'Famous Connection' from John and it raises this question - if Familysearch think there is a connection why do they not provide the documentary proof?

If it does not exist then all is speculation that could lead to many hours spent looking for proof with only disappointment at the end of it.

As a matter of general interest has anyone else received a Familysearch list of famous connections? If so, did you research further? Please let us know if you found any proofs and who you were linked to.

#### PINNER VILLAGE SHOW

By Gill May



Pinner Village Show was held this year during the hot spell in September and we were there once again.

In spite of the heat, the show was visited by many people – the order of the day? ice cream, cold drinks, and a variety of foods!

Stalls were selling all manner of 'goodies' as well as raising funds for their own particular cause.

Our stall was run by Jenny Mundy, Val Fitch and Gill May (left to right in the picture) with John Symons helping to set out our wares: second hand books, jigsaw puzzles, handmade soft toys as well as local history and family history books.

During the course of the day, we found there was much interest shown in the Society and we spent time chatting to people about family history. Some were interested enough to say they would attend the research room on a Friday morning hopefully we shall gain some new members.

In addition to our books, both adults and children, jigsaw puzzles and soft toys we had a very large, metre high soft dog for sale which attracted much interest throughout the day! Everything that we sell helps towards keeping the Society functioning.

If anyone has paperback books, soft toys, children's toys or jigsaws they have finished with we will be happy to take them off your hands to sell at future fairs. Please contact Gill May.

#### WHEN WAS THIS?

#### By Alan Rowland

One question that springs to mind each time I look at a census sheet image -why is the year of the census not shown?

Census series ref.	When taken
HO 107	6 <sup>th</sup> June 1841
HO 107	30 <sup>th</sup> March 1851
RG 9	7 <sup>th</sup> April 1861
RG10	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 1871
RG ll	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 1881
RG 12	5 <sup>th</sup> April 1891
RG 13	31st March 1901
RG 14	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 1911
RG 15	19 <sup>th</sup> June 1921

This is obviously not the case for the 1911 and 1921 images but the earlier censuses have a mixture of letters and numbers that bear no relationship to the year. Indeed, in the case of the 1841 and 1851 the same series designation, HO 107, is used for both. As they were the start of the meaningful censuses perhaps the intention was to use HO 107 for all following census sheets and of course there was no reason to imagine that so many future generations of amateur researchers would be using the census sheets.

The basic searches that we all make involve calling up the relevant census year and then entering what we know i.e. name, age and location. With luck we discover the individual sought together with their family and apart from 1841, where they were born.

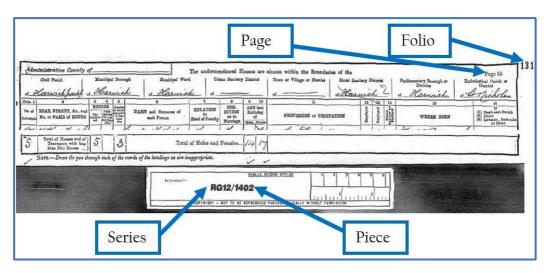
For those starting out on their research we list here the official census references and their dates:

If you intend to print your census findings it may well help if you write the year somewhere on the print out. (contd.)

The National Archives research guide, 'Census Records', gives a lot of detail on what the various aspects of the census information are used for and where to find them. Here we give a few extracts that may help our readers but the full guide should be examined:

The census returns for most years follow a single format, but there are slightly different arrangements for 1841, 1911 and 1921. For census returns from 1851 to 1901 the extra reference is a folio number and (as an option) a page number.

In addition to the HO and RG series references there are a number of other identification marks. These are shown here:



Each piece may contain hundreds of pages and several enumeration books with numbered pages. Later, folio numbers were stamped on the top right corner of every right-hand page, starting at the beginning of the piece and continuing through all the enumeration books. Since folio numbers appear only on alternate pages, each folio represents the page where it appears and the following page therefore a series, piece and folio reference will enable you to locate the correct pair of pages and to identify a single page, a page number can be added to the reference.

Both Ancestry.co.uk and Findmypast.co.uk offer an exact reference search facility for each census year 1841 – 1901. For 1911 and 1921, there is an exact reference search on Findmypast only. (contd.)

#### The 1841 census

Each piece in 1841 is further divided into books, so a full reference needs to include a book number after the piece number, for example HO 107/1298/8 as it appears on the census image. Each book then contains its own series of folio numbers, which should be included in a full reference, for example, HO 107/1298, book 8, folio 10.

#### The 1911 and 1921 census

For these census years the household schedules were kept, instead of being copied into enumeration books. Each piece represents an enumeration district (ED).

In 1921 some pieces cover two small enumeration districts, so the ED number should be included in a full reference. Instead of folio numbers, each household has a unique schedule number in the top right-hand corner, so that a reference will be in the format RG 14/26288 Sch 227, for 1911, or RG 15/12199, ED 7, Sch 43, for 1921.

Institutions and vessels do not have schedule numbers, instead the information was recorded directly into special enumeration books with numbered pages, as in previous census years.

This is but a small selection of the information available from the National Archive guide you may find a lot more to help by perusing the complete guide on:

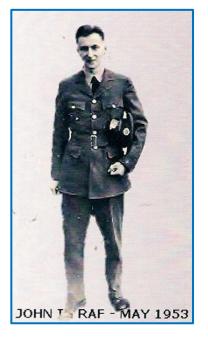
https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/census-records/#four.two

## I WASN'T THERE! (Apologies to Max Boyce) By John Bridger

I would have liked to have been one of the H.F.H.S group who went on the visit but I wasn't there! The 76 steps to reach the ops. room would have been too much of a challenge. I did however thoroughly enjoy reading about it and seeing the photograph of the ops. room plotting table. This brought back vivid memories of my R.A.F. National Service days (1953-1955) when I trained as a fighter plotter and later, for a short while, was 'volunteered' to the fighter controller tier. Although this happened 70 years ago the memories are still very clear but as they say E&O excepted! \*

Here I am, age 18, at the end of training in 1953 prior to being posted to Far East. A few weeks later (circa May/June 1953) found me at R.A.F. CHANGI about to experience the atmosphere of a true ops. room which was totally different to the rather relaxed training room atmosphere! This was classed as 'on active service' because of the 'Malayan Emergency'. We were expected to be totally efficient at the plotting table from day one, the accuracy being relied on by the fighter controllers. The room was in an isolated building above ground sited in the Changi Swamp.

Our duties were those we had been trained for but there was a steep learning curve in those first few days.



Night guard duties were an eerie experience. As you sat alone with the ceiling mounted fan, its large blades rotating, the tales of the death of 'Chalky White' and his ghost at the site, were truly unnerving.

It was all made more so by the various weird noises generated by the night creatures of the swamp.

Compensation came with the many pleasant hours spent at the nearby beach but these did not last long!

I received orders to pack my bags and report for transfer to HONG KONG!

The journey was not to be by air – it was by a troopship complete with a full complement of other services personnel! Their daily routine included hours of physical training of one sort or another, not quite for us R.A.F. chaps our officers decided! We were ordered 'to keep our heads down and keep out of trouble'.

#### HONG KONG.

After all the administration details had been completed it was time for my first shift on duty, but where was the ops. room? It lay deeply buried in the solid rock of Hong Kong Island and the layout was very similar to the Battle of Britain Bunker including the access via a long tunnel and steps. The plotting table displayed the area covered by the operation room.

Day to day was pretty uneventful but on one occasion, during the Korean war, a plot came in showing 200+ aircraft moving closer. That got the top brass moving! Presumably they scrambled an aeroplane from Kai Tak to investigate and the pilot reported that it was not an invasion but flocks of geese flying south on their annual migration!

After about a year or so of duties at the plotting table, we plotters noticed empty spaces in the first tier (that is the elevated area overlooking the plotting table) normally occupied by the fighter controllers. Apparently, their replacements had failed to arrive and were not expected soon.

Without warning or introduction to this new task, I and a few others were told to take over those vacant Fighter Controller seats until further notice!

So, within a day our duties had moved from placing plots on the table to identifying the airborne aircraft with those plots, obtain confirmation of this with the pilots using the intercom. And examine any unidentified plots. There was much more, of course, we used a triangulation table to calculate if an aeroplane's fuel load was sufficient for the given course and the length of the airborne duration etc.

We also had to maintain a watch on each aircraft and how close it got to an infringement of the Chinese mainland air space and sovereignty boundaries. Sometimes there was no reply to my request for 'position and angels\*\* - over' information from the pilot but the plot on the table gave the game away!

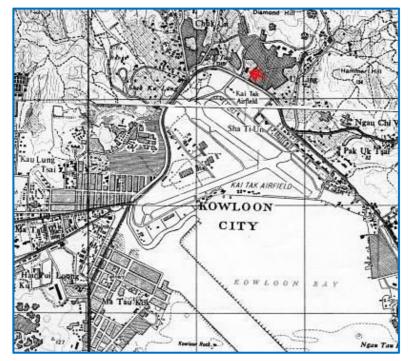
My experience was further extended when I was again 'volunteered' onto a short-term secondment to KAI TAK airfield control tower on a learn and observe basis.

Everything had to be recorded meticulously in our log books in full detail. We had contact with a variety of aircraft, from memory I recall De Haviland Hornets of 80 squadron, a Short Sunderland flying boat, Spitfires of Royal H.K. Air Force of 28 squadron and Vampires of 80 squadron.

There was an incident in July 1954 when a Cathay Pacific DC-4 was shot down by the Chinese communists. Knowing that the Chinese forces were assembled on the mainland increased an already tense situation. The ops room atmosphere was serious even sombre, which dampened an otherwise pleasant off duty existence.

By the time the replacement Flight Controllers eventually arrived we 'volunteers' had begun to master the job, never-the-less we now had to hand back control and return to plotting table duties.





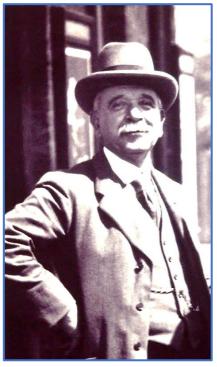
Spitfire at RHKAF, 1953

Kai Tak Airfield

## A TALK – 'RANDALLS OF UXBRIDGE' THEIR HISTORY

Report by John Symons

On the 14<sup>th</sup> September it was our pleasure to welcome Sir John Randall previously Member of Parliament for Uxbridge and now an active member of the House of Lords. He is also a long-standing member of our Society. His talk was about the Randalls department store, which was such a fixture in the Uxbridge townscape for so many years and his family associations with it.



The business was founded by John's great grandfather, Philip Albert Randall (known as Par) who was living at the time in High Wycombe although in earlier times the family were located in Little Missenden in Buckinghamshire.

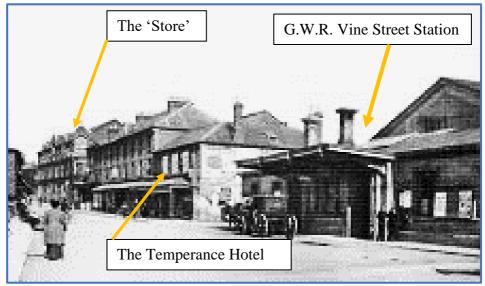
High Wycombe and the surrounding areas have a history of furniture making and Philip set up an upholstery business in West Wycombe. They would deliver their goods by horse and cart and later by train.

One of their customers who had a shop in Vine Street in Uxbridge decided to sell their business and so it was that Philip Randall bought it to sell their own goods and much else besides, direct to the public in Uxbridge.

Philip Albert Randall

Philip married and had a child Albert (known as Bert) who was John's grandfather. The family were Congregationalists, did not approve of alcohol and consequently they also ran a Temperance Hotel.

The hotel was located near the store and the Great Western Railway Vine Street station, the first to open in Uxbridge.



Vine Street

John showed a selection of photographs, film, advertisements and lots of other information showing how the store developed over the years. They also ventured into the removal business and widened their scope of wares. Many local deliveries were made and this is where John first assisted with the business.

Meanwhile Par was travelling extensively around the world. Back at home Randalls arranged staff outings including picnics in Burnham Beeches.

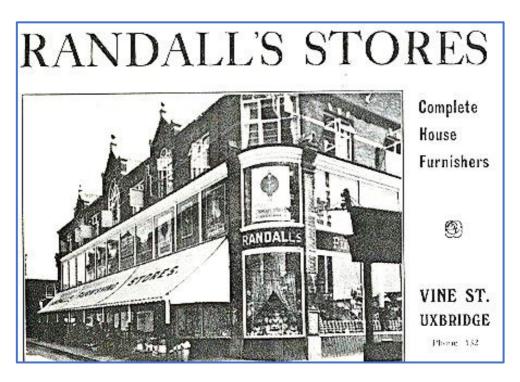
In the late 1930s it was decided to build a new store to accommodate the growing business. Not long after the Second World War broke out and John's father was called up, serving as a bombardier in the Army. A bomb fell on the store causing some damage which cost £317 to repair.

Furniture was one of the many categories of goods that were rationed but some of the utility pieces were well made and survived for very many years.

The new store was the one that was recognisable from that time until it eventually closed. It became the backdrop for many films and television series including the detective series 'Endeavour'.

The original building now has Grade 2 listed status so much of the frontage remains as built in the late thirties.

John's story was well presented and it provided a fascinating insight into a piece of local, family and social history which many, including some of the audience, had direct connections with whether as employees or just as past customers. Some items from the store and family archives have been deposited with the Hillingdon Archives and Museum Service in Uxbridge Library.



The Original Store, corner of Cricket Field Road and Vine Street.

# A TALK— LONGFORD, A VILLAGE IN LIMBO, on ZOOM Report by John Symons

Our March 2023 edition carried a piece by Wendy Tibbitts about Heath Gardens, Longford, Middlesex and the families who lived there. On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October we saw her in person (virtually) when she told us about the book she recently published on Longford. This tells the wider story of Longford and its battle against being swallowed up by the everexpanding Heathrow Airport.

Longford is a long-established village on the Bath Road which connected London to Reading, Bath, Bristol and other points west. As such it became an important staging post with coaching inns to supply a break of journey. The land around was fertile and low lying which lent itself to farming and more specifically market gardening. With good access to the London markets such as Covent Garden it became a became a favoured location for growing fruit and vegetables.

Longford, along with the hamlets of Sipson and Heathrow, formed part of the parish of Harmondsworth. It is however a fair distance from Harmondsworth with its parish church of St. Mary the Virgin. Possibly because of this a Baptist Chapel was established in Longford and many local people attended this place of worship instead.

Wendy had a large range of photographs of many locations in the village to share, many of which no longer exist because of airport developments. You will find many of these along with stories about Longford and its history in her book "Longford – A Village in Limbo" currently available from Amazon for £14.99.

I have a personal interest in the area as Heath Gardens was the home of my 3xgreat grandfather James Heath and his family in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. A photograph of the property appeared in the March issue but I was able recently to take my own pictures of the building on the old Bath Road and the Kings Arms opposite:





# NOW, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!

By Alan Rowland

Once again one of those little nuggets of revelation that often appear on a Friday morning occurred as I helped a member look for the maiden name of a child's mother.

In this case our member had struggled for some weeks to nail down the name but it was always going to be a major problem as it involved Welsh families and their common surnames (Jones, Williams, Edwards, Roberts etc.). Despite many hours digging through the available on-line information nothing came to light that could be said to be absolutely correct – you just cannot be sure!

Our member found it difficult to accept this situation and, on many occasions, asked why could the answer not be found given the recent access to the G.R.O. listings back to 1837 showing mothers' maiden names. Surely every child had been registered!

After much discussion, tearing out of hair and frustration a chance remark eased the situation. I just mentioned that although birth registration was required under the 1836 Act there was no penalty for those who did not comply, that is until 1874 when another Act amended the earlier Act.

This amendment Act imposed fines for non-compliance which focused the minds of the population and it subsequently became the norm for births, deaths etc to be registered. This was news to our member and it is likely that it will ease the frustration – it may well be that the pre 1874 child(ren) were not registered.

It is quite possible that prior to 1874 parents who did not register births thought it un-necessary. At the time the vast majority of children were baptised or christened which, in the parents' eyes, may have been all that was required and took the place of registration.

This of course does not mean an end to the search for that unknown name!

# H.F.H.S. 36th A.G.M.

To be held on Thursday 21st March 2024 at 2 pm Hillingdon Baptist Church, Hercies Road, Hillingdon

#### Agenda

- 1. Apologies for absence
- 2. Minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- 3. Matters arising
- 4. Chairman's Report
- 5. Treasurer's Report
- 6. Election of Officers:
  - a. President
  - **b.** Chairman
  - c. Vice Chairman
  - **d.** Administrative Secretary
  - e. Treasurer
- 7. Executive Committee (maximum 15 members)

The following are proposed:

Patricia Reynolds, Alan Rowland, Valerie Fitch, Anne Moss and Paula Hill.

- N.B. Nominations for the above should be with the Administrative Secretary, Gill May by 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
- 8. Appointment of Auditor
- 9. Any other business

# H.F.H.S. Minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> A.G.M. Held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

- 1. Apologies for absence from Barbara Nield, Chris Clark, Judy Cowan, Pat Reynolds and John Lovelock
- 2. Minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> A.G.M. held via zoom on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Proposed by Ann Moss and accepted by Sue Hampshire
- 3. There were no matters arising.
- 4. The Acting Chairman's report (printed in the June 2023 issue of the journal) was read and accepted. Proposed by Alan Mellors and accepted by Sue Hampshire.
- 5. The Hon. Treasurer was unavailable but the unaudited accounts will be issued in the June journal. Proposed by Gill May and seconded by Jenny Mundy.
- 6. The following Officers were elected:

a. President : Michael Gandy

b. Chairman : Vacant

c. Vice-Chairman : John Symons

d. Administrative Secretary : Gill May

e. Treasurer : Charles Hampshire Proposed by Ann Moss and accepted by Sue Hampshire.

A vote of thanks was expressed to Michael Gandy for continuing to be our President

- 7. The following, together with the above, were elected to the Executive committee: Patricia Reynolds, Alan Rowland, Valerie Fitch, Anne Moss, Paula Hill.
  - All the committee were proposed by Chris Allum and accepted by Gill May.
- 8. Appointment of Auditor
  Both previous auditors are suffering from ill health. Charles
  Hampshire examined the bookstall accounts and Gill May examined
  the No I account. This was unanimously accepted.
- Any other business.
   A member asked how many members we currently have.
   150 approximately to date, some new and some resignations.

# I'M STILL TRYING TO GET TO GRIPS WITH DN.A.

By Alan Rowland

Back in October 2023 I decided not to ignore the Federation Really Useful Bulletin and found in it an article by Martin McDowell entitled 'Harnessing the Full Potential of DN.A. After all a lot of people consider a DN.A. test to be an essential tool in their researches!

I found the article did throw some light on a question I have asked in the past namely 'Can a test positively identify, for example, the location of the birth of a paternal three times great grandfather?'. Because he died in 1846 my three times great grandfather only appeared on the 1841 census and all that could tell me is that 'He was not born in the County in which he was staying on census night'.

A Précis from Martin McDowell's article follows:

It appears that there are four types of deoxyribonucleic acid (DN.A.) test available and they all tell you something different but together they can increase our knowledge of our ancestors.

Ancestry offers just one type (the autosomal test) which can cover all of your lines back to around your 5x great-grandparents so it links you back into the 1700s in most cases through most of your family lines. This is why it is always a good test to start with.

X-DN.A. is the second type. The good news is that you can get X-DNA matches for free by uploading your *Ancestry DNA* results into another database (either *Family Tree DNA* or *GED match*) which will provide matches for this second type of DNA.

From this you may get a clue as to which line your DNA match is on. The inheritance of X-DNA is more limited and therefore a large X match can only have come to you through certain ancestors. Why, wouldn't you do this when you have already paid a testing company such as *Ancestry* for the processing of your X chromosome? Both males and females have X matches so this applies to all your DNA testers. You can find simple instructions on how to do the free upload at this link: https://www.nifhs.org/dna/uploading-your-dna/

To give yourself the best chance of making real progress with your DN.A. why wouldn't you do this? It costs nothing and will only take five minutes.

Y-DN.A. This is not tested by Ancestry. It is a specific type of DNA passed down through the generations that only males have and so effectively traces your 'surname' line. It is also useful to remember that you can do a Y-DNA test on any family line – you just have to find a male on that specific family line to take the test for you and then you can manage the DNA account. In most cases the person you are looking for is someone related to you who bears the surname you are wanting to research. This could help you identify an unknown father in terms of adoptees or cases of illegitimacy or you may have a mystery great-great-grandfather who you are hoping to identify. (The words in red are those that caused me to write this article). Only Family Tree DNA has a worldwide matching database for Y-DNA which means that this is the best place to start.

In cases such as this you can harness the power of Y-DNA to take you back through your brick wall into the earlier generations.

Mt-DNA or mitochondrial DN.A. This test can be done by anyone (male or female) and traces your matrilineal line. *Ancestry* doesn't provide this test either - once again the only company with a worldwide database of matches is *Family Tree DNA*. You aren't restricted to which line of your family you can test. Just identify the female ancestor you want to know more about and then trace down the female line until you come to a potential person who can take the test for you. Once you get them to do a mouth swab you can manage their test results and get the information you are looking for.

So that summarises the basic tests and their potential for problem solving. As usual the thinking did not stop there!

Assuming that some, perhaps most, of our members have taken at least one of the tests there could be a wealth of stories of breakthroughs just waiting to be written!

Presented as a series I think they would provide an interesting read as well as giving guidance to others.

I suggest the following guidelines:

- 1) Give one specific example of a DN.A. test taken (name the type, cost, provider) and the breakthrough achieved. For example, a three- or four-times grandparent and their likely birthplace.
- 2) How the test was carried out, what form the results take.
- 3) The time taken from the test to receipt of the results.
- 4) A small part of a family tree, before and after the findings, to illustrate how the test has altered your research.

Finally, if you have any comments or observations on the above, please send them and / or your DN.A. articles to us for inclusion in the journal.

(See the full article at The Family History Federation, Really Useful Bulletin No. 37 September 2023).

# RESEARCH AND HELP BY H.F.H.S.



#### RESEARCH.

We can undertake, for both members and nonmembers, limited investigations involving the London Metropolitan Archives, the National Archives and other London record offices

Members are charged £5.00 per hour (non-members £10.00 per hour) plus any expenses incurred i.e. copying, postage etc. Should you choose to this service please be specific as to your requirements together with the upper limit of expenditure. You must appreciate that if the investigation produces no results the charges will still apply.

#### HELP.

We also offer help if you have become 'stuck' at some point in your researches.

If you believe that there is a connection with our corner of Middlesex, we may have local knowledge that might help. However, in this modern age of the internet we are not restricted to Hillingdon or indeed Middlesex. We may be able to offer answers if the connection is anywhere in the U.K. or in some cases the rest of the world. This service is free to members and for non-members a charge of £2.00 is made for each family name forming the help request.

If you wish to use either of these services, please list out your requirements with as much detail possible (names, dates, locations etc) and send to the society either by email on:

enquiries@hfhs.org.uk

or by mail addressed to:

Mrs. Valerie Fitch, 43 Doncaster Drive, Northolt, Middlesex. HA5 4AT

# DON'T FORGET THIS FACILITY

A gentle reminder, our website carries a number of other societies' journals which can be viewed in the Members' Area. Others will be added when received.

FROM SOCIETIES IN ENGLAND		
Airedale and Wharfedale F.H.S.	Institute of Heraldic and	
	Genealogical Studies	
Barnsley F.H.S.	Felixstowe F.H.S.	
Bedfordshire F.H.S.	Lancashire F.H.S.	
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Heraldry and Genealogical Socie	,	
of Canberra	Society	
Richmond Tweed F.H.S.		

#### H. F. H. S. PUBLICATIONS

THESE RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE ON CD – ROM	
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Baptisms 1538–1877	
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Burials 1538–1877	
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St. Mary's Church, Harefield, Middlesex. Monumental Inscriptions.	
St. Laurence Church, Cowley, Middlesex. Monumental Inscriptions.	
Holy Trinity Church, Northwood, Middx. Monumental Inscriptions.	
St. Martin's Church, West Drayton, Middx. Monumental Inscriptions.	
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THESE MIDDLESEX RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE AS FICHE SETS	
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St. Mary's Church, Harefield, Monumental Inscriptions. (set of 3)	
St. Laurence Church, Cowley, Monumental Inscriptions. (set of 2)	
Holy Trinity Church, Northwood, Monumental Inscriptions. (set of 2)	
St. Martin's Church, West Drayton, Monumental Inscriptions. (set of 1)	
The Church School, Ickenham, Pupils & Teachers 1873–1929 (set of 2)	
Middlesex Sessions Records (Hillingdon Extracts) (set of 2)	2.00

### Please add postage and packaging as follows:

For each set of fiche	£1.50
For each CD-ROM to UK address	£2.00
For airmail costs to overseas addresses Em	ail Mrs. G. May

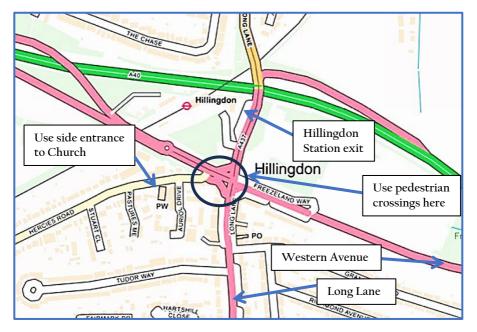
Cheques should be in pounds STERLING, crossed A/C payee and made payable to Hillingdon Family History Society.

The publications can be obtained from:

Mrs. Gill May, 20 Moreland Drive, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 8BB Telephone: 01753 885602 Email: gillmay20@btinternet.com

or alternatively visit this on-line bookshop: www.parishchest.com

# WHERE TO FIND US



Hillingdon Park Baptist Church, 25 Hercies Road, Hillingdon, Middlesex, UBIO 9LS

By Car: The Church has a very small car park that can be reached via Auriol Drive and there is a public car park on the eastern side of Long Lane access between the Co-op or via the exit slip road off the A40 from London.

By Public Transport: The nearest T.F.L. station is Hillingdon which is within easy walking distance of the Church.

There is also a frequent bus service, the U2, which stops outside the Church.

<u>Please note</u> the main entrance to the Church is on the side of the Church and our Research Room is on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

# **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

#### **OFFICERS**

President Michael Gandy, B.A., F.S.G.

Chairman Vacant

Vice Chair John Symons 01895 677722

11 Wye Close, Ruislip, Middlesex. HA4 7RQ

Secretary Gill May 01753 885602

20 Moreland Drive, Gerrards Cross, Bucks. SL9 8BB

Treasurer Charles Hampshire 01895 821351

4 Barrington Drive, Harefield, Middlesex. UB9 6RL

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Librarian Valerie Fitch 0208 864 4980

43 Doncaster Drive, Northolt, Middlesex. UB5 4AT

Membership Patricia Reynolds 01895 444442

20 Lilac Place, Yiewsley, West Drayton, Middx. UB7 8LR

Programme Anne Moss 01895 263669

Secretary 20 Churchill Close, Hillingdon, Middlesex. UB10 0EA

**Projects** 

Publicity Charles Hampshire 01895 821351

4 Barrington Drive, Harefield, Middlesex. UB9 6RL

Journal Editors John Symons, Alan Rowland

Website: www.hfhs.org.uk Email: enquiries@hfhs.org.uk

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#### THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON



The London Borough of Hillingdon is the most Westerly of the Greater London Boroughs. It is bounded by the counties of Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey.

It was formed from nine ancient Middlesex parishes: Cowley, Harefield, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Ickenham, Ruislip and West Drayton.

Hillingdon embraces a mixture of Greater London suburbs: ancient, modern, large and small, each with its own distinctive identity. In the South of the borough lies Heathrow Airport.

Other localities within the borough are: Colham Green, Eastcote, Longford, Northwood, Ruislip Manor, Sipson, South Ruislip, Uxbridge, Yeading and Yiewsley.

Most of the parish registers for the original Anglican parishes and some more recently created are deposited at the London Metropolitan Archives and are available for viewing online on Ancestry. Many of the monumental inscriptions in the churchyards have been transcribed and may be searched on Findmypast under the 'Middlesex Monumental Inscriptions' dataset.

If undelivered please return to: Mrs. P. Reynolds, 20 Lilac Place, Yiewsley, West Drayton, Middlesex. UB7 8LR U.K.