



HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Member of the Family History Federation



The Tower (see page 31)

JOURNAL No. 148

DECEMBER 2024

2025 MEETINGS PROGRAMME

Unless stated otherwise meetings are at Hillingdon Baptist Church,
25 Hercies Road, Hillingdon, Middlesex.
UB10 9LS. Doors open at 7.30 p.m.

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
Tuesday 21 st January 2.30pm (joint with U3A)	Ian Waller	'Nonconformist Records for Family History'
Thursday 20 th February 2.30pm ZOOM	Judy Hill	'The role of the workhouse post 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act and the deterrent workhouse'
Thursday 20 th March 2.30pm A.G.M.	Kathy Chater	'Coroners' Inquests'
Thursday 17 th April 2.30pm ZOOM	t.b.a.	t.b.a.
Thursday 15 th May 2.30pm ZOOM	Jean Renwick	'Researching and writing the Mourning Brooch Saga'

***NOTE: ZOOM MEETINGS. The link to join each meeting
will be included with the preceding NEWSLETTER.***

We always welcome visitors to our meetings at an entrance fee of £1

© Hillingdon Family History Society & contributors

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without written permission. The contents do not reflect the opinions of the Editor or the Executive Committee. The Society cannot vouch for the accuracy of any offers of services or goods that may appear.

Contents

John's Jottings.....	2
From the Editor.....	3
My Grandfather <i>by Charles Hampshire</i>	5
John Richard Douglas Bridger <i>by John Bridger</i>	10
Do You Know What They Did?.....	13
The Pinner Village Show <i>by Gill May</i>	14
Family History Objects and their Meaning <i>by John Symons</i>	15
The Magic of Chancery <i>by Alan Rowland</i>	21
Looking Back to Summer.....	26
2025 H.F.H.S. A.G.M. Agenda.....	27
2024 H.F.H.S. A.G.M. Minutes.....	28
Family Objects <i>by Alan Rowland</i>	29
More on the Brickfields <i>by Janet Hewitt-Winch</i>	32
Quiz Answers.....	33
A TALK – Pest Houses <i>report by Charles Hampshire</i>	34

News and Information

From the Membership Secretary.....	36
Research and Help by H.F.H.S.	37
Don't Forget this Facility.....	38
HFHS Publications.....	39
Where to Find Us.....	40

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*

One of the very few benefits of the enforced lack of mobility is that there is more time available to continue with your own research during the day rather than just the evening when I'm often too tired anyway.

With so much online nowadays it's often worth pausing to remember that some of the most interesting finds I discovered over the years were not online and this is still the case. Of particular note was a series of handwritten letters, I found at the National Archives, Kew, from my 4th great grandfather Hugh Pearce. He was at that time the Commander of a Revenue Cutter and he wrote to his Admiral requesting amongst other things, a better ship, employing more members of his family and so on. Most of these letters did not bear fruit but I thought at the time and continue still do that it was a day well spent at Kew.

Now of course there is more online, but can you find it? I have just been looking into the case of Stephen William Hoskin, son of my 4th great aunt Grace Honey and her husband John from Holsworthy in Devon. Ancestry has many hints about his life but only until 1871, after that he and his wife vanish from the records.

I suspect a case of emigration but where to? Searches of records on both Ancestry and FindMyPast show nothing and as a last resort I decided to turn to FamilySearch, with which I have a love/hate relationship. Putting his name and place of birth revealed a range of items; a second marriage in South Africa but was it the same person? Then a death in Kimberley South Africa in 1914 but here he was named William Stephen but the age was correct.

The clincher though was a Probate Record which listed his surviving children all of whom I was able to verify so I definitely had the right person. He had gone to South Africa to work as a miner and had become an overseer for the DeBeers company. Best of all, these records were supported by original images which are of course, please forgive the pun, the gold standard of sources. You really should not overlook FamilySearch especially if you are searching internationally!

FROM THE EDITOR

JOURNAL DATES 2025	
MARCH EDITION	21 st February
JUNE EDITION	23 rd May
SEPTEMBER EDITION	22 nd August
DECEMBER EDITION	24 th October

We have to apologise once again that we were unable to produce our normal 44 page journal – we did not have enough material!

Do you have a record breaking ancestor? We often hear of families with many children which, more often than not, leads on to great numbers of grandchildren and eventually great grandchildren.

If your researches have uncovered such an occurrence why not share it with the membership. You could perhaps tell us of the total number born to a couple, how many survived into adulthood and did they go on to have numerous children themselves?

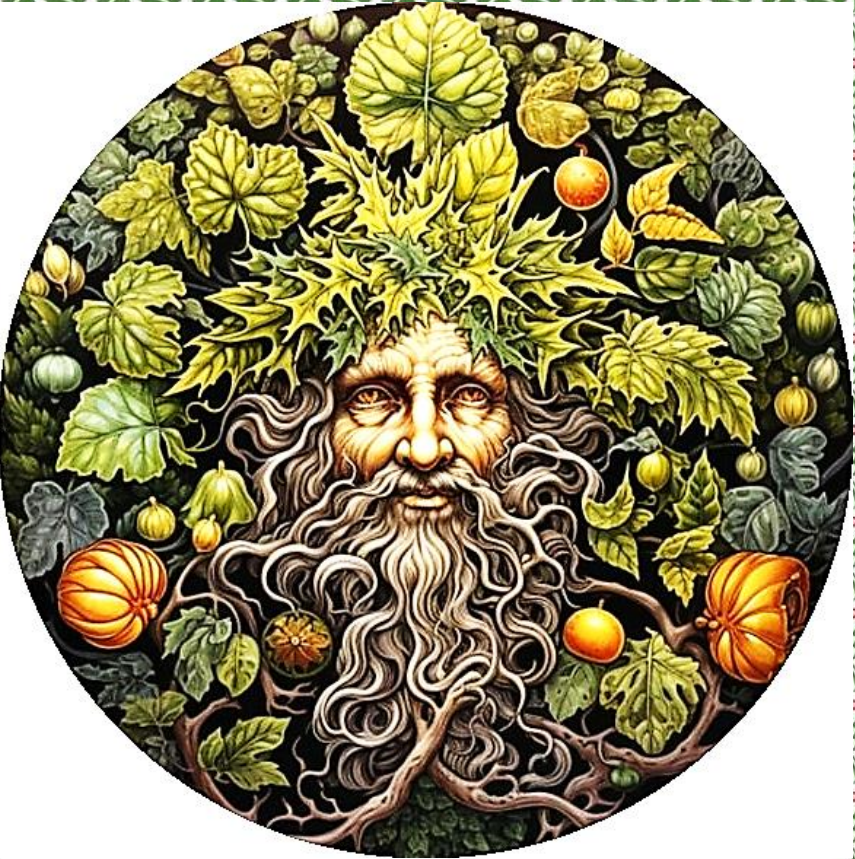
Whilst gathering the information and numbers for your submission it might also be interesting to ponder the following question:

were these large numbers of children restricted to those of the 'Ag. Lab' and/or 'the poor'- if so, why did they make their lot possibly worse by having to feed and clothe such numbers?

On the other hand, did those that could afford to have lots of children match their poorer contemporaries? Or did they contain themselves?

Could it have been, in effect, a fashion set by Queen Victoria (not forgetting Albert!)? Does anyone have any answers to these questions?

I take this opportunity to wish all our members and readers seasonal greetings and the very best of health and happiness for the New Year. I should also express my thanks to all who have contributed material for the journal and to Jenny Morrish for her expertise in proof reading.



*SEASON'S GREETINGS
FROM
JOHN, ALAN
&
THE COMMITTEE*

MY GRANDFATHER

By Charles Hampshire

Whilst I was watching a tribute to the Duke of Edinburgh, which highlighted his naval service, I started to think of my grandfather Samuel Charles HAMPSHIRE who served in the Royal Navy during both World Wars and so this article was born.

My grandfather was born on 25th April 1889 in Margaret Street, Holborn, London to Samuel Charles HAMPSHIRE, a leather cutter and Catherine (née MILES). I know very little about his parents or childhood but was told by my parents that grandad left school at the age of 12.

An older cousin of mine said that he'd once asked grandad why he joined the navy and was told it was to stop being hungry! Quite plausible as his father in 1901 was infirm, aged 70 and in the Islington workhouse when Samuel was 12. I later found a record of the same great grandad's admission to St Pancras Workhouse on 25th May 1850 and discharged on 3rd June, on trial to Mr. C. Coombes, Shoemaker, River Street, Islington when he was also 12 years old.

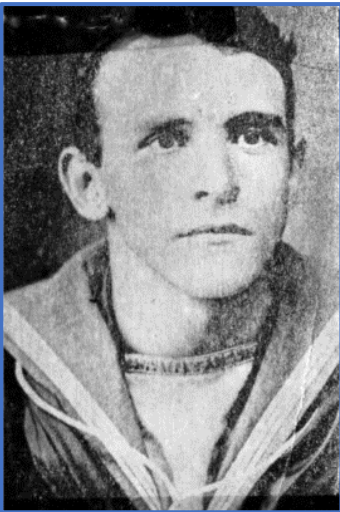
Grandad Samuel joined the Royal Navy on 6th December 1906 as a Boy second class, aged 17, at H.M.S. Ganges, a training school which opened in 1905 and was regarded as the nation's premier training centre for boys entering the Royal Navy. It had a mixed reputation within the Navy for its reputed harsh methods of training the boys in order to turn out professionally able, self-reliant ratings and for the professionalism of its former trainees.

It was particularly famous for its 143-foot (44 m) high mast which all boy trainees were required to ascend, at least to the 'half-moon' and for the mast manning ceremonies held whenever a dignitary visited the establishment. The centre closed in 1976 and is being redeveloped for housing but a small H.M.S. Ganges' Museum, run by volunteers, exists there and the grade two listed mast is being restored (See H.M.S. Ganges Museum | Home of The Ganges Boys). Samuel became a Boy first class three months later on 6th March 1907 and transferred to H.M.S. Victorious on 6th June to become an Ordinary Seaman that August. *(contd.)*

He initially signed on for twelve years and extended to complete the time required to receive a pension.

He had five postings listed as an Ordinary Seaman the longest being on: H.M.S. Milafire, 25th Feb. 1910 to 27th Jan. 1911 and H.M.S. Merlin, 24th Apr. 1911 to 4th Nov. 1913 during which he was promoted to Leading Seaman on 21st March 1911. A further area for research would be to look at the ship's logs to see where he went.

I know from photographs that I saw when small, that my grandfather went to China and Sarawak. One photograph (which I sadly don't have) shows him in whites and holding a banjo which he used to play. I recently had confirmation when the 1911 census lists him on H.M.S. Pelorus in China and the East Indies.



Grandad was posted to and served on H.M.S. Pembroke from 5th November 1913 to 6th February 1915. This was a shore establishment based at Chatham Dockyard in Kent. Pembroke was a naval barracks, one of three manning ports along with Plymouth and Portsmouth and a training establishment. Pembroke closed in 1984 and is now part of the University of Greenwich.

On 1st August 1914 Samuel was promoted to Petty Officer on H.M.S. Magnificent, a battleship at that point commissioned for the ninth battle squadron and stationed in Humber.

My granddad's naval service record shows that he served on twelve different ships usually interspersed with a return to shore based duties at Pembroke in Chatham dockyard. H.M.S. Actaeon and H.M.S. Vernon also feature a number of times in his service together with Naval torpedo school ships. On 1st May 1923 Samuel was promoted to Chief Petty Officer on H.M.S. Ceres, which seemed to be a light cruiser stationed in the Bosphorus.

(contd.)

He received a naval pension on 29th April 1929, but was back at H.M.S. Pembroke for four days in September 1938 as a TGM (Torpedo Gunners Mate). I'm told that this was the first mobilisation of troops during the Munich crisis which ended with Chamberlain's 'Peace in our time' speech.

His naval service resumed on 30th May 1940 until 19th June 1944 as a Chief Petty Officer on six different ships including H.M.S. Victory, a barracks in Portsmouth, two drill ships and a torpedo school.

I have this photo of my granddad training people on torpedoes.



I heard from a relation that my grandfather was offered a Commission but due to background and class and possibly worries about mess bills he didn't take this up. Another relation told me my grandmother wasn't keen on the idea either!

His torpedo service record includes the remarks 'Most trustworthy and efficient in every way' and 'VGI (very good indeed)' in the columns headed 'Ability to instruct' and 'Ability to take charge'. *(contd.)*

His trade certificate assessed his general efficiency in carrying out his duties as 'Superior'.

Grandad's medals include 1914-15 Star, British War, Victory medal and long service and good conduct medal. These were awarded in 1921 and 22, the latter requiring eighteen years unblemished service.

Samuel married my grandmother Edith Elizabeth SAVAGE (born 25th February 1895 Holborn, Camden) on 6th February 1918 when he was 28 and she was 22. Their residence is listed as 10 William Street, Islington. Samuel's father, Charles Samuel HAMPSHIRE was deceased by this time and had been a tailor's cutter. Edith's father, Owen Dennis SAVAGE, was a builder.

They had four children Hetty (1919), Julie (1920), Rose (1922) and Samuel Charles Jnr (my dad, born 1926).

Census records show that they remained in the Islington area, although an aunt told me they lived in Sheerness on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent at one point. This may explain why I had caravan holidays on the Island in my early years!

In the 1930s there was a lot of house building especially along the Western Avenue corridor and my grandad lived in rented accommodation until he bought his first house which I'm told was brand new, in Greenford. A 1940 Ealing directory confirms them living in Greenford at 275 Greenford Road in that year. The house had an indoor bathroom and toilet and hot water (unlike my other grandmother's home).

I was fortunate to spend a lot of time with my Hampshire grandparents in my early years as we lived in the upstairs of their house in Greenford until I was eight. The house was a 1930s semi-detached and had a double garage with mechanics pit and was reached by a rear alley.

My grandad was virtually the only relation who had a car, a second hand one. I remember it had running boards but was later exchanged for a second hand convertible Morris Minor.

After he left the navy, he worked at Glaxo in Greenford as an electrical engineer.

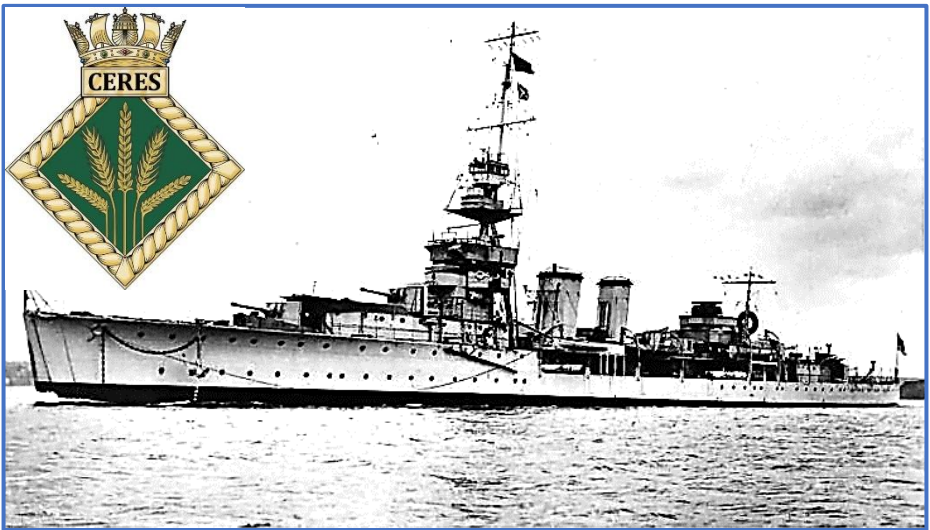
(contd.)

In his retirement, grandad liked reading, going to the cinema (and I'd sometimes go with him to the Granada, Greenford) and going out in his car. He had a drawer beside his armchair containing Foxes glacier mints in a jar from which he would often give me one.

He would tinker with his car and like a lot of people of that era could make and mend things. He had a television with two channels (ours only had BBC) and he had one of the first remote controls, a long stick with screws that could be positioned to turn the channel button.

He was a fairly big man in his old age and he often wore a cap. I remember his love and kindness. It was a sad day when he died on 16th June 1970, aged 81. I remember feeling some disbelief as I'd only seen him a few days before fit and well.

Grandad was 66 when I was born and so I am in a similar position with my own grandchildren who I try to see as much as possible, perhaps trying to emulate the close relationship I had with my own grandad and the high standards he set in his life.



H.M.S. Ceres, one of the ships on which grandad served.

JOHN RICHARD DOUGLAS BRIDGER (J.R.D.)

By John Bridger

My research into where Elizabeth (Granny) BRIDGER and family lived, see June Journal 2024, led me to look at where J.R.D. (my father) lived at during that time before he launched his own wireless/electrical business in Martin Street, Morriston circa 1926 at the age of 22 years.

He was born on 29th October 1904 at 'The Shoulder of Mutton' public house 205 High Street, Swansea where he lived until 1919/20.

Whilst his father, John Francis BRIDGER, was serving in WW1 the running of the pub fell to his mother Elizabeth and her brother Richard and this arrangement continued following the death of his father in Belgium January 1919.

I have little detail of JRD's early years and I do not know which of the two possible schools he attended, The National School in Oxford Street, Swansea or a school in the Dyfatty area. I have the impression that he attended the National School but I haven't explored this other than to learn that the school records are held in the West Glamorgan Archives, Swansea. These may give a date of leaving and other information on his school years.

For JRD the year 1919 was a year of upheaval. His father's death, the vacating of the pub (why this happened is not known), the move to new accommodation and a start in the world of work must have been quite traumatic for a boy aged 14. He began, in September 1919, as an apprentice with Harris Bros. Ltd., Cambrian Dry Dock, Swansea as a letter, dated 16th July 1923, states as a reference to future employers. The Harris company, located on the west side of the river Tawe, offered a wide range of services including ship repairers, boilermakers and engineering works.

By the time of the 1921 census, he was with his family at 5 Christina Street, Swansea.

(contd.)

Without definitive knowledge of the following years, I assume he was in Swansea with his mother and family:

1921/22, 5 Christina Street; 1923, 5 Glanmor Crescent, Uplands; 1924/25, 17 Lamb Street.

In 1926 he was eligible to vote and he appears on the electoral roll at 61 Martin Street, Morriston, Swansea.

He is also recorded at this address in 1927, 1928 and 1929 but whether he actually stayed there overnight or returned to his mother's house at 18 The Grove, Uplands each evening I don't know.

The Roll for 1930/31 shows a additional name at 61 Martin Street, that of his wife Dora Avril (née NANCARROW) whom he had married on 29th October 1929.

But what of the years between completing his apprenticeship in March 1922 and opening his first shop in 1926?

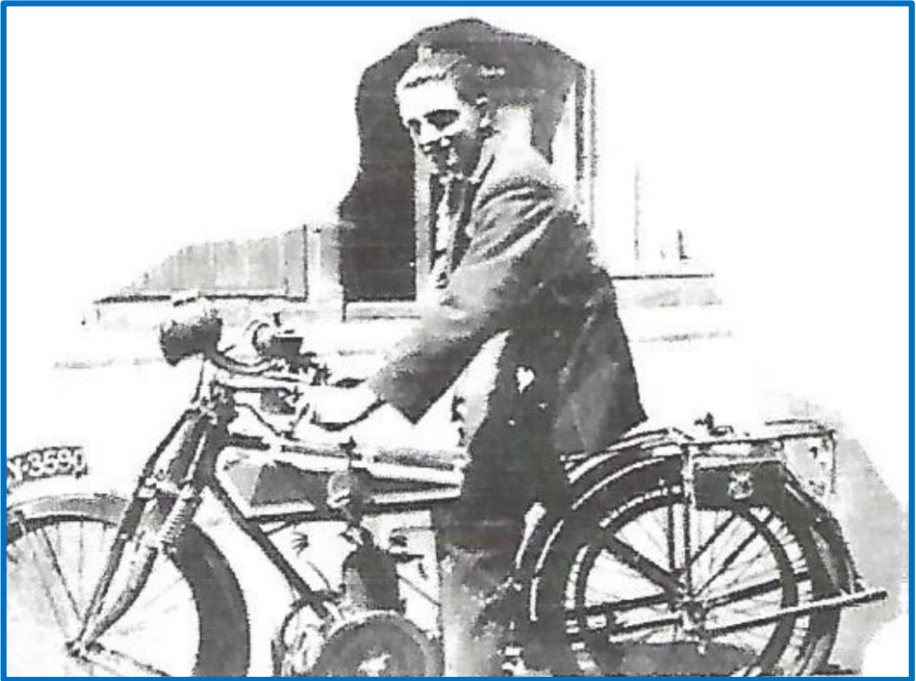
I remember him mentioning Tir John power station (at that time being built near Port Tenant) but as an electrician this was not something he saw himself enjoying as a career. Presumably, that was the turning point and he decided to launch out on his own account. The power station opened in 1932 so he may have held it in reserve in case the business didn't work out.

He also spoke of Trimsaran Colliery (near Llanelly). I recall he mentioned the name many times but without any detail of how he would have been employed there, how long the employment might have lasted and whether it was above or below ground. If he had worked there surely, he would have mentioned it but perhaps he only considered it following the end of his apprenticeship.

Because Llanelly is nine miles distant from Swansea travel costs and time would have been considered. He could also have considered a daily commute either by train or his motorcycle again at a cost. These would have not been so important if, instead of living at home in Christina Street, he found lodgings near to the colliery but in that case his rent, food etc would have to be found. Short of seeking out any archival records of the Trimsaran Colliery I will never know!

(contd.)

There is an undated photograph, see below, of my father on a motor cycle, location unrecorded. It is certainly an early motor vehicle with the number, CY 3590 which was issued by Swansea C.B.C. from 1904 to 1927.



At the time motor vehicle licences could be obtained on application by anyone over the age of 17 years at a cost of five shillings. The licence had to be signed but there was no driving/riding test! The test was introduced in 1930.

The motor cycle is a 'Southy' made by that company who were based in Berkhamsted. They ceased trading in 1922.

NB Presumably all the accommodations mentioned in the June article and those above, were rented. If the various Bridger dwellings were not rented but purchased, they would have incurred recurrent costs (solicitors, estate agents, land searches and surveys). Of course, during the period examined it was the norm for people to live in rented accommodation and it would seem that there was a ready supply available in the Swansea area.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY DID?

As some (if not all) of you probably know John has a few family connections with Cornwall. Consequently, as a member of the Cornwall Family History Society he receives their journal and in the June 2024 edition he came upon an item of interest which struck him as being a good idea for us to use.

The item was in the form of a table of occupation names together with their explanation of what the person did for a living and John saw it as quiz that would interest/amuse our members.

To get us underway, what was a: -

‘GUINEA PIG’?

‘HOCU-POCUS MAN’?

‘JAKES FARMER’?

‘LIMB-TRIMMER’?

‘MAN-AND-WIFE’?

You will find the answers on page 34.

Of course, you have probably already guessed what comes next – why not send in any strange occupational names that you have come across in your researches together with the explanations for other members to see.

THE PINNER VILLAGE SHOW

By Gill May

Once again, we had a good day out at Pinner Village Show where we were lucky with the weather following a few days of torrential rain. We were able to sell a few local history books, many novels, soft toys and jigsaw puzzles – all helping to boost our coffers.

We had many interesting chats with members of the public, a few of whom expressed an interest in needing help to further their research. We passed over information about the Society and hopefully some will visit the research centre and join the society.

If anyone has paperback books, soft toys, children's toys or jigsaw puzzles they have finished with we will be happy to take them off your hands to sell at future fairs. All proceeds help towards the running of the Society. Please contact Gill May.



Gill

Paula

Jenny

FAMILY HISTORY OBJECTS AND THEIR MEANING

By John Symons

What makes up your family history? I'm sure you will have lots of information about where your people lived and what they did and documents to support this. You will have trees to show relationships and nearly everyone has photographs showing family members.

I thought however to take a look from another angle, the objects that have come my way which shed a light on people and their lives. Most, but not all, are in my possession but I have seen them all and verified what they are. Many, again but not all, were inherited. Surprisingly a good number have been acquired over the last thirty years or so in different ways and now form part of the collection. Some are big, some are small but the common factor is that each has a story behind it.

So, when Alan asked if I had more material for the journal, I paused for thought and then decided to show them and give their stories. This is what follows and I hope you find it interesting.

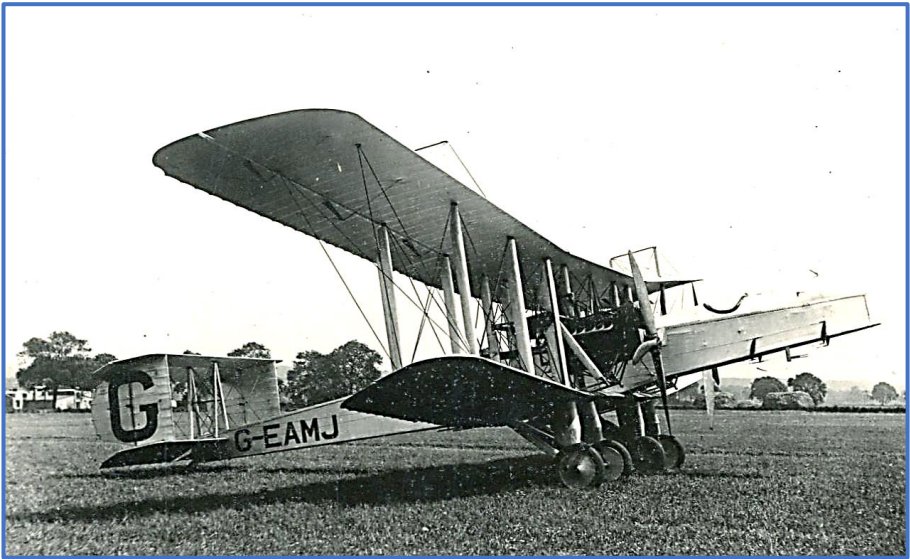
The Aircraft Propeller

My uncle Alfred James Clifford OVERAL (1899-1963) married my aunt Kathleen ALDRIDGE, here they are pictured, probably in the 1950s.

Alf was in the Royal Flying Corps during the latter stages of the First World War and when the Royal Air Force was formed in 1918, he moved to that service. Alf trained to be a pilot and his log books and training records suggest that perhaps he was not a natural aviator. *(contd.)*



The old cliché about a good landing being one you walk away from comes to mind. Here is a photo of an aircraft he may have flown. I don't know much about old aircraft but possibly one of our more well-informed readers will be able to identify it. He was stationed at Brough in the East



Riding of Yorkshire.

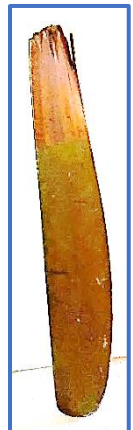
It appears that one of his landings was less successful than others because my aunt (who was no mean collector in her own right) had one broken propeller as a keepsake and here it is! The date and location of the incident is not known.

Let's just record that his flying days were numbered and he moved on to the Diplomatic Services as well as other government jobs. He eventually rose to a quite senior position. It must have been a safer option than flying!

The Birthday Card

My BATCHELOR family lived in and around Amersham and Chesham in Buckinghamshire. Not long ago I was messaged by another BATCHELOR researcher who had seen a birthday card from 1918 listed on Ebay.

(contd.)



It was not her side of the family but looking at my online tree she found that it appeared to be linked to mine as was indeed the case. So, I bought it for few pounds and here it is.



I found it was sent to Ada BATCHELOR, a cousin, from her younger brother Maurice aged eight. From the date stamp I deduced it was for Ada's 21st birthday (she was the eldest child of the family).

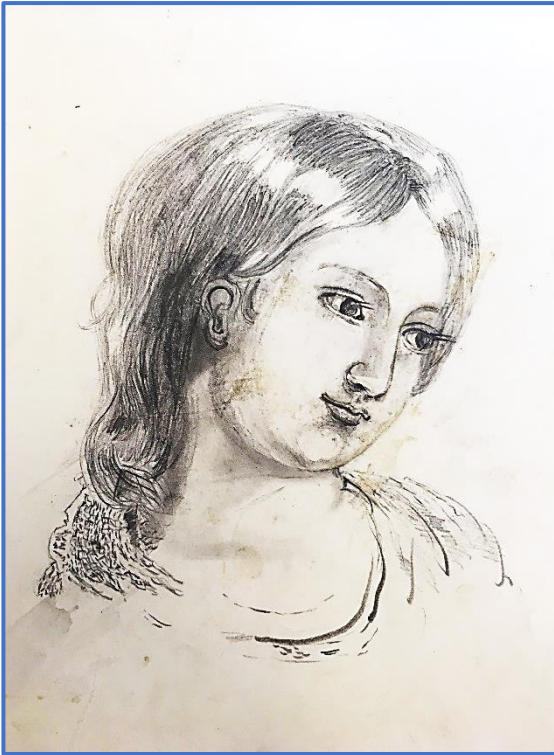
Since they were both living at home at the time why send it through the post? Perhaps it was because she would have appreciated it all the more on this big day in her life.

The Drawing and the Diary

Annie PEARCE (1853-1932) usually known as Amy, was the daughter of my 3rd great uncle Hugh PEARCE. Hugh was the youngest in a series of men of that name who served in the Customs and Coastguard Services, sometimes with distinction. (contd.)

This Hugh however decided to move to Gloucestershire and become a wool merchant. This was possibly not the best career move as profits in the woollen industry then (as now) were not to be relied on.

By a series of chance discoveries, I found that the family papers were stored in the London Archives (previously the London Metropolitan Archives). Amongst these was this drawing of Amy (the name being shown on the reverse).



I don't know who the artist was but it may have been her elder sister Caroline who had artistic talent and exhibited paintings of plants at the Royal Academy.

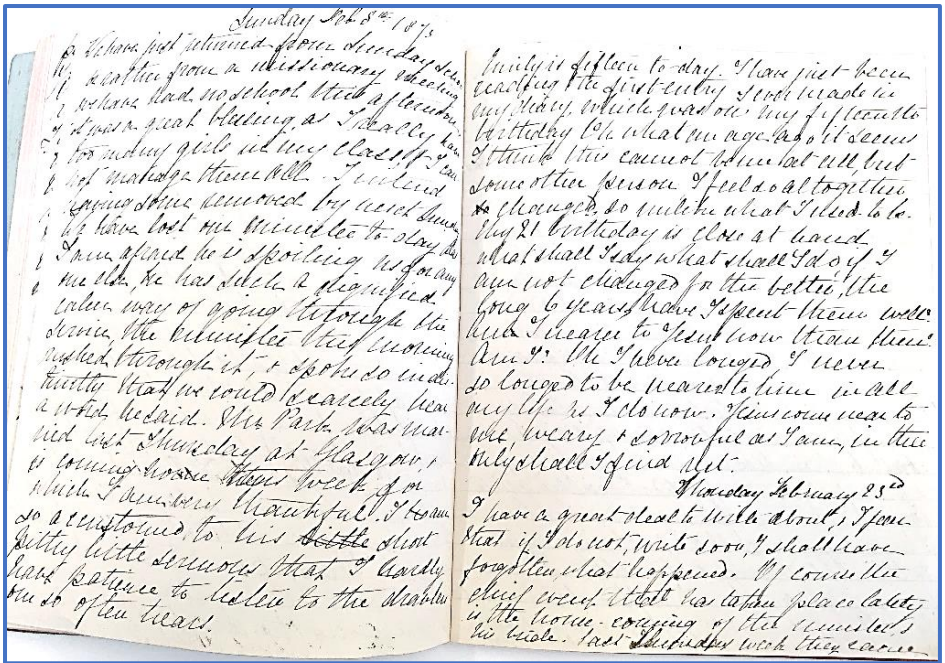
Much is known about Amy's life as she kept a full diary which was also present in the family file. An extract from this is below.

To help with the shortfall in family income there were only two options for single ladies, to marry or to be a governess.

Although there was an entirely eligible man (actually a cousin in the Army) who was available, she could not bring herself to marry him as she had feelings for the local minister. He did not reciprocate them so she became a governess instead. Many years later she relented and they did marry and have children.

I rather like this drawing because taken with the diary it gives an insight into the values and beliefs present in Victorian society.

(contd.)



The Chair

My 2nd great uncle Henry Richard SYMONS 1827-1926 worked all his life for Edward Harold Browne, a minister of religion who ultimately became Bishop of Winchester.

Henry's status in the household also rose until he became butler to the Bishop at Farnham Castle in Surrey. Latterly he married the housekeeper, Esther DAVIES, echoes of a popular television series perhaps?

The bishop died in 1891 and to mark Henry's 90th birthday in 1917 the bishop's children presented this chair to him, complete with his initials, together with numerous other items.

I inherited it in the 1970s. It is very solid and stable as not I think, designed for comfort.

(contd.)



It does however provide a continuing reminder of Henry's life and the regard others had for him.

These are some of the actual objects that support a variety of family stories. Do you have any of your own which you would like to share?

NB, I have to endorse John's final sentence, surely most of our members have objects that have passed down the generations. So out with those cameras, and mobile telephones start snapping and send us your pictures together with your stories.

THE MAGIC OF CHANCERY

By Alan Rowland

The following is a truncated version of an article by Susan Moore taken from the August 2024 Family History Federation 'Really Useful Bulletin No. 48'

Chancery documents can give you five generations of a family with names of brothers and sisters and of their husbands and wives, that differentiates between different people of the same name. They can also give the text of a marriage settlement, a will or a deed and they generally refer to women almost as much as to men. Finally, if you want a source of documents that refer to butchers, bakers and candlestick makers as much as to the gentry and yeoman farmers then Chancery documents can help.

What is Chancery?

The Court of Chancery did not deal with criminal cases - it was the principal court of equity and was a civil court where one person could bring a case against another person. It operated from the late fourteenth century to well into the twentieth century. By 1300 civil matters were dealt with by one of two courts: The Court of the King's Bench and the Court of Common Pleas. These courts alternated in use and popularity

By the sixteenth century the Court of Common Pleas was the principal common law court, however, the popularity of these two courts often changed and by the seventeenth century the Court of the King's Bench had almost as many cases. The Court of Common Pleas had exclusive jurisdiction in all the older civil actions: the writs of right and entry, the possessory assizes, debt - the most prolific, detinue - the recovery of property, covenant and account.

People would choose the Chancery Court over the Common Law courts for the following four categories:

1) If the case did not come under the jurisdiction of common law, or the case concerned a trust or a mortgage. Cases where discovery was required. Discovery is used in the sense of 'uncovering' or revealing information.

(contd.)

An injunction could be sought by the plaintiff to prevent the defendant from carrying out an action such as cutting down valuable trees on a property which the plaintiff believed should be his. The plaintiff was not in possession of the relevant documents to establish his title to lands or property.

If a creditor died before a debt was repaid, the executors of the deceased creditor could not be sued under common law, but the plaintiff could bring a case against the creditor in the Chancery Court.

An agreement had been made verbally with no supporting documents.

2) The case could be heard under common law but it was felt that no remedy could be obtained, Plaintiff might be too poor to afford common law courts, Plaintiff might be a weak person compared with the defendant, such as a case where a tenant was bringing a case against a mighty landlord.

3) The common law was being used oppressively or fraudulently, Plaintiff feared local corruption or a prejudiced jury.

4) Case brought on the grounds of forgery or duress, Plaintiff could not recover money which the defendant had improperly deprived him of under the common law.

Where the plaintiff was owed money by the defendant, but the defendant might have obtained a release or receipt from the plaintiff by fraud.

Where are Chancery records?

The National Archives at Kew have eleven miles of records which, apart from some very early medieval ones, are all in English and your ancestors are just waiting to be found in this magical source of information. However, the documents that make up a case in the Chancery court are all filed separately so finding all the desired records can be time consuming.

The Pleadings

The best place to start with cases before 1876 is in the National Archives online catalogue Discovery at:

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/advanced-search>.

(contd.)

On the advanced search page, enter the surname, place and approximate date, unless you are looking speculatively in which case leave out the date. Sort the results you get into 'reference order' and then put in a request for documents that you think might be helpful.

Be imaginative in the names you look for as the case might be about members of the family with a different surname from the names of the plaintiff and defendant. Looking for the husbands of sisters and aunts can be helpful, as can the names of executors of a will.

Interrogatories and Depositions

Next look for the statements or depositions by witnesses in response to questions or interrogatories set by the parties. The witnesses were chosen by the parties to answer particular questions which were usually slanted to obtain support the plaintiff's or defendant's case.

The deponent's depositions can be useful records in themselves, regardless of their relevance to the case in question, as each deponent has to give his name, place where he lived, age and occupation.

Orders and Decrees

Cases in the Orders and Decrees, for judgements and court instructions, are not included in Discovery but can be found via the calendars which are on the open shelves in the reading room at the National Archives.

Many Orders and Decrees are purely administrative, particularly where a defendant is slow to put in his or her Answer.

Affidavits

Affidavits are given under oath and are a little like the depositions, but they are freely given i.e. not as a result of a list of interrogatories.

Although the records date from 1611, it is really only in the nineteenth century that they become useful.

In some cases the Bill and Answer can give much information and detail. As with so many Chancery records it is possible to feel that you are listening to the people speaking through the years to us now.

(contd.)

Petitions

As with affidavits, the petitions can include a large amount of information about a case.

These were also voluntary, and often include requests to the court to release funds that are the subject of a case.

Petitions can be very long-winded with the entire case being recited often over as many as twenty pages, followed by a myriad of requests, usually concerning money.

Masters' Reports

In a complicated case, when the Bill and Answer have been submitted, the witnesses have given their depositions, any submitted evidence has been studied, affidavits and petitions have been submitted, the Master will summarise the case in a Master's Report for the Judge and often give a recommendation for the judgment, often with his reasons which were then taken into the growing case law.

Masters' Exhibits

The range of documents which make up the Masters' Exhibits is huge and encompasses such records as wills, deeds, abstracts of title, marriage settlements, accounts, inventories, correspondence and some also refer to matters abroad.

These documents are now fairly well described in the National Archives online catalogue Discovery. In the advanced search box enter the name and/or place you are interested in and chancery exhibit.

Summary

The records of the Chancery Court can not only give a large amount of genealogical information that is unavailable elsewhere, but they can give a wonderful insight into the way your ancestors lived. Cases usually involve squabbles over inheritance, and this can be over a small plot of land, or a shop, but they can also refer to merchants and tradesmen with reference to property and people living overseas, particularly in America.

(contd.)

No matter what you are looking for in a Chancery case you will soon see that families that were once full of love and friendship can dissolve very quickly into conflict and enmity.

The characters of your ancestors will emerge as you find that some are more truthful than others, some are even more likeable than others.

Before 1876 the best place to start is the Pleadings and Discovery. After 1876 it is easier to start with the Orders and Decrees, but for this you do need to be at National Archives as so little is included in Discovery.

Source: Susan Moore MA is a graduate of the University of St. Andrews and has spent her working life researching for clients historical legal and genealogical matters. She now specialises in Chancery Proceedings from 1500 to 1800. She has also written a number of books on this subject.

www.susanmoorerresearch.co.uk

LOOKING BACK TO SUMMER

Summer and Autumn have gone. Winter is with us now and the balmy long days are just a memory. Entertaining such thoughts brought to mind a description of a quiet upper Thames moment as described by John Betjeman in the opening stanza of his poem 'Henley-on-Thames'.



Henley-on-Thames

I see the winding water make
A short and then a shorter lake
As here stand I,
And house-boat high
Survey the Upper Thames.
By sun the mud is amber-dyed
In ripples slow and flat and wide,
That flap against the house-boat side
And flop away in gems.

Picture by The National Trust.

Poem reproduced from: 'John Betjeman's Collected Poems'

Published by John Murray (Publishers) Ltd.

2025 A.G.M. Hillingdon Family History Society

The 37th Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 20th March 2025 at 2.30 pm at Hillingdon Baptist Church, Hercies Road, Hillingdon

Agenda

Apologies for absence

Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 21st March 2024

Matters arising

Chairman's Report

Treasurer's Report

Election of Officers:

President

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Administrative Secretary

Treasurer

Executive Committee (maximum 15 members)

The following are proposed:

Alan Rowland, Valerie Fitch and Paula Hill.

Appointment of Auditor

Any other business

Nominations for the above should be with the Administrative Secretary, Gill May by 16th February 2025.

2024 A.G.M. Hillingdon Family History Society

Minutes of the 36th A.G.M. held on Thursday 21st March 2024

Apologies for absence from Charles Hampshire, Paula Hill, Anne Moss and Rosemary Hall

Minutes of the 35th A.G.M. held on Thursday 16th March 2023.
Proposed by Jenny Mundy and accepted unanimously.

There were no matters arising.

The Acting Chairman's report (printed in the June 2024 issue of the journal) was read and accepted. Proposed by Alan Rowland and accepted by Alan Mellors.

The Hon. Treasurer was unavailable but the unaudited accounts will be issued in the June journal. Proposed by Gill May and seconded by Alan Rowland.

The following Officers were elected:

President	:	Michael Gandy
Chairman	:	Vacant
Vice-Chairman	:	John Symons
Administrative Secretary	:	Gill May
Treasurer	:	Charles Hampshire

Proposed and accepted unanimously.

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

The following, together with the above, were elected to the Executive committee:

Alan Rowland Valerie Fitch Anne Moss Paula Hill

All the committee were proposed by Alan Rowland and seconded by Gill May.

(contd.)

Appointment of Auditor

Both previous auditors are suffering from ill health. Charles Hampshire examined the bookstall accounts and Gill May examined the No 1 account. This was unanimously accepted.

Any other business. We have to increase the research room charges to £3 per hour from the 1st April.

Nominations for the above should be with the Administrative Secretary, Gill May by 16th February 2025.

FAMILY OBJECTS

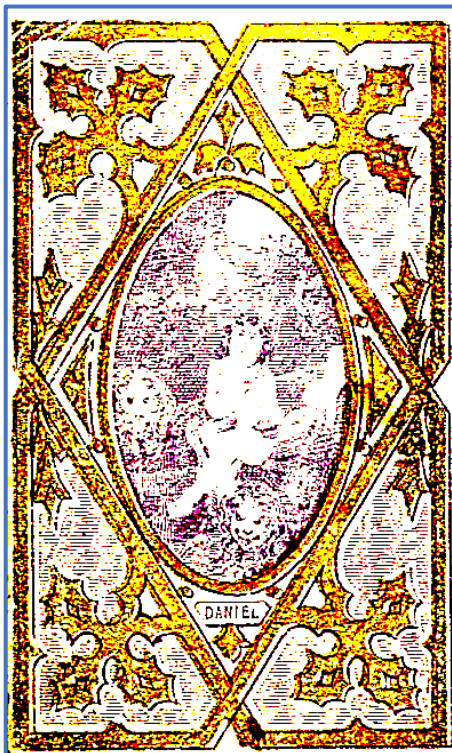
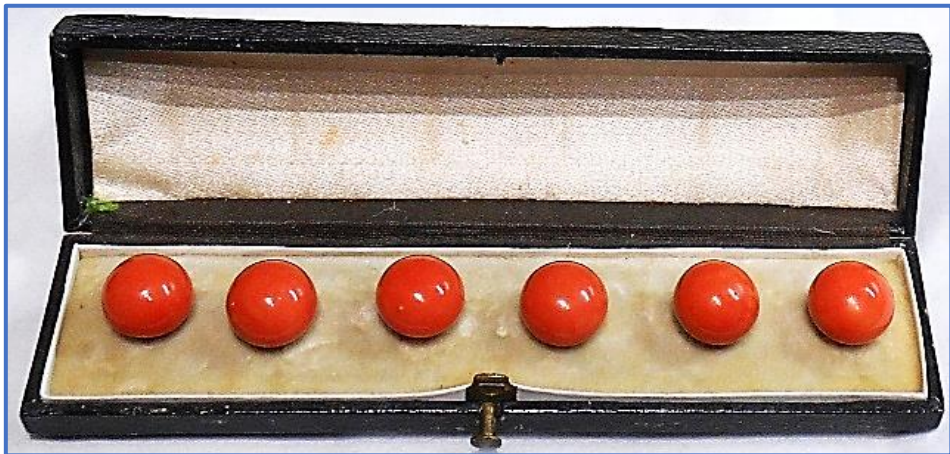
By Alan Rowland

Encouraged and inspired by John Symons' article on page 15 I recalled a visit many years ago to Rose, one of my mother's cousins when we spoke loosely about family history. Before I departed, she gave to me all that she had in the way of family items and papers. They did not amount to much and I put them in a safe place and promptly forgot about them.

Years later, when I started researching, I looked again at those articles. They comprised two sets of waistcoat buttons (one made from Malachite the other from Coral) and a very small book all shown below.



(contd.)



(contd.)



Elizabeth Bennett
From her most
affectionate
friend
Alfred Edwards
May 2nd 1869

The book, actual size 40 mm x 60 mm, has a dedication on the inside 'To Elizabeth Bennett, from her most affectionate friend' dated 1869:

According to Rose the buttons were owned by a Monsieur Méchin, obviously a Frenchman, who married Elizabeth BENNETT (the sister John BENNETT both Rose and my mother's grandfather) in 1874. I have documentary evidence of this marriage as well as his earlier marriage to Elizabeth's sister Emma in 1859 (Emma having already died!).

But I can't help wondering; who was the Mr. Edwards of the dedication and how did he know the future Madame Méchin?

Rose also added an unsubstantiated story about Monsieur Méchin. He is supposed to have been one of the organisers of a formal lunch or dinner given when the first platform level of the Eiffel Tower was completed!

MORE ON THE BRICKFIELDS

By Janet Hewitt-Winch

It is always gratifying to receive from you, our members, an appreciation of the work that goes into running the society and in particular, editing the journal.

I know that I beat the same old drum from time to time asking for articles and other tit bits of interest so the following email from Janet Hewitt-Winch (H52) was especially welcome. After expressing sympathy to John about his damaged knee, Janet goes on to write:

Secondly, I was, as usual delighted to receive my September edition of the Journal.

Reading through a copy of another London Family History Journal I casually mentioned to my husband that it must be quite nice to see an article which might relate to a member of my family even if it was a little tenuous or even remote but nevertheless, something of note.

Within a few minutes, by sheer coincidence, our post arrived with the September edition of the Hillingdon Journal. Before sitting down to study it in more detail, I casually flicked through the pages to see if something might catch my eye and I was delightfully surprised to see the article on the brickmakers of Starveall.

Most especially, the photograph of Pocock's Cottages caused me unexpected excitement.

My PEGGREM family worked in the brickfields all their lives and lived at various addresses over the years - Bolingbroke Cottages and Rigby's Row to name but two, but by 1881 the family were living at Pocock's Cottages.

My great-grandmother Emily Harriet STOCKER (1853-1943) had two illegitimate children before her marriage, one my grandmother Elizabeth Ann STOCKER (1871-1964), the other George Thomas STOCKER (1870-?).

(contd.)

Emily married William MILLER (1850-1926) in 1875 and by 1881 there were three further legitimate sons, William (1875-1904), Charles (1876-1904) and John (1875-?).

Elizabeth and her brother George were then listed as MILLER children but my grandmother continued to use her STOCKER surname until she married my grandfather Thomas George PEGGEM (1869-1936) in 1891. A number of other children had, not unsurprisingly, followed by the 1891 census.

I had often wondered what Pocock's Cottages might have looked like but to see an actual photograph was rather strange as I tried to picture my nine year old grandmother and her brothers living and playing there.

So, thank you for definitely making my day (and beyond). You certainly know how to keep your members happy.

I don't know whether you think the little bit above might make a bit of a filler for a future magazine but I leave it with you in case it could be useful and feel free to edit if you wish.

Hope your recovery will not take too long, John. Keep up the good work with the magazine, you know how much I appreciate it and support you. I still think it is the best.

Kind regards

Janet Hewitt-Winch H52

QUIZ ANSWERS

GUINEA PIG	Unattached or roving parson whose fee was usually, a guinea.
HOCU-POCUS MAN	An ice-cream seller.
JAKES FARMER	One who empties cesspools.
LIMB-TRIMMER	Tailor.
MAN-AND-WIFE	Term specified when both male and female servants were required for work.

A TALK —PEST HOUSES

Report by Charles Hampshire

Our September talk was given by Alison Wall a retired public health nurse who also worked as a midwife and health visitor.

These work experiences led to her interest in the history of medicine and pest houses. Few of those in the audience had previously heard of pest houses and we learnt that they played an important role in pestilence and plague. They were not Poor Houses.

In 1665 London the plague was at its peak. Around 100,000 people died, about a quarter of London's population. King Charles the second, was very concerned about the effect on economy/trade and in 1662 issued an edict requiring each parish to have a pest house where those suffering from the plague could be isolated.

Pest houses were overseen by the Parish clerks and Justices of the Peace. They replaced the previous practice of shutting up houses where someone had the plague because this usually condemned to death other members of that household and was morally wrong.

Those in the pest houses had visits from nurse visitors and physicians. In an effort to contain the spread of the plague certificates of health, issued by the Lord Mayor, were required to travel. There were also regulations about burials which had to take place in the hours of darkness and gatherings were restricted to six people.

Alison suggested that Pest houses were the first public health measure in England. It looked at communities and people within it and sought to improve their health and wellbeing, reduce inequality and minimise health risks to the population.

We were given some facts on the history of medicine, hospitals and beliefs about disease amongst them were:

1280 - first reading glasses

1796 - smallpox vaccine

1816 - stethoscope invented

(contd.)

1928 - penicillin

1930s - viruses seen for first time under electron microscope

1123 - Barts hospital founded.

1173 - St Thomas Hospital founded

The talk also covered beliefs and practices including Anglo Saxon elf - shots, the Roman and Greek physician Galen, blood letting, Venetian islands were used to quarantine the sick 1403- 1630, medicines for the rich such as Venice treacle and Vipers flesh and Richard Mead 1673-1754 an English physician who wrote a short discourse concerning Pestilential Contagion and the method used to prevent it.

There were many more interesting insights into how medical practice developed. The talk also touched on other public health measures over time such as safer and healthier food, sewerage and sanitation, water fluoridation, safer roads and homes.

Towards the end of this fascinating talk Alison spoke about local pest houses and showed photos or drawings of some. There were Pest Houses at many locations including Croxley, Amersham, Beaconsfield, Abbots Langley, Watford, Holmer Green, Dunstable and Berkhamsted.

The latter actually has three buildings that were once pest houses still standing. Most elsewhere no longer exist.

The talk was very thorough and full of interest. Too much to capture in this short article. However, a book by Alison is available for those who wish to read more entitled 'Plague Houses and Pandemics' ISBN 978-1-83563-023-5.

Further information can also be found at: [Pest house - Wikipedia](#)

Historic Pest Houses in England that are Still Standing Today
(ruralhistoria.com)

Sickness and Health – From Pest House to Workhouse - Amersham Museum

The Pest House of the parish of Rickmansworth - and the Dorrofields
- Three Rivers Museum Trust (trmt.org.uk) *(contd.)*

Members who attended (and it would have been good to have more of you there) had a very enjoyable evening.

NB Apparently Anglo-Saxons held the belief that ailments were the result of elf-shots - that is arrows fired into the individual by elves!

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We are coming to the end of another year. How quickly they seem to go!

The Society continues to function, but we have lost a lot of members this year, for various reasons. We have gained a few new members, but could do with a few more to keep numbers up.

It is also the time of year that we remind all existing members that their Membership Subscriptions are due for renewal on 1st January 2025. Enclosed with this journal is a Renewal Form, which gives you all details of the various ways of paying. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to 'Hillingdon Family History Society' (in full, not just initials) and send to me. My address is on renewal form and the back page of the journal.

It just remains for me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS	
No.	Name
N27	Rose Nicholson from Amersham
N28	Eddie Nicholson from Amersham

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



RESEARCH.

We can undertake, for both members and non-members, 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: 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.
Berkshire F.H.S.	Nottinghamshire F.H.S.
Calderdale F.H.S.	Waltham Forest F.H.S.
Cheshire F.H.S.	West Middlesex F.H.S.
Chesterfield and District F.H.S.	Weston-Super-Mare F.H.S.
Doncaster F.H.S.	
FROM SOCIETIES IN SCOTLAND	
Aberdeen F.H.S.	
FROM SOCIETIES IN WALES	
Glamorgan F.H.S.	
FROM SOCIETIES IN CANADA	
Alberta F.H.S.	
British Columbia Genealogical Society F.H.S.	
FROM SOCIETIES IN AUSTRALIA	
Heraldry and Genealogical Society of Canberra	South Australia Genealogy Society
Richmond Tweed F.H.S.	

H. F. H. S. PUBLICATIONS

*THESE RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE ON CD – ROM *	Cost
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Baptisms 1538–1877	5.50
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Burials 1538–1877	5.50
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Marriages 1558–1841	5.50
St. Mary's Church, Harefield, Middlesex. Monumental Inscriptions.	5.50
St. Laurence Church, Cowley, Middlesex. Monumental Inscriptions.	5.50
Holy Trinity Church, Northwood, Middx. Monumental Inscriptions.	5.50
St. Martin's Church, West Drayton, Middx. Monumental Inscriptions.	5.50
The Church School, Ickenham, Middx. Pupils & Teachers 1873–1929	5.50
St. John's Church, Hillingdon, Middx. Burials 1903–1924	5.50
THESE MIDDLESEX RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE AS FICHE SETS	
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Baptisms 1538–1877 (set of 4)	4.00
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Burials 1538–1877 (set of 2)	2.00
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Marriages 1558–1841 (set of 1)	1.00
St. Mary's Church, Harefield, Monumental Inscriptions. (set of 3)	3.00
St. Laurence Church, Cowley, Monumental Inscriptions. (set of 2)	2.00
Holy Trinity Church, Northwood, Monumental Inscriptions. (set of 2)	2.00
St. Martin's Church, West Drayton, Monumental Inscriptions. (set of 1)	1.00
The Church School, Ickenham, Pupils & Teachers 1873–1929 (set of 2)	2.00
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..... Email Mrs. G. May

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

*** Please note: these titles are available as pdfs @ £4.00 by email.**

Details from Mrs Gill May The publications can be obtained from:
 Mrs. Gill May, 20 Moreland Drive, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 8BB
 Telephone: 01753 885602 Email: gillmay20@btinternet.com
 alternatively visit this on–line bookshop: www.parishchest.com

WHERE TO FIND US



Hillingdon Park Baptist Church,
25 Hercies Road, Hillingdon,
Middlesex. UB10 9LS

By Car: The Church has a very small car park that can be reached via Aurio Drive and there is a public car park on the eastern side of Long Lane access alongside 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 Please note the main entrance to the Church is on the side of the Church and our Research Room is on the 1st 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

Membership Secretary Valerie Fitch, 43 Doncaster Drive, Northolt,
& Librarian Middlesex. UB5 4AT 0208 864 4980

Programme Anne Moss 20 Churchill Close, Hillingdon
Secretary Middlesex. UB10 0EA 01895 263669

(*Acting Programme Secretary* Paula Hill)

Projects Vacant

Publicity Charles Hampshire 4 Barrington Drive,
Harefield, Middlesex. UB9 6RL 01895 821351

Journal Editors John Symons and Alan Rowland

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

Printed by: *FLEXPRESS*

0116 267 6269

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, Hayes, Hillingdon, 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. V. Fitch,
43, Doncaster Drive, Northolt, Middlesex.
UB5 4AT U.K.*