



# ***HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY***

*Member of the Family History Federation*



Shrewsbury Foundling Hospital (page 9)

***JOURNAL No. 146***

***JUNE 2024***

## 2024 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
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2.30pm	Kathy Chater	'Tracing Huguenot Ancestry'
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm	Peter Hounsell	'Bricks and Brickies of Victorian Middlesex'
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 7.30 pm ZOOM	Linda Hammond	'Looking for your Irish Ancestors? It's easier than you think'
<b><i>AUGUST NO MEETING</i></b>		
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> September 7.30 pm	Alison Wall	'Pest Houses'
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2.00 pm ZOOM	Michael Hallett	'Heroes and Ghosts'
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2.00 pm ZOOM	Debbie Kennett	'Making the most of your D.N.A. matches'
<b><i>DECEMBER NO MEETING</i></b>		

***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

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*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*

We had a scheduled committee meeting in early May as we usually do. They used to be held every month but we have found that every other month does the job just as well.

One thing we noticed that a number of members (14 in fact) had decided not to renew despite the admirable efforts of Val, our new membership secretary, who contacted most of those not renewing. At this time of year we do expect some people leaving, many for quite understandable reasons. This year we have had to increase the subscription rates because quite simply if we did not, we would not have the funds to continue for many more years. This probably had some impact as well. We do have some new members but not as many as those leaving.

So, we need to think about the future. I believe there are enough people with family history interests in the area and for those, as well as our existing members, we need to think about what we are able to offer. We know our weekly offerings of help in the research room are well booked so these are clearly hitting the mark. On the other hand, many of our talks particularly those in person are often not well attended so we need to think carefully about that.

Then there is social media. Are we making best use of it? Maybe not and I feel that there are opportunities to do more here.

Nothing though probably beats the personal approach. This year we will be at the Ickenham Festival in June and the Pinner Show in September.

This will give us the chance to promote ourselves and hopefully raise some funds. I have also been giving a number of talks to local groups about what we do and encourage people to join.

Perhaps you can help by spreading the word to friends and neighbours and by suggesting ways we could do new things or existing ones better. We would love to hear from you.

## FROM THE EDITOR

### DATES FOR JOURNAL EDITIONS

<i>Journal Dates for 2024</i>	
Edition	Dead Line
SEPTEMBER	9 <sup>th</sup> AUG
DECEMBER	11 <sup>th</sup> OCT

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We received an email from a non-member who collected a copy of our June 2023 journal from one of the Borough's libraries. She said she had found it very interesting and that one of the articles in particular contained a section that motivated her to pass it on to various other publications. She felt it raised an important issue that people should be aware of and we were of course given the credit in the usual way.

This sort of response to our efforts is always most welcome.

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We need your help, members!

Along with many other societies, ours has experienced a drop in membership since the strictures of Covid and increases in our costs. The net result inevitably led to our recent reluctant increased charges.

We are a small group which means that our financial situation requires constant vigilance and it is very little solace to know that there are many much larger societies and County wide societies that are in a similar situation.

Put simply we need new members so if you know anyone – friends, neighbours, work colleagues and anyone else that you can think of – please sound them out and get them to at least try us out – don't forget that we don't just help those with a connection to Hillingdon!

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

By Jenny Mundy and Alan Rowland

We have to thank our member Jenny Mundy for the following information that augments the article 'Now, I Didn't Know That!' (December 2023 journal, page35). When I wrote the piece, I must admit I didn't know how the early registration system worked, I just assumed that right from the start parents were supposed to register their children. Many did whilst others didn't bother, that is until they could be fined for non-compliance with the law. It certainly answers the frequent question 'Why can't I find their birth registration'?

The 1836 Act for the Registering of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England did not make the registration of a child's birth the responsibility of the parents. The act established a three tier system comprising local Registrars, above them were Superintendent Registrars and at the top the Registrar General based in London. The key operator in this set up was the local registrar for it was his responsibility *'to inform himself carefully of every birth and every death which shall happen within his district' and for this he was paid '2s 6d for the first 20 births and deaths collected each year and 12d for each entry thereafter'*.

The act gave him legal power to gather this information and parents were required to provide information about a birth but only *'upon being requested so to do'*. So, if they weren't asked by the registrar and he didn't obtain the information from another source, the birth would not be registered. The local registrar had printed notices urging registration for display outside churches and chapels, but with a largely illiterate population there was bound to be confusion.

It can be imagined that an urban local registrar's task would have been easier than one operating in wide spread rural areas where he might need to travel far in order to gather the information. On the plus side rural communities were likely to be tight knit with a common general knowledge of what was going on in the various villages and hamlets. Also, a likely source of recent births would be the local vicar as a result of baptism ceremonies.

(contd.)

It is possible that people thought the Church of England played the role of the registrar and that the religious rite of baptism was linked with the legal function of registration.

In more heavily populated urban areas knowledge of parents and births would have been more difficult and there would have been many more to contend with.

It was on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1875 that the Registration of Births and Deaths Act 1874 came into effect and registration became the responsibility of the parents, or the householder where the birth took place, on penalty of a £2 fine.

That certainly called for a rethink by some of our forebears!

*NB Thank you again Jenny for highlighting the early workings of the GRO, another piece of the puzzle slips into place.*

## '...AND 'OW DO YOU SPELL THAT, ZUR'?

By Alan Rowland

So, I'm searching for ancestors and know the names, after all they are part of my family. I know more or less their location so why can't I find them?

Researching my wife's family, I entered all the relevant details into the 1911 census and found her father, grandfather and grandmother in the Rhondda Valley. As we do, I then started tracing the family back in time using the censuses and found the family on 1891 census, grandfather is 18 years old and he is with his mother etc.

On both the 1911 and the 1891 censuses the family name is given as RAIKES but on the 1881 it appears as REAKES and whereas the birth place for all the children is recorded as Glamorgan the parents, great grandfather Charles REAKES and great grandmother Thurza are from Somerset. I was lucky inasmuch as the two surnames, whilst different, were similar enough to enable them to be found.

Why the different spelling? The most likely reason came to light sometime later when on a visit to Evercreech, Somerset. As a result of a conversation with a local woman I happened to mention that I was researching family history and that my wife's forebears were from Evercreech. I also mentioned the name Reakes which I pronounced as 'REEKES'. I was immediately corrected by her 'No, no that isn't REEKES' she said 'down here REAKES is pronounced RAIKES'.

It became clear that in the Rhondda, when asked for their name, they would have pronounced a word that was heard as RAIKES and with a Somerset accent and a Welsh ear that is probably how it was recorded. It possibly became a bore to continually correct the spelling and so it became accepted by the family as the norm.

Now you are probably wondering to what this is leading.

*(contd.)*



I recently came across an article by David W. Webster FSA(Scot) in an edition of 'The Family and Local History Handbook' the subject of which is 'Wild Cards' in genealogical research. If you are unaware of wild cards, you may find it what he had to say useful. Below is a précis of the article:

The concept of wildcards derives from card games such as poker or brag where it is common practice to decide before a game that, for instance, 'twos are wild'. In other words, a two can take any value from two through to an ace. When applied to researching the use of a question mark can mean any single character and an asterisk can mean any number of characters. Just to confuse the 1901 census index will use the underline character, as the equivalent of the question mark.

### Wildcards and names

Many years ago, people didn't care too much or weren't able to check the spelling of their name. Today, many people are adamant that there is only one correct spelling of their name.

When researching we need to be very aware of possible spelling variations. While the Soundex system will go some way towards helping, the use of wildcards is of even greater help when searching computerised indexes and it is very worthwhile to learn how to use them.

The best way to explain further the situation regarding wildcards is to use examples.

### Simple Examples

Let's say that you are searching the surname ROBERTS. It's very common that the 's' is missed out in the original records, or by a transcriber.

The simple solution is to search for ROBERT? which will return results for both ROBERT and ROBERTS, the '?' can also mean no character. Using ROBERT\* as the search term will produce results for ROBERT, ROBERTS, and ROBERTSON. If when searching for the surname REID you use RE?D you will reliably find entries for REED and READ as well.

*(contd.)*

## More Complex Examples

If you are looking for a surname that you know starts with RE and ends with a D, then using RE\*D will produce REDFORD, REYNARD, READI-EAD, REDHEAD, REDMOND, REAID, REYNOLD and REIGHEAD as well as REID, REED, and READ.

Wildcards can also be used in combination e.g. a search for ROB\*S\* will produce ROBERTSON, ROBERSON, ROBINASON, ROBINS, ROBBINS, ROBINSON, ROBSON and ROBISON.

The golden rule is to use your imagination in terms of the use of wildcards. Quite often you will be able to rule out some of the results, but you will be pleasantly surprised at the number of results thrown up that weren't at all obvious.

### Limitations on Wildcard Use

You will find that most surname database indexes will not allow you to use a leading wildcard eg. ?OX or \*OX is not allowed. This is due to the computing power that such a search would require.

## Given Names and Wildcards

Practice varies from database to database. While wildcards in given names are useful for spelling variations, they are also important for picking up shortened versions, for example Jas., Wm., Chas., etc. because many databases will record such entries exactly as they are shown. However clear it is that the name involved sought is, say, William, rather than Wm.

I repeat the golden rule - use your imagination! After seeking spelling variations in books, experiment with wildcards! I can guarantee you will find possible variants that may well stop you in your tracks and put you on the road to solving the disappearance of your ancestor.

As a result of David Webster's article, I tried out the theory on the REAKES/RAIKES name. On Ancestry 1911 census for Wales, I entered into the surname search box R\*A\*ES. The results listed many examples of both surnames as well as all sorts of other variations and different names, all of which fitted the search criteria.

*NB If you have experienced a success using wildcards, please let us know so that we can pass it on to the membership.*

# HENRY TO GUSTAVUS — STORY OF A JOURNEY

By Gill May

My 4 x great grandfather Henry ROWLEY was the illegitimate son of Elizabeth ROWLEY. She was an unmarried girl employed at Cound Hall, Shropshire and in 1760 Henry when just a few days old was baptised in St. Peter's Church at Cound, Shropshire.



St. Peter's Church.



In the baptistry the font bowl dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and is probably where Henry was baptised. (It is still in use today).

Henry was admitted to the Foundling Hospital in Shrewsbury and from there he was taken to London where he was admitted to the London Foundling Hospital.

As was usual at the time each child, on entering their care, was baptised and renamed. The next visitor to the hospital was allowed to name the child and so it was that Henry ROWLEY became Gustavus WELLS.

Gustavus, having recovered from the journey to London and at just a few weeks old, was fostered by a family in Middlesex. Again, as was usual practice, he was returned to the hospital at around the age of 8.

*(contd.)*



The London Foundling Hospital

From there he was transferred to the Foundling Hospital at Ackworth, Yorkshire and was eventually apprenticed to a farmer in Towthorpe, Yorkshire until the age of 21.

In 1786 Gustavus married a wealthy widow, Hannah, who had been married twice before. At her first marriage her father settled £300 on her and she received a bequest of £200 following the death of both her parents. The marriage of Hannah and Gustavus carried an allegation bond of £200 payable should the legal conditions of their marriage be found wanting.

At his marriage Gustavus was described as a yeoman and on the baptism record of his first son, George, he is referred to as an Ackworth Foundling. The couple had a total of six children.

Gustavus died in 1803 age 43, his wife Hannah died two years later in 1805.

Just before he died Gustavus wrote his will. The main provisions are given below and a copy of the original can be seen at the end of the article.

He left everything to his eldest son, whom he made his sole executor, with £100 being given to his four other surviving children. (contd.)

Each of them to receive the money upon reaching the age of 21. £10 per annum was left to Hannah his wife, the first payment of £5 to be paid to her six months after his death and then £5 each half year thereafter. It was unfortunate that one of the children died a few days before Gustavus, so that child's bequest would have been divided between the surviving children.

The value of Gustavus's estate did not exceed £600 and because George was only 16 at the time of his father's death, guardians were appointed. There were three guardians who were bound under obligation to their task in the sum of £1,011.

Much of the information about Gustavus/Henry has been put together via several of his descendants. Records for the London Foundling Hospital can be found at the LMA.

From humble beginnings as a foundling, Gustavus (Henry) rose to become a farmer and via an advantageous marriage, a fairly wealthy man. Which to a certain extent proved the efficacy of the foundling hospital and the way it helped children.

*NB. A little odd perhaps that Gustavus chose to make his son executor and not his wife who after all had been twice widowed before and presumably would have had experience of wills and inheritances.*

*Further reading and information of the Foundling Hospital can be found on:*

<https://foundlingmuseum.org.uk/tokens-of-history/tokens-and-foundling-hospital/life-at-foundling-hospital/>

*This site is a good source for the detailed operation of the hospital and its other establishments throughout England including the Foundling Hospital in Ackworth, Yorkshire and that at Shrewsbury.*

*The copy of the will is overleaf.*

*(contd.)*

In the Name of God Amen I Gustavus Wells of Southey in the County of North Devon do make and declare this my last Will and Testament in manner following viz I give and bequeath to my Son George Wells whom I appoint and constitute of this my Will all my Goods and Chattels of what kind or nature soever together with all Bonds Notes or any other Securities that shall be due to me at the time of my Decease as likewise my Household Furniture and my Silver Utensils which are my Property he paying all my Just Debts and Annual Expenses and those occasioned by proving this my Will Also I give and bequeath to my Dearest Beloved Wife Hannah Wells the sum of ten pounds yearly to be paid by my said Executor the first payment of five pounds to be paid six months after my Decease and a few times to time during the Natural life of my said Wife to receive five pounds every half Year Also I give and bequeath to my other four Children namely Elizabeth Wells Mark Wells Thomas Wells and John Wells the sum of One Hundred pound each to be paid to each and every one of them when they shall attain the Age of twenty one Years to be paid by my said Executor and in case any of my said Children shall die Elizabeth Mark Thomas and John Wells should Decease before they attain the full Age of twenty one Years then to it fully understood that their portion of the said Decease shall be equally divided amongst the surviving or survivors and in case they should all Decease then the same shall become just due of my said Executor and be it further understood that if any of my said four Children shall die unmarried to leave my said Executor before they arrive at the Age of twenty one Years that then it is my Will that my said Executor shall pay their lawful Interest for the same and be it further understood that if any of my said Children namely Elizabeth Mark Thomas and John shall die before they do attain the Age of twenty one Years and Decease and leave any Child or Children that then the Portion which was allotted for the said Decease shall be due to the said Child and if more than one then it is my Will that it shall be equally divided amongst them And I testify this do hereby certify William Tompkins of Southey Vicar and my own in Law John Saxton in West for my Executor and all concerned in the Execution of this my Will In Witness whereof I have here my Hand and Seal this Eighth day of November in the Year of our Lord One thousand eight and three

Signed sealed Published and Delivered by the above named Gustavus Wells to be his last Will and Testament in the Presence of him and in the Presence of each of us who have hereunto subscribed our Names as Witnesses

John Peabson  
John Widdin  
John Kelms

Gustavus Wells  
Mark

## WERE THEY MARRIED?

By *Alan Rowland*

When we begin our journey of discovery most of us are pre-programmed through our families and society to accept as the norm the estate of marriage. On censuses when we find a man and a woman living together, with a string of children, we generally assume that they are married.

We use FreeBMD, the GRO and parish records to establish the marriage date, place and with luck a copy image of the marriage certificate. But sometimes we are unable to fix the marriage in the parish records that are available on line (from for example Ancestry). The very fact that they are called parish records or registers means that they carry only Church of England marriages. We become frustrated with fruitless searching and wonder why there is no record. With experience we allow that perhaps they are not married but 'living in sin' or in modern day parlance, co-habiting.

There are however other possibilities that should not be overlooked - they may well have married, not in the established church but in a register office, a Roman Catholic church or a non-conformist chapel/church. This would explain that although a marriage can appear in the GRO/ FreeBMD lists it does not in those of the parish.

I decided to investigate register office marriages because I had always assumed that they were a relatively late innovation (possibly even early 20<sup>th</sup> century) but in digging around the subject I was surprised to discover that register office marriages were allowed from 1836 (by the Marriage Act 1836) and that over a million couples took advantage of the option during Victoria's reign alone!

This snippet was gleaned from a much larger work by Rebecca Probert, Professor of Law at the University of Exeter, see:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/14631180.2023.2205736?needAccess=true>

Rebecca Probert's research contains much demographic information on the prevalence of register office marriages. The full work is a long but worthwhile read.

# LIFE AT THE BLUE LION

By Alan Rowland

Great Baddow, Essex is close to Chelmsford and was, in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, a quiet rural village. Although not born in Essex my 3 x great grandfather lived, raised a family, married twice and died there in 1846. One of his sons, George ROWLAND, was my 2 x great grandfather and he is the subject of this little piece.

It was sparked off by the main section of the Family History Federation February Really Useful Bulletin No. 42 (February 2024) which carried a piece by Simon Fowler dealing with Researching Publican and Brewery Ancestors. After a lengthy history of inns, public houses, ale houses etc. and breweries he eventually got round to how to research ancestors who had been involved in any of those occupations.

This is where I started to get really interested because according to both the 1851 and 1861 censuses George ROWLAND had followed his father, James, and his occupation was recorded as a tailor. The 1871 census records him as 'Publican, formerly tailor', with his wife Emily and their address is 'Blue Lion Public House' in the parish of Great Baddow. He died in 1879 which terminated his association with the Blue Lion. To date I have not been able to find anything more about Emily.

With anticipation I started to read what Simon had to say about researching publicans etc. only to be disappointed when his first sentence dealing with the records said 'There are relatively few records for pubs and breweries'. Great, where do I go from here?

Further into his article he says 'The most useful source for researching publicans and brewers is undoubtedly newspapers' and this inspired me to try a search in Findmypast newspaper images. I entered his name and the 'Blue Lion, Great Baddow' and was surprised to find a number of hits. They show that although Great Baddow was a relatively small quiet village, there was enough going on there to put a little flesh onto my 2 x great grandfather's bones.

The various hits are listed below in date order.

*(contd.)*



**ASSAULT.**—*William Gowers* was charged with assaulting *George Rowland*, of the Blue Lion, Great Baddow.—Complainant stated that on Thursday evening, the 4th inst., defendant with three others came into his house and had some beer; shortly afterwards a little boy charged Gowers with taking 4d. from him: Gowers was going to strike the boy, when witness interfered to prevent him, and he then commenced abusing him, and put his fist in his face three times, at the same time threatening him that he should “have it” for having summoned him on a previous occasion.—Defendant said he was accused of stealing the fourpence and that made him say “what he shouldn’t have thought of.”—He was further charged with being disorderly on the same occasion in Mr. Rowland’s house, and refusing to leave when requested to do so by P.c. Cracknell.—The bench convicted him of both charges, and fined him for the assault 5s., with costs 8s., or 14 days; and for refusing to leave the house when required 2s. and 9s. costs, or seven days. Paid.

19<sup>th</sup> February 1869 Chelmsford Chronicle

Obviously, the life of a publican was not plain sailing even in a quiet backwater like Baddow! It’s a pity that there is no detail of assault charge.

10<sup>th</sup> September 1869 Essex weekly News

***Thomas Love***, on remand, was charged with stealing 17s. 6d. and a Scotch cap, the property of *Henry Neville*, at South Hanningfield, on the 15th of August. — *George Rowland*, landlord of the Blue Lion, Great Baddow, deposed that on the evening of the 23rd of August prisoner, with two others, whom he did not know, called at his house and had a pint of beer. Love was then wearing a woollen cap. Witness said to him, “Do you know what you’re after? If you go to Chelmsford you’ll get nailed, as there’s a warrant out against you for robbing that chap at South Hanningfield.” Prisoner said, “I suppose there is, but if I can get home to Chelmsford by creeping round the back way, I shall send my old woman to square it.”— By Prisoner: I am sure it was a Scotch cap you wore, and not one like that you have in your hand. Do you think I should say so if it wasn’t so, man? [Laughter.] —The whole of the evidence having been read over, prisoner, who had nothing to say in defence, was committed for trial at the October Quarter Session.

(contd.)

The next article was of a civil nature and it must have been a little galling for George to receive such a paltry sum.

2<sup>nd</sup> August 1870 Essex Weekly News

**CLAIM FOR STANDING OF A TRUCK.—Rowland v Kerridge.**—George Rowland, landlord of the Blue Lion Inn, Great Baddow, sued Daniel Kerridge, of Woodham, for 3s. 6d., charge for defendant's truck standing in his yard three days, in July, 1869.—Plaintiff said the vehicle was in charge of a boy, and the horse ran away with it; some men at plaintiff's house stopped it, and it was placed in plaintiff's yard.—His Honor described it as a trumpery case, arising out of plaintiff making an exorbitant charge, and defendant not offering to pay what was reasonable in a case of accident like this.—Vordiot for plaintiff for 1s.

Then in the Essex Newsman on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1870, the article shown overleaf appeared.

The facts of this incident seem to get a little lost in the telling. The offender was a George Rowland and the Blue Lion landlord was also a George ROWLAND (my 2x great grandfather), so the offender was the nephew of the landlord and was the son of either the landlord's brother or sister.

Again, no details of the assault are given but as the offending George was remanded for one week, I assume my George had come off worse in a fight. It is made worse by the fact that two related individuals were involved.

Obviously, the reason given for not serving the man a second pint of beer 'he had misconducted himself in the house on previous occasions' indicates it was probably a serious affair. If it was why did my George serve him in the first place?

Was there in fact an internal family situation that caused the animosity between them? I shall never know!

(contd.)

REFUSING TO QUIT A PUBLIC-HOUSE AT GREAT BADDOW.—*George Rowland* was charged with being riotous at the Blue Lion, Great Baddow, and refusing to quit when requested by the landlord, on the evening of the 21st Aug.—The landlord stated that he was uncle to the defendant; he refused to draw him any beer, when he became very abusive and violent, to the annoyance of the customers; defendant would not leave when requested, and P.c. Harrington had to be sent for to turn him out; witness refused to draw him beer because he had misconducted himself in the house on previous occasions.—By the Bench: I don't say he was drunk, but he was under the influence of liquor; his misconduct consisted in abusing me. — Defendant: He drew me one pint of beer, but would not draw me a second; I was sober and quiet.—Complainant said he could bring two witnesses to prove his case, and as the bench did not consider the present evidence sufficient, a remand was granted for a week.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> November 1874, in the Essex Newsman this appeared

ASSAULTING A LANDLORD.—*George Palmerston Bangs*, a labourer, was charged with assaulting Mr. George Rowland, landlord of the Blue Lion, at Great Baddow, on the 3rd inst.—It appeared that defendant made himself disagreeable and swore a great deal, at the Blue Lion, and when Mr. Rowland remonstrated with him he struck him with a pint mug, smashing it against his forehead; he afterwards struck him at the back of the ear with the broken handle, and threw him down in the passage.—Catherine Miller corroborated.—The defendant, who assumed a tone of injured innocence, had several times been convicted of assault.—Mr. Rowland said the defendant threatened to “knife him” while he was on the floor.—The magistrates sent him to prison for two months with hard labour.

(contd.)

Once again, my George has been attacked by a customer and this time we do get some details of what actually happened as well as a verdict. Unfortunately, though, we are not told if following the attack my George needed any medical attention either professional or amateur.

The next newspaper article dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 1875 in the *Essex Times* (which appears overleaf) reports on my George acting as a witness in a case of theft. It is the most detailed yet but there is no explanation as to why the police arrived at the Blue Lion at 9.15 am to make enquiries about a stolen donkey.

Why did they think George would have knowledge of the theft at that time? Was George likely to be the receiver of stolen goods or animals? Had he committed offences himself and was likely to be aware of who was doing what within the locality? Who knows?

It is also strange that within 30 minutes of the police visit the donkey, together with the thief, should pass by the Blue Lion and be spotted by George ROWLAND – some co-incidence!

Also, my George proceeded to question the man about the donkey and where he had come from and after quite a conversation the thief agreed to put the donkey in George's stable. All very strange!

What happened to William or John Hunt after his trial at Chelmsford Quarter Sessions is not mentioned, but if found guilty I assume something like transportation would have resulted. After all you could be hung or transported for life for stealing a sheep what price a donkey?



The Blue Lion  
(contd.)

**STEALING A DONKEY.**—*John Hunt*, a young man of tolerably respectable appearance, who said he was a grocer's assistant, but had no place of residence, was charged with stealing a donkey, value £6, the property of Chas. Wilkinson, beerhouse keeper, Mountnessing, on the 24th March.—Prosecutor said on the night of the 24th he locked his donkey up about 10 o'clock in the stable close to the back door; at a little past five the next morning he found the stable door broken open and the donkey gone; he traced the footmarks of the donkey from the gate in the direction to Chelmsford, and then gave information to the police; he went on to Chelmsford, and saw his donkey standing near the Shire Hall about 11 o'clock; the prisoner was there in custody, and prosecutor, on identifying the donkey, had it given up to him: it was worth £6.—George Rowland, landlord of the Blue Lion, Great Baddow, said on the morning of the 25th, about a quarter-past nine, the police went to him and made enquiries about a donkey, and about a quarter to 10 the prisoner went past riding a donkey; witness went out and stopped him, and asked him if the donkey was for sale, and prisoner said it was—he wanted £3 for it; witness said he knew a gentleman who would have it; prisoner then said witness had better buy it right out, which the latter declined to do; in the meantime witness had sent for the police, and at his request prisoner put the donkey in the stable; the police then came and took the prisoner into custody, and told him he should take him on the charge of stealing the donkey, and he said nothing; previous to that witness had asked prisoner where he came from, and he said Romford; witness said he could not have come all that distance that mornning, and prisoner said he had not, he had come from a village on this side of Brentwood; witness guessed Ingatestone, and he said, "Yes, a little higher up."—P.c. J. King, stationed at Great Baddow, deposed that he had received information of the robbery, and shortly after had a message from the last witness that the donkey was in his stable; he went and found the prisoner standing in the road, and requested him to go and look at the donkey; in the stable witness asked prisoner if he owned the donkey, and he made no reply; he then took him into custody; in taking him to the station he slipped the handcuffs, which were too large, and ran away, but after a good chase of about 400 yards witness caught him again; when caught prisoner said he did not intend to run away; he refused his name and address, but at Chelmsford said it was Brown, and then at Brentwood gave that of John Hunt.—Prisoner having received the usual caution, said he wished to state that he was guilty. In signing this statement he wrote "William Hunt," and when asked if that was his name altered it to "John Hunt."—Committed for trial to the Quarter Sessions at Chelmsford.

(contd.)

The last article to come to light was by way of a celebration of a bell change ringing accomplishment in Great Baddow parish church. My 3 x great grandfather James ROWLAND, together with other male members of his family, was heavily involved in change ringing of the full peal of the bells.

The event must have been quite something taking as it did five hours and fifty minutes. I wonder though if all the villagers thought it brilliant around four and a half hours in!

The image from the 7<sup>th</sup> March 1919, Chelmsford Chronicle is of very poor quality and is difficult to read, a transcription follows.

Campanology has apparently always been popular in Essex, and the bellringers of the county have from time to time executed some notable performances in the belfries of the Parish Churches. In this connection, Mr. C. R. Finch, of Great Baddow, sends a copy of a bill hanging up in his house announcing:

"On 7th March, 1819, a quarter peal of Bob Major, 10,080 changes was rung on the eight bells at St. Mary's Church, Great Baddow, by the following persons: John Reeve, 1st; Joseph Howard, 2nd; John Baker, 3rd; James Carter, 4th; Robert Thornback, 5th; Robert Low, 6th; Thomas Harris, 7th; James Rowland, 8th; tenor 13 cwt. This peal was called by Joseph Howard, and nobly brought round in five hours and fifty minutes, being the masterpiece of the art ever performed in the county."

That peal, it is believed, remains unique in the annals of change ringing. It was the longest peal in the method that had ever taken place in the county of Essex, and although in the hundred years that have passed there has been much Bob Major practiced, the Great Baddow peal of 100 years ago still holds the field as a record in the art of campanology. The Essex Association of Change Ringers had proposed to ring, in the same method, on the Great Baddow Church bells, a centenary commemorative peal of Bob Major today, the 7th March, but the project has had to be abandoned, the historic bells of St. Mary's, Great Baddow, not being in a condition to stand the performance. Scanning the list of ringers of St. Mary's bells 100 years ago, it is noteworthy that the name of Joseph Howard appears there as conductor, and the fact that Mr. C. H. Howard, of Braintree, is the present Master of the Essex Association of Change Ringers, and a great and enthusiastic ringer himself, suggests that the love for campanology is inherently associated with the name of Howard.

(contd.)

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If you have somewhere in the past a publican or brewer, have a look in the newspaper archives, you never know what you may discover. Also, whilst searching look for other areas of interest – deaths, funerals, weddings, inquests etc. the list can be extensive.

*NB Of course should you make an interesting discovery please let us know, we always need lots of material for the journal.*

## MISSING AND CONFUSING INFORMATION!

By Alan Rowland

Amongst many unsolved researching questions, I have a couple that I feel will never be solved.

Many researching years ago I found a 4<sup>th</sup> cousin descended from the Michael Angelo ROWLAND line. I made contact with him and learnt that he had been researching over a period of 25 years or so.

I am descended from the George ROWLAND line. Michael Angelo and George were brothers born to James ROWLAND and his second wife, Hannah MABBS. The family were based close to Chelmsford in the small village of Great Baddow, Essex.

Our 3 x great grandfather was James ROWLAND. Unfortunately, he died in 1846 consequently he did not appear on the 1851 census. If he had we might have some idea of his birth place for it has not been proved beyond a doubt, except for the fact that he was not born in the county in which he resided, Essex (1841 census). A second problem concerns the birth date of his second wife Hannah MABBS, more of this later.

My new found cousin related the following:

*There was a family story from an uncle that James Rowland arrived in Great Baddow from Monmouth via Wickham Market, Suffolk'. The 1841 census confirms that he was not born in Essex, the county in which he resided. There was also family knowledge that 'a forebear had a connection with a public house in Llanarth, Monmouthshire'.*

Close by Llanarth lies a small hamlet, Llantilio Crosseny, and in their parish records I found baptisms of a James ROWLAND, in 1767, and a Mary Rowland. Both had the same parents Richard ROWLAND and Ann. It is reasonable to deduce that James and Mary were brother and sister.

On a subsequent visit to Llantilio I found, in the graveyard of St. Teilo's church, a gravestone carrying the name John ROWLAND and another for his wife.

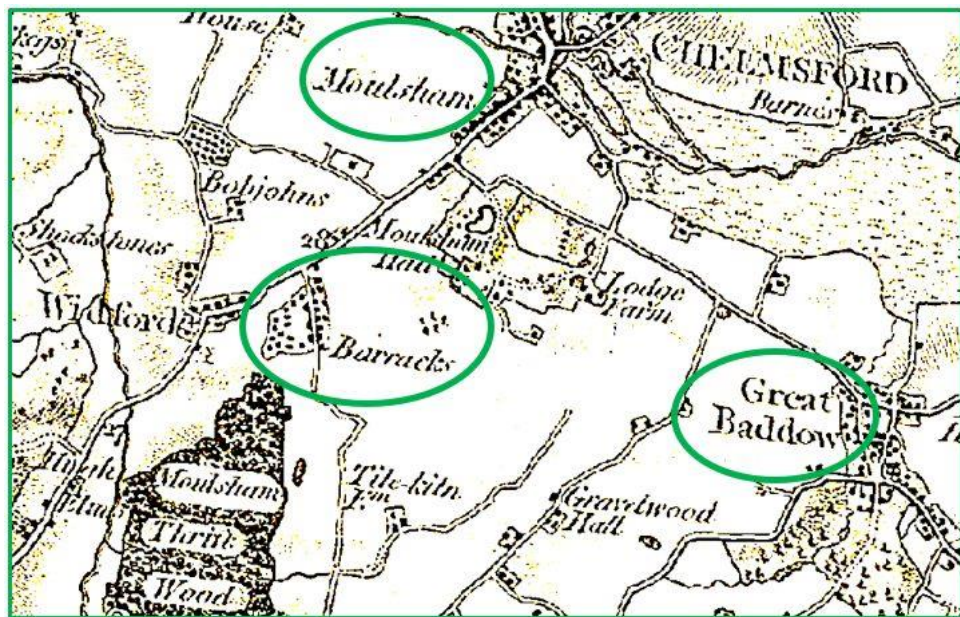
*(contd.)*



All this is reasonable evidence to conjecture that James ROWLAND may well have come from Monmouthshire and that, in or near Llantilio Crossenny, there were members of a ROWLAND family as is proved by the baptisms and headstones. Further, it is strange that the surname should be ROWLAND - whilst in Wales it is usual to find the name with an 's', ROWLANDS!

In 1787 James enlisted in the army, not in Monmouthshire but in Newtown, Montgomeryshire. On the face of it this is odd because of how far distant Newtown is from Llanarth, but was there an outlying branch of the family somewhere between the two where he could have stayed?

James served in the 90<sup>th</sup> of foot regiment in the Peninsular Wars and could well have been posted to a tented military camp located at Moulsham (adjacent to Great Baddow, map below) or at Danbury, Essex just 4.5 miles away. So his presence in Essex may well have been the result of a militia posting, or demobilisation following the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815.



In 1795 he married his first wife, Elizabeth JOCEYLIN, in Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire (which borders on Essex) and is about 20 miles from Great Baddow.

(contd.)

Turning to Hannah MABBS the problem revolves round when she was born. Her age, as given on the 1841 census, is 40 which means she was in the range 40 to 45. She married James in 1815 so, as the marriage date is correct (verified by parish record), she was between 14 and 19 years old when she married.

By the 1851 census she was in Scotland with her daughter Eliza MILLAR (née ROWLAND, born 1821 Great Baddow), where she remained until her death in 1873, age given as 83.

Her age, as given on the Scottish Censuses, is variable:

1851 born 1809, England, age 42: 1861 born 1796, England, age 65: 1871 born 1796, Epne, Gloucestershire, age 75.

The birth date given on the 1851 census is unlikely to be correct because that means she married aged 6! The next two give the same birth date, 1796, and this is probably correct because she would be aged 19 at her marriage.

If she was 75 in 1871 then the age, 83, on her death record in 1873 cannot be correct. Also, I think the given birth place of Epne, Gloucestershire is very suspect. In 1841 she was born in the county in which she resided i.e. Essex!

To summarise, I think there is more evidence that James was from Monmouthshire than elsewhere in the U.K. His presence in Essex could have been the result of a militia posting/demobilisation following the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815.

The close proximity of Hertfordshire could account for his first marriage taking place there and all the rest is centred on Great Baddow.

As for Hannah MABBS because of the discrepancies in her birth dates it is not possible to be certain of her birth, birth place or her age at death.

One of the other possible birth dates is 1802 but if correct then she would have been aged 13 when she married, which was at that time illegal.

Illegal or not I think it extremely unlikely that a 13 year old would marry a 50 year old widower!

*(contd.)*

Even though we have access to all manner of records they do not always provide the definitive answers we seek. We always have to keep an open mind and carry out continuous research even though we think we know everything about an individual. At any time, there could a new record posted on line that will give that final answer – so keep looking!

*NB Until 1823 the legal age in England for marriage was 21 years for men and women although after 1823 a male could marry as young as 14 without parental consent and a girl at 12 although most girls didn't marry until around the ages of 18 to 23.*

## 2024 A.G.M.

### ACTING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023

It was again quite a successful year for the Society but one of the sadder moments was the passing of our long-standing Membership Secretary, Patricia Reynolds.

We had a varied programme of talks organised by Paula Hill. We made a decision to continue the mix of Zoom and hall meetings but this time made a return to evening meetings during the Summer months. The plan is that everybody should be able to attend some if they wish. The downside is that the regularity of the same day each month has had to be dispensed with but with email reminders being sent out members are being kept updated.

The new format journal edited by Alan Rowland has a modern look and feel to it and we are happy with the new style. We hope you are too, and it is cheaper as well.

The research room continues to be well used. It is mostly now self-funded although we have had to increase the charges to reflect the rental cost.

*(contd.)*

Membership has shown some decline but we do attract new members both from the web site and local publicity.

You will have seen from the Treasurer's report that finances are tight but having increased subscription charges this year we will know better how we are faring later this year.

Thank you as always to the committee: Gill May, Valerie Fitch who has taken over the membership duties, Alan Rowland and Charles Hampshire as Treasurer. There are also the Friday regulars, Jenny Munday and Jean Gorman. Not forgetting Frankie Pugh who manages the web site. These, with you our members, make this Society what it is. Thank you.

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2023

The accounts for the year 2023 show a similarity for most items as the previous year.

Income for the year was £3,130 thanks to generous donations and increased research room income. All donors are formally thanked by the Committee and it is worth noting that many donations are for relatively small amounts (often extra added when Members pay their membership) but which together add up to a significant sum. The Society thanks you all.

Expenditure for the year was £3,776. Rent increased reflecting rising costs, the regular opening of the research room and in person meetings, and other expenses increased in price.

Consequently, the Society made a deficit in the year of £646, slightly less than the previous year.

Accumulated funds of £1,659 mean that the Society still has a small reserve for a rainy day or two. The Committee will as always seek to minimise expenditure and scrutinise income on your behalf to keep the society functioning and maintaining the high service standards you have come to expect and enjoy.

*(contd.)*

I thank all the Committee members who help in these tasks and say special thanks to John and Gill who assist in the financial side of things (banking, acting as second signatory and buying stamps pre price increases), the ladies who assist Gill with the revenue generating bookstall, at the fairs and to Alan who sourced the cheaper journal printing in colour.

I open the floor to any questions.

Charles Hampshire BA, MBA, CIPFA.

## ACCOUNTS

<b>HFHS Accounts 2023</b>			
		<b>£ 2023</b>	<b>£ 2022</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Subs		1,374	1,530
Donations		390	1,030
Research Room		1,007	630
Printouts		54	72
Draw		47	52
Other		258	142
		<b>3,130</b>	<b>3,456</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Memberships		55	57
Insurance		107	87
Rent		1,821	1,694
Printing		808	769
Computer Licences		369	369
Postage		257	198
Speakers		358	375
Computer Equip		0	568
Other		0	61
		<b>3,776</b>	<b>4,178</b>
<b>Excess of Expenditure over Income</b>		<b>646</b>	<b>722</b>

(contd.)

# BOOKSTALL ACCOUNT

Account for the Twelve Months ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

## INCOME

2022		2023
£315.78	Sale of publications/CD's	£143.69
£ 26.98	Data sold through Find My Past	£ 33.84
<u>£396.00</u>	Membership through Parish Chest	<u>£278.00</u>
<u>£738.76</u>		<u>£455.53</u>

## EXPENSES

£ 35.00	Fairs	£ 25.00
£396.00	Membership to No 1 A/C	£278.00
£ 11.50	Purchase of books	£ 0.00
£ 26.98	Find My Past to No 1 A/C	£ 33.84
<u>£ 25.00</u>	HSBC bank charges	<u>£ 0.00</u>
<u>£494.48</u>		<u>£336.84</u>
£244.28	Balance being excess of income over expenditure	£118.69
£202.04	Balance in hand at 31.12.2022	£146.32
<u>£ 60.00</u>	Cash in hand at 31.12.2022	<u>£ 60.00</u>
£506.32		£325.01
<u>£300.00</u>	Donation to No 1 A/C	<u>£150.00</u>
<u>£206.32</u>	Surplus	<u>£175.01</u>

Represented by:

£ 60.00	Cash	£ 60.00
<u>£146.32</u>	Bookstall Account at NatWest	<u>£115.01</u>
<u>£206.32</u>		<u>£175.01</u>

Signed .....  
 (Bookstall Manager)

Signed .....  
 (Treasurer)

I certify that the foregoing Account has been correctly drawn up and is in accordance with records produced to me.

Signed .....  
 (Account Examiner)

# A TALK — THE ROLE OF THE WORKHOUSE IN THE EARLY 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

*Report by John Symons*

This online talk for H.F.H.S. was given by Dr. Judy Hill on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024. It was a welcome return by Judy who last year spoke about the role of domestic servants in 19<sup>th</sup> century society. This time she looked at the parish workhouses in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and their purpose. Was it to care for the poor of the parish or was it to be used as a deterrent against idleness and to promote economic endeavours? The answers to these questions are not straightforward.

In the period under review responsibility for administering the poor law which dealt with how those living in poverty might be assisted was left firmly in the control of the parish which at the time was both an ecclesiastical entity and the basis for local government.

In the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century this role was being increasingly put under strain by the growth of industrialisation which had the effect of moving people away from rural areas to large towns and cities where employment prospects and wages were a good deal higher. For those still living in poverty however the parish-based system was no longer considered suitable which gave rise to the new Poor Law Act of 1834.

This aimed to make a distinction between the deserving and the undeserving poor. Workhouses would cover groups of parishes known as unions and to discourage dependency the conditions in these would be worse than the lowest standard of the independent labourer.

The initial development of parish poor laws started during the reign of Elizabeth I in about 1600. This established that it was the responsibility of the parish to provide relief for 'the lame, the old, the blind and others being poor and unable to work'. This also provided for apprenticeships for poor children and orphans with the objective of keeping them in future employment and therefore not requiring parish relief themselves. The tone of the laws was more of a carrot than a stick by encouraging people to fend for themselves through training. *(contd.)*

These measures were to be paid for by a levy or rate imposed on every owner or occupier of land in the parish.

To administer the distribution of the relief an unpaid Overseer of the Poor was appointed, later the rate assessments would be based on the rentals charged for the lands occupied. The overseers would assess the need to parish support and set the local rate accordingly. Those who did not pay could be prosecuted by a magistrate. The overseers were always mindful not to set excessive rates as these could push more independent people into poverty which would defeat the purpose of the laws.

In the earlier years of the poor laws especially in times of nearly full employment, the poor relief could be characterised as being fairly generous.

This changed towards the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century with greater rural poverty especially in Southern England with an expanding day labour casual working force and seasonal unemployment. Some cottage industries such as hat making were more profitable if factory based so less local employment was available.

The overseers were finding it harder to strike a balance between increasing numbers of applicants for poor relief and those levied such as farmers who were finding it harder to operate economically. Many overseers were unable to collect all the rates felt necessary to provide for the assessed poor relief. This exacerbated the problem as many parishes had to deal with a deficit.

The system however did provide a kind of safety net against abject poverty for those who could not work which included the elderly, pregnant, sick and young. It follows that the highest proportion by age were either under 19 or over 60. Any men or women of working age were usually there through sickness, injury or other disabilities.

In order to maintain a level of support which would otherwise be unattainable parishes would adopt outdoor relief through which payments would be made to applicants without them entering the workhouse. It could be four times more expensive to house a person in a workhouse than supporting them at home. Moreover, those at home would be able to take advantage of any work opportunities that may become available.

*(contd.)*



Another group that presented problems were those with mental illness. Although by this time licensed asylums were being set up it cost even more to fund a place there than in a workhouse, so unless the person was considered dangerous the workhouse was a cheaper option.

There was also the issue of vagrants and casual paupers especially for parishes located on the main routes between cities. The parish authorities did not want these folk settling in their parish with the attendant cost and would often take measures to dissuade them from entering and if already present to move them on as quickly as possible.

In the earlier years work schemes were often adopted in parish workhouses but with increasing strains on the system these were found to be less and less cost effective. As an alternative some parishes tried to place inmates with local employers but with only a relatively small proportion of those able to work, these schemes were rarely successful. If, however, the workhouse had space for a kitchen garden this could be a good way to reduce costs and to provide some employment.

There was no standard way for parishes to manage their workhouses. Some would look after them directly while others would contract out the responsibility to a local company for a set fee. Others would employ a salaried official to take charge. This might mean better local control but could be less cost effective.

Surviving records for parish workhouses are patchy at best. Most will have been kept in the parish chest but as with all records the ravages of time will have taken their toll. Many will have been transferred to the appropriate county record office and this is usually the best place to start looking. Sources include vestry minutes, rule books and inventories. Often the diets available are recorded and these tended to be more generous compared with the post 1834 union workhouses. The furnishings were often worn out and quite basic but adequate for their purpose.

What then led to the demise of the parish workhouse around 1830? As previously mentioned, the agricultural depression swept the country and the Swing Riots (against increased mechanisation) took place over the increasing pauperisation of labourers.

*(contd.)*

Poor weather also played its part and with increasing unemployment parishes found it increasingly difficult to maintain adequate measures of relief. One of the grievances of the workers was that the granting of poor relief was not a right in given circumstances but rather as something that may be granted if the overseers deem it to be appropriate.

The result of all this was the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. This removed responsibility for poor law relief from individual parishes and placed it in the hands of Poor Law Unions.

They built much larger workhouses which covered entire districts. These institutions generally had harsher regimes than the parish workhouses they replaced, had fixed entry requirements and the thinking behind them had moved from a support role for the poor to a more deterrent characteristic. They did not want people to enter these places other than as an extreme last resort. The extent to which this worked out is a subject for another day.



Tending, Essex parish workhouse.

*(contd.)*



Stepney Union workhouse

*NB The illustrations show the difference between an early Parish workhouse and the later Union work houses that gathered together and served a collection of parishes.*

*It should also be remembered that those in need were not sent to the workhouse, they elected to go in and they were at liberty to elect to come out as and when they chose.*

# A TALK — HAREFIELD AS AN INDUSTRIAL VILLAGE

*Report by John Symons*

Following our A.G.M. on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 Keith Piercy gave his talk detailing Harefield's industrial history.

Any visitor to Harefield today may well assume that prior to recent housing developments the parish was rural and farming based. Although this is true for many areas parts were in fact quite heavily industrialised and Keith set out this afternoon to show how this came about and the effects on village life.

Although much of Harefield is quite hilly the western side of the parish is mostly flat and noted for its water features. The river Colne flows through here and this led to the establishment of mills that used water power for corn, paper and copper production and some of these date back hundreds of years. Later the Grand Junction Canal (which became the Grand Union Canal) was built adjacent to the river and this opened up the area for easy transport of goods and materials both to London and the Midlands.

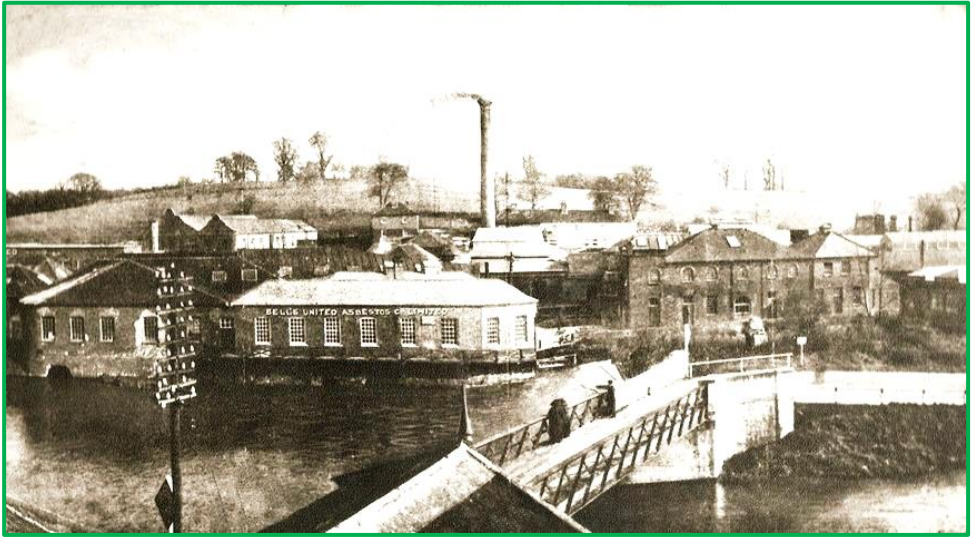
Taken overall the following table, constructed from the censuses and provided by Keith illustrates the comparative numbers of people engaged in agriculture and industry between 1851 and 1881:

Census	1851	%	1861	%	1871	%	1881	%
Agriculture	146	29.9	236	120	120	22.6	151	25.8
Mining/ Industry	194	39.7	146	23.6	188	25.4	203	34.6

From this it is apparent that the numbers engaged in industry are rather more than those engaged in agriculture which refutes conventional wisdom that Harefield was an essentially farming community.

By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century many of the mills had been closed and on their site by the canal the Bells United Asbestos Works was built. This was to become a major source of employment during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (see pictures below)

*(contd.)*



Pictured above is the Bell's asbestos factory alongside the canal and below a group of spinning workers from the factory.



*(contd.)*

By 1911 they employed 119 men and 72 women from the area. This included 54 young women in the age range 14 to 19.

The work included spinning fibres for packing material, braiding yarn into rope, lagging for pipes and boilers and paper making. Houses were provided for some managers.

During the 1930s most of the industrial sites closed. There remains plenty of evidence of what has gone before through place and street names even if physical evidence of the past is in short supply.

Keith was certainly able to offer a different perspective on those times and the changing fortunes that accompanied them.

## HEIR TRACING – THE REAL DEAL

*Report by John Symons*

We had an Online Talk by Kirsty Gray on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Many of us know a little about the business of tracing heirs either through being contacted by a specialist company or watching a television programme such as ‘Heir Hunters’. Here though was an opportunity to hear at firsthand about the ins and outs of the business by Kirsty Gray. Kirsty left her teaching job to set up a heir tracing business “Family Wise” in Calne, Wiltshire some 12 years ago. She is now the CEO of a company with 40 employees and now ranks as one of the major players in this sector.

There are a variety of circumstances that may lead to a need to trace living relatives. Most of the work that comes Kirsty’s way originates from a person who has died intestate, that is, without leaving a will. Although there are set rules about how an estate is to be divided, it is necessary to ascertain who these family members are. Usually this is well-known but sometimes people may have died without anyone knowing whether or indeed if there are living relatives. Such cases get referred to the Government Legal Department who will publicise them through a weekly list known as Unclaimed Estates or ‘Bona Vacantia’.

Firms may then decide to investigate some of the people on the list with the hope of identifying relatives of the deceased in exchange for a percentage share of the payment from the estate allocated to the beneficiaries. This list is freely available on the Internet and anyone can download it and make a claim if entitled to do so.

Those who are entitled to make a claim could be: a parent, child, siblings, uncles, aunts or first cousins and their descendants (that is those who share grandparents with the deceased). If there is no one alive that falls into these categories then the estate will go to the Crown even if there are more distant cousins still alive.

The most important question to be considered is the value of the estate but this is often not known at the outset. The minimum figure is £500 but low value cases such as this will produce minimal income for any investigation. A decision still has to be made and for this the company will employ a variety of methods to locate possible beneficiaries which might include the usual civil registration and censuses that we are familiar with as well as social media, online family trees etc. Once potential beneficiaries have been identified they will be contacted and the company will offer to represent the individual in making a claim for an agreed commission. There is no financial risk to a potential claimant as the commission comes out of any eventual successful claim so that if the claim is not successful there is no charge.

For a claim to be successful you need to prove who you are, by for example a certified birth certificate and your relationship with the deceased, or by for example, a basic family tree. The claims are then submitted to the Government Legal Department. If they agree that the claim looks reasonable, they will provide information about the person or organization that referred the case to them. At this point the likely value and other information will become clear including the nature of the assets which could be property, money or any other type of goods which have an attributable value to them.

Any relation discovered does not have to make a claim if they do not wish to but they have to engage so that their wishes are recorded.

Sometimes the claim involves multiple beneficiaries who may be represented by different companies but only one can act as an Administrator for the estate.

The moral of all this of course is to make sure that you leave a will if you want to avoid these problems and ensure that others know where the will is located. If not, there may be a need for more investigative work for Kirsty's company and others in the field. Kirsty ended by showing many examples of the sort of cases that she has been involved with and their outcomes. It all made for an interesting and informative talk.

## A CALL FOR HELP!

We received the following email and pass it on to the membership for any suggestions that might be useful to Chris:

'I am a qualified London Tour Guide, researching the History of Dogs of London (check out my Instagram page 'Historic Dogs of London'). I give talks to local history societies on this topic and looking at the possibility of writing a book on the topic.

I am writing to ask if you or any of your members are aware of any references to dogs in the borough. This could take the form of a charity, statue, street name, pub name, stained glass, street art, park bench, water fountain etc.

Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to hearing from you

Kind regards, Chris'

The only thing that springs to mind is the Millennium statue that stands outside Uxbridge Underground Station or maybe the Dogs Trust on Harvil Road. If anybody has anything that might help please let us know and/or email Chris on: [chriswburton61@gmail.com](mailto:chriswburton61@gmail.com)



## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

*By Val Fitch*

After the sad passing last year of Patricia Reynolds, our membership secretary, I thought I should introduce myself to all of the membership.

My name is Valerie Fitch and at the A.G.M I was voted in as the new membership secretary. I have been covering Patricia since she became housebound about eighteen months ago but she will be a hard act to follow.

Pat remembered everyone's name together with their membership number, something I think I may struggle with, but I will do my best!

I have been a member of the society for about eighteen years and was librarian until the church restricted our storage by installing a new central heating boiler in the cupboard where the library was kept. We were issued with instructions that no paper could be stored in same space as the boiler! So many of the library books had to go and the few that we kept are mostly local history books. With the reduced library I had more time on my hands and was able to help Pat.

We are pleased to have the following new members, but sorry to lose the following resignations:

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

No.	Name	From
B106	John Beggs	West Drayton
S92	Anita Schramm	Ruislip
M103	Dean Medland	Pinner

*(contd.)*

## RESIGNATIONS – FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

No.	Name
A42	Shirley Aubrey
B39	Jenny Drake
B99	Anita Barry
B102	Lynn Bennett
C64	Peter Chambers
J14	Susan Jones
K29	Sue Kitt
L27	John Lovelock
R42	Ron Roper
T31	Stan Teasdale
W92	Anne White

## 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](mailto: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.
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

<b>*THESE RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE ON CD – ROM *</b>	<b>Cost</b>
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
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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](mailto:gillmay20@btinternet.com)

alternatively visit this on–line bookshop: [www.parishchest.com](http://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 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

**Please note** 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

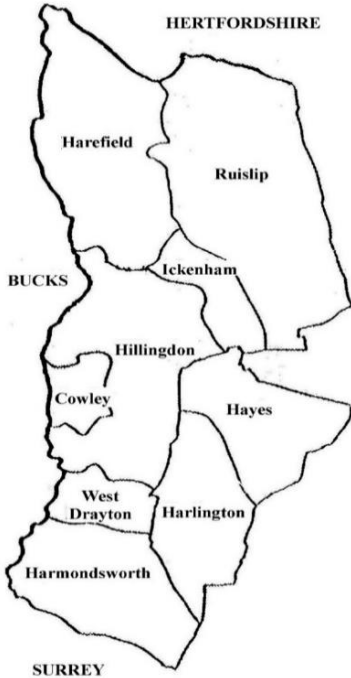
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*Librarian*
- Programme* Anne Moss 20 Churchill Close, Hillingdon  
*Secretary* Middlesex. UB10 0EA 01895 263669
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4 Barrington Drive, Harefield, Middlesex. UB9 6RL
- Journal Editors* John Symons and Alan Rowland

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Email: [enquiries@hfhs.org.uk](mailto: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. V Fitch,  
43 Doncaster Drive, Northolt, Middlesex  
UB5 4AT*