

METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the

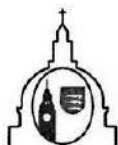
LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX

Family History Society



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April 2012

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CONTENTS

86	Editorial
87	Chairman's Comments
88	Photographs
89	Letters to the Editors
91	Southgate Local Residents
96	Census Returns
101	Wesley's Chapel
104	Shire Publications
106	Website News
109	Jottings
112	AGM Minutes
116	Family Album Mysteries
119	St John Ambulance Brigade
120	Book Review
122	Unwanted Certificates
124	<i>Help!</i>
128	A Map of North London
130	Forthcoming Branch Meetings
132	Map of the Ancient Ecclesiastical Parishes covered by LWMFHS

Cover picture: Wesley's Chapel

© Barbara Haswell

See article on page 101

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EDITORIAL

Our cover photograph shows Wesley's Chapel and was taken at the Society's AGM on a beautiful spring day in March. You can read the Minutes of the AGM on page 112 and a report about how and why Samuel WESLEY built his Chapel on City Road in the late 18th Century on page 101.

This time last year we were all filling out our 2011 Census forms. The 1841-1911 censuses are an invaluable resource to family historians and in this issue of METROPOLITAN we have an article on page 96 detailing what information was collected and when. This will hopefully help you to get the most out of these records. Do you have a story to tell of how the census returns have helped you to solve a family history puzzle? If so, the Editors would love to hear from you.

We would also love to hear from anyone with knowledge of some aspect of family history. Do share your expertise with us and you could help other members of the Society to progress with their own research. Put pen to paper or fingers to a computer and write an article for your journal. It can be just one paragraph or up to three or four pages. METROPOLITAN is your journal and its content relies on input from members.

By coincidence, Southgate features in two articles. One is about two famous local residents and the other about the magazine of the local St John Ambulance Brigade published during World War 2. These old magazines can be a mine of information, filling in details of how people lived and what they were doing.

Is photography another hobby of any of our members? We are collecting together photographs of Parish Churches. These will then be put onto the website to illustrate our parishes section. Please see the article on page 88. Our team of two enthusiasts do not have the time to travel to all the parts of London and Middlesex-not forgetting a little bit of Hertfordshire-and we need your help.

Please note the new postal address for the Editors-see inside the front cover.

The copy date for the next journal is 15 May

The Editorial Team

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

There is good news to report!

The Annual General meeting elections have given the Society a full complement of Officers for the coming year which is a very welcome situation. There is change – a new Chairman; there is continuity – our Secretary remains; there is a newcomer to the Executive Committee – a Treasurer to keep account of our finances after a year when this position has been vacant. Other members of the Committee were re-elected. Everyone is a volunteer who gives some time to help run the Society, using their Family History knowledge and experience together with skills acquired in various other fields.

At the 2010 AGM, held on 20 February at Rayners Lane, members requested a central London venue for 2011 (12 February) to make it easier for out of area members to attend and the numbers increased marginally. Then a March date was recommended to avoid other Family History events which take place in February. This year the numbers definitely increased with the meeting on 3 March in Wesley's Chapel, a central venue which was familiar to many from earlier years.

It was good to see some from south of the River among those who came. The talk *The Happiest Days...The Happiest Days...* as illustrated by Head Teachers' Log Books, by Dr Ron Cox and *Turning your tree into a Tale* by Kathy Chater were both excellent and illuminating.

Perhaps the beginning of March in central London could become a regular fixture. Spring is an appropriate time for an AGM as there is an annual renewal, 'a season when plants spring up and grow' to quote the dictionary and the evidence is around us now. Crocus and daffodil bulbs, dormant through winter but with latent promise, are now realising their potential by flowering and there is a sense of anticipation about.

Similarly the task ahead is to encourage members to do their research well and help the Society to flourish. So, there is a lot to do. By working together we can achieve much.

Rosemary A Roome

PHOTOGRAPHS

Have you seen the photographs on our website?

The Society is beginning to add photographs to the information in our 'Parishes' section of the website. The Parish section is divided into four areas; City of London, Westminster, Hertfordshire and Middlesex. Each area is then divided into its ancient parishes. Our aim is to have a description and photographs for each parish.

Some parishes already have a description and these were taken from various Victorian sources. Although it is interesting to read the old descriptions of the parishes, we are hoping to add more modern information as soon as we can. The main events in our ancestors' lives took place in the Parish Church (baptisms, marriages and burials) and family historians like to have pictures of these to add to their notes.

Over the last few years we have been photographing the City of London Churches. Most of these are on the website (a total of 49 so far) and we now need photos from the rest of our area. This is proving quite a challenge for our small team of two people, so we are asking our members for help.

It is a good time of year for photographing churches. From our experience, churches are often surrounded by trees and in late winter and early spring there are no leaves on the trees (apart from the **yew** trees and conifers which are often planted near churches). People, cars, lorries, buses etc have to be worked around and it is handy to have a friend with you to say "now" when a gap appears and you are busy concentrating on the camera. Sometimes it is just impossible to avoid cars and people.

We have photographed some Hertfordshire/Middlesex Churches (Chipping Barnet, East Barnet, Monken Hadley, Southgate, Clerkenwell, Islington) and the ones we need help with are listed below.

Please look at the Middlesex list opposite and if you live near any of the places, then do think about taking a photo of the Parish Church for us. Many of us now have a small digital camera, so please put it in your pocket and visit your local parish church. The photos need to be of good quality and show as much of the church as possible.

You can send photos to the Editors by email or post (see inside front cover for details) and we will do the rest.

Middlesex Ancient Parish churches to be photographed.

Bloomsbury *St George*
Edgware *St Margaret*
Edmonton *All Saints*
Enfield *St Andrew*
Finchley *St Mary*
Finsbury, *St Luke, Old St*
Friern Barnet, *St James*
Great Stanmore *St John*
Greenford *Holy Cross*
Hampstead *St John, Church Row*
Harefield *St Mary the Virgin*
Harrow *St Mary's*
Harrow Weald *All Saints*
Hendon *St Mary*
Hornsey *St Mary*
Ickenham *St Giles*

Kingsbury *St Andrew*
Little Stanmore *St Lawrence*
Northolt *St Mary the Virgin*
Paddington *St James & St Mary*
Perivale *St Mary the Virgin*
Pinner *St John the Baptist*
Ruislip *St Martin*
St Giles in the Fields
St Pancras Old Church
South Mimms *St Giles*
Tottenham *All Hallows*
Wealdstone *Holy Trinity*
Wembley *St John*
Twyford *St Mary*
Willesden *St Mary*
Wood Green *St Michael*



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

I am a PhD student at Sussex University, studying the social history of Greyhound racing 1926-1951. As London hosted a large number of stadiums during this period I wonder if it is possible that any of your members might have also done some research in this area or might conceivably have had family connections with the greyhound racing world and would be able to share their findings with me.

Denise Marsh, Non-Member

Email: dizzymarsh@hotmail.co.uk

19 Clifton Road, Brighton, BN1 3HN.

I

would like to tell you about our new magazine *Warfare*, which is a free interactive online magazine (produced bi-monthly) covering military history with articles including family and social history. There are competitions, give-aways and readers' offers in each issue as well as regular new release and review features on books, films and computer games. We also have event listings and a regular charity feature.

As well as offering a free magazine we also have an interactive website which offers up-to-date news and an impressive events listing (to which we encourage users to submit events - free of charge). There is also a photo gallery for people to submit their work.

To subscribe, all users need to do is visit the website and enter their name and e-mail address: www.warfaremagazine.co.uk

Mrs Katie Eaton, Warfare Magazine, Non-Member

Amongst some old papers I have come across a photograph of a letter written in 1826 by Thomas HART. He was a convict on board HM prison hulk *Retribution* in Sheerness awaiting transportation to Australia.

The letter starts, 'Dear brother and sister' (presumably he had one of each). It is dated 23 May 1826, so one can only guess that he was born between 1790 and 1810. His crime must have been committed in 1825 or 1826. The only matches I can trace put him in either London or Surrey (Newington) courts.

The letter says the work is very hard. The food is not good and there is very little of it. He asks his brother and sister for help by sending him some money, tea, coffee, bacon etc. He finishes by saying that he will not be troubling them further because he expects to leave on the next ship for Botany Bay.

Unfortunately, it seems the letter was never sent because it was found in an old pumping station in Sheerness dockyard when some new machinery was being installed in 1955. (Presumably he had been working in the dockyard). The condition of the letter is very poor and some parts are missing but enough is readable to understand his plight.

If there are any members of a HART family who think this letter relates to their family research I will gladly send a copy.

R Spencer, Member No. 7534

Everton Cottage, Old Christchurch Road, Everton, Lymington, Hants SO41 0JJ



SOUTHGATE LOCAL RESIDENTS

By Gwen Webb, Member No. 1528

Just over a hundred years ago, Southgate was still a very rural village: a small community surrounded by large estates owned by wealthy merchants and business tycoons. Many were great benefactors not only giving work for the local people but also providing schools, churches, playing fields and village halls.

There are two residents of Southgate in the first half of the 20th Century that I remember well by name. I first became aware of one, probably on the occasion of his death in 1931. This was Sir Thomas LIPTON, known as ‘Tommy’ to the people of Southgate who held him in high esteem. He was one of the great entrepreneurs of his time. Born in Glasgow in 1850 and



growing up there, the only surviving son of Irish immigrants who had escaped the Famine and set up as grocers in a small shop, he was determined to help them from the age of ten, when he left school.

Through hard work and enterprise before he was 15 he had saved enough money to set off for America. Whether working on ships or the plantations of the Southern States or back in New York as an accountant, all these experiences were grist to his mill. Within four years he saved enough for his return to Scotland. On his twenty-first birthday he opened his first shop, full of the ideas and advertising knowledge that he had learned across the Atlantic. Before he reached forty he was owner of a Company of over 40 shops and was already a millionaire.

In 1890 he visited Ceylon, began importing tea and soon added plantations to his business. Thomas's first home in London was at Muswell Hill but by 1893 he moved to *Osidge* in Chase Side, Southgate. The house had been

built almost a century earlier and had been the home of the BOSANQUET family. The estate was of very ancient origin and is mentioned in documents as early as Saxon times with various spellings of the name.

In the 38 years that Tommy lived in Southgate, he tried many times to win the America Cup racing across the Atlantic in his yachts, all called *Shamrock*. He was never successful but remained a popular figure on both sides of the Atlantic because of his sportsmanship and integrity. He was friendly with people in all walks of life from Royalty, including Edward VII, to the common man. He was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1898. He treated all who worked for him well and continued working into his seventies, entertaining at *Osidge* many from the world of big business though he lived modestly and remained a tee-totaller all his life.



Osidge, Chase Side, Southgate

I recently found that a cousin of my mother was once a chauffeur to Sir Thomas who owned several prestigious cars. Also when I was at Oakwood Junior school in the 1930s there was a girl in my class called Mollie

WARENSURAI whose father had been personal servant to Sir Thomas and came from Ceylon. He was married to an English lady and there was also a boy. How I envied Mollie her lovely golden complexion. I remember my mother saying to me that Mr WARENSURAI was “a real gentleman because he always raised his brown trilby hat when he passed by and said Good Morning madam” and have often wondered what happened to them when war disrupted all our lives. It was soon after Sir Thomas’s death that his estate was sold and much of rural Southgate disappeared for ever.

I have memories of shops bearing his name and seeing it on many advertising boards and on buses when I was a child. It is rare to see the name LIPTON in this country today although I have seen it in both USA and Europe.

The house however remains much as it was as I remember it pre-war. It became a memorial Home for Nurses in honour of Tommy’s mother who was President of the Queen’s Nursing Association. I visited a friend there a few years ago and although it was not modernised she found it a pleasant place to recover from illness and the residents seemed happy and content.



The second distinguished resident of ‘old’ Southgate firmly fixed in my memory is Dr Louisa WESTLAKE, fondly referred to simply as ‘Doctor’ by my mother and her contemporaries. In a short booklet dedicated to her memory, entitled *The Story of a Suburban Pioneer Lady* by E Lodge, she is also described as ‘A Victorian Penny’. She was born in Somerset, Sara Louisa PENNY, and completed her medical training at London’s Royal Free Hospital, surely one of the first women to do so. Following her marriage to Vincent WESTLAKE, a solicitor, in 1913, Louisa came to live in Palmers Green. My earliest memory of her around 1930 is at the Mother and Baby Clinic, which was held in the village at St Andrew’s Church Hall, and which was one of her earliest enterprises. Every week the young mothers brought their babies and toddlers to have their health checks: weight and height recorded and an opportunity to discuss problems with Doctor and her helpers. They were all volunteers, long before the NHS was set up. I believe another similar clinic was held at Broomfield House for the mothers in that part of the borough.

Earlier, just before the end of the Great War, my mother Louisa PAYNE was left a young widow with a small baby, her husband having died as the result of being gassed. She received no pension and so found herself in dire circumstances. How she first met her namesake, the Doctor, I do not know. Since leaving school at the age of 12 my mother had been a children's nurse at various locations in the area. She was soon appointed as Nanny to the Westlake's two children, Kathleen and David, who were then living at Ulleswater Road. Maybe it was through a good friend she had made at the Southgate Girls' Club, a girl called Gertrude who was live-in maid for Dr Westlake and who hailed from Norfolk. I have memories of being invited to Ulleswater Road to tea. One of the things that I heard with wonder from my mother, as a small child, was that Doctor insisted on her children eating a crust of dry bread every day so that if they ever came on difficult times it would be no hardship to them. Later, during WW2 I understand that her son, David, who was in the medical corps, became a POW with the Japanese and I feel sure that his mother's foresight would have helped in such difficult circumstances.

I have discovered that the Social Club was another of the Doctor's enterprises. It was set up specifically for girls in Service and a long way from their homes, to give them somewhere to go and with varied interests for their 'time off!'

To quote from *The Story of a Suburban Pioneer Lady* 'She was a born organiser, who had an instinct as to who might be useful in all her newly thought-out schemes, - indeed she had a genius for inspiring others to work'. Doctor was very much influenced by her strong Christian beliefs. Money was raised, a venue was bought and the club was set up. Among its facilities was included a Savings bank, games, a drama group, a sewing class and refreshments were supplied.

I have an early memory of my first experience of seeing a play presented by the girls at the Village Hall (now commemorated only by a plaque on the wall in the High Street) in which 'Auntie Gertrude' and her friend Eva played leading parts. Unfortunately I have no recollection of what the play may have been but it certainly would have been very up-lifting! This amazing lady, along with her husband, worked tirelessly to improve living conditions for the people of the district. Both were active in local

politics all their lives and encouraged other wealthy residents to assist in many ways. In their personal friendships too they enrolled help from Sir Thomas LIPTON and Lord INVERFORTH who resided at Arnos Grove. A small room at Broomfield House museum was dedicated to them, called *The Westlake Room*. I wonder what happened to the treasures it contained?

During WW2 this popular couple became Mayor and Mayoress of Southgate. Many special 'Weeks' were held to raise money for various causes, especially in the schools. As a member of the Sixth Form it was my privilege to take the money raised to the Town Hall where we were graciously received and congratulated by the Mayor and Mayoress who never allowed her profound deafness to intrude on her civic duties.

Once or twice in later years when Gertrude came to visit us I was able to take her and my mother to afternoon tea with Doctor, who was then a widow and living at Whitehouse Court. She loved to talk of old times with them. By this time she had become a Trustee of Thomas LIPTON's House and had been involved in its development as a Home for Retired Nurses in memory of his mother who had been a President of the Queen's Nurses. Dr Louisa was active in setting it up and with its administration for many years and had plans to spend her last years there as a resident. Alas, that was not to be, because, at the age of 91 she was knocked down by a lorry not far from her home near the *Cherry Tree*. She died shortly after from her injuries, a sad end for a lady who had devoted so much of her life to the improvement of life for those less fortunate than herself.

References:

Old Borough of Southgate by Alan Dumayne

A Glimpse of the Past by Alan Dumayne

The Story of Southgate by Tom Mason

STRAY

Elizabeth, the widow of Mr John WAITE of London, deceased aged 83 years, was buried 7 May 1737 at St Mary the Virgin, Saffron Walden, Essex.

CENSUS RETURNS

By Barbara Haswell, Member No. 4224

William the Conqueror ordered the first survey of England in 1086. This took several years to finish, became known as the Domesday Book and gives us an idea of life in Britain during the Norman period. Stored originally with the Royal Treasury at Winchester and then at Westminster Palace and Westminster Abbey, the Domesday Book is now at The National Archives, Kew.

In Tudor and Stuart times, every bishop was supposed to count the families of their diocese in order to provide a population count. By the 18th century, the Government realised that it had no idea how many people lived in Britain and was worried that production of food and other resources would not be enough to supply the growing population. In 1800 the Census Act (or Population Act) was passed and the first official Census of England and Wales was taken on 10 March 1801. A census has continued to be taken every ten years (except in 1941, during WWII, when we were all otherwise occupied!).

The 1931 Census was destroyed on the night of Saturday 19 December 1942. A store in Hayes, Middlesex, used by the Office of Works, caught fire and the contents were completely destroyed. All the records of the 1931 census, schedules and enumeration books, were lost.

The information for the 1801-1831 census returns was collected from every household by the Overseers of the Poor, helped by parish officials. The Government wanted to know the number of people in each area, their sex and age but not their name. Most of these early returns were destroyed but a few survive and can be found in local libraries and archives. Occasionally an enthusiastic parish officer did include some names in his report. Dates for the early census returns are: 10 March 1801; 27 May 1811; 28 May 1821 and 30 May 1831.

The Census Act also covered Scotland where schoolmasters had to do the count. In Ireland the first census was taken in 1821.

The General Register Office (GRO) was formed by Act of Parliament in 1836 to deal with the civil registration of births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales and civil registration began in 1837. In Scotland civil registration began in 1855 and it was the Registrar General for Scotland who was responsible for their 1861 census.

The task of organising the 1841 census returns was given to the first head of the GRO, the Registrar General John LISTER, with local officers of the Registration Service being responsible for the form-filling and counting. Every household was given a form to complete about everyone in the house on the night of 6-7 June 1841. This is the first census that is of value to family historians, although it is less detailed than the later returns. It gives the forename and surname, age and sex of each member of the household, their occupation and birthplace - if they were born in the census county, Scotland, Ireland or another country. Addresses are vague and ages for people over 15 years are rounded down to the nearest five years. Unoccupied houses were also listed.

The population of England and Wales in 1841 is given as 15,914,000.

The population of England and Wales in 1901 is given as 32,527,843.

Census Returns continue to be administered by the Registrar General and were taken on the nights of the following dates:

Date	Reference No.
6 June 1841	HO 107 piece numbers 1-1465 inclusive
30 March 1851	HO 107 piece numbers 1466-2531 inclusive
7 April 1861	RG9
2 April 1871	RG10
3 April 1881	RG11
5 April 1891	RG12
31 March 1901	RG13
2 April 1911	RG14

‘HO’ refers to the Home Office and ‘RG’ the General Register Office – these were the government departments in charge of the collection of census material at the time.

As census returns contain sensitive, personal data there is a closure of 100 years on them. The 1911 census was released online three years early, with details of the last column 'Infirmity' withheld. The information in this column has just been released.

The way we search the Census returns has changed dramatically in the last few years. We are now in the computer age and searches are done online in the comfort of our own home or in a Record Office or a Public Library. The two main sites for searching the census returns are: www.findmypast.co.uk and www.ancestry.co.uk - both being subscription services. The Ancestry site is free to use at Record Offices and libraries.

All the census data from 1841 to 1911 has now been transcribed and indexed. Images of the pages can be viewed on computer and then saved and printed. In order to access the transcriptions and images of the census pages, we have to use the indexes and search by a name.

It is now the indexes that are so important to the researcher and this brings new challenges as the transcriptions can contain errors and we are all beginning to learn new tricks and ways of finding our ancestors names in the indexes.

www.findmypast.co.uk:

Searches on *Findmypast* can be done by name or address. If you are researching the history of your house, using the address option will allow you to find the people living at your address back to 1841.

If the name of a person/family cannot be found, looking at the last known address may find them.

If you want to search all the people in a country village, then using the address option will allow a page by page search. In London, most searches are done by name.

Type name, year of birth (give or take a year or two), where born, residence, country and county into the search boxes. This usually leads to a list of people with that name – choose the one that is most likely and then transcription and image can be seen.

But, if the name in the original census has been transcribed incorrectly then the dreaded red sentences will appear that read '*Your search criteria*

returned 0 results. Please redefine your search' and we sigh and think 'That's rubbish, I KNOW they are there!'

One trick is to keep it simple and start by just entering the name. If this brings up too many pages of names, then narrow down the search results by adding the birth year, the place of birth or the County.

If the red sentences still appear then it is time to tick the 'variants' box or to use the '*' symbol. These cannot be used together.

Tick the variants box and all names that sound or look alike are listed. SMITH would also find SMYTHE. Elizabeth would find Eliza, Elisabeth, Betty, Liz and Bessie etc.

In a wildcard search, the '*' symbol can be used to replace letters. For example, the 'H' of the name HILLING can be mis-transcribed, (Killing, Willing, Filling etc) so try '*illing' in the surname box. Try also 'H*ing' and Holding, Hailing, Harding, Holling and Hutching etc will be listed. Two wildcards can be used, as in '*ollin*' In this case names like Hollings and Collins will be listed. Try and imagine how the enumerator will have heard and written down someone's name.

Tick the variants box or using the '*' plus the birth year and County in the search boxes will help pick out the correct person.

Occasionally names were reversed (this sometimes happened in Institutions) so try putting the last name in the first name field and the first name in the last name field.

Sometimes the full forename was not written down so try using just the initial. Try using the names of other family members.

If the 'Advanced' search is used other criteria can be added, occupation, marital status and another person in the household can also be named.

www.ancestry.co.uk:

The Ancestry website is different. There are no 'variants' boxes and no wildcard searches, so searches of the index are done by filling in names, date of birth, location etc. At the head of the resulting list will be good matches and below are possible matches.

In the end it has to be realised that some pages of census returns are in fact missing. These missing pages are listed on the Findmypast website. From the Home page, click 'Help & Advice', then from the list on left hand side of the page, under 'Knowledge Base' click 1841-1901 census and then click 'known issues'.

Other websites are:

UK Census Online; www.ukcensusonline.com

Genes Reunited; www.genesreunited.co.uk

The Genealogist; www.thegenealogist.co.uk

Society of Genealogists; www.sog.org.uk

Free CEN; www.freecen.co.uk

1841 to 1891 only. The site is free to search and view but is incomplete.

Huntingdonshire Family History Society

THE BIG FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Saturday 21 April 2012 from 10am-4pm
at The Burgess Hall, St Ives, Cambs PE27 6WU

Free entry and free parking

London Westminster & Middlesex FHS will be there
along with other FHSs, various commercial traders
and researchers including Tom Doig,
who will be helping to date any old photos which the public might bring

There will be 4 free lectures
booked on the day on a first come first served basis.
Refreshments will be available

For more information visit: www.huntsfhs.org.uk

WESLEY'S CHAPEL

Our cover photograph for this month shows Wesley's Chapel, which was the venue for our AGM on 3 March 2012.

John WESLEY was born in 1703 in Lincolnshire, the 15th child of Samuel WESLEY and Susanna, née ANNESLEY. John was originally a Church of England cleric but became a founding member of the Methodist movement in 1739, along with his younger brother Charles WESLEY.

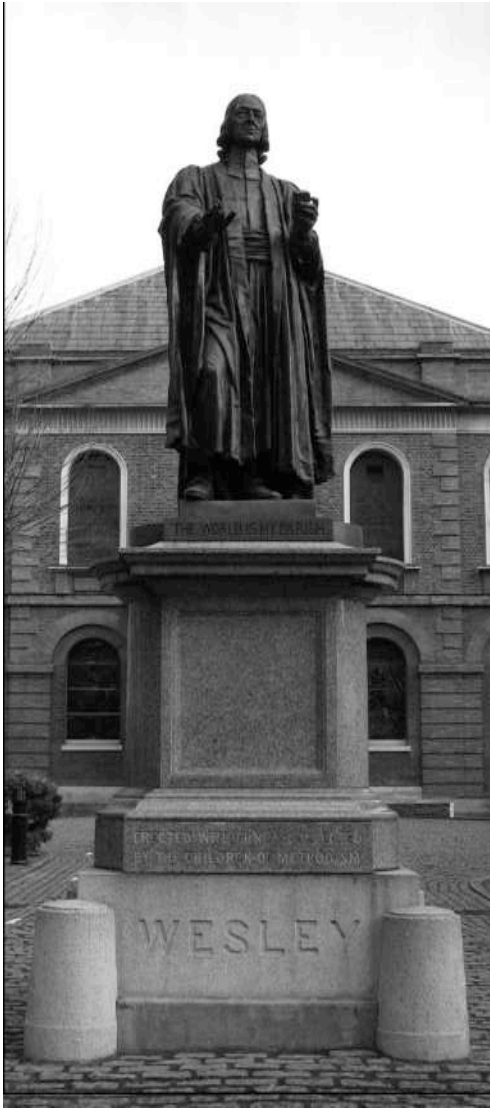
In 1716, during the recasting of some cannon captured from the French by the Duke of Marlborough, there was a massive explosion at the Government Foundry [sic] in Windmill Hill near Moorfields which damaged the building beyond repair (and, indeed, took the lives of several workmen). A new Foundry was built at Woolwich whilst the old building lingered as an unoccupied ruin for many years.

On 11 November 1739, according to his journal, John WESLEY 'preached at 5 in the evening to 7 or 8,000 in the place which had been the King's Foundry for Cannon'. He later bought the lease to the site for £115 and built a chapel there. The Foundry thrived as a preaching house, a distribution centre of clothing for the poor, a surgery and dispensary, bank and school but by 1775, when the lease was up for renewal, the building was beyond economic repair.

So in 1776 John WESLEY applied to the City of London for a site to build a new chapel to replace The Foundry and was granted an area of land about 200 yards away on City Road. After raising considerable funds, on 21 April 1777 the foundation stone was laid, underneath which was buried a brass plate inscribed: 'This was laid by Mr John Wesley on April 21st 1777. Probably this will be seen no more by human eye but will remain there till the earth and the works thereof are burned up.'

The chapel was designed by the architect George DANCE the Younger, who was then the surveyor to the City of London, and built by Samuel TOOTH, a member of the Foundry Society. The opening service took place on All Saints' Day, 1778. The building has Grade I listed status and is a fine example of Georgian architecture, although inevitably it has seen

some changes over the years. The original pillars supporting the gallery were ships' masts donated by George III. In 1864 the gallery was modernised, with the front being lowered and raked seating installed and in



1891 the wooden pillars were replaced by French jasper ones, donated from Methodist Churches overseas. The site also houses one of the few surviving examples of a Gentleman's Convenience built in 1891 by the renowned sanitary engineer Josiah George JENNINGS (whose most famous sanitary installations were for the Great Exhibition in the Retiring Rooms of the Crystal Palace).

John WESLEY also built a house for himself next to the chapel. He lived in the house, which is also Grade I listed, for the last eleven years of his life. He died there on 2 March 1791 and was buried at the chapel a week later. His tomb is in the garden to the rear of the chapel, where he is buried with six of his preachers, his sister Martha HALL and his doctor and biographer, Dr John WHITEHEAD.

In 1972 the Chapel was found to be structurally unsafe and had to be closed. Between 1972 and 1978 nearly £1 million was raised to save the Chapel from demolition and restore it to its

former glory. On 1st November 1978, exactly 200 years after Wesley opened the Chapel, the restored building was re-opened in the presence of HM Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Museum of Methodism opened in 1984 in the crypt of Wesley's Chapel and it covers the history of Methodism from John WESLEY to the present day, including a large collection of ceramic items, some fine paintings and Wesley's original pulpit.

John WESLEY's house, which was built in 1779, is one of London's finest surviving examples of a small Georgian townhouse. It contains many of John Wesley's belongings and furniture, including his electrical machine and his study chair. His small Prayer Room, just off his bedroom, is considered by Methodists all over the world to be the Power House of Methodism.

House and Chapel are both open to the public and free to visit. For more information visit www.wesleyschapel.org.uk

Of further interest to family historians at Wesley's Chapel is a microfilmed copy of the Wesleyan Methodist Historic Roll. In 1898 the Wesleyan Church launched an appeal to raise One Million Guineas from One Million Wesleyans (even though membership of the Church at that time was approximately 420,000) to finance a huge programme of evangelical work and social action and to build a headquarters building in the heart of London to be the world centre of Wesleyan Methodism. The donors, more than 1,025,000 in the end, were asked to write their names and addresses on special pages which were eventually bound together into the 50 volumes of the Historic Roll. The original books are housed at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, which was financed by the fund.

Records specifically from Wesley's Chapel, including Visitors' Books from 1928-1995, flyers and posters of Chapel events from 1899-1985 and much more are held at London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, Clerkenwell, London EC1R 0HB, along with records from the City Road and other local Methodist Circuits. You can search the LMA catalogues online (not for personal names but for specific archive collections) at: http://search.lma.gov.uk/opac_lma/index.htm

SHIRE PUBLICATIONS and Old House Books and Maps

In 2012 Shire Publications proudly announced that Old House Books and Maps had been added to the Shire family. Old House specialises in publishing facsimile copies of out of print books and maps published in the 18th and 19th centuries. Following on the popular television programme *Great British Railway Journeys* (narrated by Michael Portillo) the most popular Old House Publication is a facsimile copy of Bradshaw's *Tourist Handbook 1883*, which was published in 2012 by public demand. 2012 is an important year for Shire who are also celebrating their Diamond Jubilee.

A list of both Shire Books and Old House Maps available from the Bookstall Manager is appended. Maps are in full colour and supplied in a handy wallet to slip into a bag or briefcase. Because of individual sizes and weights the books listed give number of pages, size and weight.

Old House Maps and Books:

City of London Map 1520 OHM01

London Poverty Map 1889: East (Booth's) OHM04

London Poverty Map 1889: West (Booth's) OHM05

Bookstall £9.99; UK £11.00; Europe: £11.65; Rest of World £12.40

London Street Map 1843 OHM02

Bacon's London Map 1902 OHM03

Bookstall £9.99; UK £10.75; Europe £11.50; Rest of World £12.20

Baedeker's Guide to London and its Environs: 1900 OHB01

Illustrated throughout, 451 pp plus maps and illustrations.

Hardback. 65cm x 12cm x 5cm, 606gms

Bookstall £15.99; UK £18.00; Overseas postage on application

Murray's Modern London 1888 OHB02

310 pp Indexed. Hardback. 80cm x 11cm x 4cm. 412gms

Bookstall £13.99; UK £15.50; Overseas postage on application

Dickens Dictionary of London 1888 OHB03

270pp, Hardback, 80cm x 14cm x 3cm. 412gms

Bookstall £12.99; UK £14.50; Overseas postage on application

Bradshaw's Handbook 1863 OHB04
 101pp plus 16pp of maps, 18.5cm x 14cm x 4.5cm, 510gms
 Bookstall £10.00; UK £11.90; Overseas postage on application.

Shire Publications

The Gunpowder Industry by Glenys Crocker SL169
The Home Front by Guy De La Bedoyer SL400
The WAAF by Beryl E Escott SL422
 Bookstall £4.99; UK £6.20; Europe £6.99; Rest of World £7.75

ARP and Civil Defence in the Second World War by Peter Doyle SL581
British Military Rifles by Peter Duckers SL445
British Soldier of the First World War by Peter Doyle SL471
British Soldier of the Second World War by Peter Doyle SL569
Evacuees of the Second World War by Mike Brown SL507
The Home Guard by Neil Storey SL547
Prisoner of War in Germany by Peter Doyle SL473
Wartime Childhood by Mike Brown SL567
 Bookstall £5.99; UK £7.20; Europe £7.90; Rest of World £8.75

The Battle of Britain by Neil R Storey SL641
British and Commonwealth War Cemeteries by John Summers SL596
The Blitz by Peter Doyle SL606
The District Nurse by Susan Cohen SL609
The National Serviceman by Peter Doyle and Paul Evans SL644
RAF Bomber Crewmen by Jonathan Falconer SL602
Railways in Wartime by Tim Brian SL647
The Victoria Cross by Peter Duckers SL447
Victorian Factory Life by Trevor May SL496
Royal Jubilees by Judith Millidge (new May) SL698
Winston Churchill by Kevin Theakston (new May) SL642
The London Olympics by Jane Hampton (new May) SL662
 Bookstall £6.99; UK £8.20; Europe £8.90; Rest of World £10.40

Wartime Britain 1939-1945 by Mike Brown SLH09
 Bookstall £8.99; UK £10.25; Europe/Rest of World on application

WEBSITE NEWS

Deceased Online

One question often asked is ‘Where was my ancestor buried?’ It is a question that has been very difficult to answer as there is no central repository for information about burials and cremations. The UK has around 3000 burial authorities and 250 crematoria each of which would have to be approached on an individual basis, as each independently holds its own registers. Now a pay-per-view website is hoping to change this. Deceased Online was launched in July 2008 as a central database of statutory burial and cremation registers for the UK and Republic of Ireland. It is helping burial and cremation authorities around the country to convert their register records, maps and photographs into digital form and bring them together into a central searchable collection. This, of course, does not include church burial records.

Searching is free and can be restricted as required to country, region, county, or individual burial authority or crematorium. The database holds records from the 1850s onwards and is growing all the time. A page shows recently added information which, from our area, includes hundreds of thousands of records from the Boroughs of Camden and Islington added this year. Depending on what has been provided by the originating authority, you can pay to view further information which might include digital scans of register pages, grave details and other interments in a grave (which could help make family connections!), pictures of graves and more. In order to access this additional information you must register with the site and then buy credits. £3 buys 30 credits but you could use this all up on just one person, as I did. It only allowed me to view a scan of the Burial Register (which gave details of the deceased’s age and address) and the names of 27 other people interred in the same grave, none of whom, in this case, were related to the deceased.

Notwithstanding this, the site is a very useful resource and as more information is added it will become increasingly so. You can find it on: www.deceasedonline.com

Coincidentally, Hilary Holt, Member No. 7581 recently emailed the Editors about this website: ‘Many thanks for the item on LWMFHS website about St Pancras and Islington Cemetery records having been added to Deceased Online. I registered with the database, and found records for two of my

ancestors. A map of the cemetery can be downloaded free of charge from the St Pancras and Islington Cemetery website at:

http://www.islington.gov.uk/Environment/cemeteries/stpancras_cemetery.asp?utm_content=%28direct%29%28none%29.

If a map is available on Deceased Online the charge for viewing and downloading it is currently 50 credits, costing £5.'

Essex Ancestors

Although Essex is not within our area at LWMFHS, many of us will have had ancestors who have migrated to London from this area, so it is worth informing you of this website. Also, London residents often married, died and gave birth in Essex parishes: all of the snippets in this issue were gleaned from this website.

Essex Ancestors is an exclusively online service from the Essex Record Office (ERO) offering images of genealogical records, mainly Parish Registers, in return for a subscription. It was launched in 2011 as a way of raising money to sustain and improve their services and in particular to support continued growth in the number of images available from the ERO online.

Essex Ancestors currently covers two types of records: Church of England parish registers deposited in the ERO. These registers, from over 400 parishes, cover almost the whole of the present county of Essex, including Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock, and also parts of north-east London that used to be in Essex. For a few parishes the registers go back to 1538, when parish registers were introduced, but in most cases the surviving registers start somewhere between the late 16th and early 18th centuries. Essex Ancestors includes images of all deposited registers of baptisms, marriages and burials up to 1837, together with post-1837 registers from parishes A-F (excluding marriage registers after 1957). Currently there are about 277,000 images available. Post-1837 registers from parishes G-W are being added.

Essex Ancestors also includes images of some original wills from Essex and eastern Hertfordshire, 1441-1720. These come mainly from a single court of probate, run by the Bishop of London's Commissary in Essex and Hertfordshire. Images of pre-1720 wills from other local courts, and of wills from all the local courts for the period 1720-1858, will be added later. Subscriptions range from £5 for 24 hours to £75 for 365 days.

SEAX, the online catalogue, is free to view so you are able to see if a particular Register has online images yet before parting with any money.

Gravestone Photos

This site was set up in 1998 to photographically record grave monuments and make the information they contain publically available via the internet. The project initially started in East Anglia where its creator, Charles Sale, was based. He indexed both church and municipal cemeteries in Norfolk and Suffolk as well as a number of other counties to start with. Other volunteers have extended the scope of the project which now covers other counties as well as 19 countries beyond England. The images are all taken by volunteers and this means that it is free to use. The database is very easy to use and currently contains over 28,000 different surnames from 1325 cemeteries. Thanks to Ann LEE, Member, No 7138 for letting us know about this website, which can be found at: www.gravestonephotos.com

British and Irish Genealogy Blogspot

British & Irish Genealogy (BI-Gen) has several strands which the author, Mick Southwick, felt were not covered adequately elsewhere on the Web. These strands are: News, which contains major news stories from the world of family history across Britain and Ireland coupled with links to the main information streams (this includes online newsletters and blogs for many interesting websites); Directory of Services which has lengthy listings of organisations and individuals who provide a commercial service of some kind to family historians; Fun, which has entertaining stories and snippets from the world of genealogy and Stuff for Sale/Wants in which one can offer (or request) books, microfiche, CDs and so on.

A monthly Newsletter, compiled from the blog entries, details what's happening in the world of family history, with updates from the major pay-per-view sites, TNA, and many other sources – anywhere, in fact, that may contain information of interest to the genealogist. Definitely worth a browse, this site can be found at: www.bi-gen.blogspot.com

If you have found a useful website perhaps you would consider writing a short review for METROPOLITAN or let the Editors know of it? See inside the front cover for email and postal addresses.



CHAPMAN COUNTY CODES

England, Wales and Scotland

Before 1974

When you send in your Members' Interests you should use the Chapman County codes shown below.

These codes, devised by Colin Chapman for the Federation of Family History Societies in the 1970s, were designed to give each county its own unique three-letter code for easy identification and are used by all family historians.

ENG	England	SAL	Shropshire	ANS	Angus
BDF	Bedfordshire	SFK	Suffolk	ARL	Argyllshire
BKM	Buckinghamshire	SOM	Somerset	AYR	Ayrshire
BRK	Berkshire	SRY	Surrey	BAN	Banffshire
CAM	Cambridge	SSX	Sussex	BEW	Berwickshire
CHS	Cheshire	STS	Staffordshire	BUT	Bute
CON	Cornwall	WAR	Warwickshire	CAI	Caithness
CUL	Cumberland	WES	Westmoreland	CLK	Clackmannanshire
DBY	Derbyshire	WIL	Wiltshire	DFS	Dumfriesshire
DEV	Devon	WOR	Worcester	DNB	Dunbartonshire
DOR	Dorset	YKS	Yorkshire	ELN	East Lothian
DUR	Durham	ERY	Yks East Riding	FIF	Fife
ESS	Essex	NRY	Yks North Riding	INV	Inverness-shire
GLS	Gloucestershire	WRY	Yks West Riding	KCD	Kincardineshire
HAM	Hampshire			KKD	Kirkcudbrightshire
HEF	Herefordshire	WLS	Wales	KRS	Kinross-shire
HRT	Hertfordshire	AGY	Anglesey	LKS	Lanarkshire
HUN	Huntingdonshire	BRE	Brecknockshire	MLN	Midlothian
IOM	Isle of Man	CAE	Caernarvonshire	MOR	Moray
IOW	Isle of Wight	CGN	Cardiganshire	NAI	Nairnshire
KEN	Kent	CMN	Carmarthenshire	OKI	Orkney Isles
LAN	Lancashire	DEN	Denbighshire	PEE	Peebleshire
LEI	Leicestershire	FLN	Flintshire	PER	Perthshire
LIN	Lincoln	GLA	Glamorgan	RFW	Renfrewshire
LND	London	MER	Merionethshire	ROC	Ross & Cromarty
MDX	Middlesex	MGY	Montgomeryshire	ROX	Roxburghshire
NBL	Northumberland	MON	Monmouthshire	SEL	Selkirkshire
NFK	Norfolk	PEM	Pembrokeshire	SHI	Shetland Isles
NTH	Northamptonshire	RAD	Radnorshire	STI	Stirlingshire
NTT	Nottinghamshire			SUT	Sutherland
OXF	Oxfordshire	SCT	Scotland	WLN	West Lothian
RUT	Rutland	ABD	Aberdeenshire	WIG	Wigtownshire

JOTTINGS

Haringay Local History Fair

This was our first visit to this annual event since 2010 due to it being held in 2011 on the same day as the Society's AGM.

Not wishing to be late I left home loaded up with books, maps etc and set off for Bruce Castle Museum. The roads were clear and I arrived at 9.30am, well before the scheduled opening time for exhibitors. However, shortly after my arrival another lady arrived. Finding the back door to the museum locked she went to the front door of the museum and soon after the back door was opened.

Meanwhile I had most of the books, conveniently transported in carriers of a manageable size, outside the back door which was opened by a member of the museum staff. Concerns about carrying everything up three flights of stairs on my own proved groundless as a kind member of the Archives, whose name I omitted to ask and for which I apologise, transported everything up to the room scheduled for local history societies etc and, consequently, I had set up before any of the other exhibitors had arrived.

As in previous years we (Joan and Bill Pyemont and yours truly) had a successful day with sales up on 2010. Sadly Fred Carter could not be with us this year. Fred is in hospital having undergone major surgery. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Anne Prudames, Bookstall Manager

East India Company

A new, permanent gallery which explores the history and continuing relevance of Britain's trade with Asia through the story of the East India Company has recently opened at the Royal Museums, Greenwich, Romney Road, London SE10 9NF.

Established by a group of London merchants, the East India Company was given its first royal charter by Elizabeth I and during its 250-year history took on pirates, princes and rival traders in its pursuit of profit. The show examines the commodities traded by the Company, the people that shaped it, and the conflicts and rebellions that were its ultimate undoing. Objects on display include Japanese, Chinese and Burmese swords, models of ships and navigational instruments, Nelson's Japan-pattern breakfast service, Victoria Crosses awarded during the Indian Mutiny and journals kept by Company sailors.

Titanic

Also at the Royal Museums, Greenwich, the centenary of the sinking of RMS Titanic is marked with an exhibition (on until 30 September) highlighting the stories of some of those who survived the disaster. Whilst Walter LORD was researching his 1955 book *A Night to Remember* he gathered letters, photographs and personal objects which form the basis of this exhibition. Artefacts on display include a woollen cape worn by Elizabeth MELLENGER during the disaster, a whistle which was reportedly used by survivors clinging to Lifeboat B and slippers worn by Edith RUSSELL, along with a musical toy pig which she used to entertain children in Lifeboat 11.

The National Archives (TNA) is also marking the anniversary by hosting a new page on their website. You can search their passenger and crew lists for free, by name, occupation or place and then download an image of the original, also for free. There are stories from survivors, a Titanic timeline, podcasts, Titanic in number (did you know that there were 36,000 oranges on board) and more. To access this webpage please visit: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Family History Fairs and Open Days

Apart from the Huntingdon Family History Fair on 21 April (see page 100) and the Buckinghamshire FHS Open day on 28 April (see page 123) LWMFHS will also have a stand at the following two events this year:

- West Surrey Family History Society Family History Fair and Open Day, on Saturday 3 November 2012 from 10am-4pm at Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking GU22 9BA.
- West Middlesex Family History Society Open Day on Sunday 23 September 2012 from 10am-4pm at The White House Community Centre, 45 The Avenue, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 3RN.

For any readers who might be near Shrewsbury, the Shropshire Family History Society Open Day and Fair Saturday is taking place on 26 May 2012 from 10am-4pm at The Shirehall, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND. Admission is £3 and there is free parking. Although LWMFHS will not be there, our President, Michael Gandy, will be speaking about *Records for the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century*.

Charles Dickens

To mark the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Dickens, a website has been set up to bring together all the myriad of events celebrating this occasion. Dickens 2012 includes events from round the whole world.

A few from our area are guided walks of *Charles Dickens's Clerkenwell* led by London Metropolitan Archives in April, a *Dickens and Childhood* conference at the V&A Museum of Childhood in June, an exhibition on *Dickens and Music* at the Royal Academy of Music (on all summer) and *Dickens' Women in London* performed by Miriam Margoyles at Artsdepot, North Finchley on 23-24 June.

Listed are exhibitions, festivals, performing arts, film, TV and radio. For more information about what's on visit: www.dickens2012.org

Trade Cards

Westminster City Archives has a large trade card collection and a selection of these can be viewed in their online exhibition gallery at: <http://www.westminster.gov.uk/services/libraries/archives/gallery/>

It includes cards by W CRIBB of 34 King Street, Covent Garden who provided house painting, carving and gilding, print selling and more in the 18th Century, Cary BOUCHER, Mercer of King Street and Peter CHASSEREAU, Surveyor at the Cecil Street Coffee House on the Strand. If your ancestor was in trade this collection could be a way of finding more about them.

Photographs at the V&A

A new gallery at the Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL has been dedicated to displaying examples from its collection of photographs. Currently on show are Victorian portraits by Julia Margaret CAMERON, a daguerreotype from 1839 of Parliament Street from Trafalgar Square and much more. Displays will change every 18 months.

STRAYS

William BARRETT of the Parish of St Alban, Wood Street, London, bachelor married Henrietta BANNETT of this parish, spinster on 22 March 1771 at All Saints, West Ham, Essex

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

The following are the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the above Society held on 3 March 2012 in the Radnor Hall, Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU.

Our President, Michael Gandy, BA, FSG, took the chair and welcomed 31 members.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:- Brian Green, Elizabeth Burling, Margaret Paine, Peter & Mo Baker, Arthur Parker, Fred Carter, Hilary Holt, Alan Baldwin, Betty Howat, Marjorie Briges, Barbara Hubbarde, Margaret Irvine, Peter & Pat Marsh, Joan Mullord, Glynice Smith, Dorothy & Marjorie Stevens and Stanley Rondeau.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the AGM held on 12 February 2011 were taken as read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING

The Committee had acted upon the recommendation made last year under Any Other Business, that the AGM should in future be held later, preferably in March, to avoid clashing with other Family History events that regularly take place in February.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

The Chairman's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN December 2010. Bill added that he has negotiated with Townsweb Archiving for our microfiche to be digitised at a cost of £421.20, which will allow them to be sold in a modern format and be put on the Members' area of the website.

The Secretary's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN December 2010. There was nothing to add.

There was no Treasurer's Report

THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

As there was no Treasurer there were no Annual Accounts, but a statement showing the Society's financial situation as at 1 October 2011 was circulated prior to the meeting. This showed a deficit of just over £2000 for the year on the current account, due mainly to loss of members.

Our President pointed out that many researching their family history will start in the London area but soon discover that their ancestors originated from other counties and move their membership. Also many of the archives for our area (e.g. at LMA) are now online.

Bill was thanked for 'holding the fort' in the absence of a Treasurer.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

a) Chairman:- Two nominations had been received for the post:

Rosemary Roome, nominated by Elaine Tyler; seconded by Elizabeth Burling

Tricia Sutton, nominated by Margaret Paine; seconded by William Pyemont.

Tellers were appointed to conduct a secret ballot and Rosemary Roome was duly elected.

b) Secretary: Tricia agreed to continue as Secretary and was duly re-elected

c) Treasurer: There was one nomination:-

April Vesey: - nominated by William Pyemont; seconded by Tricia Sutton

When asked, April said that she was willing and able to fulfil the duties of Treasurer. She was duly elected nem. con.

ELECTION OF OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS (en bloc)

Our President read out the list of the Branch Chairmen and Representatives who are all willing to continue on the Executive Committee:

Barnet Branch	Rosemary Roome
City Branch	Barbara Haswell
Enfield Branch	Lilian Gibbens
Rayners Lane Branch	Doreen Heywood
Wembley Branch	William Pyemont

Our Membership Secretary, Anne Prudames, and Projects Co-ordinator, Elaine Tyler, were re-elected, nem. con.

It was pointed out that Branches are responsible for deciding who should represent them at the Executive Committee meetings and one member of

the Editorial Team (Rosemary A Roome, Elizabeth Burling, Barbara Haswell) also attends.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Bill Pyemont suggested that there should be an opportunity for members to vote by post or by proxy at Annual General Meetings. There was considerable discussion on this. It was pointed out that only items previously advised in the Journal could be voted on by post, but it might be possible to appoint a proxy to vote at the meeting. Our President said the 2012 AGM had no power to institute such a change in the Constitution and suggested that members should make their feelings known in writing to the Secretary. If there was sufficient call for a change to the Constitution, then this could be brought to the next AGM and possibly implemented for the following one.

2. Bill proposed that our former Treasurer of many years, Mr. J. Brian Green, be given Life Membership of the Society. This suggestion was welcomed and approved by the meeting. Our President said that the award of Honorary Life Membership was in the remit of the Executive Committee and he suggested that it should look at the list of Honorary Life Members to consider whether anyone else may have been overlooked and should be given this honour. He wondered whether there should be a limit on the number.

3. Tricia read out this statement: 'The Executive Committee has agreed that Honorary Life Membership should be conferred on William and Joan Pyemont in recognition of their many years of outstanding service to the Society'. She reminded the meeting of Bill and Joan's work in the former Westminster & Central Middlesex Society prior to amalgamation, their subsequent service as Joint Secretaries and more recently as Chairman and Secretary. Tricia also personally thanked Joan for her continuing role as Programme Organiser for Rayners Lane and Wembley Branches.

Joan was presented with a bouquet of flowers and Bill was given a Book Token.

In her closing remarks the incoming chairman, Rosemary Roome, pointed out that the Constitution referred to Honorary Membership but the term Life Membership has been recently used. However, this is not like life

membership of The National Trust which has to be paid for. As the AGM started there were 13 Honorary Life Memberships. She ended by commenting that donations are, of course, always welcome from anyone.

Our President formally closed the meeting at 4.10 pm.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial situation as at 1 October 2011

Balance Brought forward at 1 October 2010	£2,484.68
Receipts of money paid in, including membership up until 30 September 2011	£10,641.49
subtotal	£13,126.17
Money Paid out from 1 October 2010 until 30 September 2011	£12,797.56
Balance Carried forward at 30 September 2011	£328.61
Deposit account as at 1 October 2010	£22,750.21
Our deposit account earned interest @ 0.07% throughout the year	£12.75
Deposit account balance at 30 September 2011	£22,762.96

William Pyemont

FAMILY ALBUM MYSTERIES

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

In my great grandparents' photograph album is this picture of George and Frank BOSWELL. I know their names because when my father was a little boy he went through the album with his grandma and wrote on all the names she could still remember, which was by no means all of them!

However, the BOSWELL boys are not in my family tree. Who could they be and why do we have a picture of them? I set out to investigate these questions.

My great grandfather, Edmund Richard HAYNES was born on 5 February 1857 at St James' Street, Daventry, Northants. By 1881 he was in London, working as a domestic servant at 23 St James' Square, Westminster. My great grandma, Alice Sophia WILLEY was born on 18 November 1861 at 8 Glasgow Terrace, Pimlico.

The couple married on 23 July 1894 at the Parish Church of St John, Kilburn; both were living at 166 Willesden Road, according to their marriage certificate.



Many of the photographs in the album are dated before 1894 and are from both sides of the family, so the album must have been compiled of pictures from the Victorian equivalent of a 'shoebox'.

Back to the BOSWELLS. The boys look near in age and, perhaps, 4 or 5 years old. Often the back of photographs can give us clues as to when the image was taken. The back of this one (pictured below) shows that it was taken by Hellis & Sons, who operated out of many addresses, the head office being in Regent Street. According to Michael Pritchard's book *A Directory of London Photographers 1841-1908* Robert HELLIS was working from this address from about 1890.



It seemed reasonable to start my search for the boys with the 1891 census. I began by looking for a George BOSWELL born 1888 +/- 3 years, which instantly produced a dozen or so boys to look at.

George and Frank turned out to be twins. (This was confirmed by the fact that they both have the same Registration Number in the GRO Birth Indexes for the March quarter of 1886.) In 1891 they were 5 years old, living at home with father William BOSWELL, a 40-year-old Manager of Beer Stores, mother Jane aged 43, elder brothers William aged 12, Edward aged 9 and uncle Frederick LAYCOCK, Bar Assistant aged 24.

What really caught my eye was their address: 166 Cambridge Road, Willesden – the address my great grandparents had married from. Indeed, in 1891 and sharing this address was my great-grandma, Alice S WILLEY,

Dressmaker aged 28, her brother Edward, a Horsekeeper aged 32 and their widowed mother Ann, Dressmaker's assistant, aged 59.

The families obviously got on well because William BOSWELL senior was a witness at my great grandparents' wedding.

In the 1901 census the BOSWELLS are still at 166 Cambridge Road and George is employed as a Factory Boy. Another two households are sharing the address; Edmund and Alice HAYNES, along with her mother and brother had moved to Preston Gardens, Willesden.

According to the 1911 census, the BOSWELLS have moved to 64a Salisbury Road, Willesden and George and Frank are still living with their parents and elder brother Edward. George is an Electrical Wirer and Frank works as a Barman.

Whether my family and the BOSWELLS ever saw each other again I do not know but I sometimes wonder if there is a Boswell family album somewhere with a picture of my great grandparents in it.

STRAYS

Charles Cadell ELDRIDGE, son of the Revd Charles Lucas ELDRIDGE and Joanna his wife, born 19 February 1795 in the Parish of St George, Bloomsbury in London and privately baptised there and publicly received into the Church of this Parish on 21 of June 1795, at St Germain, Bobbingworth, Essex.

Mary RICHARDS of St James's, Westminster was buried 17 April 1755 at Quendon, Essex. Michael, the son of the above Mary RICHARDS, an Infant, was buried 22 April at the same place.

Joseph WILLIS of St Mary le Bow, London and Sarah LUTMAN of St Lawrence Jewry, London, both single, were married 4 September 1720 at Little Laver, Essex.

ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE

By Daphne Johnson, Member No. 4545

The Divisional Review, the official magazine of the Southgate Ambulance and Nursing Divisions of the St John Ambulance Brigade, was published monthly during the Second World War. The Divisions it catered for were: 118 (Southgate) Ambulance Division; 74 (Finchley and Southgate) Nursing Division; 91 (Palmers Green) Nursing Division; 98 (Michenden) Nursing Division. The magazine was 'devised to keep in touch with our absent members now scattered all over the world'.

During the War, complimentary copies were sent to members serving in the armed forces and they were encouraged to write back, their letters being published in future issues. Latest developments were detailed; the Divisional Surgeon and others wrote articles to 'keep all First Aid abreast with scientific progress.' Members' contributions included articles in prose and verse, often witty and amusing. In its praise, the *Review* was described as, 'happily mingling humour with exhortation and instruction'.

The *Review* was received with much enthusiasm; there are many letters showing great appreciation, particularly from those members stationed abroad. They describe how much they eagerly looked forward to the magazine's arrival. Writing in April 1941, AC2 DW DANIEL expresses his gratitude,

"I think it's a magnificent effort; devoured every word of it, including the adverts., and then felt homesick for routine examination, competitions, exercises and the Black and White uniform."

Similarly, in September 1944, Cpl A CANTOR describes how it is,

"keeping the 118th united and in touch with each other, and perpetuates the fine esprit-de-corps among us all".

There are descriptions of treatment of casualties at home and abroad. Many of the members are using their St John first aid training by serving in the armed forces medical corps. On the battlefronts, there are descriptions of Mobile Units, the Friends Ambulance Unit, Surgical Units, Field Dressing Stations and Casualty Clearing Stations.

There are anxieties over members reported missing and sad obituaries. Some members are held in Prisoner of War camps. There is jubilation at the news of the end of the War in Europe and Japan, the happy anticipation of returning home, the longing to “see old faces again”, “to return to the 118th fold”. Members request a reunion dinner is arranged, “how grand the reunion will be”.

There is a set of these magazines in the Imperial War Museum. I also have a full set of the 4 volumes covering the years 1941 to 1944 and about half of 1945. If you are conducting private research and think a family member might have written an article for the magazine, please contact me and I will endeavour to provide more information.

These details can be seen on my Website by clicking through from my home page: <http://www.daphnejohnson.btinternet.co.uk/>

You will find there also a link for contacting me by email.
email: daphne.johnson@btinternet.com



BOOK REVIEW

Welsh Harp Reservoir Through Time by Geoffrey Hewlet, published by Amberley Publishing, ISBN 978-1-4456-0640-8
Price: £14.99 Bookstall; £16.50 UK; £17.60 Europe; £19.30 Rest of World

The Welsh Harp Reservoir is situated on the border between the London Boroughs of Brent and Barnet and is very visible from the North Circular Road and of course is in our Society area. Geoffrey Hewlet has brought the history of The Welsh Harp fully into focus in his new book *Welsh Harp Reservoir Through Time*.

He explains how the Reservoir took its name from the public house that stood on the Edgware Road with details of the pub and publicans. The book is full of pictures many in colour supported by an in depth description of the various activities that have taken place throughout its varied history right through to the present day.

The many pursuits that have taken place are described from sailing, fun on the ice, Horse Racing, Greyhound Racing, Fishing and Angling. There is mention of the once famous Brent (formerly Willesden) Regatta. For those interested in carriage driving there is a delightful picture from 1895 entitled "four in hand on the ice at the Welsh Harp Hendon". Wrestling and shooting are two more pursuits mentioned. The whole site is an important wildlife haven and there is much for the ornithologist with early interest triggered by Frederick Bond who was a Kingsbury resident and founder of the *Zoologist* magazine and he was not alone as is revealed in the book.

How many people who know the area today are aware of the various military experiments that have taken place on and in the reservoir during the two world wars? We are reminded of the thriving aircraft industry at Hendon, Kingsbury and Cricklewood also the Mechanical Warfare Department based at nearby Dollis Hill who made use of the Reservoir.

Geoff gives a taste of some of the old songs from the middle of the 19th century, both music and words are provided. This beautifully illustrated book will not fail to please anyone whatever their interest be it local, social, or natural history, sailing, water sports, ice skating, clay and indoor shooting, Military History and the early days of flying and all the fun of the music hall and fair ground. Transport enthusiasts are catered for as well.

Bill Pyemont

DID YOU KNOW?

You can now email the Bookstall Manager on:
sales@lwmfhs.org

STRAYS

Mrs Mary JEFFREYS of the Parish of St George Hanover Square was buried 28 October 1779 at Quendon, Essex.

UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

Janet Hewitt Winch, Member No. 7643, has the following unwanted certificates. Please contact her if you are interested in them:

Birth: Florence DEWDNEY was born in 1862 at St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey

Marriage: George DEWDNEY (widower) and Elizabeth ASHFOLD were married in 1861 at St John's Church, Waterloo, Surrey

Marriage: William HEWITT and Florence DEWDNEY were married in 1883 at Bermondsey

Death: Charity ASHFOLD aged 78, died 1848 at Andover, Hampshire

Death: John ASHFOLD aged 64, died 1862 at Hurstpierpoint, Sussex

Death: Ann ASHFOLD aged 81 died 1881 at Hurstpierpoint, Sussex

Death: Elizabeth DEWDNEY aged 57 died 1882 at St Olave, Southwark

Death: George Thomas DEWDNEY aged 76 died 1899 at St Olave, Southwark

There is a charge of £4 per certificate, to include post and packing.
You can contact Janet by post at: Dolphin Cottage, 65 Downview Road, Felpham, West Sussex PO22 8JA or by email at: j_hewittwinch@o2.co.uk

DID YOU KNOW?

You can now email the Membership Secretary on:
members@lwmfhs.org

Buckinghamshire Family History Society OPEN DAY

Saturday 28 July 2012 from 10am-4pm
The Grange School
Wendover Way
Aylesbury, HP21 7NH

Free entry and free parking

Bucks FHS databases, libraries and publications will be available to help you search for your Buckinghamshire ancestors.

London Westminster & Middlesex FHS,
other FHSs, Buckinghamshire local history organisations
and suppliers of family history products will also be there
making a great day out for family historians.

Tea/coffee available throughout the day but bring a packed lunch!
For more information visit: www.bucksfhs.org.uk

STRAYS

William JACKSON, Bachelor of the Parish of St Peter le Poor, London married Anna Maria PERKINS of the Parish of St George, Hanover Square, Middlesex in the parish church of Chigwell, Essex, by special Licence on 18 May 1754.

Henry BAYNTON of St George's Parish, Hanover Square was buried on 30 April 1763 at Chigwell, Essex

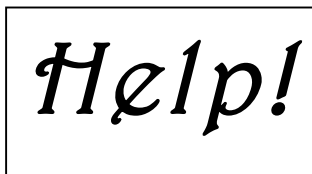
Elizabeth FISHER of St Paul's Covent Garden was buried on 29 February 1764 at Chigwell, Essex.

Please set out your *Help!* request as clearly and succinctly as possible.

All surnames should be in CAPITALS.

Members may have one free entry per journal. There is a £3 charge for each

subsequent entry and for all entries from non-members. Don't forget to include your contact details and your membership number.



GUY WATTS

My maternal grandmother, Edith Clara WATTS, was born the 4th of 12 children at 58 Rochester Row, Westminster, to Thomas Henry WATTS and Emily Elizabeth née HILL. I have dates for all these children except the last, called Guy WATTS. He was born on 5 November but WHAT YEAR? I can only say it was any year after 1902 when the 11th child was born. My mother said he died a few hours/days after birth but I have found no birth, no death, no burial. Would someone know how to find if he was christened? I would appreciate any information on this.

Cynthia J Wildin, Member No. 7607

'Inglewood' Third Drive, Lansdowne Road, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 9JT

Note: It might be worth bearing in mind that this child may have died before he was officially named, especially if he was only a few hours old, and so might appear in the indexes only as 'male'. Also, if the only information you have on him is from a story passed down through your family, the details might not necessarily be correct. My mother was rumoured to have had brothers who died soon after birth called Tom, Dick and Harry but two were actually called Robert and Ernest and I have never found the third, except for a mention in a Birthday Book belonging to another family member.

If Guy was christened it is likely to have been a private baptism but these generally appear in the Parish Register. If his siblings were christened, Guy was probably done at the same church.

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

This question is not directly related to family history but I have run out of ideas for people to contact (even the Royal British Legion can't help!)

In the 1950s, I was a Scout and assisted in selling programmes at the

Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall. At the time Ralph READER was the organiser and/or compere.

I distinctly recall all the participants marching down Kensington High Street between the afternoon and evening performances to have tea and I'm sure we went to Derry and Toms. I am currently writing up our family history and would love to have confirmation that my memory is not at fault. Is there any member or their relative who might remember this happening?

David Sansom, Member No. 7665

8 Cedar Close, Melbourn, Royston, Herts, SG8 6BL

Email: davidwsansom@yahoo.co.uk

CHELSEA PARK – BUILDING OR AREA

My Great Great Grandfather, Thomas SHOAT, is recorded in the 1851 and 1861 census as being first a footman (aged 32) and second a butler at Chelsea Park.

In 1842 he was a servant at Chelsea Park when he married in St Marylebone. Can anyone tell me anything about Chelsea Park, such as who owned it or exactly where it was?

In the 1871 and 1881 censuses, Thomas SHOAT was a Housekeeper (!) living at 20 Spring Gardens (behind Admiralty Arch). This was a terrace of houses lived in entirely by servants. I wonder whether they all worked for the same employer?

Janet Gourd, Member No. 7326

Lynchgate Cottage, Tillington, Petworth, W Sussex GU28 9AH

Note: At the start of each census piece there is a 'Description of the Enumeration District', written by the enumerator himself, showing the exact route he took. So in 1861 George LARNER wrote about his route in Enumeration District 2, Chelsea North West '... the south side of little Chelsea, from Victoria Place to and including Chelsea Park, Unity Place, ...'

Perhaps by checking this against a contemporary map (Weller's Map of London 1868, for instance is at: <http://london1868.com>) you will be able to locate Chelsea Park.

Chelsea is not, however, in our area. The West Middlesex FHS may be of more help to you; their website is at: www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk

EDWARD NORMAN SMALL, ARTISTS' RIFLES

Just before his 24th birthday in 1931 my father Edward Norman SMALL enlisted in The Rifle Brigade, 28th London Regiment (The Artists' Rifles).

He served two consecutive terms of four years with them and was proud to have been part of a very famous regiment. The drill hall in Dukes Road was a short bus ride from where he lived in Camden and I imagine he would attend once or twice a week as required. I also have photographic proof that he attended the annual training camps.

Following the continued popularity of the monologues by Stanley Holloway from 1928 he became known by his army friends as 'Sam' Small, a name which stuck with him for the rest of his life.



The photograph above was taken on the 17 April 1933, Easter Monday. My father is on the right, standing with the man he told me was his best mate Jim. I know nothing else about Jim and hope that someone may know who he is or may have a similar photo in their collection and could tell me something about him.

I would be happy to send copies of Artists related photographs to anyone who has a connection with the Artists' Rifles in the thirties and I would be delighted to meet any relative of Jim.

Adrian Small, Member No. 7573

60, Meadowview Road, Kennington, Oxford OX1 5QX.

Email: adrian.small@gmail.com

HARDYMAN

I am seeking information on my grandfather, Herbert Ernest HARDYMAN, who was born in Bridport, Dorset in the 1880s and write to enquire if any of your members have any knowledge of him.

In his early life he was apprenticed to the Great Western Railway in Swindon. Following the completion of his apprenticeship he removed to London where he worked for the White Company of Hendon, Middlesex as an erector of aeroplanes. Leaving this firm in around 1919 he set up a coach and body building company in Colindale Avenue, The Hyde, London NW9, possibly with his brother, Gordon Reginald HARDYMAN. The firm were specialist in building for the Ford Motor Company.

Brian J M Hardyman, Non-Member

6 Beeforth Close, New Earswick, York YO32 4DF

PARKER

George and Elizabeth Ann (Clayton) PARKER were married in January 1889 in London. They had two children, George Thomas Parker, born 1889, and Ada Ellen Parker, born 1890 both of whom died as infants.

George and Elizabeth PARKER were living with her parents, Thomas and Ellen CLAYTON, in the 1891 census but they disappear after this. Did they have more children? Where were they in 1901 and 1911? Did they emigrate?

Also, I am trying to trace information on a Henry YOUNG who was admitted to the Central London District School at Hanwell on 7 October 1880, aged 4. Where did he come from (a workhouse?) and who were his parents? When was he discharged from the school?

Bonita Creswell-Young Member No. 7554

12 Golf Links Road, Hepburn Springs, Victoria 3461, Australia.

Email: corblimey.too@bigpond.com

STRAY

John MARCH Esq of the Parish of Tottenham, Middlesex was buried 10 October 1774 at Quendon, Essex.

A MAP OF NORTH LONDON

By Rosemary A Roome, Member No. 2985

The young man went to the counter in the Tourist Information Office and asked for directions to some local landmark. The assistant put a map in front of him to show him the route to take but he said: "I don't understand maps. If you tell me how to get there, I'll be fine." He set off a little later, apparently happy but without further explanation. The incident stuck in my mind and I wondered whether he was dyslexic, had never learnt to read or just did not understand how a map could provide a mental picture of a place at a certain time. It seemed such a pity that a whole world full of interest, adventure and knowledge was not available to him.

Historical maps are invaluable for family history research and those of The Godfrey Edition of Old Ordnance Survey maps are particularly useful. A fantastic series of large-scale reprints of towns throughout the UK has been published by Alan Godfrey Maps and the level of detail is such that individual houses are shown. There are many of these maps for Greater London, with some showing an area at different dates.

The original maps, known as the One-Inch ('Old Series') were surveyed between 1791 and 1874 and published – with many revisions and new editions – between 1805 and 1874. Reprints of these maps have also been published by Alan Godfrey Maps as small-scale maps at an inch to the mile.

A special one of interest to our members, especially any who are new to our area, is called the North London Map (Number 256) and is dated 1902-1913. This reprint is taken from the Ordnance Survey one-inch 256 as revised in 1902 and the new railways were superimposed on it in 1913. Note that it does not reflect the changes which the railways brought about. According to the cover of this black and white map 'It shows London from the City and Charing Cross northwards and includes Enfield, Barnet, Watford [Herts] and Harrow...' Thus it extends beyond our area to the north and gives a general overview at the turn of the century of an area which is 18 miles by 12 miles.

Places at or near the edges are:

Northern edge, W to E: Aldenham and Well End (both Hertfordshire FHS). Wrotham Park, Botany Bay, Myddelton House, Freezy Water and the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield.

Southern edge, W to E: Southall (West Middlesex FHS), Ealing Common and only the northern limits of Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park. Hence for the Westminster area the adjoining sheet number 270 (South London) is required.

Western edge, S to N: Yeading (West Middlesex FHS), Pinner and Watford Hertfordshire FHS).

Eastern edge, S to N: all outside our area eg Blackwall, Stratford, Leytonstone and Chingford.

That is not all however. With all documents, the next thing to do is to turn over to see what is on the back`

There you will find an example of a large scale plan, in this case of Elstree, Hertfordshire in 1895 together with a list of some residents, taken from *Kelly's Directory of Essex and Herts*. The majority of the reverse is an essay on the history of the area, written by Pamela Taylor, a local historian and archivist. Topics covered include geology, the Romans, Ermine Street, Watling Street, the Wars of the Roses, rivers and waterways, markets, parks, shops, cemeteries, railways and local government.

And did you know that 'glacial ice reached as far south as Finchley, expiring more or less where the A1 and the North Circular (A406) now cross, leaving deposits of gravel and boulder clay'. North London clay is notorious but it is good for growing roses.

Map AGM 256 is available from our Bookstall Manager, price: Bookstall £2.0; UK £3.15; EU £3.00; Rest of the World £3.60

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire EN5 1JB

Thursday 19 April	<i>From Cornhill to Costa – the History of London Coffee Houses</i> by John Neal
Thursday 17 May	<i>Progress, Problems and Pitfalls</i> Members' Evening
Thursday 21 June	<i>Ally Pally Prison Camp</i> by Maggie Butt
Thursday 19 July	<i>The Story of Money</i> by Richard Selby

City Branch – 12 noon for 12.30pm

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library,
32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8PA

Thursday 26 April	<i>City Churches Plus a Dragon or Two</i> by Barbara Haswell and Rosemary Roome
Thursday 24 May	<i>Progress, Problems and Pitfalls</i> Members' Evening
Thursday 28 June	<i>The Origin of Surnames</i> by Mari Alderman
Thursday 26 July	No Meeting

ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates per issue of METROPOLITAN are as follows:

Full Page £40, Half Page £23, Quarter Page £14, Eighth Page, £8.50

All copy, correspondence and remittances should be sent to the Editors.

See inside front cover for address.

Enfield Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

St Paul's Centre, Church Street, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 6AR

- Wednesday 4 April *39 Years at the Royal Opera House*
by Georgie Perrott
- Wednesday 2 May *The Titanic*
by Steve Jennings
- Wednesday 6 June *Historical Buildings in Edmonton, Winchmore Hill & Southgate*
by Stephen Gilbert
- Wednesday 4 July *Life of Rudyard Kipling*
by Margaret Carr

Rayners Lane Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Friends' Meeting House, 456 Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middlesex HA5 5DT

- Friday 13 April *Dudfins, Langles & Scummers*
by Meryl Catty
- Friday 11 May Members' Evening
- Friday 8 June *Highwaymen on Hounslow Heath*
by Andrea Cameron
- Friday 13 July *With Cap in Hand*
by Audrey Gillett

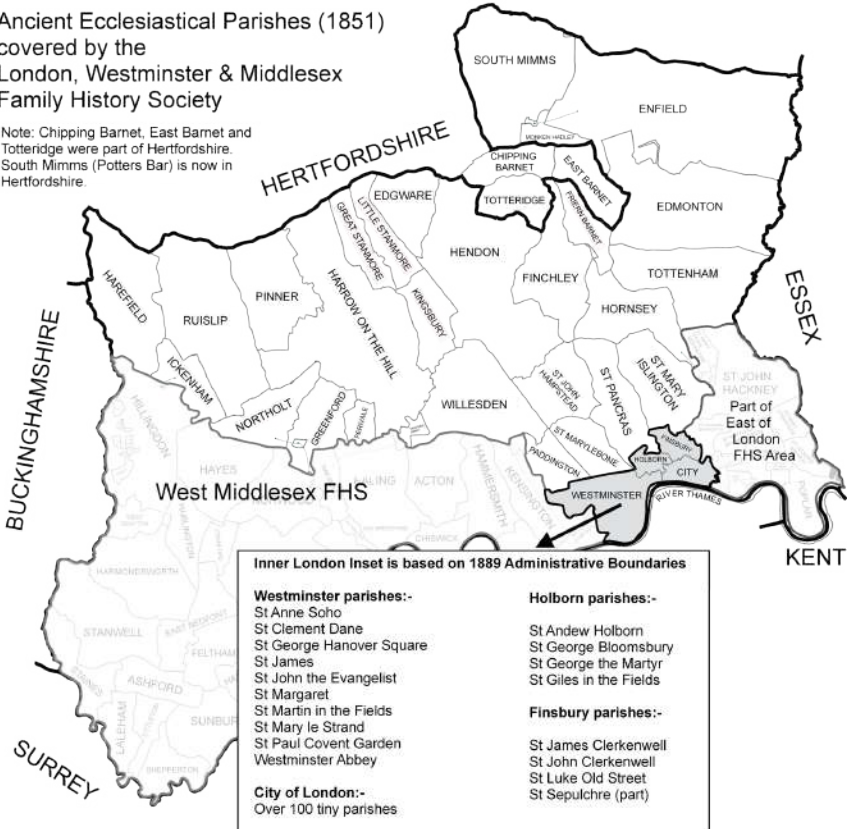
Wembley Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

St. John's Church, Crawford Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex HA0 2HX

- Monday 23 April *Name Changes*
by Ian Waller
- Monday 28 May Members' Evening
- Monday 25 June *Cornhill to Costo*
by John Neal
- Monday 23 July *Tracing Huguenot Ancestry*
by Kathy Chater

Ancient Ecclesiastical Parishes (1851)
covered by the
London, Westminster & Middlesex
Family History Society

Note: Chipping Barnet, East Barnet and
Totteridge were part of Hertfordshire.
South Mimms (Potters Bar) is now in
Hertfordshire.



AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

- 1 To encourage the study of family history, genealogy and heraldry, primarily in the City of London, City of Westminster, and the London Boroughs of Barnet, Brent, Camden, part of Ealing, Enfield, Haringey, Harrow, part of Hillingdon, and Islington.
- 2 To help to co-ordinate efforts to make local records more accessible.
- 3 To carry out such activities as are relevant to a family history society

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The standard annual subscription covers all family members living at one address, with one journal and one vote per subscription.

The subscription of £12 is effective from 1 October until 30 September the following year.

Members joining during the Society's year will receive back copies of journals.

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UK cheques payable to: LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS

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The Editors reserve the right to edit contributions.

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A labels-list of members is held on computer for the purposes of administration and distribution only.

Data from the members' list will NOT be given out to commercial enterprises.

Anyone objecting to his or her name being on this list should write to the Membership Secretary.

