

# METROPOLITAN

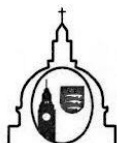
The Journal of the

**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX**

Family History Society



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**July 2012**

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# METROPOLITAN

Volume 34 No. 4 (134)

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Cover picture: The Old Bailey

© Barbara Haswell

See article on page 160

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## EDITORIAL

We were absolutely delighted with the response to our call for photographs of Parish Churches in April's METROPOLITAN. Some beautiful pictures have been sent in, St Pancras Old Church being the most popular amongst our respondents! We have included a number of these shots in the article on page 139. Still on the subject of church photographs, Lionel Carter, Member No. 7520, had some interesting comments, see his letter on page 136. If you are hoping to contribute to our project, please read his letter first. Also in the Letters are some useful tips from readers on how to get the best out of Ancestry.co.uk. We have an Olympic theme running through this issue, with a letter, an article and some websites all about the Games in 1948 and 1908.

Very unusually, we only received two *help!* queries this quarter. However, this may be because gremlins hit our inside front cover in April and the Editors' email address was incorrect. It should be: **editors@lwmfhs.org.uk**

If you sent us an email recently and have not had a reply please could you re-send to the correct address? Many apologies for any inconvenience caused. If you have hit a brick wall with your research please send us a note and we will see if the Editors or any of our readers can assist you to break through it.

You will also notice that there are only four yellow pages in this journal, as few members have submitted their Interests. The Society has recently put two Members' Interests Forms on our website – in the Members' Area: a paper form to download, print, complete and post; and an online form to complete on your computer and email. Both forms should be posted or emailed to the Membership Secretary (addresses on inside cover of the journal). Anne has asked that we remind members that the number of entries for inclusion in the Members' Interests section of METROPOLITAN is restricted to twelve in any one issue. A single surname with three Counties counts as three entries. MDX/LND counts as two entries. Please include your name, address and Membership Number and use the format as suggested on the form. We look forward to receiving your names for the October journal.

### The Editorial Team

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The new Executive Committee's first task was to deal with various administrative matters caused by the changes in its make-up and the roles of individual members. With a new Treasurer in post our banking arrangements were the first priority, swiftly followed by notification to our many suppliers of goods and services, and other organisations we deal with or to which we pay subscriptions.

At such a time of change it is only natural to review some of our activities and we noted a comment in an Editorial from an old METROPOLITAN: *We continue to re-organise the running of the Society in the hope of increasing its efficiency.* That was written twenty years ago but our *aim* today is much the same and we have enhanced technology, greater knowledge and much experience to help us to achieve it.

Our Society's year runs from 1 October to 30 September and our October issue of METROPOLITAN reaches UK doormats in the last week of September. For a number of years the Subscription Renewal Form has been included in it but this left only a short time for action before 1 October and delays have caused difficulties with subsequent procedures. In order to help the Society as a whole, the Executive Committee has therefore decided that the Renewal Form should be included with this July issue, with subscriptions to reach the Membership Secretary by 1 October.

In the course of the year some members may have found that their ancestors moved on from our area and that they too need to join another society to pursue their research. If this means leaving us, we hope that you have found your membership rewarding but please do let us know if you will not be renewing your subscription. The form allows for this or you can email: [membership@lwmfhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@lwmfhs.org.uk)

**Rosemary A Roome**

**Please remember that the copy date for the next issue is  
15 August 2012**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

While it is nice to have a photo of a church for the record, I think anyone taking photos of churches should also take a closer one of the church porch to aid in the identification of churches from a wedding group photo.

So often the identification of wedding photos relies on recognising the columns and patterns on the church door. A general shot of the church often doesn't even show the front door as it is taken from the most convenient position that includes the whole church, which might be a side-on shot.

A further refinement would be a close-up shot of the church notice board to identify the 'proper' name of the church (at the time of taking the photo).

In the day of digital cameras the addition of these two shots would not add much to the inconvenience of the photographer who has travelled to the site in any case.

**Lionel Carter, Member No. 7520**

**Note: What a good idea - photographers please note!**

On Thursday 26 April 2012 it was necessary for me to attend an appointment near Regent's Park in London in the afternoon. This happened to be the same day as the LWMFHS City Branch meeting in Camden and I needed to order some Wills from First Avenue House in nearby Holborn. Could I combine all three? It would need a short walk from Holborn underground station in the morning to order the Wills I required, another short walk from there to Camden Library, picking up some lunch on the way, ready for Rosemary and Barbara's talk on *City Churches plus a Dragon or Two* and then to make my way across town afterwards for my afternoon appointment.

I achieved all three and despite the persistent rain I enjoyed a most pleasant and rewarding day. I recommend making the effort to visit a City Branch meeting if you can. Its close proximity to several other places of interest to the family historian makes it an ideal opportunity to combine research with meeting other Society members.

A note on First Avenue House, High Holborn (opposite Chancery Lane).

It was easy to find, I already knew the Probate Office was on the 7th floor and I would be subjected to security measures (airport-style bag check).

Once there I found the staff helpful, though I will say that I had more luck searching the index books than the computer system they had available. I discovered one Will entry that I was interested in referred to a 'further Grant', information which I didn't know and was not shown on the Ancestry website Will Index. The ordering process was straight-forward, three Wills and one further Grant were paid for. A month later I am still waiting for them to arrive!!

**Elaine Tyler, Member No. 7102**

**I**n reference to your very good article on censuses on page 99, April 2012, you mention that ancestry.co.uk does not permit variant or wildcard searches. The latter is definitely allowed, the only stipulations being that both the first and last characters may not be wildcards at the same time, and that there must be at least three 'real' characters.

Good issue! Thanks

**Gerry Poulton, Member No. 3560**

**W**hilst Barbara Haswell's article on Census Returns was most interesting, I thought you would like to know that there are Ancestry website variant and wildcard searches. These can be accessed by going to the Ancestry.co.uk website - Home page. Click the word 'search' from the list at the top of the screen. In the new screen under 'Browse Records' click on 'UK Census Collection'. The next screen reveals a large form. Here you can fill in details of birth; residence; parents/spouse etc. though it is advisable not to fill in too many details. On this form select 'exact' matches only and by typing HAS\*LL in the 'surnames box' you will get many variants of Haswell as well as Aswell, Caswell, Laswell, Taswell etc. (This may seem contradictory by selecting exact matches, but you will still get the variations.)

Inhabitants of certain streets can also be found for 1881 census and sometimes 1911 census. In the 'keyword' box, type Leicester/ Station/ Richmond Road, Barnet and you will find everyone who lived in that road. Check that the road you are interested in was built before the census.

**Rena King, Member No. 109**

**Note:** Many thanks to *Gerry* and *Rena* for providing more information about searching on Ancestry. This will be greatly appreciated by users

of the site. Contributions from members who have practical tips about any aspect of family history are always very welcome.

**O**lympic Memories – In 1948, when I was ten years old, my mother excitedly took me to see the floral display at Wembley Park Station. The hanging baskets there were the first we had ever seen! A short walk to Empire Way gave us sight of the flags of the nations competing in the Games. We had this route to the Stadium to ourselves as we stared in wonder at the fluttering colours.

It is difficult to explain how amazing these two bright displays were to us in the grey London of the after-War years.

My parents went to the Opening Ceremony (a simple, dignified event compared with the razzmatazz of later Games). I watched swimming in the Empire Pool with friends.

**Ms Christine Dean, Member No. 5038**

#### **New on FindMyPast**

Over 1.3 million parish records for Westminster, covering the period from 1538-1945, were recently added to FindMyPast.

This first tranche is part of a collection which will include more than 50 Westminster churches, as well as wills, rate books, settlement examinations, workhouse records and more when complete.

#### **New on Origins**

The Middlesex Baptisms Index contains almost 100,000 baptisms which occurred in London and Middlesex parishes between 1538-1882.

In addition to the child's name, father's name and date of baptism, a large amount of other information is included (where it appears in the original Register) which can include the mother's name, date of birth and actual address. This means that around 300,000 names are mentioned in the Index. None of these appear on the IGI but they were recently added to [www.origins.net](http://www.origins.net), along with Middlesex and City of London Burials from 1538-1904.



## ST PANCRAS OLD CHURCH

Address: Pancras Road, London NW1 1UL (London Borough of Camden)

Two years ago we featured St Pancras Old Church in METROPOLITAN (July 2010, page 140) - an article by Alan Baldwin, Member No. 4425, who also painted the cover picture. At the time we did not have photographs of the church but now, thanks to our members, we do and think it worth repeating Alan's article - with some additions.

St Pancras Old Church stands on the east side of Pancras Road in the Borough of Camden, just behind St Pancras and King's Cross railway stations. Its dedication to the Roman martyr, St Pancras, is evidence of the antiquity of the first church on this site. There is little documentary evidence of this, but it is believed to have existed since AD 313 or 414. The church building covers many periods. Roman bricks and Norman masonry are to be seen in the north wall. But the many re-buildings and restorations have overlaid and obscured much of the original structure.

In earlier times, the rising ground on which the church stands rose gently above the flood plain of the Fleet River. The church stood in splendid isolation overlooking the site of a Roman encampment which sloped down towards King's Cross. The surrounding land being subject to flooding meant that more than once the vicar and parishioners were driven to living and worshipping in Kentish Town.



By the early part of the nineteenth century many of the country population had turned to urban life brought about by the industrial revolution. The City had drawn the parish closer to itself.

In 1822 a new lavish parish church, (shown left) of monumental

Greek Revival style, was built in Euston Road, overcoming years of opposition over its high cost while the poor of the parish starved.

The Old Church then became a chapel of ease and gradually fell into disuse. By 1847 it was virtually in ruins. However, the City was now spreading out on a tide of industry, which stimulated new interest in the church. Restoration was carried out in 1847 - 49 by the Huguenot architect RL ROUMIEU and his partner AD GOUGH.

The thirteenth century modest and proportionate west tower, with its lead cupola shaped roof, was pulled down. On excavating the foundations, however, some of the lost treasures which had been hidden from Cromwell's troops were discovered; an Elizabethan silver chalice and a silver flagon being two items. Also, the sixth century altar stone was recovered. This stone is marked with five consecration crosses of strange form said to be found only on the tomb of Ethne, mother of St Colomba who died in 597. It is now back, inlaid into the top surface of the High Altar.

A new tower was built over the south porch, in the ornate 'Belgian style' but to some this was a Victorian excess too far, although satisfying to them it did not last long, and had to be reduced to its present height. The nave was extended



west by 30ft and a new vestry added to the north. The exterior was completely refaced or re-worked. Further renovations occurred in 1888 and again in 1925 when plaster was removed from the ceiling to reveal once more the fine roof timbers. More recently, the church survived bomb damage in the Second World War and desecration by Satanists in 1985.



The churchyard, which is the largest green space in the locality, is noted for the Tomb of Sir John SOANE, the design of which inspired Sir Giles Gilbert SCOTT'S unique red London telephone box (the K2 as it became known). Among other notable people buried there are composer Johann Christian BACH, sculptor John FLAXMAN and William FRANKLIN, the last colonial Governor of New Jersey. There is also a memorial tomb to Mary WOLLSTONECRAFT and William GODWIN. Their daughter, Mary (author of *Frankenstein*) used to meet the poet Percy Bysshe SHELLEY by the tomb and plan their elopement

The old burial ground was a place of Christian burial for 700 years. Perhaps because of its dedication to the Roman martyr Pancratius, it has also been used by Roman Catholics and French exiles.

The garden is also notable for the 'Hardy Tree' growing between tombstones removed during clearance of the churchyard to make way for the railway. Thomas HARDY, the Dorset novelist, was a trainee architect while working there at the time.



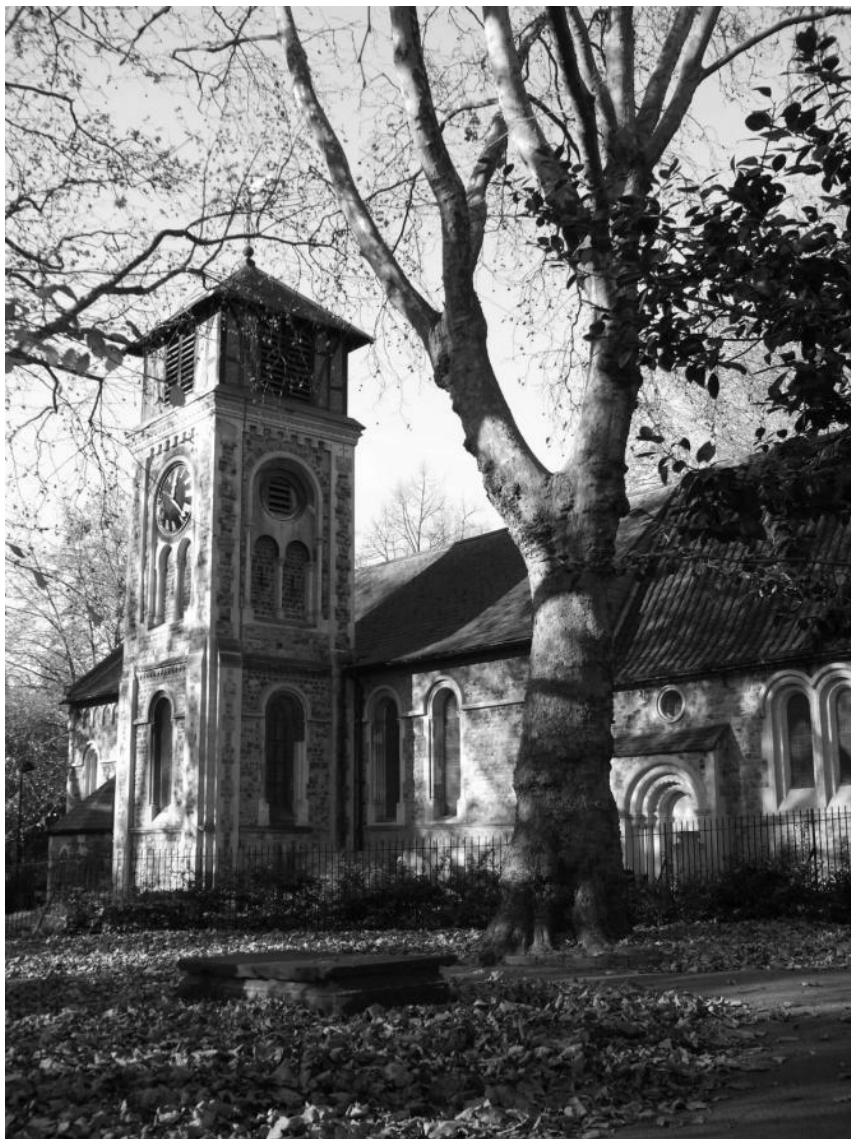
So, this ancient, lovely little church and its yard have survived the ravages of man and time to still give us peace and pleasure on each visit. Do take the time to visit yourself.

In 1854, the graveyards of the Old and New St Pancras churches were closed under the Extramural Internment Act and 88 acres of ground on Finchley Common were bought by the St Pancras Burial Board to form a new St Pancras Cemetery. This was to be the first municipally owned cemetery in London. 30 acres were then sold off to Islington and later a joint purchase was made of another 100 acres of farmland. Now known as the St Pancras and Islington Cemetery, it is in two parts and separately administered by the London Boroughs of Camden and Islington.

The burial records of the cemetery have now been added to *Deceased Online* (see page 106 of April 2012 METROPOLITAN). Note that a map of the cemetery can be downloaded free of charge from the St Pancras and Islington website.

The parish records can be viewed at the London Metropolitan Archives and are also on the Ancestry website. The parish records dates 1660-1822 relate to St Pancras Old Church and the old parish. This was when the old church was the parish church of the ancient parish of St Pancras. After 1822, St

Pancras New Church took over the ancient parish. After 1863, St Pancras Old Church was once more a parish church but this time to a new, smaller and separate parish.



## THE 1948 OLYMPIC GAMES

By John Peckham, Member No.5994

With the third London Olympics now upon us, those of us who were present at the 1948 games find our memories of those days much revived! The whole was hastily organised in not much more than a year and owed much of its success to the Director of Organisation, EJH ('Billy') HOLT, OBE. Fifty three nations competed in the eight days of athletics at the Empire Stadium, Wembley, on a specially laid track, which - alas! - was ripped up immediately after the games. This was a most ambitious project for a war-torn Britain still suffering heavily from shortages of all sorts, including rationing of food, sweets and clothing as severe as at any time during the war.

It was towards the end of 1947 that a number of athletes were chosen as 'Olympic possibles' and were given coupons for the purchase of extra milk and meat. The only other help we received was one week-end training camp thanks to the generosity of Mr Billy BUTLIN. There were few tracks in Britain then, though I was lucky enough to use the old 3 laps to a mile track at Oxford University. And there was none of the medical backup our athletes enjoy today, so that when I damaged an Achilles tendon it was weeks before I was put in touch with a specialist who knew how to treat it. In effect, this ended my hopes of sprinting at the Olympics and turned me into a full time spectator, determined to miss nothing.

Though a student, I was able to obtain - and afford - two tickets for each of the eight days of athletics and I still have all the programmes with results recorded. Of course for me the sprints were fascinating to watch. The 100 metres was a tremendous tussle between two Americans, Harrison DILLARD, whom I had met over the distance in Oslo in 1947, and Barney EWELL, the old man of the team. They were on opposite sides of the track and the result was so close that both thought they had won, Ewell dancing around for some moments in sheer joy until he was told he had the silver medal, while Dillard had equalled the Olympic record of 10.3 seconds. Three days later EWELL was again narrowly beaten by another team mate, Mel PATTEN, in the 200 metres, both recording the same time of 21.1 seconds. It was PATTEN who couldn't conceal his delight this time, especially after what he considered a failure in fifth place in the 100 metres.

Other vivid memories are of Arthur WINT, the tall Jamaican, who had competed regularly in this country while stationed here in the forces, coming second in the 800 metres which he was expected to win and equalling the Olympic record of 46.2 seconds to win the 400 metres ahead of the favourite, Herb MCKENLEY, also of Jamaica. This was the first time I had seen anything like the running of ZATOPEK in the 10,000 metres, the throwing of the Italian CONSOLINI in the discus, and the full two days of the Decathlon. There was, too, a very special memory of fellow South London Harrier, Tommy RICHARDS, coming good over the final miles of the marathon to take second place.

But what of the women who probably provide the biggest contrast with today? First of all in their dress, which comprised running shorts and full athletes' vests with no bare midriff allowed - quite unlike the bikini styles of today. Their events were limited to four races: 100 metres, 200 metres, 80 metre hurdles and 4 x 100 metre relay, two jumps: the high jump and long jump and the three throws: discus, shot and javelin. Outstanding, of course, was Fanny BLANKERS-KOEN of Holland who won gold medals in all four races, including a World Record of 11.2 seconds in the hurdles. I remember this race particularly because she narrowly defeated our own Maureen GARDNER who had trained on the track at Oxford (although not a member of the University) and for whom I had timed many trials while my injury prevented me from training. Maureen was so close to winning that she was credited with the same time.

What a week! I witnessed one World Record, 14 Olympic Records - and missed nothing except the final few vaults in the pole vault which went on late into the evening.

I would love to be fit and wealthy enough to do it again this time round, but be assured, God willing, I shall be watching everything that comes on my TV set.



**The Olympic Motto: Citius, Altius, Fortius**  
Swifter, Higher, Stronger

**A MYSTERY SOLVED**

By Jim Garrod, Member No. 5792

My great aunt was born Eleanor Elizabeth DAY in Mile End in 1865. She appeared in the 1871 census as Ellen:

**2 Ratcliff Square, Ratcliff, Stepney RG10 Piece 546 Folio 116 Page 21**

Harry Day	Head	M	30	Labourer	Suffolk	1841
Sarah A Day	Wife	M	27	Dressmaker	Sunderland	1844
Edward H Day	Son	U	9	Scholar	Bloomsbury	1862
Walter R Day	Son	U	7	Scholar	Ratcliff	1864
Ellen Day	Daur	U	5	Scholar	Ratcliff	1866
George Day	Son	U	3		Ratcliff	1868
Kate Day	Daur	U	3		Ratcliff	1868
Edith Day	Daur	U	1		Ratcliff	1870

She went on the Music Hall stage at an early age using the name Lily BURNAND and soon went abroad, touring the Continent. So she does not appear in the 1881 census.

During this time she met and married William Henry DORIS whose stage name was Will KENDALL. They had a child, Lillian Rose in Paris, came home to England about 1890 and another daughter, Marie Elizabeth, was born in Poplar in July 1890. The family appear in the 1891 census using Will's stage name:

**98 Brook Street, Lambeth****RG12 Piece 393 Folio 15 Page 23**

Edward J Jarrett	Head	M	48	Saw Mill Asst (Sawyer)	Stepney, LDN
Ambrosene E Jarrett	Wife	M	42		Chatham, KEN
William H Kendall	Neph	U	36	Music Hall Artiste	Ireland
Eleanor E Kendall	Niece	U	24	Music Hall Artiste	Stepney, LDN
Lillie Kendall	Niece	U	7		France
Marie E Kendall	Niece	U	9m		Poplar, LDN



This took a little time to find! In fact Ambrosene was Eleanor/Lily's Aunt. Will DORIS died in 1892 and on a working tour of the USA in 1893 Eleanor/Lily married Michel KIRSCHEN. This marriage did not last long as I found that in June 1896 Lily registered a child in the St Giles district as Ellen Elizabeth KIRSCHEN, born 31 December 1895 without naming the father. A very late registration.

I had difficulty finding the family in the 1901 census but by looking up a street directory I then found this:

<b>2 Barrington Road, Brixton</b>			<b>RG13 Piece 434 Folio 17 Page 26</b>			
Elizabeth Paris	Head	W	31	Music Hall	England	
				Artiste		
Lillian Paris	Daur	U	17		France (English)	
Marie Paris	Daur	U	11		Poplar, LDN	
Asher Simmons	Boarder	M	58	Commercial Traveller	LDN MDX	
Queenie Simmons	Boarder		5		Holborn, LDN	

Paris was where her eldest daughter was born so I guess the enumerator was confused. Perhaps he was overawed meeting a famous entertainer. But where was Ellen Elizabeth? Who are Asher and Queenie SIMMONS? Why does Eleanor/Lily need to take in boarders when she is quite a star on the Music Halls? The answer lies in Queenie's birth certificate, registered in Holborn in February 1896: Queenie SIMMONS; girl; born 31 December 1895, father Asher SIMMONS; mother Elizabeth SIMMONS formerly DAY; occupation of the father, Commercial Traveller. This shows that Ellen Elizabeth and Queenie are one and the same person.

So the mystery of Ellen Elizabeth's paternity is solved but why did Eleanor/Lily register the child twice? My guess is that she was told by someone that she should always use her proper name on official documents and she decided to regularise the situation. Asher SIMMONS had a wife and seven children elsewhere in London but he lived with Lily up to his death in 1907.

Incidentally, in the 1911 census she reverted to using her original married name of DORIS. So four censuses and four different surnames. Also she had only progressed to the age of 38!

## JOTTINGS

### **Vauxhall Gardens**

This summer, until 9 September, the Foundling Museum, 40 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ, has the biggest exhibition on the Gardens in England in over forty years. *The Triumph of Pleasure: Vauxhall Gardens 1729–1786* will explore the Gardens, which were a social magnet for Londoners and tourists from the Restoration until they were closed in 1859. They were a place to enjoy contemporary music and art in a beautiful garden setting followed by dinner al fresco. The ham served at Vauxhall was famously cut so thin you could read a newspaper through it.

### **The Women's Library - Under Threat of Closure**

The Women's Library is the oldest and most extensive collection of women's history in Europe. It was founded in 1926 as the Library of the London Society for Women's Service (LSWS, later The Fawcett Society). From 1977 the Library has been part of what is now London Metropolitan University. New purpose-built premises (co-funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund) comprising a reading room, exhibition hall, lecture theatre, office and activity spaces at 25 Old Castle Street, Aldgate, London E1 7NT were opened in 2002.

The collections, which include books, magazines, pamphlets, ephemera, archives, personal papers, museum objects and more, were designated by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council as 'of outstanding national and international importance'.

The current exhibition is *All Work and Low Pay*. On until 25 August and free to visit, it shows the extraordinary range of jobs done by women over the past 150 years.

However, the Board of Governors of London Metropolitan University has now decided to seek new homes for these collections. Should a new home not be found by the end of December 2012, the Library will move to opening hours of one day per week for a period of three years, with a further review at the end of that period.

### **Working Men's Clubs**

June 2012 marked the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Working Men's Club and Institute by the Temperance Movement minister, the Reverend Henry SOLLY.

## **Great Ormond Street Hospital**

This year Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) is celebrating its 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary. When founded by Dr Charles WEST in 1852 it opened in a converted 17<sup>th</sup> Century townhouse on the corner of Powis Place, Bloomsbury and had just 10 beds but it was the first institution to offer in-patient care to children only.

A survey of 1843 had shown that of 51,000 people dying that year in the capital, 21,000 were children but of the 2,400 patients in all the London hospitals only 26 were children under 10 years of age.

Dr WEST was working at the Universal Dispensary at Waterloo Road at that time but, having failed to persuade its management of the need to become a fully-fledged hospital for children with in-patient beds, he determined to set up such a hospital himself.

The hospital's archives are public records; a catalogue is available for consultation and there is also a photographic collection. An online database of the hospital's admissions from 1852-1914 can be seen at: [www.hharp.org](http://www.hharp.org). (This seems to have taken over from [www.smallandspecial](http://www.smallandspecial), as reviewed in Website News, METROPOLITAN April 2009.) This site also contains brief essays on aspects of the hospital's history and short biographies of medical staff. (HHARP is the Historic Hospital Admission Records Project and contains the records of several institutions throughout the UK.) Personal records of patients and staff may be restricted by the Data Protection Act. Registration is necessary to access the full contents but it is free of charge.

For further enquiries about GOSH you can contact the Curator, Nicholas Baldwin, in the first instance either by post at: Museum and Archives Service, Great Ormond Street Hospital, Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JH or by email at: [BaldwN@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:BaldwN@gosh.nhs.uk)

It is possible to visit the archive but an appointment is essential.

## **St Mary's School, Finchley**

The academic year 2012/13 marks the bicentenary of St Mary's School, which was sponsored by the National Society in 1812 and opened its doors the following year. As part of their celebrations, the school is undertaking a historical project. They have log books dating back to 1896 and are keen to supplement this information with old photographs and stories from past pupils of their school days (not that we are suggesting that any of our readers were there in 1896!). If you have anything to add you can email them at: [stmarys200@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stmarys200@yahoo.co.uk)

## Southgate District Civic Trust



This group of LWMFHS members are shown at the recent celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Southgate District Civic Trust. Left to right are Mary and Colin Barratt and Elaine Tyler (Barnet), and Eileen Bostle (Rayners Lane).

The rather stern looking individual behind them is a picture of Henrietta CRESSWELL, whose book on Winchmore Hill was published 100 years ago, which has inspired a festival centred on Winchmore Hill Green from 16 to 23 June.

**Colin Barratt, Member No. 4427**

### **An Observance of Commonwealth Day 2012, the largest UK Multi – Faith Gathering.**

Through the fact that my daughter, Diane, works for the Commonwealth Foundation, I had the privilege of attending the ceremony in Westminster Abbey of Commonwealth Day 2012.

The service began with the procession of flags, 54 of them, representing each country in the Commonwealth and this was followed by delegates from the Faith Communities – that is Christian, Jewish, Moslem, Sikh etc.

After the National Anthem and the Queen's Procession, the Bidding from the Dean and Chapter followed. Then a message from the Queen was relayed to all those attending.

At the end of the Queen's message each faith contributed their own affirmation to the Commonwealth which connected all the countries and their cultures.

A combination of dance, hymns and music followed, then the Secretary General, His Excellency Kamalesh Sharma, spoke for everybody in confirmation of the Commonwealth and its standards in the world.

Sitting next to me was the father of the lad who carried the flag for Jamaica and he said to me: "My son will never forget this day."

And I replied: "Neither will you – and nor will I."

**Norma Allum Member No. 0430**

### **Huntingdonshire FHS – The Big Family History Fair**

This event, held on 21 April at The Burgess Hall, St Ives, was a first venture for the Huntingdonshire Family History Society and therefore a new location for one of our Open Day visits. Our helpers for this occasion were Diana Copnall, who travelled the previous day with some equipment and stock, Barbara Haswell, Elaine Tyler and me. The three of us made an early start to meet for the 60 mile drive to the Burgess Hall at St Ives with most of our stock. The lack of a sign as we approached our destination led us slightly off course and several local people we asked had no idea where the hall was! Thanks to guidance by mobile phone we reached the Burgess Hall, which was found to be just the name of a hall within a leisure centre and not the stand-alone building we expected.

Our stand was set out quickly, just before the many visitors arrived and we hardly stopped from then on as we met a number of our members (which is always a pleasure) dealt with sales and questions about London, our area and research problems. Our wide selection of maps was particularly popular with everyone.

We came home through a hailstorm – what a memorable day!

PS We have received 'A short note with a BIG thank you for attending our Family History Fair in St Ives in April of this year and helping to make it such a successful event. For a variety of reasons we have decided not to hold the event again next year but are considering the possibility of another fair in 2014.'

**Rosemary A Roome, Member No. 2985**

## THE WILL OF SIR THOMAS PLEDGER c1530-1599

By Eileen Blythe, Member No. 2

I have not yet had any response to my request for help which appeared in last December's METROPOLITAN, however I recently read a book about Christopher MARLOW's death in 1593 and there was a very good reference section of books the author had consulted. I used this when I went to the Library although they did not have all the books I needed. Most of the following information about the Will of Sir Thomas PLEDGER has come from my use of the Library of Canterbury Cathedral and The Institute of Genealogy and Heraldry (which are my closest) and the internet.

Thomas PLEDGER was born about 1530 in Essex, most likely at Ashdon, as he was the third son of Thomas PLEDGER and Joane HIGHAM of Ashdon. Thomas married Margaret ALLINGTON, widow of Sir Robert ALLINGTON (who died in 1552) and daughter of Sir William CONINGSBY, in Withersfield, Suffolk in June 1564. Margaret and Sir Robert had 12 children, but as far as I can see she did not have any children with her second husband, Thomas.

He was knighted in 1565, 7<sup>th</sup> year of Queen Elizabeth, ref. Cambridge Visitations 1575 & 1619. Sir Thomas and Margaret lived at Bottisham Hall Cambridgeshire, where the ALLINGTONs had been settled since the early 1400s. Thomas was buried in Bottisham Church in March 1599, next to his wife Margaret who died in May 1598. Their memorial stands behind a wrought iron grill in Bottisham Church.

People mentioned in Sir Thomas PLEDGER's Will:

ALLINGTON; Giles, Elizabeth, Thomas, and James  
TALKARNE; Alice, John, and Jane  
SEWSTER; Giles

SOAME; Thomas, Elizabeth, Richard, James, and Thomas

These are all his Allington stepchildren and their offspring and are the ones who benefit most from the Will. It seems Sir Thomas was not a wealthy man before his marriage.

BREAME; Giles, Margaret, Elizabeth

KILLINGWORTH; Margaret, Allington, Beatrice, Thomas  
 The BREAMEs and KILLINGWORTHS were cousins. In 1587 Sir Thomas held land in East and West Ham, Essex with Arthur and Giles BREAME. Sir Thomas left £40 in his Will to the poor of the village of Bottisham, with which 11 acres of land were purchased and the income from this land was used through to the 1990s to benefit the village. In 1621 Giles BREAME left £600 to build almshouses in East Ham, Essex for the use of the Bottisham poor. From 1886 the income from the combined land was used to pay pensions to the old of the village.

PLEDGER; William, Thomas, and Edward, sons of John his elder brother,  
 PLEDGER; Phillip son of Edward, another brother  
 PLEDGER; John and Robert, sons of William, also a brother  
 BOWTELL, Joane, Sir Thomas's sister  
 BAILIE; Ellen, his half-sister

HIGHAM; Thomas, Robert of Norfolk (uncle of Sir Thomas) and Robert THORPE of Essex – these people were all related to Sir Thomas's mother, Joane HIGHAM, who was the daughter of John HIGHAM of Shudy Camps, Cambridge, and of the *Giffords* estate in Suffolk. Her sister Elizabeth married Robert THORPE of Gestingthorpe Essex, ref: Visitations of Suffolk 1561. Robert HIGHAM is listed in Shudy Camps in 1524 tax records; Thomas HIGHAM purchased *Jaks* estate in Shudy Camps in 1546. He died in 1561, Alice his widow remarried in 1568, his son Robert inherited the estate after a long legal battle with his new stepfather.

Thomas ASUNDER, Thomas BASSET, Thomas BRIDGE, Thomas COMER, Millicent COSIN, Thomas KETTERIDGE, Thomas KNOCKE and Elizabeth WEBB may be from his wife's family.

Francis BURTON, William DUFFIELD, Thomas GELBY, Cecilia PETTIT, Elizabeth RICHARDSON and. Margaret Wright were his shepherd and other servants.

The relationship between the last four names and Sir Thomas PLEDGER is not known: Richard BARNES, George FABLE, John JOHNSONNE, John ROBINSON.

I am descended from John PLEDGER (the elder brother of Sir Thomas) who was born about 1525 in Ashdon, Essex. His grandson, Thomas, moved into Cambridgeshire and later generations went to Stoke by Clare, Suffolk. From there my family moved to Walthamstow, Essex, and my Great Grandmother married into my father's HOWARD family in north London.

There are other PLEDGER families in the borders of Essex, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. One has been traced back to William PLEDGER of Thaxted, Essex, born about 1525 and another to Thomas PLEDGER of Witham, Essex, born about 1530 but so far I don't think we have found the family connection we all come from.

### **1948 Olympic Venues**

If you ask someone where the 1948 Olympics were held, the immediate answer will be 'Wembley' but there were 25 venues, 19 of them London-based and several of them in our area.

Wembley, with the Empire Stadium and the Empire Pool next door, was the main venue but your family might have visited either the Arsenal stadium (then at Highbury) or Tottenham Hotspur's ground at White Hart Lane for some of the football preliminaries, Finchley Lido, now a leisure centre, for water polo or Harringay Arena for the basket ball and wrestling.

## **UNWANTED CERTIFICATES**

Sheila Butler, a former member whose family came from Bedfordshire has donated the following certificates to our Society:

Marriage: Thomas ADAMS, widower of full age, bootmaker of 17 Britannia Row, Islington, son of George ADAMS, builder = Mercy CHANDLER, spinster of full age of 4 River Street, daughter of Robert CHANDLER, Farmer on 3 November 1860 at Islington

Death: Emma ELLIS, widow of Arthur ELLIS (a general labourer) died aged 58 on 22 August 1903 at 48 Westdown Road, Leyton

Please contact the Editors if you are interested in any of these.



**YOUR  
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION  
RENEWAL FORM  
IS OVERLEAF**

Members are reminded that subscriptions for the coming year are due for renewal by 1 October 2012.

Please read the following notes before completing the form.

If you already pay your subscription by **Standing Order** you need take no further action. Paying your subscription in this way is the most cost effective for the Society.

Members wishing to pay future subscriptions by Standing Order should send an SSAE to the Membership Secretary.

You may renew by **PayPal** via our website but note that the Society is charged a fee per transaction.

Members who allow their membership to lapse will not receive a reminder and subsequent reinstatement, whether paying by cheque or PayPal, will incur an additional £2 administration fee.

It takes several weeks for the Membership Secretary to process and bank hundreds of cheques. Please bear this in mind and contact her only if your payment has not appeared on a Bank Statement.

# **LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

## **SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL – for the year 2012-2013**

**Current Subscription is £12.00 per annum, payable in pounds sterling**

**Subscriptions are renewable by 1 October 2012. Please note that no reminders will be sent and subsequent reinstatement will incur an additional fee of £2.00.**

**Please make your cheque payable to LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS and return the completed form with your remittance to:**

**Mrs A Prudames**

**2 Canonbury Cottages, Churchbury Lane, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 3LR**

**Please tick the appropriate box below; advising either method of payment or cancellation of your membership of the Society.**

**Your co-operation in complying with this request would be greatly appreciated.**

Please renew my/our membership of the Society for the year ending 30 September 2013.  
Enclosed is my/our cheque in the sum of £12.00 made payable to:  
LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS

I wish to pay future renewals by Standing Order and I enclose a SSAE.

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Signed.....Dated.....

Title.....Name..... Memb. Number.....

Address.....

.....Post Code/Zip Code.....

Telephone (use by Memb. Sec. only).....Email.....

---

Office Use Only

Received.....Cheque No.....Dated.....

Bank.....Branch.....Amount £.....

Renewal Date.....

## WEBSITE NEWS

### **Olympic Archives**

The 1948 London Olympic Games were the first in which television played a role. This BBC website, set up in 2011, holds a collection of programmes and photographs from these first post-WWII Games, remembering the athletes who took part and showing the BBC's role in recording the event. There are several contemporary programmes, including a broadcast by Clement ATTLEE, the Prime Minister, as well as more recent broadcasts looking back at the Games. Also included are 3 pages from various editions of the *Radio Times* from 1948 and two collections of still photographs, one of the Opening Ceremony and the other featuring the various events, including a wonderful image of a crowd watching the British Gymnastics team training in the open air in the middle of Hyde Park.

This website is at: [www.bbc.co.uk/archive/olympics\\_1948/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/olympics_1948/)

### **Winning Endeavours**

Winning Endeavours is a new site which allows you to search for images relating to London's Olympic past – the 1908 and 1948 games hosted by the capital, athletes from London who have competed in the Olympics and London's sporting heritage. It is a collaboration between Archives for London, London Metropolitan Archives and the British Library and is part of the 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

25 archive repositories from London and the South East of England have contributed digitised images to this site from their collections. The images show photographs, newspaper articles, minutes, reports and other archival material created or collected by organisations or individuals and can be found at: <http://www.winningendeavours.org/>

### **Olympic Memories**

This site (part of the City of Westminster website) contains memories of people who lived through the 1948 Olympic Games. For example, either by reading a transcript or listening to his actual voice, you can learn about how Douglas MODEL, who was 15 years old at the time, took on extra jobs to earn money for tickets. This site is free and if you would like to contribute your own memories you only need to contact Georgia Vossou at Westminster City Archives, 10 St. Ann's St, SW1P 2DE or call 020 7641 5162 for more information. Visit: <http://www.westminster.gov.uk/services/leisureandculture/olympic-memories/>

## **The Olympic Record**

This is The National Archives' new and timely contribution. TNA holds a range of records on the modern Olympic and Paralympic Games and Cultural Olympiad from 1896 to the present. These are available online for the first time, providing access to this rich resource on sporting and cultural history.

The website is split into various sections, with a Timeline which includes selected records from TNA collections plus additional records for each year of the modern Games; another part brings together sporting, cultural and other activities happening now which will create a historical legacy for the future. There are links to other TNA archives such as census records and the image library as well as the official Olympic websites. This site is at: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/olympics](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/olympics)

## **Find A Grave**

Having just joined LWMFHS, this may be old news but having seen Deceased Online and Gravestone Photos mentioned in the Website News section, I thought I would mention Find A Grave just in case it hasn't been picked-up yet.

Find A Grave was set-up in the USA in 1995 and currently boasts 77 million records (although the last time I entered new records, the number was closer to 90 million). It is heavily dominated by North America (although that is no bad thing if you have ancestors who emigrated there) but has an increasingly wide coverage of the UK and around the world. For a UK example, Find A Grave records for Brookwood Cemetery in Surrey include: 3,435 individuals named on the 1939/45 memorial; 338 named on the 1914/18 memorial; and 614 other individuals. Churchyard records can be very small in number but picking my nearest, St James' churchyard in Enfield, there are 163 records on the site. The information is user-generated and can include: details of an individual's birth, death and burial place; photographs of cemeteries, grave memorials and sometimes the deceased individual; biographies of the deceased individual; transcription of the grave memorial and family links (where known).

As many UK churchyards feature, the information on Find A Grave will always complement the information covered by Deceased Online. You can search by an individual's name or by cemetery and accessing the records is free, after registration. Find A Grave is at [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

**Mike Paice, Member No 7728**

## The London Burial Grounds

While we are talking about burials, when Website News reviewed the London Burial Grounds website in July 2010 it was still very much a work in progress.

The 'Index to Burial Grounds' page has now been much improved and looks likely to be very useful to people looking for places where their ancestors might have been buried in the London area.

You can focus in on a specific area and the website will tell you of burial grounds, past and present. For example, if you click on the link to the 'Index to Burial Grounds' page it brings up an interactive map of London; you can then select an area, such as Finsbury, which splits this area into parts, in this case St Luke's North and St Luke's South.

Looking at St Luke's North brings up information and photographs about the existing churchyard of St Luke's, Old Street and on lost grounds at Bath Street, St Bartholomew's Hospital Ground in Seward Street, Pest Field Old Street, the Plague Pit Mount Mill, the burial ground of the French Hospital, Bath Street and a possible one attached to St Barnabas, King Square.

St Luke's South Page contains the Wesleyan Chapel Ground, City Road, Bunhill Fields, The Friend's Burial Ground, Bunhill Row, The City Bunhill (or Golden Lane) Burial Ground and mentions lost grounds Cripplegate Poor-Ground at Whitecross Street, Thomas' at Golden Lane and Cupid's Court Ground, also at Golden Lane.

Information on each page is colour-coded, with green text being current observations and notes, purple writing being quotes from *The London Burial Grounds* by Mrs Basil Holmes (1897) and blue being information from other sources, which are always credited and mentioned in full on the bibliography page.

You can reach this site at: <http://www.londonburials.co.uk/>

Thanks very much to Mike Paice for his review of *Find A Grave*; he has also sent us another contribution for the next issue.

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.



## **THE FEW WHO REACHED FOR THE SKY**

By Keith Rookledge, Non-Member

13 April 2012 saw the centenary of the Royal Flying Corps (RFC). By the end of the First World War, Britain had more than 5,000 pilots, and the RFC had become the Royal Air Force (RAF). Those of us researching ancestors who flew as pilots during these early years of aviation are faced with the task of accessing records held at various locations.

Early pilots who learned to fly at civilian schools were issued with Aviators' Certificates by the Royal Aero Club. Index records and photographs can be searched at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

The National Archives (TNA) holds the service records of RAF officers discharged between 1 April 1918 and 31 December 1920. The records – which can be searched and downloaded from the TNA's Documents Online service – may include retrospective details of earlier service in the RFC or Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS), where appropriate.

The TNA and the RAF Museum (at Hendon in north-west London) both hold copies of the Muster Roll compiled on the formation of the Royal Air Force on 1 April 1918, which gives brief details of all NCOs and airmen then in service. However, they are only listed in order of service number; there is no alphabetical index. The RAF Museum also holds an incomplete series of RFC/RAF casualty cards for the period 1914-1925. These include many non-fatal casualties and training accidents.

The Royal Aero Club archives, held at the RAF Museum, hold records of 400 or so pilots who continued to fly after the War, and who took out insurance coverage through Lloyd's of London. These insurance records show the names and addresses of the pilots, often with details of their flying experience, including any crashes in which they were involved. The image of one such record is shown.

The records have been indexed and a 'look-up' can be undertaken until they are published.

Please send your enquiry to: [royalaeroclubgb@googlemail.com](mailto:royalaeroclubgb@googlemail.com)

<b>LLOYD'S AVIATION RECORD.</b>		G. ALCHIN.
<b>PILOTS.</b>		Date of Issue.....
<i>Confidential Information for the Use of Subscribers only.</i>		
<i>Name</i> ..... Gordon Alchin, (Major) Broomfield, Sedburgh, Wiltshire, St. Leonards, S. S. X.	<i>Age</i> .....	<i>Date of Birth</i> ..... 30th Dec., 1893.
<i>Address</i> or Braconose College, O. X. E. O. R. D.		<i>Nationality</i> ..... British.
<i>Description of Certificates and Licences with dates.</i>		
A Licence No. 569, valid 23/7/30 to 22/1/21.		
<i>Types of Aircraft Licensed to fly.</i>		
V A R I O U S.		
<i>General Experience and Hours flown per type.</i>		
<p>Has flown 41 types of aircraft from Scouts to Handley Pages, but chiefly Bristol F.2B., B.E.'s and R.E.'s.</p> <p>From August to December 1915, was an Observer in the R.F.C., and started the first School at Gosport in February, 1916.</p> <p>Became Pilot and flew with E. E. F. (France) and eventually became an O.C.</p> <p>References.- Lieut.-Col. C. H. Blount, M.C., Air Ministry. Lieut.-Col. W. S. Douglas, M.C., Kenley.</p>		
		<i>Source of Information and Date.</i>  Pilot. 14.12.30.



## GRAND LARCENY

Daphne Thorne, Member No. 3260

William James ALLSOP was my 3xgreat grandfather. He and his wife, Sarah Abigail BUDGE, had six children, the first three dying in infancy. William and Sarah turn up in the records of the Old Bailey for 15 January 1817, as victims of theft (otherwise known as grand larceny) perpetrated by their 17-year-old servant:

Lucy SIMS, the Old Bailey Defendant, was indicted for stealing one shift, one shirt, two petticoats, one coat, two pair of gloves, two black feathers, one cap, four pair of stockings, two napkins, four gowns, one gown-skirt, one pair of stays, one tippet, one spencer, four handkerchiefs, and one basket, the property of William James ALLSOP on the 7th of December. The total value of the haul was £1 19s 6d.

William James ALLSOP gave evidence: I am a labourer and live at Hampstead; the prisoner lived servant with me for about three months, she absented herself on the 7th of December, when we missed the property. I made application to Reid, the officer. I apprehended her myself, at Hampstead, on the 1st of January; she gave me no warning before she left.

Sarah ALLSOP added: I am the wife of the last witness, the prisoner was my servant; when I laid-in she went away for a fortnight, while I had another nurse; she was backwards and forwards during the time, and afterwards came to live with me again; the night before she went away, she said she should get up early to clean the kitchen, she did not say she was going. She got up early, and left us - she did not clean the kitchen. I saw no more of her till she was at the office. I missed the articles mentioned in the indictment. When she was at Hatton-Garden, I asked her what she had done with them; she said she had sold them, and that I should never receive any of them again.

William REID, the officer said: I went to look for the prisoner. The prosecutor gave her into my charge. I asked her where she had pawned the things, she said she had been into the country and sold them at different places.

The prisoner put in a written defence, charging the prosecutor with having an illicit connexion [sic] with her, and stated that she had taken the things to support herself.

The verdict of the First Middlesex Jury (before Mr RECORDER) was guilty, but judgment was respited.

Judgment respited means that women who claimed they were pregnant at the time they were sentenced to death could 'plead their belly'. Such women were then examined by a jury of matrons chosen from women present in the courtroom, and, if found to be 'quick with child' their punishment was respited until after the baby was born. In principle, the punishment could then be carried out, but in practice sympathy for the newborn child (or concern for the cost of caring for it) meant that the mother was often pardoned. So Lucy SIMS, although only aged 17, was pregnant and she said that the father was William James ALLSOP, her employer.

William James ALLSOP deserted his wife after about twelve years of marriage, leaving her unprovided for. She heard nothing more of him until 1854, when their son James was sent for to bury his father.

Note: Records of this case are at: [www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org), version 7.0, April 2012

I am a member of the one-name study, the Allsop Family Group. I first sent this little write-up to Mrs Winifred Waterall who runs this group and is happy for METROPOLITAN to use it.

### **STRAYS**

Kate Elizabeth Jane CLAYTON aged 2 years of Finchley near London was buried at Navenby, Lincolnshire on 4 June 1872

Ada Marie CLAYTON aged 1 month of Finchley near London was buried at Navenby, Lincolnshire on 18 October 1873

Thanks to Alan Sabey, Member No. 5270, for sending this in.

## MY HEART DOETH AKE

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No 4992

La Rochelle, capital of the Charente-Maritime department in western France and a sheltered harbour on the Atlantic coast, might seem a long way from our area but there are links with the UK.

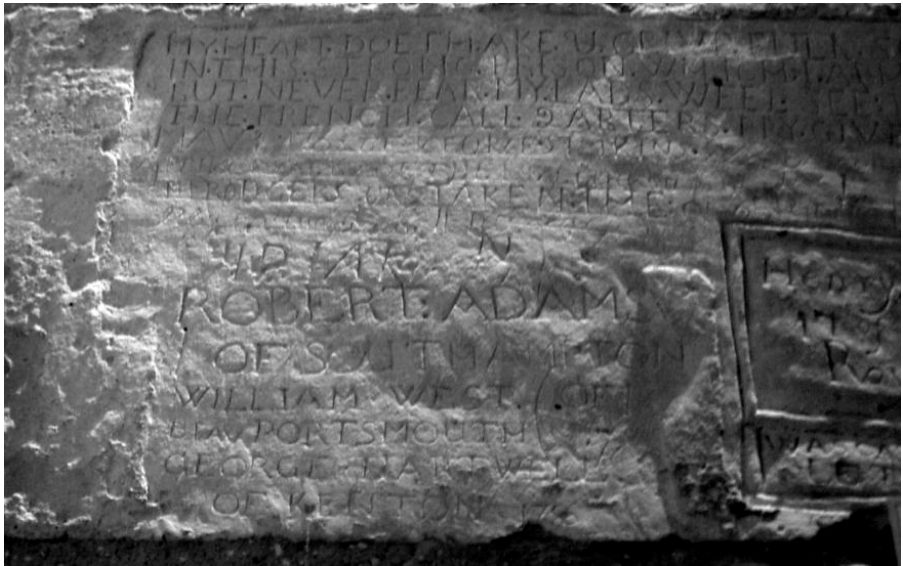
Back in the Middle Ages large parts of France came under the control of Henry Plantagenet (who was Count of Anjou and Duke of Normandy, amongst other titles) when he married Eleanor, Duchess of Aquitaine and Countess of Poitiers, on 18 May 1152. Following the death of his uncle Stephen, Henry inherited the kingdom of England and was crowned King Henry II on 25 October 1154. Thus La Rochelle came under English rule. It became a significant port, exporting wine and salt to England, Ireland, the Netherlands and Spain. In 1224 the town was recaptured by Louis VIII and reverted to French rule but in 1360, during the Hundred Years War, it again became English for a short while.

The English came to the support of the French Huguenots of La Rochelle in 1627, with King Charles I sending the Duke of Buckingham and a fleet of 80 ships. However, this initiative



was not successful and 22,000 of La Rochelle's inhabitants starved to death after Cardinal Richelieu laid siege to the town. Although Richelieu destroyed much of La Rochelle's fortifications, three towers still survive from medieval times. One of these, the Tour de la Lanterne (pictured left) is particularly interesting as the internal walls are covered with graffiti, scratched into the walls by captured English privateers who were held there.

Whilst on holiday in France last summer I took a photograph of some of that graffiti. The picture opposite shows a scratched poem:



My heart doeth ake & grieve full sorre  
In this strong prison witch labour  
But never fear my lads weel see  
The French call zarters pray give me  
George SIMKINS xxx day of May 1762

Underneath the poem are three other names: Robert ADAMS of Southampton, William WEST of Portsmouth, George HARTWELL of Kenton 1756. I thought that the Kenton mentioned might be the one in Middlesex but upon reflection I think it was probably the one near Exeter in Devon – there were still HARTWELLS there in 1851.

Absolutely amazing! Someone's ancestors have carved their own names AND dates in stone and here are the results, hundreds of years later, still in perfect condition! I suppose castle prisons were ideal opportunities for our ancestors to do this; they probably had plenty of time on their hands...

Note: Has anyone transcribed carved records such as these? Do many castles contain graffiti? Have you ever seen anything like this, or other unusual sources of genealogical information? Do let the editors know if you have!

**OBITUARY**  
**FREDERICK CHARLES 'FRED' CARTER**  
**8 November 1922 - 16 April 2012**

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Fred Carter on 16 April after major surgery and a long stay in hospital.



Fred and his wife Irene joined the then North Middlesex Family History Society in the summer of 1991. Very soon after, Fred was co-opted onto the Enfield Branch Committee and became an invaluable member, participating in both Society and Branch events. The main Society event was the annual SoG Family History Fair at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster.

Two annual events in which the Enfield Branch participated were the Enfield Town Show where, until Enfield Council decided Family History was not an Art, we had a stall in the Arts Council Tent, and the London Borough of Haringey's Local History Day held at Bruce Castle Museum in February. Both Fred and I greatly enjoyed the latter event where we met up with exhibitors from both the Edmonton Hundred and the Hornsey Historical Societies as well as our Society members.

Fred was also a member of the SoG and he and Irene visited Charterhouse Buildings and various other London repositories, including Kew, in search of their respective family histories.

Fred was a great raconteur and loved to reminisce upon his boyhood escapades growing up in Muswell Hill. He also loved to reminisce on the army service of his five uncles who were all in the Middlesex Regiment (Diehards) during WW1. Fred has given talks to Branch Members on these subjects and several of his articles have been published in METROPOLITAN. Fred, together with his three brothers were all members of the TA at Hornsey Drill Hall and after being drafted into the

Royal Engineers in 1942 Fred served in France.

In civilian life Fred was a carpenter by trade and up until his retirement worked for the GLC at County Hall, becoming Clerk of Works.

Fred was also a keen swimmer and every Wednesday met up with his pals at Broxbourne Baths where he thought nothing of swimming twenty lengths of the pool, right up to his illness.

Each year for the Enfield Branch Christmas Socials Fred would devise a quiz. This, together with Arthur Parker's Musical Quiz, would engender fierce competition among the participating teams.

Living 'just around the corner' from me, Fred was a regular visitor. Usually we discussed Society matters which concerned him but later in the summer he would deliver cooking apples and rhubarb from his garden. (He grew all his own vegetables.) Other members of the Enfield committee were also the recipients of Fred's generosity as, I suspect, were many others.

Fred's biggest pride and joy however was his wife Rene and their family. He was immensely proud of his daughters Jean (UK), and Evelyn (US), their respective husbands, and his four granddaughters, two in the UK and two in the US. Over many years Fred collected used postage stamps and purchased First Day Covers. The latter were posted on letters to Evelyn, sent back to Fred and then mounted in two Stamp Albums, one for Jean, the other for Evelyn. Fred also collected used postage stamps from me on a regular basis and many members will, therefore, have contributed to Fred's stamp collections. Any surplus was donated to Chase Farm Hospital.

A service celebrating Fred's long life was held at the New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium (formerly the Great Northern Cemetery) on Wednesday 2 May. The LWMFHS was represented by Rosemary Roome (Society Chairman); Lilian Gibbens, (Enfield Chairman) and her husband Colin; Arthur and Dorothy Parker and Connie Austin (Enfield Committee), Connie's husband Brian; and member Lesley Denchfield. The Society sends sincere condolences to Rene and their family.

Before the start of the Enfield meeting (2 May) a one minute silence was held in memory of Fred. We will miss you Fred. May you rest in peace.

**Anne Prudames, Member No. 245**

## TWO WEDDINGS AND A PHOTOGRAPH

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1714

With respect, I don't suppose many people have heard of Sir Samuel Luke FILDES (1844-1927) born Liverpool. He studied at the Warrington School of Art before coming to London to continue his talent for painting at South Kensington Art School. His paintings are terrific, my favourites being that of King Edward VII resplendent in a cavalry uniform, another is of Charles DICKENS' grave in Westminster Abbey. But I think it fair to say his most famous work is *The Wedding* painted in 1883. I have a copy of this which I cut out of a supplement about 20 years ago; I also sent for a much larger poster-size example which was being given free by a well-known pharmaceutical company, by way of a special occasion.

Now, I am the keeper of quite a good collection of my family photos but, much to my chagrin, I am devoid of wedding pictures. My earliest is that of my own parents in the 1930s, so every now and then when I am looking for something else and come across FILDES' wedding picture I stop and contemplate, wondering if any of my Victorian family weddings were anything like that. Indeed, I try to pick out a particular wedding that might fit the bill- especially outside the church immediately after the ceremony. I, of course, would love to know where FILDES' depiction took place, even if he used a bit of artistic licence. I still think the painting is based on somewhere I might know - I guess Herts, Beds, Bucks area. The church in the picture has no steeple and I notice there are two pubs or inns in the main street; you need to see the larger picture to appreciate all the detail.

Of course experimental photography was coming along, right from early Victorian times but generally speaking things really got going when *The Times* correspondent William RUSSELL started sending back reports from the Crimea and Roger FENTON was supplying the now famous photographs from the front. The newspaper must have sold a lot of extra copies during the 1854-56 period of the war, so imagine my surprise when I recently came across in an obscure, possibly provincial, freebee paper an item concerning a very old wedding photo. This fascinating snippet, which was well tucked away, said that it was thought to be the earliest known wedding photograph, taken in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire in 1856. Amazing!

The young lady was Hannah PRATLEY, 24 (a maid) and the groom George TAYLOR, 24 and just think, the photo was taken 156 years ago! I do wonder how many more weddings pictures that particular photographer took in those very early years.

Acknowledgement: Sarah Haywood.

You can see the photo at: <http://www.metro.co.uk/news/890368-britains-oldest-wedding-photo-is-found>

Can any of our members compete?

Footnote:

Sir Samuel Luke FILDES KCV, RA has a Blue Plaque at 31 Melbury Rd, W14 (he lived there from 1878-1927 and also has a plaque at 7 Newman Street, WI where he resided in 1868). He did the illustrations for Charles DICKENS' *Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

Roger FENTON (1819-1869) has a Blue Plaque at 2 Albert Terrace, Primrose Hill, NW1. He died quite young at 49 due to suffering bouts of cholera in the Crimea.

FILDES' wedding picture can be viewed on the internet, for example at Google Images. It is very popular as a jigsaw puzzle!

### **WILDERNESS ROW CHAPEL, WILDERNESS ROW, ISLINGTON**

This chapel was opened in 1785 by Welsh Calvinistic Methodists but was probably older, as John WESLEY preached in a chapel on this site in 1769. Enlarged in 1806 and acquired by Wesleyan Methodists in 1823; replaced by the St John's Square Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in 1849; reopened as the Zion Chapel (Strict Baptist) and probably rebuilt; closed in 1878; part still standing in 1938; incorporated into commercial premises.

Source: *Islington Chapels* by Phillip Temple, 1992, an architectural guide to Nonconformist and Roman Catholic places of worship in the London Borough of Islington, published by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England.

**Anne Prudames**

See: Special Interests, page iii



## NEWS FROM THE BOOKSTALL

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96 pages 180 photographs 90 sepia 90 colour

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Please Note: Bookstall price is for books purchased at Branch meetings and at FH Fairs and does not include postal costs.

**Anne Prudames, Bookstall Manager**



## BOOK REVIEWS

*Soho & Theatreland Through Time* by Brian Girling, published by Amberley Publishing, ISBN 978-1-4456-0202-8

Price: £14.99 Bookstall; £16.60 UK; £19.25 Europe; £22.90 overseas - air; £18.60 overseas - surface

Amberley Publishing has produced two new books both on the fascinating and notorious area known as Soho. This first volume, a paperback, is based on several photographic collections together with additional information from The Westminster City Archives Centre.

The photographs in this volume follow the familiar before and now format with dates covering the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The book gives a flavour of the various immigrants that came into the area including Italians, Germans and Swiss who followed Greek Christians and Huguenots.

There are numerous pictures of the many theatres and the well-loved markets, such as Berwick Street and Rupert Street, with the attendant costermongers. Who amongst us has never shopped in Foyle's book shop or browsed through the second-hand volumes in Charing Cross Road? Both places are featured.

As with other books in this series there are pictures for those interested in early fashion and transport. Everyone will find pictures in this book that will appeal, two outstanding pictures in my opinion are Berwick Street Market as taken from Peter Street in 1908 and Sunday morning in Berwick Street, c 1896, showing a crowd scene viewed from the rear which clearly shows the clothing of the period.

A good book to browse through and is up to Brian Girling's usual standard.

*The Story of Soho: the Windmill Years 1932-1964* by Mike Hutton,  
published by Amberley Press, ISBN 978-1-4456-0684-2  
Price: £20.00 Bookstall

This second book is a hardback comprising mainly text with 90 illustrations.

Mike Hutton is a social historian and as such has no qualms in giving us all the earthy details. It covers a period of changing values both morally and socially starting in the 1930s right through to the 1970s. The author draws on his own experiences with of course some vital research. We are reminded of the many different nationalities who were instrumental in forming this unique district of rags and riches.

Little did the many theatregoers and those who patronised the posh restaurants realise how close they were to the seat of organised crime. Overlooking everything was the Windmill Theatre which during the war years was a magnet to servicemen who were stationed in or near London as were the comparatively better paid wartime GIs with money to burn.

Chapter 13 entitled the 'The Bare Facts' explains Britain's attitude to nudity during the 1950s and how Vivian Van Dam and Paul Raymond exploited the lucrative market. A word of warning to the prudish reader, several of the Windmill girls are portrayed in their working outfits which can only be described as birthday suits, however properly posed. There are some pictures of the Windmill girls in their retirement years. These ladies were however considered 'squeaky-clean' compared to the girls working in the numerous strip clubs.

Some of the long forgotten notorious gangs such as Messini and Sabini are mentioned as is the odd dodgy policeman. Many well-known stars are mentioned who could often be seen on the Soho streets. The food shops are not left out, you can almost smell the aroma of coffee and fresh baked bread.

There are too many facets to mention but this book gives many interesting and historical facts about Soho and earlier owners of the Windmill. I am sure the contents will give a nostalgic jog to the memory of anyone who knew the area in the past.

Both volumes can be purchased through our bookstall

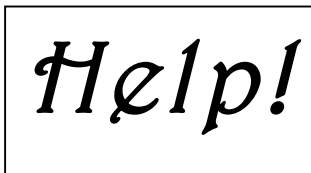
**Bill Pyemont, Member No: 5639**

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.



## CLAYTON

I was wondering if any member would be kind enough to do a look-up for me so that I have the correct information when ordering a family death certificate. To reciprocate, I am always happy to help any member with their research with Australian records.

I can't go any further with my CLAYTON family research until I find the deaths of Thomas CLAYTON and Ellen, née BAGLIN (his wife).

Possible deaths are: Ellen CLAYTON died Wandsworth Jan 1893. Thomas CLAYTON died Camberwell 1894. Then again, they may have moved closer to family in Accrington/Haslingden, Lancashire, in their later years when most of their children had left home (after the 1891 census).

Information that I have gleaned from census returns is as follows: Thomas CLAYTON was born about 1819 at Scriven, Knaresborough, Yorkshire, and was a tailor by trade; Ellen BAGLIN was born 1832 at Walcot, Bath, Somerset and was a dressmaker. Parents: Thomas BAGLIN, tailor and Martha MULLINS. I cannot establish Thomas CLAYTON's birth or parentage so am finding it difficult to find his death.

The last information that I have of them is that they were in London in the 1891 census living at 45 Charlotte Street, Portland Place, Marylebone. They lived mostly in the St Pancras/Marylebone area of London since the 1850s. They were married at St George Hanover Square 10 June 1855 at the Parish Church. On their marriage certificate Thomas gives his father as William, farmer or farrier. To confuse matters, another Thomas and Ellen CLAYTON were living at Islington at the same time as my CLAYTON family and their deaths are recorded.

If any member would be happy to look up these records for me from original entries to establish parentage, I would be most grateful.

***Bonita Creswell-Young Member No. 7554***

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

*Email: corblimey.too@bigpond.com*

Note: The parish of Scriven with Tentergate lies in the Knaresborough Registration District in the West Riding of Yorkshire. In 1822 there was a population of only 1,373 (according to [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk)).

There is a very interesting document online, with plenty of photographs of Scriven. It is the Scriven Conservation Character Appraisal at: [http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/Documents/DS-P-CAA\\_Scriven\\_approved\\_270110\\_B.pdf](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/Documents/DS-P-CAA_Scriven_approved_270110_B.pdf)

The Church of St John the Baptist at Knaresborough is probably where local children would have been baptised. Records from this church are on the IGI and include the Baptism Register for 1819-1833. They show a Thomas CLAYTON, son of Jane CLAYTON baptised on 13 October 1819. The two of them are the only CLAYTONs in this Register.

### **IRENE BROWN/WHITE and THE ODEON**



Whilst researching my family history, I have come across these lovely photos (above and opposite) of my grandmother, Irene, taken in the late

1940s whilst she was working at the Odeon cinema in Rayners Lane. Her married name was WHITE, but I think these photos were taken before she married so her name at the time would have been Irene BROWN.

Irene is in the front row (second from right) on the large group shot and in the front row (far right) on the smaller group pic of the 7 ladies. After her birth in the North East of England, Irene and the rest of the Browns moved to Harrow and lived in Stiven Crescent (in South Harrow) where Irene met Alwyn WHITE, my grandfather, who lived in the same road with his family.

If anyone recognises themselves or a family member in the photos, I would love them to get in touch and tell me more about their memories of The Odeon and working there.

***Natalie Booroff, Member No. 7718***

*6 St James' Rise, East Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2GD*

*Email: nat@natlife.co.uk*



## FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

### **Barnet Branch** – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Thursday 19 July            *The Story of Money*  
by Richard Selby
- Thursday 16 August        *Courtship and Marriage in the 1800s*  
by Tom Doig
- Thursday 20 September    *The Collections of the Imperial War Museum  
and the National Army Museum*  
by Ken Divall
- Thursday 18 October       *Sex, Sin and Scandal in Newspapers*  
by Roy Stockdill

### **City Branch** – 12 noon for 12.30pm

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

- Thursday 26 July            No meeting
- Thursday 30 August        Mementoes and Memories - Members' Meeting
- Thursday 27 September    *Markets and Fairs on the Road to the West*  
by Andrea Cameron
- Thursday 25 October       *The London Labyrinth*  
by Kathy Chater

### **Enfield Branch** – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Wednesday 4 July           *Life of Rudyard Kipling*  
by Margaret Carr
- Wednesday 1 August       Family History Stories – Members' Meeting
- Wednesday 5 September   *Eighty Years of My Life*  
by Bill Bosum
- Wednesday 3 October       *Postcard Slides of Enfield*  
by Stephen Sellick

**Rayners Lane Branch** – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Friday 13 July                    *With Cap in Hand*  
by Audrey Gillett
- Friday 10 August                No meeting
- Friday 14 September           *Creating a Family History Website*  
by John Hanson
- Friday 12 October               *The French Foreign Legion – a bolt hole for  
disappearing ancestors*  
by Ken Divall

**Wembley Branch** – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Monday 23 July                   *Tracing Huguenot Ancestry*  
by Kathy Chater
- Monday 27 August                No meeting
- Monday 24 September           *From Notion to Presentation*  
by Meryl Catty
- Monday 22 October               *Saving Dickens' Children*  
by Dr Gillian Gear

## ADVERTISING RATES

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**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.



## PHOTOGRAPHS – Update

By the Editors

Thank you very much to the following members who have answered our cry for help and sent in photographs for the website; Alan Baldwin, Roy Barnard, Mary Grisdale, Felicity Head, Gerry Poulton, Anne Prudames and Daphne Thorne. Roy Barnard sent us his pictures of Northolt Church from South Africa – so he had travelled many miles to take photographs!

A revised list is below:

### **Middlesex Parish Churches to be photographed.**

<i>Edgware St Margaret</i>	<i>Ickenham St Giles</i>
<i>Edmonton All Saints</i>	<i>Kingsbury St Andrew</i>
<i>Finchley St Mary</i>	<i>Little Stanmore St Lawrence</i>
<i>Finsbury, St Luke, Old St</i>	<i>Paddington St James &amp; St Mary</i>
<i>Friern Barnet, St James</i>	<i>Perivale St Mary the Virgin</i>
<i>Great Stanmore St John</i>	<i>Pinner St John the Baptist</i>
<i>Greenford Holy Cross</i>	<i>Ruislip St Martin</i>
<i>Hampstead St John, Church Row</i>	<i>St Marylebone</i>
<i>Harefield St Mary the Virgin</i>	<i>Twyford St Mary</i>
<i>Harrow St Mary's</i>	<i>Wealdstone Holy Trinity</i>
<i>Harrow Weald All Saints</i>	<i>Wembley St John</i>
<i>Hendon St Mary</i>	<i>Willesden St Mary</i>
<i>Hornsey St Mary</i>	<i>Wood Green St Michael</i>

If you are visiting Westminster, then we also need: St Anne's Soho; St James Piccadilly; St John the Evangelist, Smith Square; St Margaret Westminster; St Paul Covent Garden and Westminster Abbey (the Collegiate Church of St Peter). At the time of writing, St Margaret's Westminster is covered in scaffolding and plastic sheet.

We have received such lovely photos that we thought we would make a feature of them and so are planning to use them in articles about individual churches. St Pancras Old Church is the first one and can be seen on page 139 of this journal.

## **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

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