

# THE HAREFIELD HERALD



**2011**

The occasional Magazine of  
**Harefield History Society**

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# EDITORIAL

**WELCOME** to 'The Harefield Herald', the new style magazine that I hope you will find interesting and enjoyable. Why the 'Herald' you may well ask. To herald is to bring news, to announce that something is about to happen and I hope that is precisely what you will find within these pages. News about future events, stories about apposite happenings plus a forum for your views.

I must thank Rosemary Causton for producing the magazine for us. Without her help you would still be getting the old style News Letter. I hope you will agree that this is a big advance for us and your feedback will always be welcome.

I am also very grateful to our sponsors, H. M. Grimstead (see inside front cover) for their help and support in producing this issue. Their input will allow us to supply each member with a free copy; another incentive to becoming Society members.

As primroses herald the first signs of spring, so may this magazine herald a new burgeoning of our activities in the wide world of history. Abraham Lincoln, in his annual message to Congress in 1862 said "We cannot escape history". It is the aim of this Society that we don't!

*Gordon Isaacs*

## HAREFIELD AND THE VICTORIA CROSS



It really is amazing that two soldiers who were presented with Victoria Crosses, the highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy, were born in this village within months of each other and probably attended school together.

The fact that both have now been officially remembered and recognised with a Blue Plaque is mainly down to the research, drive and perspicacity of one man, a member of this Society. He is John Parkinson. Without his persistence and terrier-like refusal to accept 'NO' for an answer I very much doubt whether the plaques would be in place. The one commemorating Robert Ryder can be seen on the wall of the Old Workhouse, where Robert was born. Again due to John's research members of the Ryder family attended the unveiling, with other dignitaries, in a simple ceremony in July 2010.

It was hoped that Lt. Gen. Gerald Goodlake would be similarly remembered, but the Council refused to acknowledge him, although his grave is in the graveyard of St. Mary's, Harefield. He was a resident of Denham so in the Council's bureaucratic outlook he was beyond the pale. So in conjunction with the local Royal British Legion a plaque is now installed within the Legion's hall commemorating both Goodlake and Ryder. The plaque was a joint venture between the RBL and this Society. It was unveiled in August 2010 and officers of both regiments, the Coldstream Guards and the Middlesex Regiment, were in attendance with local representatives.

As if two VCs was not enough, John Parkinson, then researched that Cecil John Kinross was another holder born in the village. He was born in Dews Farm (see an article on the farm in this magazine) and by dint of very good co-operation with the Council a Blue Plaque was unveiled at the farm in February this year. It was a more up-market event than that for Robert Ryder as it was attended by the Canadian

Deputy High Commissioner, the Mayor and Leader of the Council, plus two officers from the Loyal Edmonton Regiment who had flown over from Canada especially for the occasion.

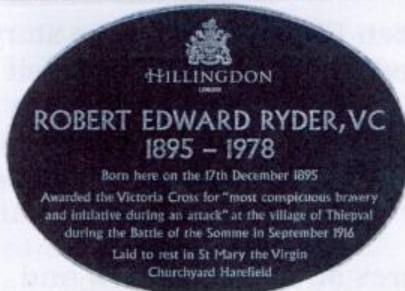
Moving beyond Harefield I recently visited the new Lord Ashcroft Gallery in the Imperial War Museum which houses his wonderful collection of Victoria Crosses and George Crosses. There is a marked difference between the two medals. The VC has always been made from bronze from

Russian cannons captured in the Crimean War whereas the GC is solid silver and made by the Royal Mint. It is well worth a visit to see Robert Ryder's VC and many others, like that of Leefe Robinson, another nearly local hero and almost uniquely the VC of Noel Chavasse, one of only three men to ever win the VC twice.

During my visit to the Gallery I discovered an unbelievable coincidence. I knew there are cases of members of the same family both winning crosses, brothers, fathers and sons, but I was very surprised to find two holders with the same name and even more flabbergasted to discover that name was - wait for it - Robert Edward Ryder. We know all about our Harefield

hero, but how many of us know that Commander Robert Edward Ryder, R.N. won a Victoria Cross in action at the ill-fated action at St. Nazaire in March, 1942?

G. A. I.



## DEWS FARM



After a recent visit to Dews Farm, English Heritage concluded that on the external evidence it was rebuilt during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Whatever the age of the surviving buildings, the farm has a long and interesting history. According to Kiddle's unpublished historical geography of N.W. Middlesex (in the Uxbridge Library) the farm is identifiable in 1422/3 and may have been the dairy house connected with the Brackenbury estate in 1510 or, going back in time, the "vaccaria" (to do with cows) of 1409. It was known as Dairyhouse or Dayhouse as well as Dews and was mentioned in 1559 as part of the Newdigate estate: "The Dayhouse farm with all the land thereunto belonging with Halstoës Crachers Parkhill Groveland Frefild and Pyfeld." It was worth £55.6s.8d p.a. the rent being paid in "beoves" and "muttons".<sup>1</sup>

In 1593 a survey of the manor for the then owner Sir Edmund Anderson mentioned a messuage with an orchard called the Dairy House with Frye Field, Groveland, Great and Little Perry Field, Park Croft, Broad Meadow, Brokeshott Field, Park Hill, Little Park Hill, Middle Field, Hansters Field, 222 acres in all let to John Baylie. In 1601 Alexander Briscoe was the tenant.<sup>2</sup>

J. Nichols in the Progresses of Queen Elizabeth tells the story that Queen Elizabeth was welcomed to Harefield on her visit in 1602 at a farmhouse "now called Dews Farm" and proceeded along an avenue of elms to Harefield Place (apparently this story was supplied by Sir Roger Newdigate, so is not contemporary).

Later, in 1668 the farm with 52 acres of water meadow and 107 acres of arable and pasture was let to Richard Bonion for £160 p.a. In 1672 he paid Hearth Tax on 3 fireplaces which means that the farmhouse was not specially large. The farm had special rights in the riverside "moors" (mostly covered by water filled gravel pits now) with common, that is grazing, for

cows and a bull.<sup>3</sup> Dews/Dayhouse/Dairyhouse Farm was on a by-road in use for driving cattle into Harefield Moor and in 1677 there were calls for the repair of the lane. Those who made use of it should help to put it right. Anyone refusing "work and assistance" would not be allowed to use the road, the manor court decreed. Among the Newdigate papers in the Warwick Record Office are some rather muddled accounts for Dewes Farm showing that wheat, barley, oats, peas and beans and hay were grown. There was dairying, and sheep, poultry and pigs were kept as well as cattle and horses. This was in 1681.<sup>4</sup>

In 1682 Henry Austin paid £120 for 186 acres of Dews Farm and it was agreed that Sir Richard Newdigate should continue to have the use of the stables, barn and two rooms in the house until the following May. Austin was still at Dews in 1699 when a sketch map of the farm buildings showed the house with barns and cart house, an orchard and a hop yard. Austin, who came from Cookham originally, was a literate man unlike some of the farmers of the time. He had six children and three living in servants. He played his part in public life and was Harefield's constable in 1691, overseer of the commons in 1700 and churchwarden in 1702. Maybe he was not the perfect tenant, though. In 1702 Sir Richard Newdigate was complaining that he had damaged or destroyed trees on the farm through lopping them.<sup>5</sup> The Austins remained at Dews for a long time. They were still there in 1763, but John Trumper took over in 1777.<sup>6</sup> In 1851 (when there was a census) William Trumper was farming 452 acres and employing 17 workers, the largest number of any farm in the parish. Four labourers, a maid-servant, a gardener and his wife were living in. In 1871 Louisa Trumper a widow was heading the household. By 1881 she was 89 years old and had 8 men and 3 boys to work the 400 acres. Her farm servants included her bailiff, Isaac Ive or Ives. She had a 16 year old maid to help in the house and a middle aged niece lived with her.

**References:** 1. SLRO Acc1085/EF3 2. Ibid EM1 & WRO CR136/C2221 3. GLRO Acc1085/EM5 4. WRO CR136/V84 5. Ibid C2333, GLRO Acc1085/EM11, Gregory King's list 6. Acc1085/EF17. Margaret Evans and Elona Cuthbertson.

# History Society Award Scheme for HAREFIELD ACADEMY



The Society has sponsored an annual award for presentation at the Harefield Academy's Presentation Evening and it is entitled '**Keeping History Alive**'. We are pleased to be building closer bridges with the excellent Academy and with their total co-operation the inaugural winner was chosen. She is Niamh McGrath and is pictured here with the Head of History, Helen Walls and the chairman. The citation that precluded the presentation follows and without doubt Niamh McGrath was a very worthy student to become the first holder of our Award.





## **CITATION**

History depicts the fascinating events of how the world came to be in existence. It gives us explanations of events from the past and can be used to understand the relationship between then and now.

The winner of this award joined us at the beginning of Year 12, her transition was seamless and she has been an absolute delight to teach. She is an incredibly mature, hardworking and insightful young woman, who has successfully used her talents and ability to communicate to raise the profile of History within The Academy.

She was selected to travel to the death camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau as part of the Lessons from the Auschwitz programme. The visit had a tremendous impact on her, so much so, on her return to the Academy she created and facilitated a very moving assembly on the holocaust which was delivered to the students as part of our remembrance activities.

She is a dynamic and inspiring individual who has used these skills to make others aware of issues that are important to her and she feels should be important to them.

Well done Niamh McGrath you are a worthy winner of this award.

## WHEN QUEEN ELIZABETH 1<sup>st</sup> CAME TO HAREFIELD

This is Harefield Place, the home of the Lord of the Manor and the splendid house that



Queen Elizabeth visited in 1602 as recalled in this article from the Coronation issue of the Harefield Month. The House more or less stood where the Anzac Cemetery is today.

It was on the last day of July, 1602, that a gay cavalcade came over the hills to Harefield. It was an occasion on which Queen Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> and her extensive suite were engaged on one of those numerous rural excursions in which Her Royal Highness so delighted, and which was called a Royal Progress.

On this occasion the destination was Harefield Place, the Manor House which stood hard by the Parish Church and of which vestiges of the foundations still exist. The visit was to the Lord Keeper of the Realm, Sir Thomas Egerton and his stately lady, the Countess of Derby, whose name is still perpetuated on the village's picturesque almshouses which she founded. Not only was the hospitality on a prodigious and extravagant scale, but it was necessary to present to the Queen numerous novel and expensive gifts.

### THE WELCOME

Arrived at the "dayrie house" or home farm, which stood some distance from the mansion, the regal cavalcade was met by a number of allegorical characters. This was a reception typical of the period and enabled the host and hostess to offer that profusion of complimentary speeches to which the Royal ear was well accustomed, yet never tired of.

The manuscript recounts: "After the Queene entered the Deamesne grounds of Harefielde Place she was met first by two persons representing a bailiff and dairymaid with a

speech. Her Majesty being on horseback, stayed under a tree, (because it was raining), to hear it."

In the speech the size of the house and specially the larder was deprecated, although the speech included reference to "a messe of clouted cream, stroakings, redd cows' milk, which they say in London is restorative, and green cheeses and creame, and in fruit, jenitings, pare mayors, russet cots, pippines, abb-johns and paroplums (damsons)."

The speaker then presented the Queen with "two juells" representative of a rake and fork.

The party was then escorted to the mansion through a long avenue of lofty elms entering probably by London Gate. The avenue retained the name of Queen's Walk for generations.

### **WAS SHAKESPEARE THERE?**

When Her Majesty alighted from her horse she ascended three steps "near to the entering into the house," where a carpet and chair was placed for her. Here "Place" and "Time" presented themselves with further dialogue and welcome. Incidentally the Queen was then 79.

As it rained during almost the whole of the three days' visit, much of the entertainment was indoors. Amongst the "pleasures" provided was a bear-baiting, the animal having to be brought from London for the occasion; a lottery for articles numbered, each draw being accompanied by a couplet, similar to those in the modern bon-bon. Amongst other treasures recorded are a "plaine gold ring and a paire of sizzers."

In this manuscript it is recorded "Her Highness has been honourably entertained by my Lord Keeper and many times richly presented; yet all here are not confident that the same will procure an abolition of former unkindness."

Which seems to suggest that my Lord Keeper was in doubtful favour and that all her hospitality and gifts did not make up for St. Swithin's persistence!

One of the items in the accounts is of £64 18s. for “vaulters players and dancers.” Of this £10 was to “Burbidge’s players of ‘Othello.’”

The first company of players that received the sanction of a Patent was that of James Burbidge from Queen Elizabeth in 1574. In a life of the poet Milton it is recorded that Shakespeare’s “Othello” was first publicly performed before Her Majesty by “Burbidge players,” specially brought to Harefield for that purpose. Shakespeare himself might well therefore have been among the guests.

### HEAVY BILL OF FARE

There is no doubt that these Royal visitations cost quite a lot of money. There is an item of £200 for preparing ranges, ovens and tents. Then follows a list of goods bought at Harefield. The “som totall of all these somes” was £229. Items included were 52 dozen chickens, averaging 4½d. each, eight dozen tame and wild pigeons, £1. 5s., “rebotts” from my Ladies warren 79, 20 pigs £2 2s. 6d., 23 ducks 8s. 2d., 10 trouts 11s. 6d. The three days’ entertainment cost in all £4,000.

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## ANZAC CONNECTIONS

This picture depicts some Australian troops in the vicinity of Denham Station, possibly waiting to pick up some wounded soldiers or supplies of some sort. Harefield and the surrounding district must have seen scenes like this everyday and no doubt the Aussies were a regular sight in the village during the Great War.



Below are copies of three postcards of Harefield sent by an Australian soldier to his English fiancée in 1917 whilst he was a patient in Harefield Hospital.



Anzac Hospital,  
Harefield

Entrance  
to A. A. H.  
No. 1,  
Harefield



Australian Hospital,  
Harefield Park, Midx



## **OUTSIDE EVENTS 2011**

### **Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, Windsor & Eton College**

Our coach departs from The Green, Harefield at 10.30am for Windsor. The morning is free to spend as you wish. The Castle and St. George's Chapel can be visited, the town, shops & restaurants explored. Our guided tour of Eton College is at 2.30pm, with time afterwards for a visit to the College shop or museum. Departure from Eton will be at 5pm. The cost of this trip is £19 per person.

### **Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> July, Canterbury**

In conjunction with the History of Denham Society we leave The Green at 8.30am for a trip to Canterbury. On arrival we join a Canterbury Historic River Cruise on the River Stour, lasting about 45 minutes. We then have free time to explore Canterbury before meeting again at 2.30pm for our guided tour of the Cathedral, lasting about 75 minutes. There will be time afterwards for a visit to the Cathedral shop and a comfort break before heading home at 5pm. The cost of this outing is £24 per person.

## **HILLINGDON HISTORY MONTH**

### **Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Village Scrapbook session and coffee morning to be held in Harefield Library from 10.30 am to 12 noon.

# **WINTER AND SPRING PROGRAMME 2011 / 2012**

**26<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

Ken Pearce

'Lords, Monks and Bishops'

The early history of Hillingdon Village

**24<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Chris Wren

Battle of Britain

A new illustrated talk

**28<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

Eileen Bowlt

Details to follow

**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012**

Paul Whittle

The Gibraltar Story

300 years of history

**27<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

Pam Reed

The Manor of Denham

**26<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

Dave Twydell

Harefield Amateur Dramatic Society

HADS 1951 - 2011

**23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012**

**Annual General Meeting**

Followed by something interesting!

## **HAREFIELD HISTORY SOCIETY**

Meetings on the fourth Monday monthly from  
September to April (except December) at the  
Park Lane Village Centre, Harefield  
commencing at 8pm.

**Chairman:** Gordon Isaacs (01895 825501)

**Secretary:** Lorraine Piercy, (01895 822371)  
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Park Lane,  
Harefield, UB9 6HR