



# Harefield History Society

## NEWSLETTER No.18

September 2025

Staying in touch with members and friends of the Harefield History Society around the world.

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### Editorial

It has been a very busy year for me so far and I have only just found time to prepare this newsletter. And even that has only been possible by the excellent queries and information I have received from members, friends and also from the general public who have found our website on the Internet.

One person who got in touch in April was an Australian, **Mark Taylor**, who sent us this heart warming message:-

*Today I had the deeply moving experience of visiting the ANZAC Cemetery in St Mary's Churchyard, where my great-grandfather, **Arthur John Taylor** is buried. Travelling from Adelaide South Australia, this was my first time standing at his graveside and possibly the first time any of his descendants had done so. I was profoundly touched to see the fresh flowers so thoughtfully placed there by Harefield Infant students on ANZAC Day.*

*I was able to leave three small red poppies, lovingly crocheted by my daughter, his great, great granddaughter. Laying them with the flowers students placed felt like a bridge between past and present, between our family and the Harefield community.*

Below you can see the programme for the start of our new season of meetings which kicks off with another visit by **Colin Richards** who you may remember gave us an excellent talk on Denham Studios two years ago. I am very much looking forward to hearing all about Northolt Airport.

Andy Harris

### Programme for 2025/2026 Season

22 Sep - History of Northolt Airport by Colin Richards

27 Oct - Back to the Palaeolithic (the History of humankind before we started recording it) by Rev. Martin Davies

24 Nov - The Secret World of Bletchley Park by Nick Hardey

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## Further to - B. Winstone & Sons Ltd

The article about **Winstone & Sons Ltd** in the last newsletter (No.17), generated responses from several people. Not least of these was our chairman, **Keith Piercy** who I should have consulted before publication. He tells me that the Park Works site which hosted both Winstones and Croda is now at the location of Barrington Drive, not Salamander Quay.

A message from **David Marks** brought more detailed information:-

*Winstones manufactured specialist printing inks and specialist paints at Park Works in Harefield. The main Park Works site was within the area of land bordered by Shelley Lane, Park Lane, Summerhouse Lane and the first part of Belle Vue Terrace.*

*There was also the North Works at the far end of Summerhouse Lane where Winstone Rollers existed. Also in Summerhouse Lane were four houses, occupied by Winstone's managerial staff. These were called The Bungalow, White House, Red House and Red Cottage which still exist today (although they may have been renamed.) All the new housing in that area, plus the Coppermill Care Home has been built on what was the North Works. On the main Park Works site Barrington Drive has been built plus some in Shelley Lane.*

*The entrance to Barrington Drive from Park Lane was where the main gates to Park Works were situated and Barrington Drive follows the route through the factory to Belle View Terrace.*

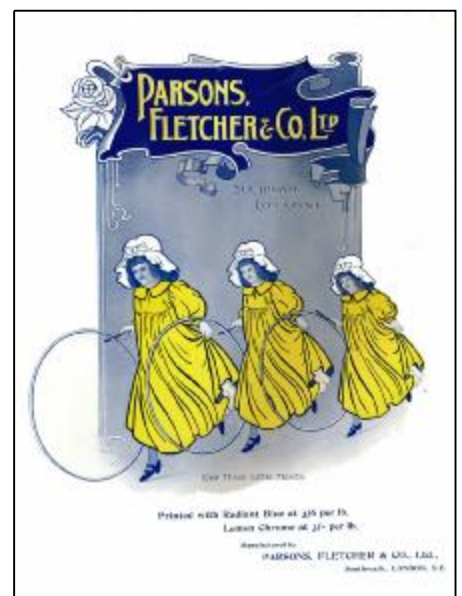
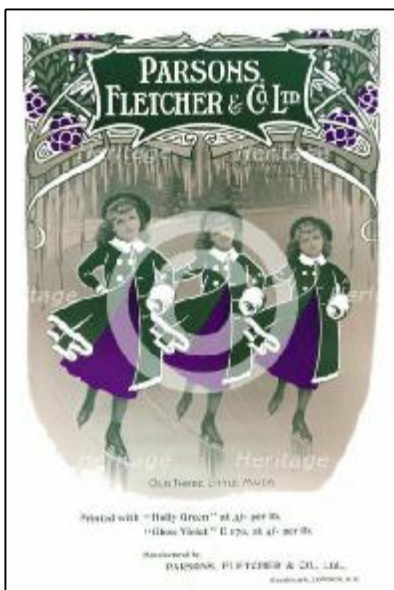
*I believe the full name for **Winstones** was **Winstones, Parsons & Fletcher** which was depicted on the side of their tankers which delivered ink from Harefield to Fleet Street and also on the main gates to the factory site.*



*(I cannot find a photo of one of the tankers. Ed)*

**Parsons & Fletcher** was a London based ink manufacturer (an invoice from 1902 shows the company's address as Gravel Lane, Southwark, London). Winstone acquired Parsons and Fletcher & Co. in 1918.

*Illustrated here are samples of their "Three Little Maids" trademark advertisements.*



David's contribution contains a lot more information which I will save for another day!

## Blacksmiths in Harefield

**This is the story of my investigations (so far) into the blacksmiths who lived and worked in Harefield.**

It all started back in January 2023 with a query from a lady called **Julie Isard-Brown**, which I published in newsletter No.17. She is related to the **Hibbert** family who lived in Harefield in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. She was trying to find out if anyone in Harefield has links or knowledge of the Hibbert family? Unfortunately, I didn't get any responses.



However, last June, Julie tried again. This time with information that her four times grandfather, **Stephen Hibbert**, ran a smithy in Harefield, and asking if we knew where it was located and whether there are any images of it.

Armed with this new information I soon found a **Stephen Hibbard** (*surname spelled "ard" instead of "ert"*) born on 18th May 1744 (in Wantage, Berkshire). In 1770 he was working in Harefield as a blacksmith where he married **Eleanor Randall** in St Mary's church. He died in 1824 and is buried in our churchyard.

Stephen's son, **Daniel Hibbard**, was born in Harefield in 1777 and also worked as a blacksmith, marrying a **Tabitha Bunce** in 1808 (in Holborn). He died in 1835 and is also buried in Harefield.

Daniel had a son, also called **Daniel Hibbert** (*note the change in spelling*), born in Harefield in 1813. His first wife, **Frances Ann Elizabeth Cox**, who he married in 1837, died in 1844. In 1845 he remarried a lady from Rickmansworth, **Emma Atkins**. He was also a blacksmith (but he may not have worked in Harefield.) Emma died in 1857 and in 1858 Daniel married for the third time to **Elizabeth Lumbard**. It is through Elizabeth that Julie is related to the Hibberts.

So, the question was now could I find any information about where in Harefield Stephen and/or Daniel were working as blacksmiths. I went through all the books I have on Harefield. In Elona Cuthbertson's "Gregory King's Harefield", she records that in 1699 there were two blacksmiths in Harefield, **John Baily** living and working at 140 High Street, and **John Living** who resided in Ruffins (also in the High Street, next to the Rose and Crown). This is good information but too early for the Hibberts.

The only other blacksmith reference I could find was on the 1865 Ordnance Plan on page 75 of **Keith Percy's** book "Mapping an English Parish before 1870". It shows a smithy behind what is now the Harefield public house.

I was now stuck and so I sent what I had learned to Keith and asked for his help. Very soon he came up with the following information. In another of his books, "The Harefield Enclosure 1811-1813", there are tables of Land Tax Assessments for 1811 and 1814. In 1811, **Stephen Hibbert** and **Joseph Randel** were taxed 12 shillings and 10 shilling respectively for a property they rented in Harefield. In 1814 there are three separate assessments, **Stephen Hibbert** 12 shilling, **Joseph Randel** 5 shilling and **Daniel Hibbert** 5 shillings.

In the same book, we find that the plots of land rented by **Stephen Hibbert** were numbered 542 and 543 and were described as "Building and a Garden". These were located on the south side of Park Lane and appear to be a cottage. It was where **Stephen Hibbert** lived but not where he had his smithy.

The tenant on plot 544 was **Daniel Hibbert** and on plot 545 was **Joseph Randall**. (I think it fair to assume the four plots were all next to each other along Park Lane).

The location of blacksmiths in Harefield is poorly recorded. All we know is that for most of the second half of the 19th century and into the 20th century there were two smithies. One was at the King's Arms, and this may have been there for many decades earlier on account of the fact that the King's Arms was the centre around which much of the horse transport of the village operated. It would have been the obvious place for a smithy. (*Some documentary evidence would be useful but we don't have it*)

Another suggestive clue is that, until 1908 the King's Arms was part of the Harefield Park estate and for Stephen Hibbert being a blacksmith, having a residence on Park Lane would make perfect sense that he worked near the King's Arms. The other smithy was on the High Street just past the Prince of Wales pub and was a **Filkins** family operation; in 1911 Samuel Filkins ran the business. (*This will be the smithy seen on the 1865 map*).

**(As usual, if anyone has any comments or information, please get in touch. Thanks Ed.)**



## More about Blacksmiths in Harefield

I had just completed the research and written the article about blacksmiths which appears on the previous page, when I received another Harefield story which also mentions a blacksmith. The story is by **Pete Swatton** and starts with his grandfather, **Tom Swatton**, who came to Harefield just after the First World War.

I don't have space in this issue of the newsletter to include the whole story but the first thing I notice is that there are a couple of statements in the first paragraph which puzzle me (particularly in the light of the information stated in the previous article). It says that his grandfather "**worked for Filkins as a blacksmith in the forge that was by the Kings Arms**".

One problem is that, I understood that **Filkins** forge was in the High Street by the Prince of Wales pub. (In fact, if the forge was behind the PoW pub that could also be described as being behind the pub now called the Harefield which at the time was called the **Kings Head**).

I wondered if perhaps **Filkins** also owned the garage near the Kings Arms. If so, that might have been the link. However, I have photos of two garages in Harefield from that time and I think the garage was owned by the **Marks** family and I believe the **Filkins** garage was in Breakspear Road next to the Malthouse.



*It is a bit tricky to be sure exactly where each garage is just from these photos.*

*(Comments to the Editor, please)*



## George Statham - Update

In newsletter Nos. 12 and 17, we have been following the story of the continuing search for the remains of **George Statham** who was born and raised in Harefield and who lost his life in WW1. George was the great uncle of David Richings who wrote the family history book.

David has just reported that the Fromelles Association in Australia has just published on its website their story of George's life and death. This is primarily because they hope it could encourage relatives to provide DNA samples which might prove whether George's remains are among those found in a mass grave at Fromelles in France. They were in the fighting which lead up to the Battle of the Somme. You can find it via the following link:-

<https://fromelles.info/soldiers/293-private-george-ernest-statham/>

If you look you will see that they have used information from David's book, and they also found our newsletter in which we featured George's story. David goes on to say that:- *"just in the past few days I have learned from the Fromelles Association that they may have identified a suitable DNA match. It's a bit of a convoluted story but George's grandfather (also George) had a brother William (born in 1806), one of whose sons (Henry, born in Rickmansworth) emigrated to Australia in 1854. Somewhat bizarrely his **Statham** name got changed in the records and thereafter they became known by the surname **Stadhams**.*

*Anyway, one of Henry's descendants has been located and it seems that his DNA might be a suitable match. Why that should be the case when the DNA of myself and my cousins - who are more direct relatives of George - does not work is, I'm told, just a quirk of how DNA works. But if this proves to be the missing link, whose DNA unlocked the puzzle is hardly of any consequence!"*

Perhaps the next time we hear from David will be something more certain to put on George's memorial!

