

Harefield History Society

NEWSLETTER No. 7

October 1982

Chairman: Tim Ashby

Secretary:

Stan Kempster

Editor: Bill Faithfull

268 Northwood Road
Harefield, Middx.
Harefield 2445

EDITORIAL

Since our last Newsletter in March, Society members and friends have enjoyed a full programme of meetings and outings during the summer, which have been well attended.

The Society's second Annual General Meeting was held on 26th April in Harefield Library. Valerie Woodward, our Secretary, and Joyce Foster, Programme Secretary, expressed a wish to stand down. The Society wishes to express its sincere appreciation and grateful thanks to Valerie and Joyce for their fine efforts and their contribution in the second year of the Society's life. At the same time, we should not forget the whole committee and thank them all most sincerely for their work on behalf of the Society. As we approach the end of another interesting year it is appropriate to look back on our activities with satisfaction.

The talk on 'Tracing ancestors' by Mrs. Stage on Monday 24th May was most interesting and helpful, particularly to those of us who have embarked on studies of our family histories. Her account of her own researches was highly entertaining. The Society hopes that more members will now wish to leave the history of their ancestors to the generation that follows.

Our speaker on March 22nd was Mr. Frankum of Pinner History Society. His talk on 'A stroll through Pinner - past and present' was illustrated by slides of a high quality. The following Sunday we retraced his steps for ourselves. Mr. Frankum kindly acted as our guide and we enjoyed a sunny afternoon in his company.

On 6th July we left Harefield at 9.30 a.m. for Tunbridge Wells. Altogether 47 people made up the party and after lunch and a walk round we made our way to Penshurst Place. The weather was kind to us and a most enjoyable day was spent in the county of Kent. A thank you to Lorraine Piercy ably assisted by Valerie Woodward and Gay King for making it a success.

Our visit to Eton College on the afternoon of Saturday 17th July was specially arranged for us, and as numbers were limited by the College was restricted to members only. Our guide, the wife of a member of the staff, made our tour (which lasted for two hours) so very interesting and enjoyable that we really did not want it to end.

Our last outing took place on September 11th. Members found a wide variety of different things to do in Salisbury and then we all enjoyed the splendours of Wilton House. On the way home our coach made a detour past Stonehenge and other neolithic sites on Salisbury Plain. We were fortunate to enjoy a commentary on these by our own Lorraine Piercy, who is a trained archaeologist.

We are pleased that several people have joined the Society after going on coach trips and are regularly attending our indoor meetings.

As you will see from this Newsletter, the plans for 1983 are already well ahead. Final details will become available in January 1983. In the meantime our winter programme commenced on September 27th with an interesting talk and slides by Mr. Stanley on 'Historic sites from the air'. It was obvious that members especially enjoyed the bird's eye view of some of the places they had visited during the summer. At the meeting on 25th October Mr. Mayes entertained us by telling us about some 'Unlikely trades of Bucks'.

WINTER PROGRAMME 1982/1983

Monday November 29th 1982, in Harefield Library at 8 p.m.

Mr. Jim Golland of Harrow School will talk about 'Harrow apprentices'.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Wednesday 19th January 1983, in Harefield Cricket Club at 7.45 p.m.

Social evening, see below - tickets £1.50 from Lorraine Piercy, Harefield 2371.

Monday January 29th 1983, in Harefield Library at 8 p.m.

Mrs. Elona Cuthbertson will tell us about her research into 'Harefield in the 17th century'.

Monday February 28th 1983, in Harefield Library at 8 p.m.

'Harefield scrapbooks'; Mrs. Lorraine Piercy will describe how she is compiling a series of scrapbooks illustrating life in Harefield and will show us her work to date.

Monday March 28th 1983 at 8 p.m.

Visit to the Greater London record office in Clerkenwell, and a talk on Harefield's documents. Please note that this meeting will not be in Harefield.

Monday April 25th 1983, in Harefield Library at 8 p.m.

Third Annual General Meeting.

Harefield History Society



Harefield Cricket Club
 Wednesday 19th January 1983 - 7.45 for 8 p.m.
 Refreshments included.

1983 OUTINGS PROGRAMME

Saturday 14th May, 1983

We visit the Waterways Museum at Stoke Bruerne on the Grand Union Canal, housed in a former warehouse on the towpath. It illustrates the period when the canals were extensively used in a landlocked county for transporting grain, coal and other cargoes to the ports.

In the afternoon we visit Arbury Hall in North Warwickshire, the seat of the Newdegate family since they moved there from Harefield in the 16th Century (though they still owned Harefield Place and the largest estate in Harefield until 1877). Arbury Hall was built on the site of an Augustinian Priory.

Because of the Harefield connection we have arranged a special opening. Home made afternoon tea will be provided.

Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th June

The Society has been informed by the GLC that Park Lodge Farm and Knightscode Museum will be open to the public on the above days in June 1983. It is hoped that members of our Society will be available to assist in the preparation of the exhibition and on the days it is open to the public. Members involved during the June 1981 weekend found it a very enjoyable and interesting experience.

Saturday 16th July, 1983

In the morning we visit Manor Farm Museum at Cogges near Witney in Oxfordshire. A museum of farming and rural life in the Edwardian period, it includes farmyard displays, farm animals and an historical trail.

In the afternoon we take you to Littlecote House near Hungerford in Berkshire. We shall enjoy a guided tour of this Manor House followed by a tour of the Roman Villa. Our visit to Littlecote House is timed to see the gardens at their best.

Saturday 3rd September, 1983

This will be a new departure for the Society, an afternoon and evening visit. Firstly we visit Wycombe Chair and Local History Museum. This is an opportunity to follow up Mr. Mayes' lecture on 'Unlikely trades of Bucks'. Special features are the displays of chairmaking and Buckinghamshire Lace.

In the evening we proceed to Milton Manor House near Abingdon. We will arrive in time to look round the walled garden and then we shall enjoy a candlelit evening tour of the 17th century house, which includes a Chapel and a Library, both in the Gothick style, and has fine inlaid furniture. Mrs. Mockler, whose family have owned the house for some 300 years, has said that she will be delighted to welcome us to her home.

Harefield House

The Director has kindly agreed to allow a party of Society members to undertake a guided tour of the House. Cellars and lofts to be included!

Date and time to be advised.

CONSERVATION

The committee has requested Pat Ashby to continue as the Society's representative on the Harefield Village Conservation Area Advisory Panel, and Pat has kindly agreed to do so. Pat attends the meetings and reports back to the Society regularly.

Your committee has agreed that we should have representation on the Canal Locks Conservation Area Advisory Panel. We have asked the council to arrange this and have decided that if they do so the obvious choice of a representative is Mrs. Elona Cuthbertson. She would of course report back to the Society as and when required.

RESEARCH AND PROJECTS

Valerie Woodwards, very much engaged on her project of Harefield's Births, Deaths and Marriages, is making good progress but needs our assistance. She requires copies of HAREFIELD MONTH, the Church magazine, for months before July 1967, June 1970 to March 1974 and 1979/1980/1981. If you are able to help Valerie she would be most grateful. You will also be making a very great contribution to this fascinating project. This is part of the splendid scrapbook project which Lorraine Piercy is working on and which we will hear about next February.

Bill Faithfull is studying a 25 inch to the mile map of Harefield of about 1931, with changes added up to about 1950, with the assistance of Margaret Evans. We look forward to the results of this. Having completed her book, Margaret is now painting pictures of members' houses; the proceeds are being split between the Society and the Church Organ Fund. Mrs. Whiteman has put a lot of preparatory work into her Harefield trail project, with assistance from other members; we look forward to seeing the results in a few months time. We have recently received permission from the vicar to study the church records, so research into these will start soon.