



corner of Queen Anne's Room which looks into the private chapel. Panoramic views of the countryside and a bird's eye view of the formal gardens and moat can be seen from the roof.

Vi Hardey.

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On Sunday 2nd September several members of the History Society took advantage of a coach trip organised by the Harefield Community Association to see the 'Mary Rose' Ship Hall and Exhibition at H.M. Naval Base at Portsmouth. It was an opportunity to see 'live' the surviving Starboard hull structure that most of us saw raised on television with baited breath. A triumph indeed for modern technology and a tangible link with the past. Well worth a visit.

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WINTER PROGRAMME 1984/85  
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HIGHGATE CEMETERY: Our Winter programme commenced with a talk and slides by Mr. M. Holmes, Archivist to the Borough of Camden. This was particularly interesting to those of us who had visited the cemetery and it also highlighted the tremendous amount of work already done and still to be done by the F.O.H.C.

EARLY MAPS OF HAREFIELD: In October Mr. K. Piercy gave a most interesting talk on the early maps of Harefield. It was fascinating to hear how and why maps were first made and we were able to look at a number of these including that produced by Christopher Saxton, the cartographer who was commissioned during the reign of Elizabeth I to survey and map all the Counties of England and Wales. Also the John Rocques maps of the 17th century.

J. Thirkettle

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THE THAMES - an aerial view and its place in history: On Monday November 26th members of the History Society were entertained by Mr. Christopher Stanley, an expert on Aerial Archaeology and an extremely skilled photographer in this particular field. A fascinating study with approximately 150 excellent colour slides, illustrating what can be clearly seen from the air. During the past 50 years, aerial photography has reached a new dimension allied with Archaeology, revealing the remains of Stone Age forts, Burial mounds, Mediaeval castles, Villages and many other interesting features of bygone years, which are invisible from ground level but now, due to Technology, one can see areas just beneath the surface. Mr. Stanley informed us that looking down from a height of 1500 feet, it is possible to obtain a unique insight into history and development over the centuries. The position of ancient villages, the pattern of the road system and the shape of the fields all reveal a story which began when man ceased his nomadic existence and began to form and cultivate the countryside around him. We were taken over many famous estates and areas round the country. The River Thames was photographed at varying heights and one witnessed many wonderful scenes, Windsor Castle was one of the many brilliant pictures. Shots of London were too numerous to describe in detail but Tower Bridge, The Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace come to mind. Another set of superb shots were taken of the Thames Barrier at Woolwich Reach, a great technical feat of civil engineering costing around £450,000,000 and completed in 1982. It was an enjoyable evening and our last Meeting in 1984 it will be remembered for many years.

R. Neil.

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1985 - Wednesday 9th January - Social Evening at Harefield  
Cricket Club

Another excellent evening. A welcome from the hoar frost by Tim's mulled wine and the siting of a variety of foods. Our thanks to all contributors and organisers and thank you for coming. Joyce Levermore gave a very interesting talk on the history of fans, highlighted with her large collection. A very enjoyable start for the New Year and an opportunity for a chat.

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METROLAND - One for the Railway Buffs. Mr. D. Edwards illustrated his talk on the development of the 'New Commuterland', brought about by the extending of the Railway to the areas of Northolt and Ruislip through to Denham. Had it not been for the pre-war Green Belt Act, Harefield would most certainly have been part of that development.

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Monday 25th February - Mr. K. Kirkman - 'Pinner Chalk Mines'  
and

Monday 25th March - Mr. M. Cornell - 'A History of Brewing  
and Breweries'

concludes our Winter Programme and will be commented on in the March Newsletter. BUT please do not forget the Annual General Meeting on Monday 22nd APRIL.

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On Saturday 9th March at Winston Churchill Hall, Ruislip a LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE is to be held, the subject 'Landscapes of Industry'. Further information is available if you are interested.

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PARK LODGE FARM will be open for the weekend of 15th/16th June. HELP! will be needed to steward the Agricultural Museum.

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A WEA (Workers' Educational Association) Class has been arranged to be held in the Harefield Library on Thursday evenings from 8pm - 10pm. The subject is Local History of Harefield and the Tutor is Mrs. Eileen Bowlt. Commencing 19th September for 24 meetings. Fees: £30 (about). Mrs. Bowlt has taken Local History classes in other parts of the borough. Those who have read our book 'Harefield At That Time Of Day' will know that it was the brain-child of a previous WEA Class held at Harefield Library. There is much more to be known about Harefield and I am sure that Mrs. Bowlt will approach this subject from another angle. Further publicity will appear later in the year but it would help if the news was carried by word of mouth.

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Now to our SUMMER PROGRAMME - Organiser Pat Boobyer

1985 Saturday Excursions

- May 4th - Stamford and Rockingham Castle
- July 13th - Winslow Hall
- September 7th - Guildford and Loseley House

Pat has distributed the summer programme and booking form with lots of information supplied and we shall look forward to our outings. Thank you Pat.

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A CITY GENT

One of the well-to-do people who lived in Harefield in the late 1600s was John Stanyan. His connection with the village began in 1657 when he married the daughter of John Pritchett, later Bishop of Gloucester, who had once been Harefield's curate and had continued to own a house in the parish since the Countess of Derby's time. Memorials in the church to two of the Stanyans' sons are reminders of the family name.

John Stanyan started off his career as assistant to the Secretary of the East India Company, an unofficial post which the Secretary paid for out of his own pocket. When the Secretary died in 1654 John Stanyan with six years' experience behind him asked to be employed directly by the Company as he was actually doing the Secretary's job. A year or so later he was both Secretary and Keeper of the Exchange Warehouse at a salary of £100 a year. This was a responsible post, and Stanyan's signature appears on letters to important people which survive in government and other records. Later he became Keeper of the Pepper Warehouse as well (total salary £140) and in 1664 requested an increase in pay to £160 because of the extra work involved in negotiating with the Dutch on the Company's behalf.

During the summer of the plague year of 1665 attendance at the East India Company's meetings began to drop off and staff had only to attend three days a week. In August Stanyan, the Secretary, asked to be excused altogether "during this time of grievous sickness". His brother Laurence, already employed as Assistant Secretary, was to take his place. Laurence was later awarded £50 for remaining in town to look after the Company's business at considerable danger to his own life.

The following year there were queries about the pepper accounts for which John Stanyan was responsible, but worse followed. In December news was broken to the Court of the Company that the Secretary had been breaking the rules by engaging extensively in private trade, that he had helped the Company's agents abroad to flout the regulations, that he had leaked confidential information, and made disparaging remarks about members of the Court. His acts damaged the Company and were contrary to his oath and the trust reposed in him. He had to resign at once.

Rather unwisely in the circumstances the Company appointed Laurence Stanyan to take charge of the pepper and other goods previously dealt with by his brother. A few months later it was revealed that Laurence, too, had indulged in private trade in pepper and pepper dust and that he received diamonds - amongst other things - for his brother during the plague outbreak, all of which he kept secret from the Company. Such was the loss of confidence in the Stanyans that private letters from overseas addressed to them were opened at East India House and "matters of interest" copied before the letters were sent on.

Did John Stanyan make a fortune from his private dealings? Nothing so far has come to light about his career in the years immediately following his abrupt departure from East India House, though he was in contact with the Company until the end of 1671 clearing up problems left over from his time there. By 1674, however, he had enough money to buy "a fair house and garden" in his wife's home village of Harefield. This and some land cost over £1000.

The Bishop of Gloucester may well have been instrumental in helping his relatives to secure profitable posts. His son, another John Pritchett, became Receiver for Gloucester, with John Stanyan being one of his sureties (Calendar of Treasury Papers, February 1676/7) and Stanyan himself was appointed Principal Registrar of the

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Bishop's Consistory Court. This did not mean that he needed to live in Gloucester. He could employ someone else to do the work. The deputy whom he appointed in 1690 was to keep a quarter of the profits of the office, Stanyan being sent the rest with full accounts presented at least once a month. This led to a dispute, Stanyan alleging that the deputy was retaining all the income from certain tasks (making copies of wills and inventories for example) on the grounds that such work was the deputy's, not the Registrar's. The case dragged through the courts for ten years but Stanyan eventually won the day (Calendar of the Proceedings of the House of Lords).

While his deputy was at work in Gloucester John Stanyan enjoyed country pursuits in Harefield. There's a glimpse of him out with his dogs, hunting. This sparked off angry protests from a local farmer, Robert Mossendew, who claimed that Stanyan was crossing his land and leaving gates open, so that animals strayed and caused damage. Stanyan retaliated to Mossendew's "false and malicious accusations" with a letter to the lord of the manor, Sir Richard Newdigate, in which he had nasty things to say about the farmer's behaviour and character, including his failure to attend church during the previous six months and his rude description of Sir Richard: "Like a ---- that made a noise, and then was gone". Though Sir Richard did not believe it was legal to have setting dogs ("Hawkes a Gent may keep but not Setting Dogs by law") he was unwilling to interfere with another gentleman's pleasures and was prepared to be conciliatory, but Stanyan overstepped the mark with some of his comments and gave offence.

The two gentlemen had not been on good terms in the past. Some years before John Stanyan had taken the side of the Harefield curate, Roger Davies, whom Sir Richard had dismissed, and was instrumental in Sir Richard being accused and found guilty of various misdemeanours by the Commissioners for Ecclesiastical Affairs. The offences included depriving the curate of his office and the parish of its minister and, among other things, meddling with the seating arrangements in church so that Mr. Stanyan could not occupy his accustomed place. The Bishop of Gloucester had sat in the chancel by virtue of his office and after his death Mr. Stanyan, who had moved into his father-in-law the Bishop's old house, took over his seat in church as well although, said Sir Richard, he had no right to be there.

Their relationship evidently continued to be cool. A year or so after the quarrel with Mossendew, John Stanyan again involved Sir Richard in legal proceedings, this time over the management of the almshouses. Apparently the document drawn up by Sir Richard's father to cover the finances and trusteeship of the charity had not been properly signed, sealed and delivered, and its provisions had not been followed strictly either (Mr. Stanyan was actually one of the trustees proposed in the original deed). According to Sir Richard the suit was vexatious and groundless, but some aspects of it were taken seriously by the authorities and the Newdigates were forced to draw up a new deed.

John Stanyan does not come through as an attractive personality, exactly. The making of private profit out of public office and enthusiasm for litigation were very characteristic of his times, but Stanyan does seem to have had a spiteful streak, too.

Susanna Pritchett, christened in Harefield in 1640, married John Stanyan when she was 17. At that time he lived in the parish of St. Katherine Cree where East India House was. The couple had many children but a large number died in infancy. Two sons who survived into their twenties are commemorated in Harefield Church. One, Abraham, at school at Winchester and Scholar and Fellow of New College, Oxford, died of smallpox in 1696. Interestingly, John Stanyan's brother Laurence also had a son called Abraham (they

must have been named after their grandfather Abraham Stanyan) who had a distinguished career as a diplomat and is mentioned in the Dictionary of National Biography. After the Bishop of Gloucester's death the Stanyans moved into his place, Rythes, and Susanna Stanyan actually inherited the estate when her widowed mother died in about 1689. They were living at Rythes when the "census" of Harefield was made in 1699 by Gregory King (original in the Public Record Office). Their household then consisted of a grown-up son and daughter, two young relatives who were visiting and five servants (not aged retainers but people in their twenties as was common in those days). A non-resident coachman was tenant of their farm, Northdeen.

In 1705 the Stanyans sold Rythes and other property in Harefield to George Cooke to form the basis of the estate later to be known as Harefield Park, now occupied by Harefield Hospital. A manorial survey of 1708 refers to George Cooke's dwelling house at Rythes. By this time he owned 161 acres of freehold and copyhold land previously in the hands of the Pritchett - Stanyan connection.

E. Cuthbertson

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Sources include:

E.B. Sainsbury: Calendar of the Court Minutes etc. of the East India Company.

Warwick County Record Office: CR764/61 (various papers about the almshouses) and CR136/B1117 et seq (papers about Harefield Church etc).

Greater London Record Office: Acc 1085/EM and M series (manorial and manor court records); parish register.

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Note:

Gregory King's "census" is not entirely reliable. The ages of John and Susanna Stanyan were given as 55. They were certainly older than that by 1699.

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