

HAREFIELD HISTORY SOCIETY

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Chairwoman: Lorraine Piercy
Editor: Maisie Marjoram -

Secretary:
Margaret Evans
4 Hall Drive
Harefield
Tel:Harfield 3020

Contributors: Mrs M Evans
Mrs J Foster
Mrs E Cuthbertson
Mr G Allen

My thanks to the above contributors, without whom it would be a very brief newsletter. Ed.

SUMMER PROGRAMME 1985

September 7 - GUILDFORD and nearby Loseley House - our last visit of the summer. Quite a warm sunny day as I recall, but I will let Margaret continue.

At quarter past nine on Saturday morning our coach left Harefield Common for Guildford. Only an hour's run, a chilly overcast morning, but one which broke into sunshine before we arrived. Alongside the M3 we saw a hawk, no doubt watching for voles or other small mammals which take advantage of the wide verges.

Guildford is a miscellany of old and new buildings - some new ones of really interesting shapes. There was time to see the Abbot's Hospital, Guildford House, Cl7, the Castle and its grounds, the Guildhall, also to wander among the market stalls and perhaps buy melons and cauliflowers. Some of us ate our picnic lunch in the quiet seclusion of the Friends' garden opposite the Meeting House.

Then again in the coach to Loseley Park about twenty minutes away. A handsome tudor house with facings of stone from the demolished Waverley Abbey, full of interesting furnishings and pictures. The Great Hall has unusual carved panelling taken from Henry VIII's Nonesuch Palace, a Dutch bracket clock dated 1537, an enormous portrait of the More Molyneux family, and a gallery carved by Grinling Gibbons.

We kept seeing repeated the family emblems - moorhens, cockatrice and mulberry, and in the drawing room was a great white chimney-piece carved from one block of chalk. Two chair cushions were embroidered by Elizabeth I who not only slept there three times but demanded a SMALL back room because it was so cold.

Tea with cream scones and ice-cream and a visit to the farm shop preceded our return journey, and the coach arrived in Harefield at 6pm.

Margaret Evans

Before we leave the Summer Programme, I would like to include a write-up on STAMFORD from Joy Foster, it will refresh our memories and reiterate our thanks to Pat.

Saturday 4 May saw us off on a first outing of the year, the small market town of Stamford, Lincs was our first call, a town that has a recorded history of well over a 1000 years and before the Norman Conquest was one of the five Danish boroughs; five churches survive from the middle ages, a twelfth century priory and a fifteenth century hospital. Its architecture alone is worth a visit, from the middle ages to the present time, all blending. The entrance of one of the many alleys is an original postern gateway to the town and Stamford Museum was well worth a visit although not a large one but very interesting. The life size model of Daniel Lambert, all 52-stones 11-pounds of him, wearing the only surviving suit - one sock on show would have made a nice leg-warmer for an elephant. Also on show, some clothes belonging to "General Tom Thumb" - what a contrast.

After lunch we were on our way to Rockingham Castle near Corby, Northants. Built by William the Conqueror as a Royal Fortress, used by following Royalty as an administrative centre and hunting lodge for the nearby Rockingham Forest, now disappeared. Henry V was the last King in residence. The Watson family leased the derelict castle in 1544, then in 1619 bought it from James I and except for a short while, when the Roundheads took over, it has remained in the Watson family.

We had an excellent guide to take us round the house and "the street". The house started in 1544 with the great hall being divided into two rooms adding windows and a first floor, the rooms with their large fireplaces burning real logs you only had to close your eyes to imagine one large hall with a hole in the roof to let the smoke out from the fire in the middle of the hall. The rest of the rooms etc being added over the years joining up to the curtain wall of the original castle. After our tour we went to the shop, once the old billiard room, then on to "Walkers House" dated 1655 for a delicious tea. Refreshed, we went on to the gardens which included a tilting lawn and a rose garden built on the site of the old keep with a double yew hedge shaped like elephants marching - most unusual. Also a lovely wild garden with a wishing well, which was the only source of water for the castle at one time. Only three Norman castles of this scale remain, Windsor and Carisbrook being the other two. Its only at Rockingham that the original layout can properly be seen, as the others have been concealed by later buildings.

Our thanks to Pat for booking this most enjoyable day.

Joy Foster

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WINTER PROGRAMME 1985/1986

September - Mrs P Chance - "Smithfields"

Mrs Chance gave a most informative talk on Smithfields explaining in detail the buildings and their history, starting

from Faringdon Street. Joyce Thirkettle, our Publicity member of the committee, wrote a very full report of this meeting in the January issue of Harefield Month. Did you have a copy? Perhaps a visit to the Smithfield area could be arranged at some later date. (Note for committee).

October - WEA Members - a look into Harefield's past:

The evening was devised to give members of the History Society an idea of some of the work done by the previous local history class (Tutor Mr G Tyack) and introduce information which was available in the 'archives' set up by that class. The exercise for the evening was to show how much information could be researched by looking at census returns and newspaper items contained in the many files compiled. The names BRAY and FILKINS were chosen as an example and it made very interesting reading. (We have Margaret Evans to thank for the preparation, I was only a reader).

November - Mr Hinchliffe - Gilles, master cutler of Uxbridge:

A meeting I missed so cannot comment. Any takers?

December - No meeting:

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January 8 - Annual Social at Harefield Cricket Club:

The speaker was Mr Mayers, his subject Country Life and Customs was brought to life by his anecdotes and accents. Always a favourite, he is the Curator of the Chair Museum at High Wycombe. The social was well attended, the mulled wine and refreshments up to the usual standard and so was the weather (snow). Thanks are due to the committee members and all others who made it a pleasant evening and thank you for coming.

January 27 - Mr Hennings of British Waterways -
Canals in Britain

(Another miss for me, regretfully) any other takers for a write-up?

February 24 - Mr Colin Roome - Conservation and Ecology

March 24 - Mrs Dufton - History of Pottery and Porcelain

April 25 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

These meetings to be reported in the September newsletter.

There were two other visits made by a limited number of members. 'The Bell Works' and Breakspear House. John Rooke arranged with Mr Shadwell, Managing Director of the Harefield Rubber Company who very kindly conducted us on a

tour one Saturday afternoon, and we were able to be on the inside looking out for a change. In the January issue of the Gazette it was reported that the Sales Director of the company, Mr John Purser, had won a large series of orders from America. This should ensure that the 'Bell Works' will stay with us for a good many more years.

LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE AT WINSTON CHURCHILL HALL
8 February 1986

Three of our members attended this third Annual Conference organised by the Wembley Society with the theme Nineteenth Century People. Tables and screens round the walls were quickly set out and we took our seats for the first speaker, Mr M J Gandy, Chairman of the North West Middlesex Family History Society who told us of the building up over the centuries of various types of records. Many of these were kept by the Churches.

Not until Lord Shaftesbury became concerned about child workers was it thought necessary to have birth certificates, and this was in the 1830s. Later the State took over death records and wills. Mr Gandy ended his talk with some sound advice to those wishing to trace their ancestors.

After the lunch interval, when we had an opportunity of looking at all the displays, we heard a talk about the Willesden area by Miss V Bott of Grange Museum, Neasden. We were shown maps and statistics, and many of the former families of Willesden were described and their houses shown on slides.

Our third talk was by Mrs E Bowlt of Ruislip, describing the horrific illnesses and epidemics through which the area of Middlesex passed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This included the onset of cholera in 1831. We were shown slides of the poverty-stricken alleys behind the streets in Uxbridge with open drains. It is hard to believe that it is only 87 years ago that fresh water was piped in from the Colne Valley.

The Conference was duly brought to a close and we were told that the Winston Churchill Hall was in such demand that it was necessary to book it for five years ahead in order to be certain of a Saturday in February.

Margaret Evans

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BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE RECORDS

Having been given photocopies of these two sets of records for the archives, I decided to add all these entries to the card indexes of Harefield surnames, long ago started by Tim Ashby.

Just before Christmas I started with the baptism entries, chiefly because I saw that these entailed only one entry each whereas the marriages meant two each! I did a page each day minimum and there were 35 pages. The dates 1742 to 1812

inclusive (excepting two portions which were illegible). These are now completed and I am now in the process of doing marriages. As mentioned these need two entries each and there are 37 pages. Dates 1546 to 1792.

Interesting things are apparent from these records. A great many families seem to have produced a child every two years which suggests family planning. Often a child would be given the same Christian name as one born a year or two earlier indicating that the first child died in infancy, which of course often happened.

The popularity of names is also interesting. I analysed names given in different decades and the figures show also the relative numbers of boys and girls.

<u>Decade</u>	<u>B A P T I S M S</u>					
	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>John</u>	<u>William</u>	<u>Elizabeth</u>	<u>Mary</u>
1742-51	95	102	22	19	19	13
1752-61	96	110	17	19	22	22
1762-71	132	138	23	31	17	30
1772-81	129	174	19	19	29	28
1782-91	115	121	15	19	14	25
1792-01	145	141	17	34	15	28
1802-12	196	193	33	34	28	22

All the details are available in File 11. Anyone wishing to trace Harefield families should look first in the two card indexes numbered 2a and 2b.

Margaret Evans

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A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY PAPER MILL

In 1670 plans were put in hand to extend the Harefield Mill and manufacture paper there. This was at a time when there were only about 50 paper mills in England though the industry was growing. Many new buildings were to be erected to provide "a working house" for making the paper, storage space for the rags which were the raw material, and a large area for drying the sheets of newly made paper. Two new water wheels were to be installed and "six morters one fatt one pilt mortar one presse with chests necessary for the stamping of rags and working making pressing and drying paper". Corn grinding was to continue with the existing pair of "Cullen Stones" replaced by a pair of "Peake Stones" which were to be "made ready or fitt to grinde withall". The buildings already on the site included a mill house and a dwelling house; various outhouses, a barn and stable. Some improvements to the living accommodation were called for: "Inclose the roome open the buttery adjoyneing to the stable and make it fitt for a Lodgeing roome". Thomas Morrise of Longford was the new miller at a rent of £38 a year which included the provision of two good loads of firewood. The millstones were measured because there would be a charge for wear and tear when the lease expired. (1).

Six years later John Gold or Gould, "millner" of Chesham took over. His lease details some of the specialized equipment then being used on the premises. There were six pairs of moulds for shaping the wet mixture of pulped, damped and fermented rags into paper sheets or water leaves. A "post of felts" was mentioned: to absorb excess moisture the water leaves were sandwiched between pieces of felt and piled up into a "post" (144 leaves went into a post) then the post was squeezed in a press tightened by a screw with two long beams for turning it. The drying house contained 45 "trebles of cord", racks on which the paper sheets were hung like washing. The landlord no longer wanted to supply timber for repairs or wood for fuel but was prepared to reduce the rent by £9.10.0 in consequence. (2).

Before he had been in Harefield very long Gold fell foul of the ecclesiastical authorities. "I have had so ill a character of him by considerable persons and some belonging to a Reverend person in that parish both as to his manners and his doctrine that I cannot but make it my particular request that hee may be left to the ordinary course of justice", wrote Dr Newton, Chancellor both to the Bishop of London and the "peculiar" of Harefield (sentence of excommunication had already been passed on Gold and his wife). It was during Gold's tenure that the three bridges belonging to the mill were found to be in a bad way, a danger to horse and man, and a £5 fine was threatened in the Manor Court unless they were mended. (3).

Gold died before his lease was up but his wife stayed on the manorial rent roll for some time, probably sub-letting. A certain William Milton was briefly the lessee then in 1693 William Turner, Millwright, and William Russell, papermaker, both of "Chipping Wickham" took on the business. The rent was only £13 but they were to lay out £200 on repairs and new equipment. The papermaker soon left and by 1699 Edward Carter was resident at the mill with his wife two young children and five men, a fairly typical workforce for an establishment of this size. Casual labour could be employed at busy times. Gregory King sketched a plan of the mill as it was in 1699 in his notebook, showing the house with malt mill and paper mill in one building, with a detached rag store and a drying house of cruciform shape. The Carters had some connection with the Wycombe area, a centre for paper making. When Edward died in 1701 his wife and children were supported out of the Harefield rates with a pension of 8 shillings a month. Widow Carter was issued with a "certificate", presumably to show that she was an accepted Harefield inhabitant, so that she could visit Wycombe. The keeper of the parish rate book had to busy himself at Denham and Ruislip obtaining the properly authorized document and there was stamp tax to be paid. The party was taken to Wycombe by Richard Herbert a Harefield farmer who acted as a carrier from time to time. Was this a pleasant trip? It hardly seems likely. (4).

During the seventeenth century the Harefield Mill probably produced brown paper for wrapping groceries and so on. There was a suggestion that it ought to be upgraded to produce superior white paper and this may have happened after 1700 when the lessees included Charles Browne, citizen and stationer of London, and Richard Ware who was a bookseller at Amen Corner. A better quality product might have interested them. (5).

Mills on this site were later used for the manufacture of copper sheaths and bolts and more recently asbestos and rubber, and going back in time can definitely be identified in a manorial survey of 1636. A length of the "bye cut" on which the mill stood in the seventeenth century was later incorporated in the Grand Junction Canal. A list of highways in the parish (dating from the 1690s) describes the road to "the Paper Miln called Harefield Miln" as a turning "in Harefield Town by our Inn or Alehouse by the sign thereof being the Kings Arms" leading by "Cunny's Farm". This is immediately recognizable as the present Park Lane. In pre-paper making days members of the Priest family are mentioned as millers. (6).

REFERENCES

- (1) Warwick County Record Office CR136/2320
- (2) WRO CR136/C2326
- (3) WRO CR136/B1120
- (4) WRO CR136/C2373, C2291, PRO T64/302, GLRO Acc 1085 EM11, Harefield Rate Books
- (5) WRO CR136/C2291, A H Shorter History of Paper Vol 6, Paper Publications SOC 1957, page 64
- (6) GLRO Acc 1085 EM3, John Clarke A Design for bringing a Navigable River from Rickmansworth in Hertfordshire to St Giles's in the Fields 1641 reprinted 1720 (in the Institute of Civil Engineers); WRO CR136/C2611 (17th century roads).

Also DC Coleman The British Paper Industry 1495-1860
Oxford 1958.

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S U M M E R O U T I N G S *****

17 May to BATH

leaving 8am and including a coach
tour of the City - £5.00

15 June to CHICHESTER

leaving 9am, calling at Bosham,
Fishbourne and the City and going on
after lunch to Parham House - £6.00.

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