

HAREFIELD HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 15

September 1986

Chairwoman: Lorraine Piercy
Editor: Maisie Marjoram

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Editorial:

Welcome to our Indoor Meetings which judging by the Programme will be most interesting and an opportunity to meet again after the Summer Break. The visits we had were I'm sure, enjoyed by all who went, but they seem so long ago and we will have a chance to refresh our memories, particularly if there were any photographers. Perhaps there will be a chance to put the pictures on one evening. The last two meetings of the Winter Programme were, a talk by Colin Roome on 'Conservation and Ecology', a subject on which Colin is well versed as a member of the Parks Department and also a student of London University on that subject. He takes a great interest in Harefield as a resident. Those who attended will have learned quite a bit of what conservation and ecology is about, a very serious subject if we are to retain and maintain the natural resources of this planet for the future. The last meeting on the 24th March was 'The History of Porcelain and Pottery', the speaker was Mrs Dufton. I was not able to attend that meeting myself but after reading J.T's write-up in the Harefield Month I realised what I had missed. (If anyone does miss a meeting it is well worth buying the Harefield Month to read Joyce's write-up)

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held on Monday 28th April. It was well attended and the business was carried through at a great rate of knots by our Chairwoman. The Treasurer reported that the finances were stable and there was no need to increase the subscription for the next year, or restrict the membership. The suggestion was raised by the Committee that funds may be available to assist members with some of the expenses incurred during the course of research for the projects that they had undertaken. Some of which would help to swell the Archives already held in the Library, which were started by the first Local History Class and are now the property of the History Society. Reference was made at the meeting about the plaque and photographs which had been received from M.V. 'HAREFIELD' which it is hoped will be displayed in the Library as soon as it can be arranged. A vote was taken that a TEA ROTA should be prepared for the coming Winter Period and a board to be prepared so that on arrival members will tick their names for either tea or coffee.

The Chairwoman mentioned that it had been strongly recommended that work by some of the members should be published, either with the help of the History Society or the Borough Library. It had already been decided by the Committee that the six essays by Margaret Evans should be photocopied and offered on sale to Members at 50p each. (More details of this in the Newsletter) A vote of thanks was given to Pat Boobyer, our retiring Programme Secretary who has been replaced by Robert Goodchild one of our newer members who very kindly stepped into the breach. Well done Pat ! Welcome Robert.

After the completion of the evenings business we were entertained by John Rooke, with a very extensive display of brass-rubbings, a collection of many years of dedicated work and miles of travel. Thank you, John.

We were sorry to say farewell to Eileen and Bert Meads who have moved away but still wish to keep in touch with the Society as Honorary Members.

LOOKING BACK TO THE SUMMER PROGRAMME

The first coach outing was to BATH in May. It was quite a pleasant morning when we set off from the Common and a comfortable trip to BATH, but there we were greeted by a downpour of rain which continued for most of the day. We were joined by a guide who gave us a very interesting tour of the City including a "bath" when we dismounted to see the view over Bath from the houses of a Ralph Allen who helped to create the new city. The ASSEMBLY ROOMS which also houses the Museum of Costume is well worth a visit. The guide told us the ceiling in the Assembly Rooms was well worth looking at but unfortunately the room was closed for a private function. The embroidery on some of the gowns and waistcoats was truly remarkable and clothes of the 1950's were also to be seen. The Roman Bath is a must and one can obtain a combined ticket for these two places. The Pump Room for tea accompanied by music and good service and a choice of teas. Again I must refer you to Joyce's write-up in the July/August issue of the Harefield Month. (who could follow that?)

The second coach trip was in June to CHICHESTER/FISHBOURNE/BOSHAM and PARHAM PARK. A much better day weather-wise, one of our sunnier days. Being a Sunday, Chichester seemed quiet and deserted, some of the members elected to go to Fishbourne. The CATHEDRAL was very impressive and the gardens very pleasant. In West Street and the area known as PALLANTS can be seen the Georgian style houses of the prosperous wool merchants. One house is open as a museum and the elegance of the life-style of the wealthy in that period is very evident both in house and garden.

PARHAM PARK - We were all a little surprised when the coach had to tack itself on to a long queue of cars, surely they weren't all going to the house? We were relieved to see there was a Steam Rally in progress in the parklands and it's popularity was immense. We were soon directed to the house and we breathed a sigh of relief. An Elizabethan house commenced in 1577, we were able to walk at leisure through the rooms, but there were people in attendance to answer any questions. There was so much of splendour to see that I for one would welcome a second visit, just for the house and gardens. (Robert?) The carpets and tapestries and the collection of English embroidery including Stuart Stump-work was really fantastic. The long gallery was quite the most attractive I have seen, especially the latticed ceiling. My eye was also caught by the lovely but simple arrangements made from the flowers picked from the garden. A charming house and a conservatory full of plants and orchids, tea was available in the old kitchen.

One evening in JUNE we went to Harefield Church where Mr Kay Holmes told us a great deal about the Heraldry of the families connected with Harefield. A group went one evening or was it afternoon? to The Grove on a conducted tour of the house and grounds plus extension, on which a great deal of money has been spent to provide luxurious offices for Initial Services plc. Headquarters. There is to be a visit to CHENIES MANOR HOUSE on the 20th September

At the Winston Churchill Hall earlier this year a small exhibition was hastily arranged by four of our members at the request of two lecturers from the Museum of London, who will be speakers in our Winter Programme. Our thanks to Reg, Margaret, Guy and John.

ESSAYS

Notes on Life in Harefield 1871 - 79
Notes on Life in Harefield 1878 - 1900
Notes from Parish Council Minutes 1895 - 1910
Notes on The Grove 1851 - 1896
Notes on Childhood in Harefield in the C19
Notes on Farming in Harefield
Travel around Harefield 1871 - 1900

Copies of the above short essays will be available at 50p each during the winter meetings.

If any member has the use of a copier and can make some copies of these for a small price, will they please contact the secretary.
(Harefield 3020) Margaret Evans.

M.V. 'Harefield' is a 39,400 ton dead weigh bulk cargo carrier and the box shape cargo holds enable it to carry either bulk or palletized cargoes or containers, above and below deck, the cargo being handled by two 35 ton gantry cranes that travel the full length of the deck. At full speed the vessel can do 13.5 knots. The senior officers aboard are British, two of the junior ranks and two apprentices are from Sri Lanka, and the crew are Hong Kong Chinese, making a total complement of twenty-eight. The 'Harefield' was built in Ulsalm, South Korea in 1984, named on 15th November, 1984 and handed over to the owners on 4th January 1985. Since then she has traded around the world, having done a full circuit in a westerly direction, founding Cape Town and transitting the Panama Canal. Cargoes carried have been large steel pipes for an oil refinery in Oman, forest products from South Africa to England, cement from Sweden to Bahamas, and other cargoes like coal, grain, soda ash and potash. The names of the other three villages chosen are 'Chelsfield', 'Petersfield' and 'Westfield'.

A reminder from the treasurer - would those members who have not yet paid their subs. please see Reg. as soon as possible so that our membership list can be brought up to date.

LOCAL HISTORY OF HAREFIELD - This class will be held in the Library on Thursday evenings from 8 - 10 pm commencing 25th September.
Tutor - Eileen Bowlt. Programmes can be obtained from the library for further information or contact E3341.

ROBSONS COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY 1838 etc

Directories of earlier times are a source of much information useful to the local historian, though they did not appear in any number until the early 1800's, then being mostly of local origin. Kellys are perhaps the most well known series for the London area including Middlesex starting publication in the early 1880's and continuing until the Second World War. The local history section in Uxbridge Library have several of these and also directories by Pigot and Robson for our area. They also have a "local range" published in Uxbridge from 1840 - 1933. Those of early date were printed as supplements to Mr F. Moore's Almanack (later to become Old Moore's) by various Uxbridge Printers and from the late 1880's by John King, at the "Gazette" office and by Lucy and Birch at their Central Works, 45 High Street. These "Uxbridge" directories give information for all the parishes in the present London Borough of Hillingdon.

Robsons Commercial Directory (c.1838) for the eight counties of Middlesex, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire (including

Isle of Wight) and Wiltshire, gives the following information for Barefield.

"Parish to the North of Uxbridge containing 4570 acres assessed property tax in 1815 at £8,358. Population in 1801 - 951 and in 1831 - 1285. The benefice in 1834 was returned as a donative of the annual value of £64 being in the presentation of Charles Newdigate Newdegate Esq. Sir George Cooke being the impropiator of the great tithes. The parish is bounded on the West by the River Colne and the Grand Junction Canal which runs parallel to it to West Drayton. A stream having its source in the N E part of the Parish falls into the Colne at Cowley."

This last sentence refers to the River Frays, (and to be correct should read S E rather than N E and West Drayton instead of Cowley) which branches from the Colne just North of Denham Lock passing under the Canal beneath the lock itself. The original proposals for the Canal were for it to continue southwards from this point along the River Frays itself but the ten millers in the Uxbridge/Cowley area raised such strong objections in Parliament to this proposal which they regarded as an interference with their "water rights" that they won the day. This resulted in the Canal being constructed in its present position and the building of Denham Lock, which according to the British Waterways is 11'6" deep. Being the deepest lock on the Grand Junction Canal between the River Thames and its junction with the Oxford Canal at Braunston it is also known as Denham Deep Lock. The Grand Junction Canal Company joined with other Midlands canals in 1926 to become the Grand Union Canal Company, Denham Lock becoming the deepest lock between the River Thames and Birmingham. The lock is just outside the Parish boundary which crosses the Canal East to West about halfway between the lock and turn over bridge 460 yards to the North.

Robsons information regarding tradespeople is as follows:-

"Wheelright

William Atkins
William Rich

Grocer and Cheesemonger

Jacob Church
W.E. Nash
Richard Ratcliff*
W. Tucker

Butcher

William Collett
John Ratcliff*

Carrier

William Gates

Tailor and Draper

Henry J. Hale

Bricklayer

James Matthews

Carpenter

George Weedon

Beer Retailer

Collingwood Brown
William Collett
W. Honeybourn
Samuel Norris
Thomas Parslow
William Parker
Thomas Puddifoot

Boot and Shoemaker

John Hawkins
John Einson
Philip Foster

Maltster

Henry Goodman

Smith and Farrier

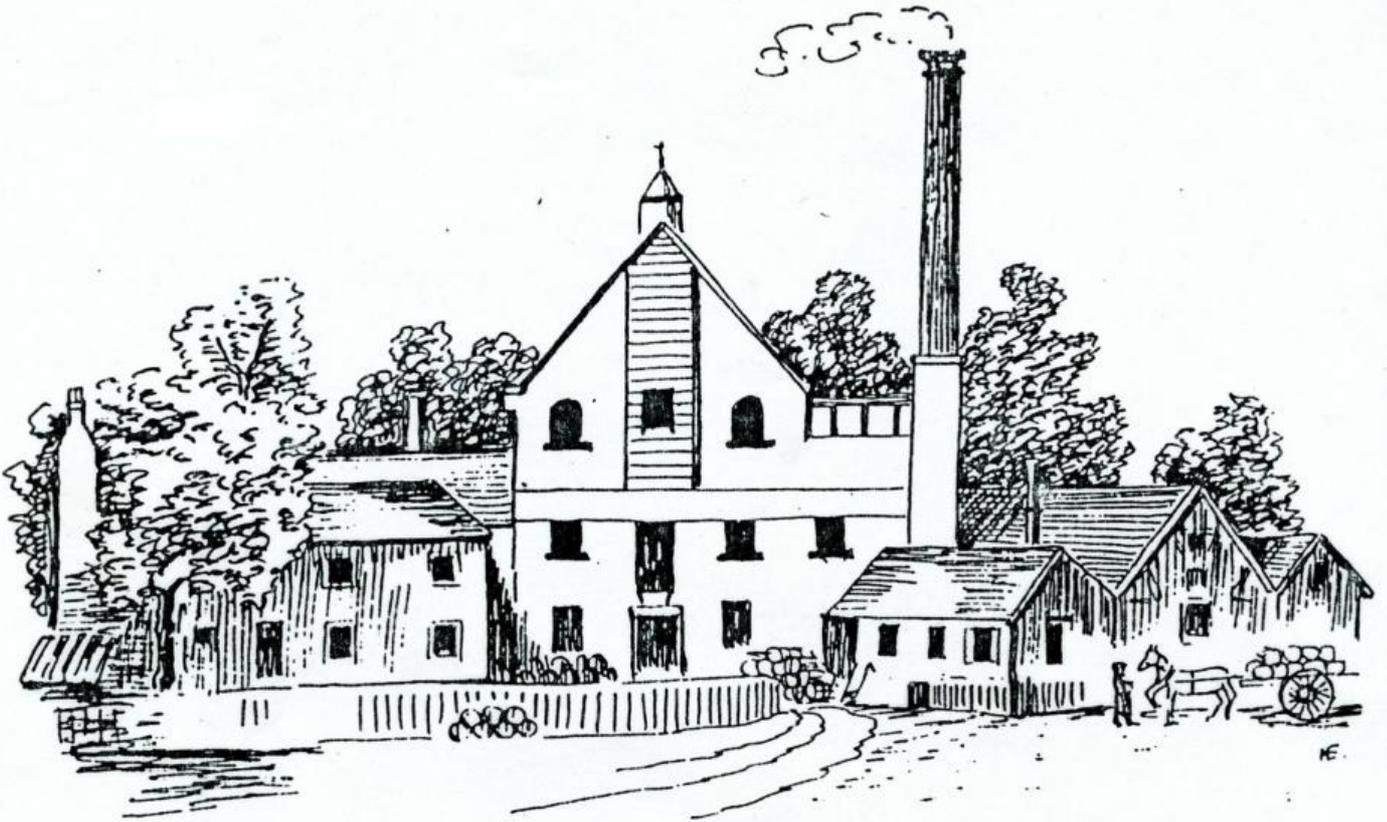
John Hibbard
John Wild

Baker

Richard Thompson
Thomas Weedon

Kings Arms

John Ratcliff*



**J. J. RATCLIFF,
BREWER & MALTSTER,
HAREFIELD, MIDDLESEX,**

BEGS most respectfully to return his sincere thanks to the Nobility, Gentry, and Public generally for the liberal patronage he has received during the last 16 years, and he earnestly hopes that he may enjoy and insure a continuance of that kind support he has hitherto received, assuring all those who may kindly patronize him, that every effort on his part will be done to give satisfaction. At the same time he offers to their notice his List of Prices, and to suit the convenience of Private Families, that any size Casks may be obtained direct from the Brewery, from 4½ Gallons upwards.

LIST OF PRICES.

	Per Barrel.	Per Gallon.
XXXX Ale - - - - -	72s.	2s. 0d.
XXX Ditto - - - - -	60s.	1s. 8d.
XX Ditto - - - - -	48s.	1s. 4d.
X Ditto - - - - -	36s.	1s. 0d.
Double Brown Stout - - - - -	48s.	1s. 4d.
Porter - - - - -	36s.	1s. 0d.
XB or Intermediate Beer - - - - -	30s.	10d.
XT or Good Table ditto - - - - -	25s.	
Table - - - - -	20s.	
Small - - - - -	12s.	
AAA India Ale - - - - -	54s.	1s. 6d.
AA Ditto - - - - -	45s.	1s. 3d.
A Ditto - - - - -	36s.	1s. 0d.
FA or Family Ale - - - - -	30s.	10d.

P.S.—Delivered Carriage Free within 15 Miles of the Brewery.

Additional Information

Although the Brewery was put up for sale in 1880 Uxbridge Directories show that Mr J Ratcliffe was still there in 1891.

Entries for 1893 state :-

"J Ratcliffe Jun. Agent for Benskins Brewers-Watford".

Entries for 1894 state :-

"J Ra tcliffe - Park Lane".

Guy Allen

POST OFFICE - Receiving House

Henry Hart - letters arrive from Uxbridge at half past eight
- dispatched at 3 summer 4 winter

Public Establishments

Mines Royal Copper Company - Superintendent B.J. Speeding

Coaches

Tollitts Coach to London from Kings Arms every morning at 8 (Sundays
excepted) returns at 6 evening.

Carrier

Gates to London Thursday. From London Friday.

Unfortunately addresses are not given though no doubt at the time
they were hardly necessary.

The same directory for Uxbridge shows that a carrier named Godliman
operated from Harefield to London via Uxbridge New Inn on Tuesday and
Thursday and Saturday.

This Uxbridge Section shows that Tollitts also ran two coaches from
High Wycombe through Uxbridge to London. One left the Three Tuns at
Uxbridge at half past ten daily, returning there again at half past five
in the afternoon - Sundays excepted. The other left "his house" daily at
half past four in the afternoon returning at half past twelve the following
day. No doubt the Harefield Coach from the Kings Arms connected with the
former.

Mr Tollitts house, 113 High Street Uxbridge was purchased around the
turn of the century by Mr E.J. Garner, a solicitor who used it for his
business premises. Standing on the north side of the High Street at the
junction with Harefield Road, it has been sold recently for development
which includes the refurbishment of the building.

Margaret Evans kindly searched the Society's records for further
information regarding the location of the seven beer retailers and found
the following:-

1851 Census

E Norris Beershop Keeper born Oxfordshire
Wm Norris Shoemaker born Yorkshire
Elizabeth Brown Widow beer house keeper born Plymouth
Mary Puddifoot beerhouse keeper Moorhall born Oxfordshire

1861 Census

W Norris Shoemaker & Beerseller Spotted Dog
Charles Brown Building Contractor Lord Nelson
M Puddifoot Beerseller Village Road

1871 Census

Hannah Norris, 53, Beerseller

1899 Directory Charles Puddifoot - Beer Retailer.

The enclosed drawing of Harefield Brewery by Margaret was taken from

an advertisement by Mr J.J. Ratcliff in the Uxbridge Chronicle on 26 July 1862. The brewery which was put up for sale in 1880 used to be opposite the Library - the accompanying advertisement taken from Bealby's Uxbridge Almanac shows Mr Ratcliff's prices in 1870.

It is likely that Mary Puddifoot was selling beer from one of the Moorhall Farm Cottages immediately adjoining Moor Hall Chapel.

*

I hope these few notes give some idea of the vast amount of information contained in Victorian and later directories.

Guy E. Allen

WINTER PROGRAMME in the Library - all meetings start at 8 pm
1986

22 Sept A Page of London History - Mr J.P. Hewetson (Pikeman)
27 Oct. Church Bells - Mr D. Struckett
24 Nov. The Museum of London: Recent Archaeological Digs in Uxbridge
No meeting in December

1987

7 Jan. Christmas Social at Cricket Club
26 Jan. Dating the Past - Mrs Hardey
23 Feb. The Museum of London: Recent Archaeological Digs in West Middlesex
23 March History of Buttons - Mrs Miller
27 April A.G.M.

1986 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIRWOMAN Lorraine Piercy, Millside, Park Lane, Tel: E 2371
SECRETARY Margaret Evans, 4 Hall Drive, Tel: Harefield 3020
TREASURER Reg Neil, 9 Millside, Tel: Harefield 3414
PROGRAMME SECRETARY Robert Goodchild, 11 Newdigate Road, Tel: Harefield 3993
PUBLICITY Joan Thirkettle, 44 Hall Drive, Tel: Harefield 2120
NEWSLETTER Maisie Marjoran, 7 The Furrows, Tel: Harefield 3341
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Vi Hardey, 23 Hall Drive, Tel: Harefield 2288
John Rooke, 14 Springwood Close, Tel: Harefield 3426

Pat Ashby is still our representative on the Conservation Panel and reports back to the Committee when any relevant matters arise.

*

The Spotted Dog in Breakspear Road South, recently refurbished, stands on the site of some cottages built by James Matthews & Benjamin Bab which were sold to Thomas Shackle a brewer of Uxbridge and Hayes in 1831. Harmans Uxbridge Brewery bought this beerhouse in 1865. (A)

The Lord Nelson cottage presently occupied by Groffits (Print Shop) in the High Street and adjoining the Church Hall stands next to the former beerhouse of the same name now occupied by Davy's (Second Hand Shop). First licenced in 1884 it had ceased to be a pub by 1910. (A)

(A) Extracted from "Harefield at the time of Day" WEA Group 1976