

Harefield History Society

Newsletter No. 17 Autumn 1987

DEWS FARM



After a recent visit to Dews Farm, English Heritage concluded that on the external evidence it was rebuilt during the 19th century. Whatever the age of the surviving buildings, the farm has a long and interesting history. According to Kiddle's unpublished historical geography of N.W. Middlesex (in the Uxbridge Library) the farm is identifiable in 1422/3 and may have been the dairy house connected with the Brackenbury estate in 1510 or, going back in time, the "vaccaria" (to do with cows) of 1409. It was known as Dairyhouse or Dayhouse as well as Dews and was mentioned in 1559 as part of the Newdigate estate: "The Dayhouse farm with all the land thereunto belonging with Halstoës Crachers Parkhill Groveland Frefild and Pyfeld." It was worth £55.6s.8d p.a. the rent being paid in "beoves" and "muttons".¹

In 1593 a survey of the manor for the then owner Sir Edmund Anderson mentioned a messuage with an orchard called the Dairy House with Frye Field, Groveland, Great and Little Perry Field, Park Croft, Broad Meadow, Brokeshott Field, Park Hill, Little Park Hill, Middle Field, Hansters Field, 222 acres in all let to John Baylie. In 1601 Alexander Briscoe was the tenant.²

J. Nichols in the Progresses of Queen Elizabeth tells the story that Queen Elizabeth was welcomed to Harefield on her visit in 1602 at a farmhouse "now called Dews Farm" and proceeded along an avenue of elms to Harefield Place (apparently this story was supplied by Sir Roger Newdigate, so is not contemporary).

Later, in 1668 the farm with 52 acres of water meadow and 107 acres of arable and pasture was let to Richard Bonion for £160 p.a. In 1672 he paid Hearth Tax on 3 fireplaces which means that the farmhouse was not specially large. The farm had special rights in the riverside "moors" (mostly covered by water filled gravel pits now) with common, that is grazing, for cows and a bull.³ Dews/Dayhouse/Dairyhouse Farm was on a by road in use for driving cattle into Harefield Moor and in 1677 there were calls for the repair of the lane. Those who made use of it should help to put it right. Anyone refusing "work and assistance" would not be allowed to use the road, the manor court decreed. Among the Newdigate papers in the Warwick Record Office are some rather muddled accounts for Dewes Farm showing that wheat, barley, oats, peas and beans and hay were grown. There was dairying, and sheep, poultry and pigs were kept as well as cattle and horses. This was in 1681.⁴

In 1682 Henry Austin paid £120 for 186 acres of Dews Farm and it was agreed that Sir Richard Newdigate should continue to have the use of the stables, barn and two rooms in the house until the following May. Austin was still at Dews in 1699 when a sketch map of the farm buildings showed the house with barns and cart house, an orchard and a hop yard. Austin, who came from Cookham originally, was a literate man unlike some of the farmers of the time. He had six children and three living in servants. He played his part in public life and was Harefield's constable in 1691, overseer of the commons in 1700 and churchwarden in 1702. Maybe he was not the perfect tenant, though. In 1702 Sir Richard Newdigate was complaining that he had damaged or destroyed trees on the farm through lopping them.⁵ The Austins remained at Dews for a long time. They were still there in 1763, but John Trumper took over in 1777.⁶ In 1851 (when there was a census) William Trumper was farming 452 acres and employing 17 workers, the largest number of any farm in the parish. Four labourers, a maidservant, a gardener and his wife were living in. In 1871 Louisa Trumper a widow was heading the household. By 1881 she was 89 years old and had 8 men and 3 boys to work the 400 acres. Her farm servants included her bailiff Isaac Ive or Ives. She had a 16 year old maid to help in the house and a middle aged neice lived with her.

References: 1. GLRO Acc1085/EF3 2. Ibid EM1 & WRO CR136/C2221 3. GLRO Acc1085/EM5 4. WRO CR136/V84 5. Ibid C2333, GLRO Acc1085/EM11, Gregory King's list 6. Acc1085/EF17. Margaret Evans and Elona Cuthbertson

Mr Hugh Weatherly of Wivenhoe, Essex has been doing some genealogical research and has discovered that his family has interesting links with Harefield. He has kindly agreed to let us publish this material.

He writes: The first record I have of the Weatherlys is an entry in the parish registers of Ickenham: "Ralf Wetherly, servant to Henry Crosier and Alys, daughter of the said Henry, were wedded 17th day of January" 1562. In his will of 1583 Henry Crosier left his son-in-law two oxen. Ralf and Alys had 9 children baptized in Ickenham between 1563 and 1583. I am descended from their third son Edmond, baptized 17.8.1573. Edmond married in 1595 and he and his wife Lettice had 10 children, again baptized in Ickenham. My descent continues with their fourth son William, baptized 9.1.1602/3, who was a tailor (and prosperous enough to make a will). William and his first wife Martha had 9 children, and my descent is from their second son James, baptized in Ickenham 27.11.1636.

James Weatherly seems to have moved to Harefield in about 1672 when he paid the hearth or chimney tax on a cottage (he is not mentioned in the tax returns for previous years). Obviously it was a small house as he just paid tax on one fireplace, and maybe it was one of the cottages called Cliftons which stood next to the Almshouses. He was certainly the occupier in 1676 when part of Cliftons was sold.¹ In 1678 he makes his appearance in the Newdigate papers as tenant of two eyots in the River Colne, one with ozers. In 1682 he was paying rent of £4.10s per annum to the manorial estate for "his house" (he must have moved from Cliftons by this time) and in 1688 when Sir Richard Newdigate did away with the deer park at Harefield Place Weatherly signed a lease for "part of Harefield Parkeland, one a parcell of Kitchinfield and the other called Langleyes mead, now known as Parkgate close and Pond Close". He was to keep the hedges, ditches, mounds and fences in good repair and have "hedgeboote pailles nailes post and rayles" allowed.² He continued at Kitchen Fields Farm (next to Langleyes Farm, Breakspear Road) for a long time, and was still renting 17 acres there in 1708. Though not one of the major Harefield farmers Weatherly, as ratepayer and husbandman, played his part in local affairs, serving a stint as Overseer of the Poor in the mid 1690s and sharing the responsibility for collecting the tax imposed for the prosecution of "a vigorous Warr against France" (March 1694).³ In 1699 when Gregory King the one time Lancaster Herald made his list of all the inhabitants of Harefield, James Weatherly senior and his wife Mary were living alone at Kitchen Fields Farm. Their only child James, baptized in March 1673/4, had married by this time and was living with his wife Anne (a Ruislip girl) and young daughter Mary at (surprise, surprise) Cliftons just to the north of the Almshouses. Thomas Lovett a Quaker farmer was the owner of Weatherly's part of Cliftons where tenants came and went.

There used to be gravestones to the senior Weatherlys in Harefield churchyard:

Here lieth the body of
Mary the wife of James Weatherly senr.
who died 20th October 1726 aged 80 years

Here lieth the body of
James Weatherly senr. died 27th March 1712
aged 76 years.

There is an unusual entry in one of the Newdigate account books recording the payment of 15 shillings to Goody Weatherly for teaching four children for the period from 24 June - 21 December 1705, less 6 weeks. There had been a schoolmistress in Harefield before, Martha Hill who was mentioned by Gregory King and who died an Almswoman in 1704. Maybe Goody Weatherly took over from her.

James junior, described as a labourer when he married Anne Fothergill in Ruislip in 1697, had 8 children. There was a joint gravestone (can it be identified in the churchyard now?)

Here lie the bodies
of James Weatherly and of
Anne his wife. She died
7th April 1733 aged 60 years
He died 3rd November 1742
aged 69 years

Our correspondent goes on: My line continues from James and Anne's 5th son John baptized (in Harefield) 21.8.1711 who married Elizabeth Buckberd in Pinner in 1731. They had 6 children baptized in Ruislip between 1732 and 1749. John died in 1749 and was buried in Harefield, his home parish. His second son John was my great great great grandfather and married Sarah Howard in St Marlow Bucks in 1761. My great great grandfather James was baptized there in 1774. John and Sarah returned to Ruislip about 1776 and two more children were baptized there. I do not know John's occupation or when he died. I think Sarah died in Ruislip in 1825. Their son James was licensee of The True Lovers Knot in Northwood from 1810 until his death in 1825. His only child Daniel was born in 1818 and when he grew up moved to St Albans in Herts thus ending my family connection with Middlesex of over 250 years.

Mr Weatherly remarks: "I seem to have had a piece of great good fortune to have discovered the names of the houses where my ancestors lived so long ago; particularly as they were such lowly people." Well, not all that lowly! Though neither house exists today there is a nice photograph of Cliftons with the Almshouses in the background (modern houses are there now).

Refs: 1 Greater London RD Acc1085/M39 2 Warwick RD CR136/C2353 3 GLRD F34/105-8 Accounts WRO CR136/V84,126

In the Name of God Amen:

Gleanings from Harefield Wills 1374-1570

By Eileen M. Bowlt

Harefield Testators 1374-1570

Date	Name	Date	Name
1392	Thomas Brackenborough	1493	Henry Hamond, Husbandman
1393	William Swanlon Sen	1493	John Amery
1402	John Girdler	1499	John Ashby *
1412	Amy Haket, Widow	1502	Walter Power *
1415	John Clerk	1515	George Ashby *
1417	Guy Gaape	1528	John Newdegate *
1419	John Coney, Citizen & Taylor	1529	John Anthony
1419	John Baldwin	1537	John Atlee, Husbandman
1420	Roger Hamond	1556	John Peter
1426	Martin Kelom, Citizen & Mercer	1558	Thomas Wedon
1438	William Swanlon	1563	Thomas Wood, Husbandman
1445	Richard Clerk	1563	John Osborne
1446	Thomas Virley, Citizen & Grocer	1564	John Winchester, alias Mower
1447	Simon Eversden	1566	Richard Nicholas, Yeoman
1459	Margaret Fly	1567	Thomas Atlee, Husbandman
1460	Thomas Daunton, Citizen *	1568	Anthony Newdegate Esq *
1472	Thomas Bettz	1568	John Sowthen *
1476	Thomas Wedon, Citizen	1570	Richard Hedger

WILLS Until 12th January 1858 wills were proved in Probate Courts of which more than a hundred existed in England and Wales, each holding jurisdiction over the surrounding area. The Commissary Court of London covered the City of London (51 parishes), the County of Middlesex (43 parishes) and S.W. Essex. Consequently the wills of a number of people who lived or owned property in Harefield were proved in that court. Its records, some indexed by place as well as surname, run from 1374-1857 and are in the Guildhall Library.

The Prerogative Court of Canterbury was a superior court where wills from this area could be proved and was used by relatives of testators who had property in several places. Its records, at the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, run from 1383-1858. They are indexed by surname and place (at the back of the index volumes).

So far I have looked at Harefield wills in the two courts from the date of the earliest records to 1570 finding 29 wills in the Commissary Court and 7 in the P.C.C. (indicated by * in the table), also Letters of Administration granted for the estates of 13 other people who died intestate. The numbers seem small but it has been calculated that not more than 10% of the total population ever made a will, many having little or nothing to bestow upon family and friends, so wills give us only brief glimpses of a small proportion of the wealthier inhabitants of Harefield.

SURNAMES The surnames of the will makers make interesting reading as some are place names in Harefield to this day: Thomas Brackenborough, 1392 (Brackebury Farm), John Coney, 1419 (Colney Farm) are examples. Others survived as place names into the 17th and 18th centuries but have disappeared since. After Guy Gaape's death in 1417 the family is not mentioned again, but a messuage called Gapes and a meadow called Gapes Mead are referred to later at Gulchwell (now Springwell) near a Fulling Mill there. Similarly Simon Eversden who died in 1447 is the only member of his family who has so far come to light, but Eversden is shown on Rocque's map of Middlesex (1754) and appears to be the present Black Jack's Cottage. Bourne Farm in Breakspear Road North was, according to a rental of 1546, "anciently called Hamonds" and part of Weybeards was also Hamonds, the name of two testators.¹

Letters of Administration were granted for the estates of Canon Baldwin (1513), Thomas Vincent (1513) and Richard Tyler (1515), representatives of other families who gave their names to Harefield tenements. Baldwinshall was in the present hospital grounds beside Hill End Road, Vincents (or Lyons) probably stood on Breakspear Road South, while the Cricketers Inn in the village street (demolished 1956) and known as the Bull and Butcher in the late 18th century seems to have been on the site of "Tilers"² (another Tilers in the south

of the parish is mentioned in the 16th century and was known as Basing House in the 17th century and is marked as Bungers Hill Farm on the Enclosure Map).

Whereas places were sometimes named after their original owners, in other cases, especially in the 13th and 14th centuries when surnames were becoming established, people took their names from the places where they lived. Where a man has a name like John Atte Noakes or Laurance de Park (both found in Harefield documents though not among the will makers) it is fairly clear that he is taking his name from the place: in these two instances "Where the oaks grow" (later Noakes now Springwell Farm) and "By the Park" (perhaps Old Park Wood).

THE WILLMAKERS Although all the will makers had some connection with Harefield, some lived and apparently had the bulk of their property elsewhere. Five were Citizens of London, three of them being members of Livery Companies. Thomas Wedon (d 1476) was the only London Citizen asking to be buried at St Mary's, Harefield. John Coney, Citizen and Taylor, chose to be buried in St Saviour's and left bequests to St Thomas, Knightrider Street, but also mentions a tenement in Harefield, and members of the family were living in the parish a few years later when "John Coney of Harefield" was a beneficiary under the will of Martin Kelom, Citizen and Mercer. Martin, whose City base was around Old Fish Street, is unusual in mentioning books, bequeathing works on Philosophy and Theology to his wife Margaret, suggesting that she was literate, rare for women of that time. Thomas Virley, Citizen and Grocer, owned three inns, Le Peynted Tavern and Le Saracynshead in St Martin's, Vintry and Le Rioll, Bow Lane. His Harefield tenement was left to his wife Juetta for her lifetime and then to his son John. As it was in both Middlesex and Buckinghamshire it may have been near the Colne. Thomas Daunton (d 1460) asked to be buried in St James, Garlickhythe but left directions for a vestment to be given to Harefield Church and provided money for a torch to be burnt there. He had connections with Sherbourne, Dorset as well. Thomas Bettz (d 1472) and John Amery (d 1495) held more property in Ruislip than Harefield where John had a limekiln and Thomas a house and a brewery. John Winchester alias Mower had land in Pinner and Northwood as well as Harefield, and a willmaker with property further away was John Clerk of Preston, Holderness who left 20 shillings to Harefield Church in 1415.

OCCUPATIONS Few of the testators mention occupations and it is rarely possible to deduce what people did for a living with the exception of husbandmen whose bequests of animals reflected their calling. John Atley was very specific, leaving two calves half a year old to his son John, a cow bullock half a year old to Roger, a cow bullock one year old to Robert and the same to George. His daughter Anne was to have a cow calf half a year old, his godson John a two year old mare, his nephew William Atley a mare and a colt and his servant (another William Atley) a two year old gelding.

HAREFIELD CHURCH The wills reveal some details about St Mary's. The Swanlonds were Lords of the Manor of Harefield. When he made his will in 1393 William asked to be buried "in my chapel in the north part of the church of St Mary". His son William in 1438 left 6 shillings and 8 pence towards the fabric of the church and also spoke of "my chapel". This may have been on the site of the present Breakspear Chapel, situated as it is on the north side of the church. Thomas Brackenborough, lord of the sub-manor of Brackenbury wanted to be buried in St Thomas's Chapel in the church and left 2 shillings for its mending. The fabric of the Brackenbury Chapel at the east end of the south aisle dates from the 14th c and may have been originally dedicated to St Thomas.

Only those of high social standing were buried inside the church and most testators ask to be buried in the churchyard. Usually the writer of the will begins by commending his soul to God, then arranges for the disposal of his body and follows with bequests to a church or churches, often mentioning reparation for tithes forgotten during his lifetime.

Simon Eversden 1447

"In the name of God Amen. 8th May anno domini 1447. I Simon Eversden of Harefield being of sound mind make my testament in this form. In primo; I leave my soul to almighty God to blessed Mary and to all the saints and my body to be buried in the churchyard of St Mary's Church, Harefield aforesaid. Item; I leave 12d to the parish priest....."

John Newdegate 1528

"...Item: I will and bequeath to the high awter (altar) of the said church for my tithes and oblacons withdrawn or negligently forgotten 3s 4d..."

John Atley 1537

"...Item: I bequeath to the mother church of Pawlys (St Paul's) 2d Item: to the high aluter within the church of the said Herfelde 2d Item: I gyve to the Byldyng of the steeple of the said Herfeld 3s 4d...."

Did St Mary's ever have a steeple atop the tower or was that an idea that never came to fruition?

Small amounts of money were commonly left to burn candles in front of particular statues and the rood. Margaret Fly, widow left two lambs instead of money to pay for lights in the church in 1457. Wax torches were also left presumably for use in processions and at Benediction. After the religious changes of the Reformation candles went out of use and references to "lights" cease. Bequests to churches become much rarer but the commendation of the soul continued. Thomas Wedon (1558) used an almost medieval form of words: "I bequeath my soule to God allmightie and to the intercession of Our Ladye Saynte Marye and all sayntes and my body to be buried in the churchyarde of Harfelde aforesayde." George Ashby of Breakspears whose brass is on the floor of the Breakspear Chapel willed (1515) "that myn executors shall find some honest priest to sing for my soul and my friends souls a twelvemonth after my decease." Such masses more or less came to an end at the Reformation, and chantries, as endowments like George Ashby's were called, were officially abolished by Edward VI in 1547.

THE POOR Money was often left to the poor, sometimes to be distributed at the discretion of the executors, sometimes with precise instructions. John Girdler (1402) wished to be buried at St Peter's Westminster (Westminster Abbey) and wanted 60 poor men and women to have a penny each on the day of his interment and 100 in Harefield to have the same. This figure was probably nearly a quarter of the population at the time.

John Ashby of Rickmansworth (d 1499) wished to be buried there (his father and his son, both called George, were buried in Harefield). He willed "That my bodie be closed in canvas price the ell 4d and above that be covered with linen cloth price the ell 8d and at the time of the laying of my body into the earth I will that the lynnnon cloth of 8d be taken off and dyvyded into 4 parts and given unto 4 pore men or women after the discrecon of my executors." We must hope that they were duly grateful. They probably were as linen must have been a rare luxury in the lives of the poor. Bread was also to be distributed on the day of John Ashby's burial, 5 loaves for the 5 wounds of Our Lord; 5 more for the 5 nails; 5 for the earthly joys of Our Lady and 7 for her heavenly joys. John's son George in 1515 was content to leave the residue of his goods to his wife Rose "she to do such deeds of charity for the weal of my soul as she shall think most acceptable to Almighty God."

WIVES AND CHILDREN Many of the will makers made their wives executors and left them the residue of their goods and chattels. Frequently a wife was left a house for life which was then to go to the eldest son. Henry Hamond in 1493 directed that "Margaret my wyeff shall have during her lyff the howse that I dwell in with the landis thereto belonging. Remyne unto Roger my eldest son and his heirs forever." Sometimes a man intended that his wife and grown son should share a house. Richard Hedger (1570) left half of the lease of his house and land to his son John who was to occupy it "jointly with Alice my wyeff and not to oppress her by any manner of means in the howse or abroade but quietly to occupye yt together during the term of the said lease and that my said sonne shall beare and paye thone halfe of all manner of charges to be paid".

John Newdegate Lord of the Manor (d 1528) had more to dispose of than other Harefield men, but had a larger family than most. His brass behind the altar in the Brackenbury Chapel shows 10 sons and 7 daughters. The will makes no mention of the daughters who had probably been given their portions on marriage or when they were professed nuns (two were nuns).³ His eldest son and heir John was left a silver salt cellar, a standing cup of silver and a plain goblet. His son William was to have property in Chalfont St Peter, Rickmansworth and the City of London, and Sebastien who became a monk at Charterhouse and was martyred in 1535 was left property in Uxbridge. To his wife Amphylisia John bequeathed "My manor of Oxheyhall in the parish of Watford...for the term of her life", with sons George and Dunstan having half each afterwards, and "my manor place called Harefield Court with all the demesne lands thereto belonging over and beside her joynture. Also I will that my son John Newdegate have my cheyne of gold weying (?) £40 and more so that he be good, kind and loving to his said mother and to his brethren." This sounds almost like a bribe.

Men leaving young children tried to provide for their daughters' marriages and the education or apprenticeship of their sons. Richard Nicholas, yeoman left £30 for his daughter Joan on her wedding day. George Ashby in 1515 left £50 apiece to his daughters Anne and Elyn provided that neither of them married his ward William Stude. His wife Rose (who later married Nicholas Boone) was to see that their son Thomas was "put to such learning as her brethren and other my friends shall think most convenient 'til he shall come to the age of 21 years."

MONEY AND GOODS Money probably played a small part in the lives of Harefield people. Several wills make no reference to it and most of the others mention relatively small sums: £1 19s 4d (Thomas Brackenbury, 1392), 3s 4d (Richard Clerk, 1445), 12d (Richard Hedger, 1569). Apart from the 12d and his house lease Hedger left nothing but a brass pot and (to his son in law Thomas Turner) his "best coat". This was the only reference to clothing in the wills. George Ashby mentioned £101 and John Newdegate about £85. Both came from well connected families. Otherwise a husbandman Thomas Wood and a yeoman Richard Nicholas were the only men to

leave substantial amounts of cash, £71 9s 8d and £50 3s 4d respectively.

Other than animals goods bequeathed were beds, bedding, cooking utensils and occasionally furniture. Thus, Thomas Wedon in 1558 "Item: to William my sonne all my crops of corn and fallow that be in the field of Ryckmansworth two oxen a bed the table in the hall a bolster a pillow and twenty sheep. Item: to Katheryn my daughter a feather bed a bolster the coveringe of my bed a brasse pot a cauldron and two little pans."

Jewellery and gold and silver items were rarities mentioned only by the Newdegates, the Ashbys and John Peter (d 1555) who had valuable gifts to bestow: a signet of gold with a death's head upon it to Mr Alexander Andros, London citizen, his father in law; a gold ring with a blue sapphire to Mistress Andros; a sword and buckler with a new white girdle "awell buckled and gilded" to James Andros, and a purse buckle and girdle to Robert Rumwell of Harefield. He carefully listed debts owing to him from Mr Nicholas Newdegate of Oxeyhall, Mr Horsely of the Queen's Guard, a man from Hackney and two London citizens. A sad note was struck when he enjoined that his wife Alys "shall honestlie recompense such persons as my sonne Thomas through his misdemeanour hath harmed."

Other than Martin Kelom the only willmaker to reveal scholarly interests was Anthony Newdegate who died in 1568. He left his sister Mistress Anne Craiford a new Herbal and "to my nephew or cosin John Newdegate Elliots Dictionary to help him somewhat when he is disposed to reade Latin authors. To my cosin John Newdegate son of my Uncle George my book of St Ambrose in Latyn." He wanted money to be distributed to servants of the house in which he died and trusted that "my executors will further reward them therein that take paynes with me in my sickness."

References 1. GLRD Acc1085/EF2 2. Kiddle, D.F.K. "The Changing Landscape of N.W. Middlesex" (Uxbridge Library) 3. Dowling C.A. "The Lady Jane Dormer, Duchess of Ferria"

Probatum fuit Testamentum superscriptum apud London coram



Queen Victoria's Jubilee

This year is the 150th anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession and is being celebrated in a series of special events at the Victoria and Albert Museum including, rather extraordinarily, a season of horror films with a 19th century setting (admission free, what's more).

The Queen's 50th Jubilee was marked by festivities of rather a different kind. The jollifications in Harefield in June 1887 were described in the local press.

160 to 170 old people were given dinner at the Malt House, roast beef, boiled beef, potatoes, plum pudding and beer. The room was decked with laburnum and geraniums lent by Mr Kennell. Uxbridge and Hillingdon brass band played and the Queen's health was drunk. James Thompson, 91 and William Collett, 84 were present at George III's Jubilee.

The band brought a procession of children to Mr C. Brown's fields, passing through Mr Byles' grounds. Tea was served on the lawn, followed by games, cricket, running races, prize giving and dancing.

On Tuesday evening there was a cricket match between two brothers, Henry and James Branch. This match had been talked of for years. Henry won the toss and scored 1 run. James then took the willow only to see his wickets fall after 5 balls. Henry was declared "best man". Fireworks and a large bonfire followed and could be seen for miles.

[Note: Mr Byles, a lawyer, was the son and heir of Judge Byles and lived at Harefield House. Mr Brown owned Conduit Farm (Manor Court) and the Malt House as well as other properties.]

Some members of the Society have looked at an interesting pocket book dating back to the early days of the 19th century. It is written in an admirable copperplate hand and may have belonged to a canal company clerk involved in checking cargoes and calculating the dues payable.

It includes a survey of the Grand Junction from Braunston to Brentford, and its branches, detailing the locks, bridges, wharves and so on. Harefield is included of course. The lock and bridge at Springwell can be identified; also Hodder's Lime Works at Summerhouse Lane; the lock and a SWING BRIDGE at the Copper Mills (no mention of a lock house though); lock, house and brick bridge at Black Jack's; then C. Baynes' Lime Works and another swing bridge; finally Harefield Moor lock, brick bridge and wharf. Old brick bridges survive at Springwell and Jack's Lock.

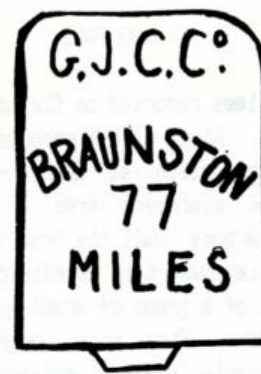
A ready reckoner gives the weights of different measures of all manner of cargoes (eg one hogshead of Russia Tallow weighs 8cwts) and the rates charged. It gives a vivid impression of the variety of goods carried by water - agricultural produce, building materials, fuel, and waste products such as soot, manure and ashes. An item of local relevance about Copper: "Resolved that Copper brought from Oxford to Harefield Copper Mills be charged the same as if it went to Paddington @ 8s 1d." At the end of the book is a table which demonstrates how trade increased in value between 1795 and 1818.

It has been suggested that the notebook might find a good home at the Canal Museum.

 THE CANAL - IN THE LOCAL PRESS

1885 Mr Parsons of the Fishery Hotel drove to the Cricketers. He alighted leaving his sister in the trap. The horse bolted, the lady was thrown out violently. The trap caught and dragged a ladder from the front of the inn. The horse went towards home followed by Mr Byerly of Jack's Mill in his cart. Arriving at the Fishery he found Mr Parsons' horse and trap in the canal and was able to render assistance.

1888 FLOODS August 11 Rainfall reached a climax in Harefield Valley. West Hyde, the Cress Beds and the Grand Junction Canal were joined by the River Colne. The canal bank was covered in places 18 inches and was almost impassable. Meadows were full of lakes. Nearly all footbridges were swept away and people who had gone to work in the morning found their return cut off. Horses and carts were brought into requisition. The Asbestos Mills had to cart many employees home and fetch them again on Saturday. Some amusing scenes were witnessed. One driver had to jump into the water and lead his horse.



1888 DROWNING Inquest held at Holloway Rd London on 7 year old Joseph Kempster of Harefield. He was the son of Jos. Kempster boatman living at Harefield. The boy had fallen into the canal which was 4ft deep but with a great deal of mud. It appeared the boy's feet had stuck. Verdict: accidental death.

1889 On Whit Monday the water in the canal between Jack's Lock and Harefield Lock was let out for repairs to the banks etc. The Secretary of the Anglers Association had permission to remove the fish and Mr J. West, water bailiff, arrived with men and nets and 2 punts to find people already netting and killing fish. Police took the names of delinquents. They then netted several cwts of fish including good tench and eels. They were taken to Denham and put in the canal there.

1889 Ada Maud Kennett aged 5 was staying with her grandfather at Riverside Cottages. When playing with a boy of 4 on the bank of the canal she fell in. She was dead when taken out.

1889 Staghounds met at Maple Cross. The deer ran in circles, then to the canal opposite the Asbestos factory. It plunged in and swam around then landed and went into the spinning room. He was ultimately noosed and led his captor plunging round the yards and was finally locked into the coach house to be taken away in a van.

1890 NARROW ESCAPE Mr Thomas Day, 65, gravedigger for 34 years was almost drowned. He walked to see a shooting match at the Fishery Hotel, and returning home at a very nasty point over the Coppermill Bridge he fell in the water. Two young men heard him cry. He was stuck in mud in 4ft of water. They pulled him out and took him home and put him to bed. He has a sprained wrist but no other injury.

1892 IN CANAL On Saturday a horse and sprung cart were being driven on the bank near the Fisheries by a boy, Chas. Dixon. All were thrown into the water. They were speedily rescued. The horse and cart belonged to Mr Price, butcher. Young lads drive at what speed they please. Cannot they be compelled to lead their horses by the head at a spot like this where the slightest hitch means falling into the canal.

SUNK A canal boat opposite the Fisheries. It was too deeply loaded. It was floated on Monday by discharging part of the cargo.

In July The Times reported on Christie's sale of old master drawings. Along with treasures from the Duke of Devonshire's collection at Chatsworth there was a fascinating new discovery from a stately home in Warwickshire, Arbury Hall the home of the Newdegates, the principal landowners in Harefield for centuries. This consisted of a group of drawings by Rubens for a book on anatomy. They were bought by Sir Roger Newdegate, probably the most celebrated member of the family, when he went on the Grand Tour in the 18th century, and for a long time they were thought to be the work of a minor Italian. Christie's had forecast a price of £85,000 but the 11 drawings went for a sensational £1,204,500!

THE FARM MUSEUM near Knightscode on Breakspear Rd and now owned by Hillingdon B.C. was open on June 13 and 14 in conjunction with Park Lodge Farm. The Society was offered space for a display and the sale of leaflets produced £13 for our funds. Visitors included the Mayor who asked about the Society. Next open days: September 12 and 13.

NEW LIGHT ON THE PAST Eileen Bowlit is continuing her series on Harefield Local History in the Library on Thursday evenings commencing September 24 at 8pm. You are welcome to join these lively and informal sessions where often untapped sources of Harefield's past are explored. There are field trips too (Wellington boots a must). This year the emphasis will be on the 18th and 19th centuries, including the coming of the canal. Fee for 22 meetings £39.50 pensioners £36.50.

The Secretary has had a chatty and interesting letter from Eileen and Bert Meads, founder members of the History Society who moved from Harefield to the village of King's Cliffe in Northamptonshire. It is in the stone belt between the attractive towns of Dundle and Stamford, an area which, they say, used to be part of unknown England but is now readily accessible by motorway. Theirs is an "open" parish unlike many in the vicinity which are "closed", owned and dominated by wealthy and aristocratic families whose stately homes abound in the area and where there is much for visitors to enjoy.

Available for reference: a card index of names of people grouped in families who lived in the parishes of Harefield, Ruislip and Ickenham up to 1930. It includes information from census returns, electoral registers, parish registers, rate books, wills...any name from any source. Additional information especially for the period before 1800 would be welcome and enquiries will be answered where possible by RON HARRIS, 51 Mount Park Road, Eastcote, Pinner HA5 2JS (Tel RUISLIP 674921). Please include a SAE if you want a reply from Mr Harris who began his index when illness forced him to give up his regular employment and he was desperate for some worthwhile occupation. He also collects local postcards

		Tel
Lorraine Piercy (Chairman)	Hillside, Park Lane	2371
Margaret Evans (Secretary)	4 Hall Drive	3020
Tim Ashby (Treasurer)	Hope Cottage, Church Hill	3322
Elona Cuthbertson (Editor)	4 Coppermill Lock	3059
Robert Goodchild (Programme)		3993
Vi Spicer (Publicity)	2 Ash Grove	2446
John Rooke	14 Springwell Close	3426
Midge Kempster	268 Northwood Road	2445

PROGRAMME 1987-8 (Harefield Library at 8pm)

Sept 28	L.B.H. Deaths & Burials	Mr Carnett
Oct 26	The Story of Harefield Hospital	Dr Shepherd
Nov 23	Toby Jugs and other British Pottery	Mr Schuler
Jan 6	Brass Rubbings (Social Evening) St Mary's Church Hall	Mr J. Rooke
Feb 22	Family History	Mrs Woodwards
Mar 28	Harlington Parish and her Church	Mr Sherwood
Apr 25	Manor Court and A.G.M.	Mrs Bowlit



Many members of the Society enjoyed the open evening at Shepherds Hill House, Northwood Rd, to mark the completion of this new residential centre for I.L.E.A. Sally Rogers who is in charge had arranged a very interesting display covering the history of the house and life in the village in its truly rural days. It included material supplied by the Society. This was not the location of an earlier building, unlike many in Harefield. The first house was built at the beginning of the 18th century on a "green field" site bordering on Harefield Common (a much more extensive area at that period). The first tenant was a Quaker farmer whose goods were confiscated when, as a matter of principle, he refused to pay the church rate. In 1752 it was sold with other parts of the Newdigate estate to George Cooke of Harefield Park. A century later it was the home of Miss Partridge, a member of the family who inherited Breakspears from the Ashbys.

The Hon. Treasurer will be pleased to receive your SUBSCRIPTIONS for 1987-8 (£2.50). Cheques should be made payable to the Harefield History Society.