

By now many of the New Year Resolutions will have been cracked if not broken, but one must still keep on trying. The Society has lost yet another founder member. Guy Allen has migrated to Bournemouth. We are sad to see him go, but we wish him a happy retirement and we know Bournemouth History Society has gained greatly. Maisie Marjoram has bravely stepped in as Treasurer.

In January Guy and Reg gave their second Boundaries talk. Reg's wonderful photos make one realise how lucky one is to live in such beautiful country. We should all walk through it more often.

Pat Clarke's talk on Vernacular architecture opened our eyes to new old bits of Middlesex.

Seven members attended the Local History Conference at Winston Churchill Hall. The subject was Celebrations and Jubilees. We felt that our display scored high points thanks to members who lent some of their valued china and pottery.

The Society's display 'People and Places' is now on view in Uxbridge Library until early May on Level 3.

The Museum of London reports no significant finds at the Coppermill and Harefield House sites. We have yet to see what is in the 'buried bottle' at the latter.

M.Evans.

#### PROGRAMME 1993/4

OUTINGS. 26 June/93 9.30 am to Greenwich Park

4 Sept/93 9 am to Colchester and beyond.

PLEASE BOOK EARLY AS WE HAVE SMALLER COACHES THIS YEAR.

MEETINGS. Park Lane Centre.

27 Sept/93. Heraldry J.Golland.

25 Oct/93 The Newdigates W.F.J.Cuthbertson.

22 Nov/93 Norfolk Village Signs J.Richardson.

24 Jan/94 Past Society Outings R.Neil and J.Rooke

28 Feb/94 Moths in Harefield M.Hough

28 Mar/94 Three Churches of Gt.Stanmore R.Abbott

25 Apr/94 A.G.M. Local Archives. Hillingdon Heritage  
Speaker.

---

#### HAREFIELD HITS THE DAILIES - AUGUST 1954.

Referring to our walk last April, I was shown some Newspaper cuttings by Brian Swan about the quarry site. An extract follows:

'WAR BLINDED MAN LEADS FIGHT FOR BEAUTY SPOT'

War blinded Ernest Bugbee handed in a letter to the Prime Minister at 10 Downing St. yesterday in a bid to save a beauty spot he can never see again.

This is a quarry known as London's Cheddar Gorge, at Harefield, Middlesex. A Whitehall decision now permits a contractor to dump refuse down the 80 ft. chalk heights among the silver birches.

Mr.Bugbee led a procession of 120 residents, some with banners, who had paid a special three-bob return coach fare down Whitehall. With them was piper N.MacDonald, playing a specially composed Lament, escorted by drummers of

Harefield Boys Brigade.

Daily Sketch.

---

 STRATFORD ON AVON 14 OCT. 1992 by Guy Allen.

Thanks to Lorraine Piercy's efforts, our only coach outing of the season left Harefield Green at 9 a.m. on a dull but fine morning, journeying speedily up the 'new' M40 extension towards Banbury and Birmingham. We suffered a 45 minute delay as our driver didn't get in the nearside lane soon enough and missed his intended exit. Thanks to Lorraine's Information pack we were able to plan most of our day in advance. Doreen and I decided to follow the "Shakespeare Trail" in the open top bus which departed every 30 minutes, with a continuous commentary by a guide along the way.

First stop was Shakespeare's birthplace in a pedestrianised area. Half of the property including kitchen, living room and bedrooms, has been furnished as in the Tudor period. The other half has been updated as an exhibition centre full of contemporary documents and comments by Garrick and others. This alone was worth a two hour stopover. Although out of the tourist season there were many students and visitors from all corners of the globe.

As the next two properties, Nash's House at New Place, and Halls Croft, New Town were not far away we decided to walk. Only the site of New Place remains: "a handsome house where Shakespeare spent his retirement" and this has been converted into an Elizabethan garden setting. Thomas Nash was the first husband of Shakespeare's granddaughter Elizabeth Hall. This property has been furnished in period style, with a museum of local historical material. Ten minutes' walk brought us to Halls Croft in Old Town. Shakespeare's daughter Susanna and her husband Dr. John Hall lived here, It is furnished with Elizabethan and Jacobean furniture. Of particular interest is the dispensary complete with apothecaries' jars, herbs and surgical instruments, illustrating his career as well as the medical background of that time.

The bus took us on to Shakespeare's wife's home prior to her marriage, at Shottery. (Anne Hathaway's thatched cottage, of course), The home of a substantial yeoman's family, the twelve roomed farmhouse still contains its open fireplace and bake oven as well as the dairy/buttery, together with its old fashioned garden and orchard.

The last stop on the bus tour brought us to the girlhood home of Mary Arden, Shakespeare's mother. This Tudor farmstead and its many buildings have been refurbished to house rare pieces of country furniture and domestic utensils and a wide ranging collection of farm implements and machinery from Tudor times to 1900. There is also a falconry centre, a working smithy, and displays of country crafts.

Back in town with 45 minutes to spare, we made a few 'touristy' purchases for family and friends and got back to the coach just before the rains came down. An enjoyable day - the exhibition centre is well worth half a day's study - but not, I should think, in the height of the tourist season.

---

 MOORHALL, CAMERA OF THE KNIGHTS HOSPITALLERS.

I was recently lent a 'History of Moor Hall' by H.S. Cochran. There were two buildings, a Hall and a Chapel, situated on Moorhall Road. Neither now remains.

The Hall was timber framed with wattle and daub. It had brick chimneys and a high pitched roof, and was the home of the Custos and his servants. The chapel was mainly flint with stone facings.

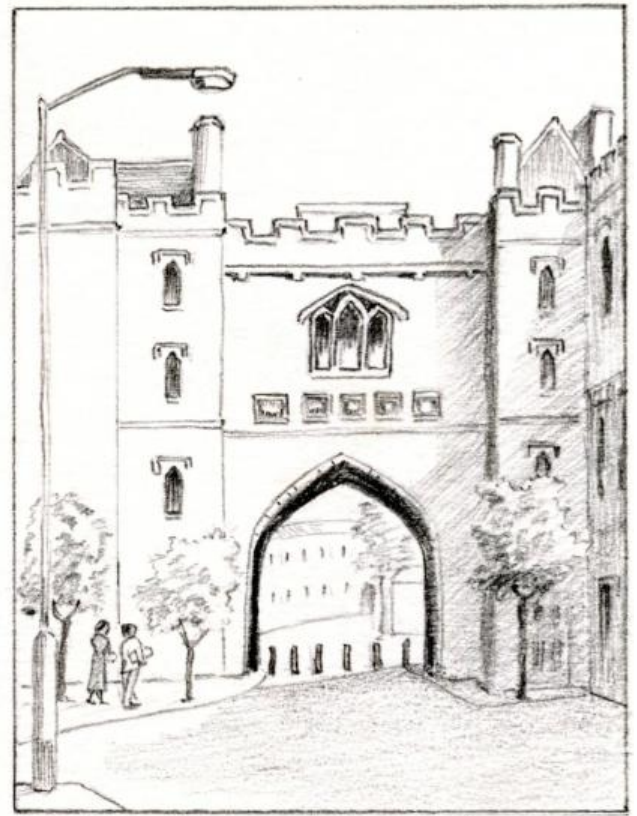
From 1190 the Order of St. John owned land in Harefield, The Hall was known as Domus Hospitalis de Harefield. It was one of the smaller outposts of the Order. The main Commanderie being in Clerkenwell, of which the Gatehouse still remains.

The Order was founded in Jerusalem as a Brotherhood devoted to aiding the sick. It was greatly helped by the Crusaders in 1092 and after. The Pope established it as an Order of Knighthood and made himself Grand Master. The Knights were primarily a religious Order but they developed fighting skills as they were attacked by the infidels and driven out many times, to Cyprus, to Rhodes and finally to Malta where they built extensive fortifications. In 1792 they were driven from there by the French, and took refuge in various parts of Europe.

The Domus Hospitalis de Harefield suffered many changes of ownership. The Hall was divided into three cottages, and finally burnt down in 1922. Nothing but brickwork and charred timbers remained. The chapel was used by farmers. In 1927 Mr. Cochran and the churchwardens had the chapel renovated. Mr. H. Farquharson FRIBA acted as hon. architect, and C. Brown, builder, contracted for the work. The cost was £283. A jumble sale made £90, the Wesleyans held a concert and gave £10.18.0 The remainder was donated. At the dedication two Knights of St. John were present in their black robes.

For some years the chapel was a Mission Room and a Sunday school, and then it was again allowed to deteriorate until it became dangerous and was demolished.

M. Evans



St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell.

#### DESPERATE AFFRAY AT THE LORD NELSON BEER HOUSE.

The Magnet Newspaper for 27 July 1840 tells of an apparently unprovoked attack at the Lord Nelson Beer House, just as vicious as any we read about in today's papers. Three Gypsies who had been at Harefield Fair the previous Monday "very busy with dice tables, thimble-rigging etc" went into the Lord Nelson between 9 and 10 o'clock that night and started "abusing and ill-treating every person who came in, and behaving with great violence". When Marmaduke Brown, the Landlord remonstrated with them he was felled to the ground by the ring leader and all three began kicking him with their iron-mounted shoes, and would probably have killed him had not some of the landlord's friends happened to come in by chance and rescued him.

R. Collett, a young man who was groom to B. Spedding Esq. of the Mines Royal Copper Company became their second victim. As he came out of the bar into the passage to go home, he was knocked down on his face, seized by the legs and dragged

like a wheelbarrow 20 yards out into the gravel road, where the gypsies began kicking him in the head. His life was probably saved because another young man called George Rogers, while coming across the road for some beer, heard him shout "For God's sake don't murder me quite" and scared the men off by shrieking "Murder".

Constable Atkins was called to the scene and he, Marmaduke Brown and two lads rushed off in pursuit, catching up with the Gypsy band of five men and three women about half a mile away. Unfortunately the paper doesn't say whereabouts exactly. During the ensuing melee the constable was thrown into a ditch, beaten with sticks while he was down by the three women and struck on the head with his own handcuffs until they broke in pieces. He was rescued by his brother Mr. James Atkins who happened to be near the spot and most opportunely came up with some other persons.

Two of the gypsies, James Map and George Freak were eventually overcome and taken into custody, but only after Map had bitten lumps of flesh from Constable Atkins' hand and thigh with his teeth! The third assailant, Joseph Map, got away with the rest of the band, but was seen at Colnbrook Fair on the following Friday, whither Constable Atkins, who seems to have been quite resilient and was probably thirsting for blood, and two other active officers went with a warrant to apprehend him.

Meanwhile the two in custody were kept at the White Horse during the night and conveyed, tied in a cart, to be examined by sitting magistrates, presumably at Uxbridge, on the Wednesday, when they were committed to the New Prison, Clerkenwell, because their victim R.Collett, was in a precarious state. When the newspaper account was written scarcely any hopes were entertained of his recovery.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? DOES ANYONE KNOW? There was a Richard Collett, a labourer at the Coppermills, living in the lane to the Coppermills, mentioned in the 1851 Census, who would have been about 30 years old in 1840, but there is no proof that he was the R.Collett who figures in this story.

Eileen Bowlit.

---

#### Conservation. by Val Woodward

Harefield Village Conservation Area Advisory Panel continues to be vigilant, its main aim being the preservation of historic buildings and the maintenance of the Green Belt Policy within the Conservation area.

A.Q.D.Site.

Demolition has now commenced. However the developer will not be able to start building until Harefield House has been restored. It has been reported to Harefield History Society that a foundation brick was laid in April 1939, by the then head of establishment, Mr.Barlow, together with a time capsule. The demolition contractor is aware of the supposed existence of the capsule and is very keen to unearth it. The Planning Officer for Harefield, Lindsay Daysh, is also anxious that it should be found. Reg Neil has been invited to photograph the various stages of demolition to go with his archive collection of photographs of the construction more than 50 years ago. These photographs were given to me by the Director of A.Q.D before the department was moved to Woolwich.

PRINCE HOTEL. An application has been made for change of use to a Residential Care Home for the elderly. The panel felt the site was highly unsuitable, partly on grounds of access and lack of parking.

There has been an application for an extra house to be built at the back of the Old Workhouse site, fronting on to Gilbert Road. This would involve resiting the garage for the house already erected to a position much nearer the Old Workhouse than that shown in the plans already approved. The whole panel objected strongly to this proposal on the grounds that it would affect the aspect of a listed building and would create too much infilling; the History Society wrote in support of this view. The Planning Office agree and will recommend refusal, but an appeal seems likely - watch this space.

We also wrote recently to the Director of Planning to express concern about plans for the development of Manor Court, which included a new block facing on to an area of five large trees which are an important component of the view from the High Street, and if they survive, will help to mask the new building. They are subject to a preservation order, but we felt that to have them blocking light from windows and shading private gardens would effectively place them under threat from 'accidental' damage. New plans have now been submitted for a block with a communal grassed area and only a few windows facing the trees.

The new units to be built at the back have now been reduced to two, giving a more open layout to the whole site. The panel felt these changes were a great improvement.

After her fascinating talk to the History Society last month I spoke to Pat Clark about Manor Court, which she did not know. It now looks hopeful that she will be able to add the building to her list of local investigations.

It can hardly escape members' notice that work is proceeding apace on the site of the old AQD. We recently queried the appropriateness of the name 'Wellington Place' for the new estate. Apparently the developers chose this because early work on the Wellington Bomber was done in Harefield, so there is a local link. We will continue to press for street names with Harefield connections.

We heard recently that the London Borough of Harrow is to put Breakspear House on the market again. We can only hope for a secure and appropriate future for this fine historic building.

---