

# Harefield History Society

NEWSLETTER NO. 27. SPRING 1994.

Committee : T. Hillier, Chairman  
M. Marjoram, Treasurer  
M. Evans, Secretary  
R. Neil  
R. Goodchild  
L. Piercy  
A. Batchelor  
B. Dungey.



Flatford Mill

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## PROGRAMME. 1994/5.

Summer Outing June 18th. 1994. Michelham Priory and Brighton. Coach leaves the Green 9.30. Cost £8.90 incl. admission.

### Winter Talks.

Sept 26. 'Bats' by Dave Cove.

Oct 24 'R.L. Stevenson - his Centenary Year' by Iain Liddell.

Nov 28 'Saints in Hillingdon' by Sir John Dewhurst

Dec. No meeting.

Jan 23, 95. 'History of Infant Feeding in the last Hundred Years' by Dr. W. Cuthbertson.

Feb 27. 'Home Printing Presses and some of their interesting Owners' by Daved Chambers.

Mar 27. 'Glass Paperweights' by Richard Taylor

Apr 24. Annual General Meeting. 'The Old Workhouse' by Dorothy Winton.

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## COLCHESTER AND CONSTABLE COUNTRY

by BERYL HARROLD.

On September 4th the History Society had an outing to Colchester. We visited the Hollytrees Museum which houses a collection from the 18th and 19th centuries including lots of fascinating toys, a costume gallery and the library of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History. We also visited the Colchester Castle Museum and discovered how the Romans lived and worked. The castle itself is not Roman. It was built by the Normans soon after the conquest of 1066, using the foundations of the great Roman temple of Claudius as its base. Bricks and tiles from the original Roman town were used to build the castle keep, and can be seen in the walls today

The castle has the largest Norman Keep in Europe, and predates the Tower of London. It was used as a prison until the early 19th century.

After visiting the castle there was just time for lunch, and a quick walk to see part of the Roman city wall before going back to the coach for the drive to Dedham and East Bergholt, which is the birthplace of John Constable. The cloth trade formerly flourished here. We visited the Church, and then went on to Flatford Mill and Willy Lott's cottage, made famous by Constable's well-known painting - the Haywain. After a stop for tea it was time to travel home to Harefield after a busy and enjoyable day out.

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## A NOTE FROM ELONA'S RESEARCH PAPERS.

Long ago there was a great Tithe Barn on the Church Field, between the Church and Moorhall. The tithes belonged to the Lord of the Manor, not to the incumbent. The barn and a smaller

one were sold as an investment in the 1680s.

## A HAREFIELD FAMILY

by RON HARRIS

Reading Mrs. Dorothy Winton's item in Newsletter No.26, I noted her reference to the name TRUMPER, an old surname widely represented in Harefield, though no longer.

My interest in the name Trumper began with a letter from Mrs. Carolyn Storer of Narraween, Australia, who counted the Trumpers among her antecedents.

Annie Weedon Trumper, born 1821 in Harefield who wed Frederick Alfred William Phipps at Marylebone in 1842, was the daughter of Joseph Trumper, born 1791, Harefield, and Harriet, nee Spicer, born 1789, Ruislip. Harriet was daughter to Joseph Spicer and Ann, nee Weedon, explaining the Weedon in Annie's Christian names. Annie's sister Rebecca Spicer also married a Phipps, Robert Owen Phipps, brother of Frederick Alfred William Phipps.

Annie Trumper's father was a farmer in Harefield, as had been his father Edward, and his father Ralph, back to the early 18th century. Ralph had also been a maltster.

Frederick Alfred William Phipps was born 1819, Harefield, to William Phipps ne Garrott, 1787, Wimbledon, and Catherine, nee Bignall. William came to Harefield c 1790, with his parents Ralph and Ann nee Brookwell, from Wimbledon. Frederick is recorded as having been a zinc manufacturer and later as a copper worker of Harefield Lane.

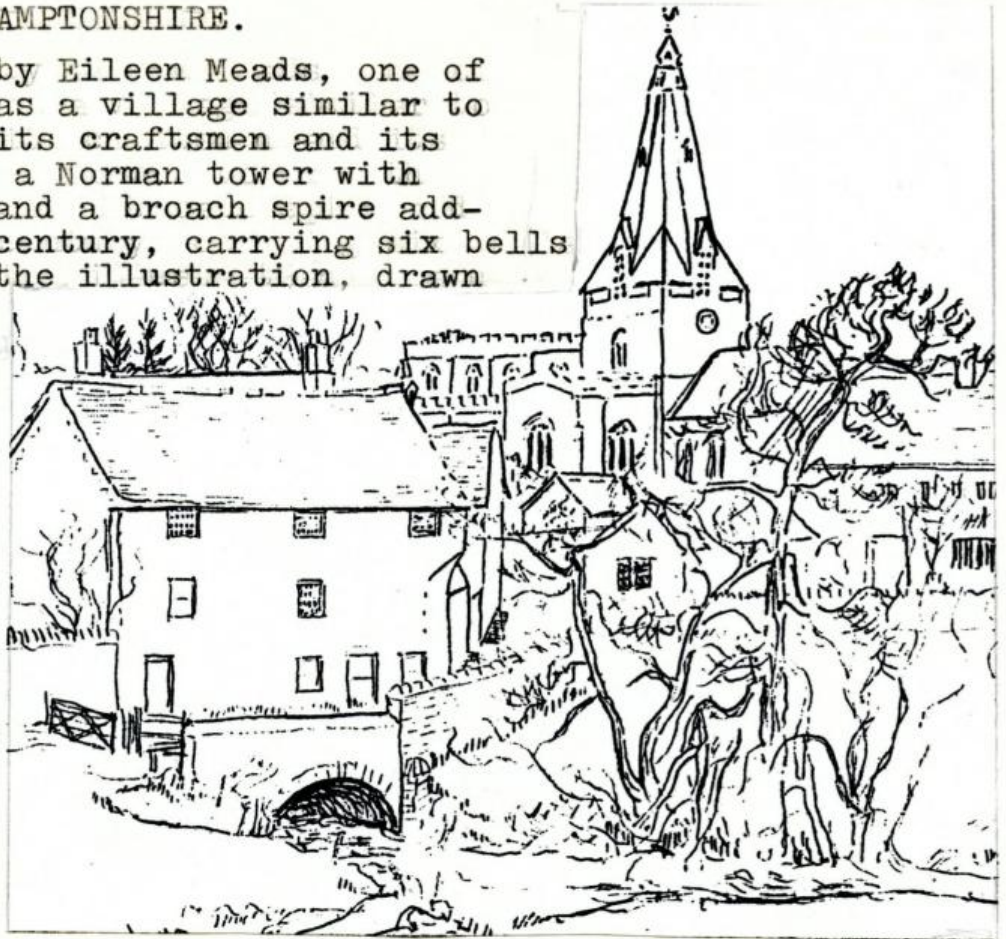
In 1854 Frederick and Annie with their six children, took ship for Australia. Sadly the youngest child, Frederick Alfred, born at sea, died in 1855. Three further children were born in Australia. Brother Robert Owen Phipps and wife Rebecca Spicer nee Trumper with their six children, accompanied Frederick, Annie and family.

Below are copies of the death notices of Frederick Alfred Phipps and wife Annie Weedon Phipps. Although they died in Oamaru in 1909 and 1896 respectively, it is interesting to read that Frederick 'followed the occupation of a vintner' in Geelong Australia, 'and was the proprietor of an extensive vineyard.

## KINGS CLIFFE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

It is described by Eileen Meads, one of our founder members, as a village similar to Harefield, known for its craftsmen and its pubs. Its church has a Norman tower with Saxon style windows, and a broach spire added in the thirteenth century, carrying six bells.

The old mill in the illustration, drawn by one of the parishioners, is now the Church Hall, and you can hear the water flowing beneath you when you attend meetings.



To the South is a Royal Hunting Lodge, for this village stood within Rockingham Forest, the King's hunting grounds, and had a long association with the Crown, as shown by its name. It is still very much an

agricultural community, of about 900 inhabitants, surrounded by farms and stables etc., though many people work in Peterborough, just 12 miles away, or Oundle or Stamford, only 7 miles. Eileen thoroughly enjoys her busy life in the Parish.

M. Evans.

## LADY OF THE MANOR from Middx Quarterly 1953

The Countess of Derby was the youngest daughter of Sir John Spencer of Althorpe, born in 1561 into a family rapidly rising to eminence, a family which in later years produced the Duke of Marlborough and Sir Winston Spencer Churchill. Alice's life extended over three reigns. In 1579 she married Ferdinando, Lord Strange, who subsequently became the 5th. Earl of Derby. They produced 3 daughters, Frances, Anne and Elizabeth, who kneel at their Mother's feet in Harefield Church. When she was only 33, her beloved husband died.

On October 20th. 1600 she became the third wife of Sir Thomas Egerton and they bought Harefield Place in 1601. Unfortunately this house was burned to the ground, due to a visitor having upset his bedroom candle.

In 1602 the Egertons entertained Queen Elizabeth at Harefield Place. Apparently the Burbidge Players were paid £10 for entertaining the company, and among these players was one 38 year old actor, William Shakespeare.

John Milton wrote two masques, one presented at Harefield Place, the other, Comus, at Ludlow Castle, and performed by Lady Alice's grandchildren. She died in 1637. The previous year she had planned the Almshouses and left money to support the inmates.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME ? ELONA.

by DR.W.CUTHBERTSON.

Many things run in families. Some, like the Hapsburg lip or sickle cell ~~æ~~æmia, are genetic while others, property rights and names for instance are handed on from one generation to another. Surnames are normally ordained by birth and marriage, but first names are freely selected from those appropriate for the sex of the infant. It is not uncommon for a son to have the same Christian name as his father though it is rare for this practice to be carried on beyond the grandson. Parents appear less likely to name a daughter after her mother - perhaps they prefer a more up-to-date soubriquet for the new young lady ! So, for whatever reason, it is surprising to find in one family the continued use of an unusual name over a period of 5 generations.

## The Origin of the Name ELONA

Names derived from Helen (from the Greek 'light') are common in Russia and Eastern Europe where it is spelt, in the Cyrillic script in ways which can be pronounced and transliterated into the Roman alphabet as Ilena, Ilona, Elana, Elona etc. Of these probably the best known is Ilona though before the first World War the form transliterated as Elona was often used within the Ukrainian Polish population and frequently employed by the Russian people in that area.

## Other Uses of the Name.

1. The name of a town in the India of the British Raj. This was the site of a famous temple
2. In Hindustani the name is said to mean 'Radiant Beauty'.
3. As a ship's name. 'Elona' was built in 1936 by Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson Ltd. at Wallsend on Tyne for the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co. Ltd. This name was re-used for a ship built by SB & DO Co. of St. John, New Brunswick and used in the Shell German fleet.
4. A salad. 'Salad Elona' is based on thin slices of cucumber and strawberry seasoned with wine, oil and salt. It was devised by Willie Wilshaw, a radio chef, to commemorate the help given by the third Elona in organising a memorable feast.
5. A sub-genus Elona of the freshwater molluscan genus Iberus.

## Use by the family.

First Elona. In the mid 19th century a mining engineer from Newcastle, Thomas Thompson, was concerned with the exploitation of the rich coal seams in the Don basin of the Russian Ukraine. He was involved in all aspects of the pits from their excavation to the procurement and installation of equipment as well as the training of staff and safety. As a result he and his wife spent a considerable time there, and a daughter was born to them. They gave her a name used in that area which they wrote as ELONA. Subsequently Elona married Jim Patterson but had no children.

Second Elona. John William Thompson, the son of Thomas, was like his father, a mining engineer. He worked in Norway, establishing a copper mine, but his main interest was coal mining in the Newcastle district. He was deeply concerned with mine safety and invented several devices - steel pitprops, transport carriages and underground signalling systems. He married Mary Turnbull and they named one of their daughters Elona after his sister who had been born in the Ukraine.

Third Elona. Elona Thompson in her turn married Dr. Severs and bore a son, David and a daughter Elona, the third Elona, who married Cuth Cuthbertson. They had a son, Toby, but no daughter. Elona Cuthbertson was one of those unusual persons who do so much so well, in such a short time. She left her career in the

Research Department of the BBC for her home and family later to become a Research Fellow at Brunel University, and then did much original historical research while also playing a major part in several women's organisations.

Fourth Elona. Davis Severs, the brother of the third Elona qualified as a doctor and joined the Government Health Services in Newfoundland where he married Bunty Davie. They had several children - one of their daughters they called Elona. She is now a student at Montreal University.

Fifth Elona. Bully Severs, son of David and Bunty, married Karen. They now live in Vancouver and have a daughter, the fifth Elona.

References: Dr.D.Severs. Wootten,R.C. Shell International Petroleum Co. Wilshaw,W. See Readers Digest Good Health Cook Book Series 1986. Freeman,J. Natural History Museum 1992. H&A Adams Genera of Recent Mollusca Vol2 p 211.

SMOKING AND HEALTH. From the Middlesex Gazette Feb. 1888.

Tobacco belongs to the Atropa Belladonna family. Hottentots kill snakes by putting one drop of nicotine on their tongues. Indians dip their arrows in tobacco oil. Leeches used on the bodies of smokers drop off, dead .....

JACK'S MILL from the MIDDLESEX QUARTERLY 1958

Jack's Mill is one of the three mills recorded in the DOMES DAY BOOK. It ceased as a flour mill about 1905 and was acquired by a firm making fibre mats. In 1908 it was damaged by fire. In 1958 a retired solicitor lived there.

The donkey on the weather vane is said to represent an animal owned by Black Jack.

Mr.Billyard Leake lived there from 1914 to 1918 after giving his house, Harefield Park, to the Australians. The Mill has a Georgian door and two ornate fireplaces.

The thatched Black Jack's Cottage is estimated to be 300 years old: It has a fine kitchen fireplace. Mr and Mrs Patrick Barry lived there in 1958. Previous occupants were Ann Todd, filmstar, and Leslie Mitchell of the BBC.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

At our September 1993 meeting Jim Golland explained the basic rules of Heraldry, a fascinating subject of which there is a great deal in St.Mary's Church if only one has time to study it. In October Dr.Cuthbertson read to us Elona's paper on the Newdigates, and in November Mr.Richardson described Norfolk Village signs with delightful slides. In January we had past Society Outings with John Rooke and Reg Neil, and in February an unusual subject - Moths, of which there are more around Harefield than one imagined. Our March talk is on the three churches of Stanmore, and then our AGM in April with a talk on the work of the Heritage Department.

Our Summer Outing on 18th.June to Michelham Priory, a 16th. century house with a 14th.century Gatehouse, followed by an afternoon in Brighton should be enjoyable. Please buy your ticket as soon as possible. We hope to take 40 members and friends,

M.Evans.

The Conservation Panel has continued to meet regularly to discuss planning applications and other developments affecting the village. At present Harefield seems to be changing in many ways both great and small. Minor alterations may seem individually unimportant but they have a cumulative effect on the appearance of the Conservation Area; this is why the planning regulations are more strict, and often more detailed for any work taking place within its boundaries. Additional rules, of course, apply to listed buildings, and there is special provision for tree preservation.

This can have unfortunate results for residents who may not even be aware that they live in a Conservation Area, and the panel has been giving some thought to ways of helping to publicise the basic facts.

Unsuitable replacement windows in the old Bakery, and an inappropriate shop front in Park Lane are only two of the problems recently discussed, which might have been avoided had people been better informed.

Two major developments affecting the village have also been giving the Panel further cause for concern. An application has been made to demolish the old coach house adjacent to Harefield House, although in the original plans for the site it was scheduled to be retained and renovated. The Panel were unanimous in rejecting the proposed new building as inappropriate, and in supporting the view already expressed by English Heritage that the coach house is an important building and should be retained.

Since the last Conservation meeting further steps have been taken by Trafalgar House to weaken the restrictions over the Mediparc site, which were fought for so vigorously by the Panel and other village organisations. They will doubtless be discussed in detail at our next meeting.

ENDPIECE. TRUMPER AGAIN. FROM MIDDLESEX QUARTERLY 1981

In May 1827 a local farmer, Francis Trumper challenged two friends to a Two-a-Side cricker match. His partner was to be his sheepdog, and he would bat for the dog.

This was accepted, and large sums were staked.

Trumper and his dog won by two wickets. The dog received an outsize bone as a prize.