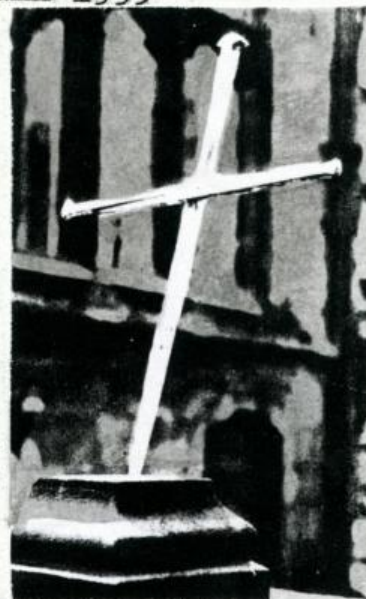


Harefield History Society

NEWSLETTER NO. 30. Autumn 1995

COMMITTEE: I.Liddell, Chairmen
M.Marjoram, Treasurer
M.Evans, Secretary
R.Neil
R.Goodchild
A.Batchelor
B.Dungey
V.Woodwards
L.Piercy



Winter Programme.

Sept 25.	Geoff Saul Esq.	"Webster on Water."
Oct 23.	Dr Ivan Johnson	"Wellbeing at Work"
Nov. 27.	Mark Hooper Esq.	"Stone Masonry"
No meeting in December.		
1996		
Jan. 22.	Brian Adams Esq.	"Local Industrial Archaeology"
Feb. 26.	Sir John Dewhurst.	"Royal Births in British History"
Mar. 25.	Geoff Saul Esq.	"Punch on Sewage"
Apr. 22.	A.G.M. Followed by Reg Neil Esq.	"The Seven Roads into Harefield" (Part 1.)

Secretary's Report.

Last Winter we had some interesting and varied talks, and in future we hope to find more local subjects. I was sorry to miss the A.G.M. and Dorothy Winton's talk on the Old Workhouse. I also missed the Outing in July, which seems to have been quite enjoyable in spite of some rain. Our new Winter programme has several highlights, and four of the seven talks are by local speakers.

A special treat will be Reg's Photographic Exhibition in Harefield Library from Sept. 4th. for two weeks. Don't miss it!

The Harefield Walk which was requested by Hayes and Harlington Society was attended by over 20 walkers. It occurs to me that our own members might like to do this walk through the Village, and if so we will try to organise it in October.

A note about the Cross of Nails (above). As the firebombs burnt the roof of Coventry Cathedral, the 14th. century hand-forged nails which had fastened the roof beams, became scattered over the floor of the ruined sanctuary. The following morning someone made a cross out of three of the nails. This cross became a symbol of International Reconciliation, and similar crosses have been presented to Oslo, Hamburg, Kiel, Dresden and many other centres.

M.Evans.

Middlesex Quarterly. Winter 1953.

"Concerned at the effect Industry is having on the amenities of the village, some residents of Harefield have formed a Preservation Society. There is still much worthy of preservation in Harefield and it is gratifying to learn that some 200 residents have joined the new Society."
Anybody remember it, or know someone who was a member ? ?

A Visit to Coventry and Arbury Hall.

Since 1043 when Leofric and Godiva founded the Benedictine Community there has been a church on the present site of Coventry Cathedral.

In 1145 St. Michael's Parish Church was in existence and in 1373 the rebuilding of St. Michael's began.

1918 was the year St. Michael's was designated Coventry's second Cathedral and the diocese of Coventry was founded.

On 14/15 November 1940 it took eleven hours and six minutes to wipe out five hundred years of Christian history.

The new Coventry Cathedral was consecrated in the presence of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. Her father H.M. George VI had inspected the ruins of the old Cathedral two days after the bombing.

Standing in the ruins one was moved by the cross made of charred beams on the altar, and the simple reredos of two words:- Father Forgive.

These impressive ruins bring sadness at the devastation brought by the futility and incomprehension of war.

From the ruins the "Queen's Steps" lead into the new Cathedral through "The Screen". That is the West window, a huge glass screen with the doors forming part of it. "This helps to emphasise the unity between the ruins and the new Cathedral, and brings the interior into a closer relationship with the world outside." Designed by John Hutton, it has patriarchs, prophets, apostles and martyrs, with flying angels above them all incised by him.

Over the altar is the Tapestry, the largest in the world, made near Aubusson in France to the design by Graham Sutherland. The tapestry promotes a lot of discussion, especially the "apron" but our Lord was a carpenter and therefore would wear an apron. It depicts Christ enthroned in Glory.

Through the Baptistry window the light streams and is truly a magnificent sight for it is made of multicoloured glass panels, and "epitomises the light of the Holy Spirit flooding into the world". Made by Patrick Reyntiens to the design of John Piper, its purpose is not hard to understand.

The Chapel of Unity has inscribed in the floor of the entrance the words "That they may be one". The beautiful mosaic floor was a gift from Sweden. Many gifts were sent to Cathedral from all over the world inspired by "the dedication of reconciliation" of the new Cathedral.

An audio-visual presentation in the undercroft of (1) the bombing (2) the reconstruction and (3) the future - a centre for peace and reconciliation, was a very moving experience.

As always there is never time to see and explore everything. The Museum of British Road Transport was established to portray "the unparalleled contribution the City of Coventry has made to the world's transport industries". One member, having visited the Cathedral several times before, spent all available time at this museum and experienced nostalgic memories of cars etc. once owned.

Those who lunched at the University found the food

excellent and reasonably priced. Others found the excellent shopping centre to their liking. One remarked that the Cathedral was "too modern, but some aspects were wonderful". Another "the presentation of the contrast between the ruins and the new was first class".

There is obviously something for everyone in Coventry. Leaving the City about two o'clock, it was only ten miles to Arbury Hall in Nuneaton, the home of the Newdegate family who were once the Lords of the Manor of Harefield. This house is famous for its beautiful ornate plaster ceilings, and has an important collection of paintings, furniture, ceramics and other works of art.

The "breathtaking ceiling of the magnificent saloon was inspired by Henry VII's chapel in Westminster Abbey" but all the ceilings warranted great admiration.

Mary Ann Evans (George Eliot) was born at South Farm on the Arbury Estate. Her father was the agent for a good many years. Her novels - Scenes from Clerical Life, feature "Cheverel Manor" which is Arbury, and Sir Christopher Cheverel its benevolent and cultured owner is Sir Roger Newdegate. He transformed Arbury from an Elizabethan house to a Gothick one.

Arbury is one of the most complete and best preserved Gothic Revival houses in England and it has "singular interest and considerable charm." Sir Christopher Wren provided drawings for the fine central doorway of the stables now used as refreshment rooms and houses the famous Pinkerton collection of veteran bicycles.

The organ in the chapel was found in the cellar in an exceedingly poor condition. It took three years for the wood to dry out, and was lovingly restored. It is thought to have been made about 1750, is unique and now very valuable. An elaborate lock on the chapel door was the work of John Wickes of Birmingham in about 1680. A visit to the gardens was cut short by a heavy shower of rain. The plants and flowers loved it even if the party was disappointed at not being able to wander far among them.. The gardens are "a superb example of the informal style of the late 18th. century landscape gardening".

It was thought a good idea to be the only party shown around by the excellent guides, Major Barker and his wife. The well-kept grounds, the rose garden and the panoramic scenery helped to make a very enjoyable visit to a beautiful house.

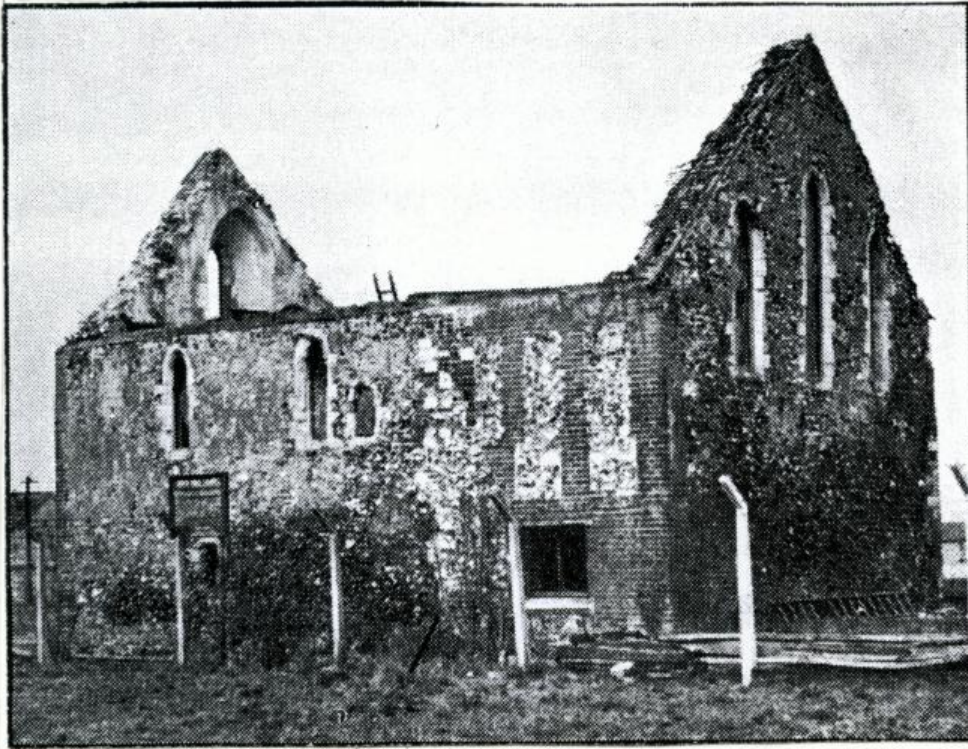
A lovely, wellorganised day came to an end only too soon and, Oh ! I mustn't forget to say thank you to Reg Neil for the sweets.

Vi Hardey.

Harefield's Oldest Building, that was.

No doubt some residents will remember the Knights Hospitallers' Chapel on Moorhall Road. It stood beside the house where the local leader and staff lived. They farmed their land and sent produce to the Headquarters at Clerkenwell.

The chapel dated from the twelfth century, but was allowed to deteriorate after the unit was closed down. The house was used to accommodate farm workers but was ultimately burnt down. In 1959 Uxbridge Council was debating the question of repairing the chapel, but instead it was demolished.



The Hospitallers' Chapel in 1958.

A Hundred Years Ago.

The Middlesex Gazette for 1895 reported in January that "Parish Councils and new Boards of Guardians had now been formed and the first meetings were being held." Harefield's P.C. met in the Memorial Hall with Mr. Tarleton presiding. Mr. Filkins offered to do duty as clerk until April without salary. Mr. Kinross was appointed Highway Surveyor. In spite of the fact that many villagers could not read or write, it was decided to circulate leaflets asking them to apply for allotments.

By February there were 30 applications and 11 or 12 acres were needed. A sub-committee was appointed to search for available land.

Middlesex County Council issued an order prohibiting the catching of wild birds between 1 Feb. and 31 Aug.

Technical Education - Scholarships were offered to 10 girls and 15 boys up to £25 for two or three years' training.

Medical Officer's Report.. Harefield population 1975. Death Rate 13.6 per thousand. 27 deaths. Harefield had 23 cases of influenza and scarlatina. Suggest that scavenging be carried out. There are heaps of refuse behind cottages.

Inspector's Report. Cottages at Harefield Moor are unsatisfactory - broken pumps, heaps of ashes, dirty closets, liquid sewage standing about. Water supply is from a muddy ditch. Notice to be served.

Breakspears. Mr. Tarleton complains of the smell from a vent shaft from the sewer at Breakspears Inn. Mr. McCallam is to see to it.

M. Evans

Turkey.

Turkish Delight, carpets, coffee, leather, gold are the many things on offer in Turkey's third largest city, Kusadasi. Situated on the West coast, on the Aegean Sea, the colourful Bazaar, the Market Place, Mosques, Temples were all the places one would expect to visit. Many cruise ships call into the lovely Marina, for their passengers to enjoy the sights and to hunt out a bargain.

Eating out was quite cheap and plentiful. Apple tea and Raki was offered in the shops as you bartered for your purchases. Just a few miles outside this cosmopolitan city stands a quite different city - the ancient city of Ephesus. It is not clear who founded the city, but the Ionians conquered it in the 11th. century BC. The Romans mastered the city in 190 BC, and their influence was very prominent. There are many monuments to see (too many to mention by name) - temples, theatres, stadiums, statues, baths, tombs, churches etc. People from all over the world make pilgrimages to see this wonderful place.

Another ancient Roman town, Heirapolis, with its vast cemetery, which is quite close to Pamukkale with its petrified cascades and terraces formed from calcium in the water over thousands of years. One can liken it to snow and gigantic icicles hanging from the rock. It is a site well worth visiting.

The Turkish people are very warm and friendly, mainly of the Moslem faith, but quite Westernised in many ways. The majority of them are very poor, and scrape a living in any way they can - children, grandparents and adults working long hours for a pittance. No Social Security or Health Service there.

Turkey is a wonderful country with many contrasts, and Kusadasi was just a small part, which has given one a taste for visiting other regions.

Anne Batchelor.

Glimpses of New Zealand N.Island & Adelaide S.Australia Part 2.

Rotarua - described as a Thermal Wonderland by the guide books. They are not wrong. On all sides steam is issuing through the fragile ground, in places spurting many feet into the air leaving trails of sulphur on the surface, an all-pervading smell and colouring the pools deep blue and green. The bubbling mud did not look very impressive until you remembered that if you dipped your hand into it you would pull it out minus your skin.

The village of Rotarua is entirely Maori, a working village where one can buy hand-crafted carvings and Maori artefacts cheaper than even the factory-made items in city shops, and all made by the village men and women. We were entranced by the small St.Faith's Church in nearby Chinemutu - beautifully decorated with flax wall hangings in intricate designs, exquisite carving on pews, altar, pillars and ceiling. In complete contrast and yet at one with the Church, a modern window overlooking the lake on which was engraved the figure of Christ, so placed that He appeared to be walking on the water.

At night we were invited to a Maori Concert and Hangi. First we were challenged as "Friend or Foe" by Maori warriors then welcomed with the Karanga - a call of Welcome sung only by the women of the tribe. After long introductory speeches we exchanged the formal Maori greeting - the Hongi (pressing of

noses.) This is a serious and meaningful part of Maori culture. Press once to say 'Hello', press twice as a kind of 'welcome, hope all is well with you' but beware - to press noses a third time could mean 'I want to marry you'. You now become part of the family for the duration of your visit and are royally entertained with song and dancing, after which you are taken to the Eating House for a traditional Maori feast - the Hangi. The meal is cooked 4 or 5 feet below ground over white hot stones thoroughly wetted to create steam. The food is placed in iron baskets, meat first with vegetables on top. The hole is then covered with palm leaves or a tarpaulin and a great deal of earth, and left to cook for several hours. It was delicious !

'Welcome to Adelaide' Our good friend Brian Watkins (Harefield's personal Publicity Officer unpaid) greeted us at the Airport early Wednesday morning. With typical Ossie hospitality we were given the freedom of their home by Pam Watkins, and an Ossie hat each with strict instructions to wear these when out in the sun. The sense of this was borne out by our young taxi driver who had freshly stitched wounds on his face where serious melanomas had recently been removed.

Adelaide is a fine city, designed with incredible foresight by Colonel William Light in 3 short years before he died around 1837. Laid out on a grid system, its main highways are 8 to 10 lanes wide, and other roads 4 to 6 lanes wide. Traffic jams are unknown here ! The city is entirely surrounded by Parkland, half a mile wide, containing every facility the outdoor sportsman could wish for from cycle tracks to Grand Prix course. We were first shown the elegant North Terrace where old and new buildings rub shoulders. Gothic, Jacobean and Victorian buildings next to well-designed modern Universities, Museums and Hotels. A visit to the Jacobean styled Old Parliament House was followed by a trip to the city's Grand Railway Station - nine platforms beneath the twenty storey Hyatt Hotel containing a hidden surprise! The vast marble halls of the old Art Deco Railway Station have been converted into a Monte Carlo style Casino. Open 24 hours a day. At 2 pm. that afternoon it was doing a roaring trade. The first Governor's house, built by the Royal Marines in 1837 is adjacent to the much larger and more elegant Governor's House currently occupied. The State Library of S. Australia could hold its own anywhere in the world. We had regretfully no time to explore fully the glorious Matlock Library of Family History or the archives where over 5,000 maps are stored, or the vast electronic system connected to the World Libraries of Universities, Museums etc..

The transport system is excellent - modern and frequent, and one ticket allows you to travel on all routes at a flat fare for a given number of hours. For a journey to the suburbs a city bus enters a station-like area, puts down bogie wheels at the front, and runs at speed through a concrete channel, while the driver, with folded arms, rests comfortably in his seat.

Through the city runs the wide River Torrens. Although only 2 or 3 miles from the sea it never reaches the ocean as before it gets there it simply sinks into the ground. Maybe this is one of the reasons the city is so surprisingly green and the Parkland can be watered continuously.

As we travelled out of Adelaide to the Flinders Ranges the dryness became apparent. The Ranges are well wooded, mainly pine, but passing Kangaroo Dam we saw little more than a puddle. On the rare occasions when it rains there will be a

roaring torrent. At Cudlee Creek we met the Harvey family who had built their own sawmill on their land. To provide wood for the mill, Ross Harvey had, over the years, planted whole mountain sides with pine trees as far as the eye could see, and dug his own lake, fed by a small stream, to provide water for his cows and sheep. He saw nothing out of the ordinary in his achievements and the fact that a forest fire swept through in 1983, destroying most of the trees was just something that happened. Most of the trees we saw were regrowth after the fire.

At Tailem Bend some 50 miles from Adelaide, past the broad and muddy Murray River, we met 82 year old Edna Shubert. In 1924 Edna wrote a letter to a little girl at Harefield Junior School, Kate Young, then 12 years old, replied and they have been writing regularly ever since. In 1993 Quantas Airlines flew Kate, now Kate Harvey, from London to Adelaide and they met on ANZAC day for the first time in 70 years. They stayed together for a week and in Edna's own words 'hardly stopped talking long enough to sleep'. Sadly Kate died this year and the return visit Brian Watkins was trying to arrange cannot now take place.

In Adelaide High School the Headteacher, Mr. Peter Sanderson showed the Harefield Correspondence File and photographs, and in the main stairwell of the school hangs the Union Flag. This is a replacement flag as the original, believed to date from 1906, is being restored as an item of Anglo-Australian historic value. Alongside the flag is the school's 1914-18 Roll of Honour. In the Military Museum at Keswick Army Barracks are more than 100 Harefield First World War photographs.

An evening dinner arranged by the Lions Club of Richmond for members and friends of Brian's Harefield Society-Australasia was thoroughly enjoyable. During the evening we were presented with two cheques for 100 Aust \$ each - donations to be presented by Harefield school children to St. Mary's Church Restoration Fund on behalf of all Australians on ANZAC day. The President of the Lions Club, Mr. Bill Coch promised to send some 200 hand held Australian flags to Harefield School for use on ANZAC Day, and these duly arrived.

We enjoyed a wonderful meal in the Revolving Restaurant at Glenelg with Brian and Pam with a superb backdrop of Adelaide by night. All too soon it was time to go. We had a wonderful week - it seemed much longer because, thanks to Brian and Pam, we saw so much, much more than can possibly be described in so brief a glimpse. They gave so unstintingly of their time and energy and introduced us to so many interesting people and places. We carried away memories of generosity and a welcome as warm as the weather - and a Koala Bear (which now sits on our bed) as a parting gift.

Back in Auckland - just four days left and so much more to see. Unfortunately Auckland's transport system leaves much to be desired and we had to content ourselves with trips on the 'Quick Cat' Ferry to various islands in the Hauraki Gulf. No hardship as the islands are all as lovely as their names: Rangitoto, the youngest island, having erupted a mere 800 years ago. Whaiheke, Auckland's 'holiday island' has beautiful scenery and fine beaches. Tiri Tiri is a nature reserve, just wildlife and footpaths, and Kawau is rich in history, plant life and animals brought from all over the world by Sir George Grey, to mention but a few.

We came to New Zealand to see a cousin we had not met for many years, and we found ourselves a wonderful extended family.

The warmth of our welcome made it very hard to leave and it is difficult to realise that a few weeks ago we did not know them. Now we feel we are part of their family and they of ours. We have so many happy memories of their friendship that will brighten our days for many years.

Cynthia and Reg Neil.

Conservation Notes.

The Village Conservation Area Advisory Panel has continued to meet, often with a deep sense of frustration since we can achieve so little. However there has been one piece of good news this Summer. There has been a long-running saga over the felling without permission of a large and beautiful tree in the garden of 14A Northwood Road. The Department of the Environment has upheld the London Borough of Hillingdon's enforcement notice ruling that the tree must be replaced with the largest commercially available.

It is important that everyone living in the Conservation Area is aware that all trees within its boundary are protected by Tree Preservation Orders, and may not be felled or lopped without permission, whatever any would-be tree contractors may say to the contrary. The Council's Tree Preservation Officer at the Civic Centre is very helpful and willing to answer any queries - just ring 250111. If you are uncertain whether your house comes within the Conservation Area, check in the Library. Incidentally, a new general leaflet on the Borough Conservation Areas is currently being drafted and we are assured that a local one specific to Harefield will follow.

As members may be aware from recent Press coverage, the Panel has been active in opposing proposals to place recycling containers on the Village Green. The Borough's Recycling Officer has now accepted their view in principle, and a special meeting has been held to discuss alternative sites. No final decisions have yet been made.

The Panel continues to discuss various issues connected with Harefield House. The Coach House is evidently unsafe and will have to be demolished. English Heritage has raised no objection to its replacement. However, the Panel feels that the proposed building incorporating a Dental Surgery is too big for the site and would detract from the appearance of Harefield House as seen from the High Street. Their view is that any new development should occupy an area no greater than the 'footprint' of the existing building.

The car park for public use was due to be provided four years after the implementation of the main building (this would be in 1997, or one year after the completion of the planned new office development. However, the Developers are no longer planning to build a new office block and are interested in replacing this by a nursing home. No plans have yet been shown to the Panel. The situation concerning the car park remains unclear.

Pat Ashby