

Harefield History Society

NEWSLETTER NO 31. SPRING 1996.

Committee; I Liddell, Chairman
M Marjoram, Treasurer
M Evans Secretary
R Neil
R Goodchild
V Woodward
B Dungey
A Batchelor

PROGRAMME

- 1 Outing to Hampton Court Palace,
15 June 1996. **Booking closes 31 May.**
- 2 Outing to Waddesdon Manor
17 July 1996. **Booking closes 17 June.**

Please telephone 01895 823020 for tickets.

- 23 September** Seven Roads into Harefield II
talk by Reg Neil
- 28 October** Harefield Parish records
talk by Eileen Bowlt



Edith Bowett, wife
of Wm. Newdegate
1444, from St. Mary's
Church.

The remainder of this years' programme will be available at the September meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Last winter began with Geoff Saul's talk on George Webster of the Grove and his many business ventures. Then came the October Open Day when societies using the Centre try to make a bit of cash towards financing the hall. We ran a produce tombola, a photographic competition and a picture raffle. We made just over £50. It was a happy family occasion also for me as two of my grandchildren both won 1st prizes in the painting competition - they were delighted.

Our next meeting brought Dr Johnson back to his old stamping ground with a talk on the history of work with its' many dangers and the few experts who tried to make it safer. His talk was illustrated with fine slides. Brian Adams' talk on industrial archeology was largely about canalside developments, and Sir John Dewhurst spoke on Royal births in Britain. A Harefield walk was postponed as only three members put their names down. If anyone should wish to do this walk in the summer please let me know. It is more of a saunter than a marathon and the only hill is the one through the woods behind the church.

We are asked to contribute to the Mayor's charity, Age Concern, so please put your money in the box. We were offered a stand at the Middlesex show but the committee decided against it because of the high cost of public liability insurance which was compulsory.

Two members answered my query about the former Harefield Preservation Society founded in the 1950s. It now emerges that they organised the march on Whitehall led by a blind Piper in an effort to stop rubbish being tipped into the old quarry.

Margaret Evans

FROM THE MIDDLESEX GAZETTE, 1896.

" January. An alarming outbreak of rabies in Willesdon. 400 dogs were seized by police and most destroyed. Two persons were bitten. 35 pigs with rabies were killed. "

" August. Mr Tarleton formed a Committee to organise the building of a "Breakspear Institute" as a working mens club. Colonel Vernon gave land, Fassnidge drew the plans, and local labourers built it."

LOCAL HISTORY DAY 24th February 1996.

This annual event was held once again at the Winston Churchill Hall. Last year it was hosted by the Harefield and Rickmansworth societies this year it was Pinner History Society. The subject "People on the Move" highlighted how people in other centuries travelled. "Prehistoric Footprints in the West London Landscape" was an illustrated talk by a member of the Middlesex Archeological Society. "Incomers and natives - Harrow Weald 1845 " where people came from and went to. Just before lunch we were entertained by a play by Stage Two, "Pinner People on the Move", it was in the costume of the period, and the venue was a railway station waiting room. Each person was interviewed and represented an actual person who was well known in Pinner.

"The Movement of a Jewish Community from the East End to the Suburbs" was a very interesting talk by Mr Eddie Cohen, followed by "Licensed Victuallers from Beer Houses to Pubs." The final talk was very topical as it was about Heathrow Airport - "A Community Destroyed." The growth from a very small aerodrome which went on to cover many acres of land and swallowed up peoples homes and livelihoods and is still doing so.

The History Day was well attended by people from a very wide area and once again congratulations to the society that set it up.

Maisie Marjoram.

THE BUTTS.

Having just watched the film of Henry V, it took us through a very muddy battle of Agincourt, much more realistic than the version I saw long ago with Laurence Olivier in it. It was a battle in which a large part was played by the English Archers, and I was reminded that we had provision for archery on Harefield Common long ago. The King's Arms was at one time known as "Baldwin's at the Butts". There was also a house at the opposite corner of Park Lane called "Tylers at the Butts".

One wonders how often the employees of the Lord of the Manor practised. Perhaps only when they could be spared from the farm work. Maybe one has to read military history to discover how the workers were prepared for their compulsory war service, and what rewards, if any, they received for it.

Margaret Evans.

AN EVENING WITH THE MIDDLESEX TRUST.

On behalf of the Society, I was privileged to attend an evening gathering hosted by the Middlesex Trust and its genial founder Mr Russell Grant. Mr Grant has given enormous time and effort to the work of the Trust - you may be aware that the numerous and handsome "County of Middlesex" signs which have been erected at the points where roads enter the County are attributable largely to his efforts to put us "Middlesaxons" back on the map where we belong!

We received the warmest of welcomes from Mr Grant and his officials, and the evening was enlivened with wine and a magnificent spread of cheeses etc.

The main event was the presentation by Mr Grant to the Mayor and Mayoress of Hillingdon of a framed Ordnance Survey map marked firmly with the boundaries of Middlesex as it existed before the encroachment of the all-devouring tentacles of Greater London. The county's area is, in fact, much more extensive than is generally imagined. For instance, it is bordered on the east by the River Lea, on the edge of Essex, and the north includes Potters Bar, Barnet and Southgate within its boundaries. The new map is in due course destined for display in the Mayor's Parlour.

Following the Mayor's speech of thanks, Mr Grant then gave us an interesting address which concluded with an excellent rendering of John Betjeman's poem "Middlesex", the final line of which is the ominous "Middlesex for SIN!".

As one who never ever wins anything, anywhere, I hardly dare mention that I won the first of the four raffle prizes, and, (even more embarrassing!) my companion, who lives in Ruislip and had accompanied only as a guest, won the third. I feel that the Harefield contingent will long be remembered for sweeping the board on this occasion, but at least the Middlesex Trust gained another member as a result!

Our colleagues of the Pinner History Society were also present, and we all agreed that we had been made very welcome on a most enjoyable and friendly occasion. Thank you Mr Grant and the MIDDLESEX TRUST.

Betty Dungey

WET PAINT.

Whilst on holiday in a village a few miles from Rye in East Sussex, we stayed at a guest house. In our room on a bedside table was a "friendship" book, full of anecdotes, verses and reflections.

The verse below illustrated human nature and we thought it quite amusing:-

There was a sign upon the wall,
And that sign said "WET PAINT"
And every mortal that passed by-
A sinner or a saint,
Put out a finger, touched the wall
And then they onward sped,
And as they wiped their fingertips,
"They're right - it is" they said.

Anne Batchelor

A BIT OF HAREFIELD HISTORY - CRIPPS FARM.

Both the farmhouse and the adjacent great barn in Springwell Lane are among Harefield's listed buildings, and although the house, from the exterior, does not appear to be of great age, it has been pronounced by the Commission of Historic Monuments to be a timber framed structure dating from the 16th century, and at least some of the bays of the barn are dated similarly.

In the early 1500s it was owned by the Manor of Harefield and let copyhold to John Mowyer. Despite warnings from the Manor, he allowed it to fall into disrepair, and it was forfeited back to the estate in 1523, when it was taken over by Richard Rolf, and inherited in 1576 by his widow Joan.

The Manor estate must have sold it at about this time, as during the 1600s the Baldwin family are described as the freeholders. They were London merchants, and the farm passed successively from Ralph to Miles, and then to Thomas, then to Henry, all of whom let the property. Thomas who died about 1670, left a bequest, to be financed out of the farm's profits, to "the old aged and blind poor" of the parish of St Dunstan's - in - the - West, in the city, but he made clear "none that are able to work"! In 1713, the Baldwins sold the freehold to George Cooke, who was beginning to acquire the estate which later became Harefield Park, and, even later still, our own Harefield Hospital.

By the 1850s, the farm covered 220 acres and employed 12 labourers. The tenancy was held by James Trumper, who lived there with his wife Rebecca and their family. The Trumpers represented one of the leading families of the district, owning a number of properties in the village, and holding leases at several local farms, including Dewes Farm, which they occupied in all for almost a century.

Rebecca was a widow by 1861, but continued to live at Cripps Farm with her son Thomas and his wife Mathilda. The Trumpers increased the holding to 290 acres, but their connection with the property ended in 1880, when a Miss Trumper sold the farm including, as the local press reported, six powerful cart - horses.

During the following year it was occupied by a general labourer, Thomas Burrows, his wife Sarah and their son Henry, described in the census as a cow - keeper.

By the beginning of the present century, the lease was again in the hands of a prominent local family. Cripps was occupied by one of the sons of Charles Brown, who had begun life as a carpenter and later became a wealthy building contractor and local dignitary. He had interests in many Harefield properties, among which was Park Place, in Newdigate Road, which he built and occupied as a family home, later moving into Conduit Farm, which in view of his ascent up the social ladder, he re - named Manor Court!

Cripps Farm was sold, together with a number of other properties, when the Harefield Park estate was disposed of in 1909. At the present time, much of its original acreage has been sold, and it is run primarily as a livery stables.

Betty Dungey

From our Australian colleague.

The "Kooka News" of November 1995 reports the re-enactment of the 1st World War Recruitment Marches. 32 marchers set out with the prospect of a square dance at every night stop. With 480 km to walk in 16 days Brian Watkins thought it a bit much!

The Kooka News also tells us the Leake family, who gave Harefield Park for an Australian Hospital, came from Mount Pleasant, 30 miles north of Adelaide.

Don't forget the ANZAC service at St Mary's Church, April 25th.

THE FIRST HAREFIELD VICTORIA CROSS : Lieutenant General GOODLAKE.

Queen Victoria instigated the Royal Victorian Order only during the Crimean War which lasted from 1853 to 1856, so that Gerald Littlehales Goodlake must have been among the first to receive it. It was awarded to him for distinguished gallantry when in command of the Sharpshooters at Windmill Ravine while he was Brevet Major with the Coldstream Guards.

Gerald Goodlake was born on the 14th May, 1832. He went to Eton and throughout his life was a notable sportsman. He became aide de camp to Queen Victoria. It was said that when he was decorated the pin went right through his clothing to his bare skin but that he never flinched.

He purchased the Manor of Denham Durdent from St Thomas' Hospital in 1874 and lived at "The Fisheries" which he extensively renovated between 1887 and 1888. He ran a successful hatchery there. The house lay on the near side of Moorhall Road, by the river. It was occupied most recently by Alexander Korda, as part of Denham Studios, but has now been destroyed.

After the Lieutenant General's death in April 1890, his widow, Margaret, continued to live at the Fisheries where, before the trees grew and obscured it, she could look right across to Harefield churchyard. There she could see the grave of her husband in front of the church, with its marble cross incorporating the VC he had won by his gallantry.

Dorothy Winton.

FROM MAMMOTH TO METROLAND.

The Hillingdon Borough heritage service have produced an exhibition of Hillingdon borough through the ages. A temporary museum based on the first floor of Randalls new department store in the High Street, Uxbridge was opened by the Mayor during March. It will remain in the store until the site is redeveloped into the proposed shopping centre.

The exhibits can be enjoyed while visiting the coffee shop, also on the first floor of Randalls. The subject matter includes prints and photographs of the excavations at Heathrow in 1944, roman roads including the roman excavation in Harefield, a "Then and Now" display similar to that provided by our own Reg Neil, some wonderful pictures from the Heritage Service, archives of all over the borough and the story of the impact of the Second World War on the area. Other items include a pre war milk cart used by a Hayes dairy.

Robert Goodchild.

The following Report is the first from our new representative, Val Woodward, who has replaced Pat Ashby on the Conservation Panel:

THE HAREFIELD VILLAGE CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY PANEL.

The Panel's main concerns at this moment are the proposals to;

- a build on the land at Moorhall,

- b the construction of a road / rail terminal at New Denham,
- c the building of a film studio and theme park at Hillingdon House farm,
- d the application by Country and Metropolitan Homes to build a nursing home adjacent to Harefield House, and
- e the destruction of part of the hedge on Church Hill.

Although a, b, and c are not within the remit of the panel, letters voicing our views and opposition to all three proposals have been sent appropriately to Hillingdon Borough Council, Buckinghamshire County Council and relevant MPs. The panel are in agreement that Green Belt land is sacrosanct.

The panel has opposed the change of plan from offices to a nursing home (d) on the grounds that the nursing home would take up more ground space than the previous plan for offices. It would then also lessen the number of spaces in the promised car park (when it materialises!) and comes too close to the houses at the end of Pond Close.

In the opinion of the panel, the destruction of the hedge (e) would not alleviate traffic problems on Church Hill.

The panel agreed to the demolition of the Mines Royal as it has become something of a dead duck due to the apparent lack of customers. However the panel did express the hope that the Historical name of Mines Royal be retained in the development.

Sadly within a couple of weeks of construction the new bus shelter proved our point about indestructability!!

We have viewed the plan for the development of Harefield Hospital and gave it a cautious welcome. The plan is going to take many years to come to fruition, money being its main obstacle.

For the past three years the panel has pursued the subject of the replacement of the mature trees felled at the rear of 14/14a Northwood Road. At last our efforts seem to have been rewarded when semi mature replacement trees were planted recently. However the developer is now seeking permission to move some of them in order to build a large detached house on the site. So we go on!!

If any member of the society has any concern about proposals affecting the village, and would like them raised at a meeting of the panel, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Val Woodwards.
