

Harefield History Society

Affiliated to the Uxbridge Guild of Arts

Newsletter no. 41 Spring 2001

Committee

T Hillier	Chairman
K Davey	Secretary
A Batchelor	Treasurer
M Isaacs	Conservation
R Goodchild	Programme
	Newsletter
M Marjoram	

Summer Programme 2001

12th May 2001

Visit Stratford on Avon

Production of Twelfth night

9th June 2001

Visit Royal Chatham Docks and Rochester Castle

14th July 2001

Visit Michelham Priory and Brighton Pavillion

There are places remaining on the above days out. To keep the cost to a minimum we need to fill our coaches. If you have not yet booked you place its not to late. If you attend another group or society or have family, friends or neighbours who may be interested, please pass the details on.

For further information or for booking, contact Robert Goodchild on 01895 823993.

Winter Programme 2001

24th September 2001

Eileen Bowlt

Breakspeare House



Breakspeare House

From the Editor:

Margaret Evans has been the editor of our Newsletter since the passing of Elona Cuthbertson. Unfortunately following her illness she has had to resign her position. I am sure all will agree with me when I pass on my thanks to Margaret (and Mrs Massey her daughter in recent years) for producing such informative Newsletters. Margaret has held many positions on the committee over the last 21 years, including two terms as Secretary. The amount of research she has undertaken on behalf of the Society is second to none. Much of this including the surname index and transcripts of Harefield references in the C19 Middlesex Advertiser are available to members in the History Society Archive cabinet in the Harefield Library. The key is available from the desk.

This is the first Newsletter since the passing of Valarie Woodward. During her 21 year involvement with the Society Val held many committee posts, Chairman, Secretary and most recently Conservation Advisory Panel representative. She delivered many lectures to our meetings on subjects like Family History and Harefield House. As a tribute to her I have included two articles which Val contributed to newsletters during the 1980's and a further extract from her personal archives on the Death of Mr H A Tipping late of Harefield House.

Unfortunately this edition is smaller than usual due to the lack of articles at my disposal. Should you have any articles for future newsletters please pass them onto me for our new editor who ever that may be. This leads me onto the next subject. If any one feels they could contribute a few hours twice a year compiling our newsletters, it would be greatly appreciated by our members. All you really require is access to either a typewriter or preferably a word processor/personal computer. A printer even is not essential, as I can reproduce the newsletter for you. Alternatively if anyone would rather take on compiling the programme for 2002 onwards, I would gladly take on the newsletter.

Finally thank you Sarah, my daughter, for giving some of her Easter Holiday to help type this newsletter.

Robert Goodchild - Temporary editor

The Conservation Area Advisory Panel

The Conservation Panel in Harefield consists of representatives from other interested Societies in Harefield and advises the Council on all matters relating to conservation in the area.

For twenty years or more the History Society was represented by Valerie Woodwards who was a very significant contributor with her vast knowledge of Harefield as a whole and its History in particular. She will be an impossible act to follow.

I joined the panel when Val resigned through ill health in October last and I am very much a novice. However, I feel the Panel meetings which are held every six weeks or so to be a fascinating and rewarding insight into our Conservation Area. We are ably led by John Ross who spoke to the Society in February.

The Panel's main historical concerns have recently included:-

- 1) The rehabilitation of Breakspear House which, of course, is a listed building.
- 2) The redevelopment of the buildings from 25 to 31 High Street.
- 3) The proposed conversion of the Almshouses in Church Hill.
- 4) The application to build on land in the vicinity of Hope Cottage - a listed building.
- 5) The proposed renovation of The Lodge in Rickmansworth Road.

The Conservation Panel has a special interest in preserving and enhancing the character and appearance of buildings of architectural and/or historic interest in our Conservation Area and, from the meetings I have attended so far, I feel these matters are in good hands.

From Harefield to Wodonga --- The Milton Family

A few years ago I received a letter from my cousin Gerald Milton and his wife Helen. We had never been in contact and Gerald was just a name to me. They live in Wodonga, Victoria, Australia and were writing to see if I could help Gerald to find his 'roots'. Both Helen and Gerald were born in Australia. Gerald's father, Ernest James Milton had gone to Australia in 1926 through the 'Big Brother Movement' when he was 17 years old and never saw his parents again. Ernest always worked on the land, mainly with sheep. While serving with the Australian army during the Second World War, he was awarded the Military Cross for his brave actions fighting in New Guinea.

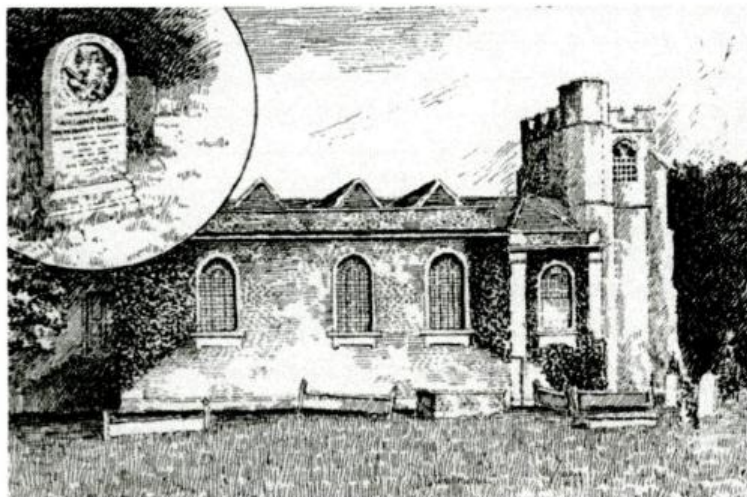


So I began my research back to our grandfather William Gerald Varndall Milton and our great-grandfather Moses Milton, who was born in Harefield in 1828. He was the youngest son of William and Elizabeth Milton. William was a hay dealer, a most important crop in the Harefield area at the time. The carts went up to London loaded with hay and came back loaded with manure for the fields. Moses Milton, his three brothers William, James and David, and his sisters Eliza, Sarah, Emma were all baptised at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Harefield. Moses brother William married Eliza Allen and they were the great-great-grandparents of Peter Milton who lives in Harefield today. So the Miltons have been Harefield a long time. Pre-1800 research has still

to be done, but it is an exciting challenge I am looking forward to.

The 1841 census of Harefield lists Moses, age thirteen, but does not give an occupation. His brother David is down as 'Ag. Lab.' [Agricultural Labourer]. By 1851 Moses has left Harefield for an abode 'unknown' as yet. By 1860 he was a carrier of goods and was living in Lant Street, Southwark which was then in the county of Surrey. On August 12th that year he married Mary Ann Austin who was the 'widow next door', as she lived at 15 Lant Street and

Moses lived at number 17. They married at St. George the Martyr Church in Southwark. This is known as the 'Little Dorrit Church' as it was described in the Charles Dickens' book of that name. I was interested to learn that about thirty six years earlier, Dickens himself had been a lodger in Lant Street.



After they married Moses and Mary Ann, who was a dressmaker, went to live in Little Stanmore, Middlesex. Mary Ann died after suffering from tuberculosis of the lungs for six years. She was buried at St. Lawrence's, Whitchurch, Little Stanmore. St. Lawrence's

St. Lawrence, Whitchurch

is a unique eighteenth century Continental Baroque church; paintings by Bellucci, Brunetti, Laguerre; wood carving by Grinling Gibbons; and musical associations with Handel. This beautiful church is well worth the visit.

It was at St. Lawrence's on November 7th 1878 that Moses Milton married his second wife, Tryphena Kate Varndall, who was from Fareham in Hampshire. It is possible that Tryphena Kate was in domestic service in one of the many large houses in the Stanmore area. Moses and Tryphena, who was about twenty-six years younger than him and had six children, two sons and four daughters. For many years Moses worked as a carrier of goods between Edgware and Paddington Station. He gave up around 1900 and became caretaker of the Edgware Infants School. Tryphena, with help of her son, Sydney, continued as caretaker after Moses died of old age in 1907. Moses Milton and Tryphena are buried in the churchyard of St. Margaret's in Edgware, Middlesex.

Gerald and Helen in Wodonga look forward to my letters and the latest 'Milton find'. There is now a large family spanning four generations of Miltons in Australia, and in November 1999 I flew there and had the pleasure of meeting as many as possible. Helen has attended book-binding classes and hopes to produce an account of the 'Miltons from Harefield'.

If anyone has any Photographs that include any of the Milton family or any other information please let me know, I would be very grateful.

Julie Lazou

[Mother's maiden name, MILTON].

Extract from Newsletter 18 - Spring 1988 **Harefield Nicknames**

I have a long been curious about the nicknames bestowed on many of the male inhabitants of Harefield. I first noticed the the practice when my husband joined the Cricket Club nearly 40 years ago. The custom survives to the day. A recent discussion with Cyril Kempster, a native of the village and for many years Chairman of the club (which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year) prompted me to write this article. Without his help I could not have produced such a comprehensive list. Some names are self explanatory but I would dearly like to know the circumstance and reasons for the majority. For posterity here is the story of one!

My son Michael was first known as "Woody" for obvious reason, but in the early 70's when long hair and flowing moustaches were the older of the day he went in to bat in a crucial match, when Harefield had defeat staring them in the face. He strode from the pavilion, fair hair tumbling from his cap and sporting his first moustache, to face Mike Gatting's team. Somebody shouted "There goes General Custer to fight the last stand!" He has remained "Custer" ever since, though like his namesake he failed to win the day.

?AERMAN	BONGY	R BOWDEN	STALKY
G ALLEN	GOSH	H BRANCH	TWIGS
? ANDREWS	MOGGY	J BRANCH	NANNA
L ARTIS	NARRER	F BROOKER	MARVEL
A BATES	BUNTER	? BROWN	NINNY
E BIGNELL	DATCHET	C BROWN	SNAPPER
G BISHOP	HOPPY	H BROWN	BUNKER
? BLACKWELL	BLACKIE	F CHAPLIN	TADPOLE
C BLOWER	WHACKER	T CLEMENTS	SCISSORS
H BLOWER	PUFFY	R COLE	SACKA

G BOWDEN	POUSEY	B COLLETT	FERRET
W CONSTABLE	HAPPY	M OWEN	PLONK
A COUBROUGH	SNAKEY	R OWEN	TOSH
R COUBROUGH	HAMMY	A PAINTER	WILLA
P CRAFT	CHUNKY	F PALMER	SHAVER
W CROOK	SHRIMPY	G PANTING	PANCHO
G CUTTS	COMIC	C PERKINS	POLLY
M DACRE	DINKLE	B PETLEY	DONK
? DICKENS	GUSSIE	C PETLEY	GINNY
W DOBBS	SHOTTY	L PEVERIL	PODGY
Walter DOBBS	CACK	C PHIPPS	NUDGER
A EGGLETON	FIDDLE	R PHIPPS	CONKER
? EGGLETON	MUMMY	A PRITCHARD	CLERKY
? EGGLETON	EGGY	A POWELL	PUDDING
P EVANS	ZEBADY	B POWELL	SPARROW
T EVENS	TUGGY	H POWELL	BUCKET
R FANE	FANNY	D PULLAN	OLLIE
F FLETCHER	BUBBLES	W QUARTERMAINE	SNUFFY
F FOSTER	DARKIE	J ROBINSON	COCK
C GODFREY	DIDDLE	? RYDER	SLOGGY
T GODFREY	TRUTHFUL	? RYDER	MARYLEBONE
T GRIFFIN	MICKEY	E RYDER	OGGIE
G HARMAN	THE VICAR	G SHARMAN	TOTTY
J HARMAN	BUNK	M SHEPHERD	BOTTLE
W HUGHES	CHICK	BILL SIBLEY	TICKER
W HUTCHINS	SCRATCHY	BILL SIBLEY	TICKER
N JAMES	JESSE	BOB SIBLEY	SNOBBER
G JORDAN	HANGERS	? SIBLEY	SOLDIER
B JOYCE	NICKSIE	T SIMMONDS	SINBAD
C JOYCE	CHARCOL	A SMITH	APPLE
C KEMPSTER	CRISIS	H STEVENS	NOBBY
B KNIFE }	CHOPPER	J STEVENS	ROWDY
S KNIFE }		? SUMMERSBY	DIDO
G LANE	BANTAN	H SUMMERSBY	CROW
H LANE	HAMMER	ALF SWAN	DOLT
G LEVICK	PEAKY	ARTHER SWAN	PEACHEY
T LITTLE	PICKLE	F SWAN	TREADLIGHT
? LOFTY	PANTER	G SWAN	CHOPPER
G LOFTY	TOOTSIE	J SWAN	JOHNTO
W LOFTY	LINCOLN	H.THRIFT	JUMBO
L LOVEDAY	RASHER	A WALKER	CUDGEL
P MALIN	MUCKY	D WALKER	PORKY
A MARKS	BONES	T WALKER	THUMBY
E MARKS	WHIPPET	A WARD	NOGGER
J MARKS	SALAD	W WARD	FUSE
T MARTIN	DIGGER	? WARNER	STINGER
A MASKELL	MINNIE	R WESTON	WETON
T MILES	MUDDY	F WHEELER	BUDGET
James Milton	TARPOT	E WHYMER	SHINEY
? MILTON	BOCKER	D WILLIAMS	MIRACLE
I MITCHELL	FISHY	J WILLIS	LOFTY
H MONTAGUE	NOTCH	M WOOD	TIMBER
G MOORE	SEAMAN	W WOOD	DIGGER
B OWEN	BLADDER	M WOODWARDS	CUSTER

Can you add to this list?

Holiday 1983

This year we had the unexpected opportunity to spend a week in the village of KILHAM in the Yorkshire Wolds. Gordon noted that Kilham was not too far from COWESBY Hall, where he was stationed at the beginning of the war, and looked forward to revisiting old haunts. What a delightful village Kilham is; and as we discovered, the perfect centre for a kind of 'busman's holiday'. A busy five days saw us visiting SLEDMORE House, the Yorkshire home of the SYKES family; CASTLE HOWARD of 'Brideshead Revisited' fame; the DRIFFIELD show, the biggest one-day show in Britain; the MOORS RAILWAY; BURTON AGNES HALL, a very beautiful Elizabethan house remarkably well preserved after 374 years.

How I loved the judging of animals at the Driffield Show! The badge and sash of 'Supreme Champion' was awarded to a beautifully groomed, benign looking young bull, with large appealing eyes, who accepted, with seeming nonchalance, the embrace and kisses of his young female handler as she wept with pride and delight.

I enjoyed every minute of that week but poor Gordon never did get to Cowesby Hall.

Two weeks later we headed northwards again - this time NORTHUMBERLAND being our destination. It was our first visit to WARKWORTH where Eileen & Bill Brownlow have just bought an early Victorian house. Our bedroom overlooked the ruins of Warkworth Castle, while a few yards along the banks of the River COQUET, which flows past the front of the house, took us to the Hermitage and Chapel of Holy Trinity. This was hewn in the cliff-face and is a very peaceful spot only reached by ferry.

Northumberland is very much overlooked by Southerners and few people seem to be aware of its rich historical heritage or its magnificent scenery. (I make no apologies for sounding like the tourist board). We have made yearly visits for the past 13 years and this year one of our outings was to CRAGSIDE.

'Cragside' was the dream of the first Lord ARMSTRONG inventor, engineer, industrialist and armament king (Vickers- Armstrong). The Estate is over 900 acres in which were planted several million trees. Some of these have grown into the tallest in Britain and include Douglas fir, hemlocks, pines, spruce, larch, sequia, yew, beech, oak, rowan etc.

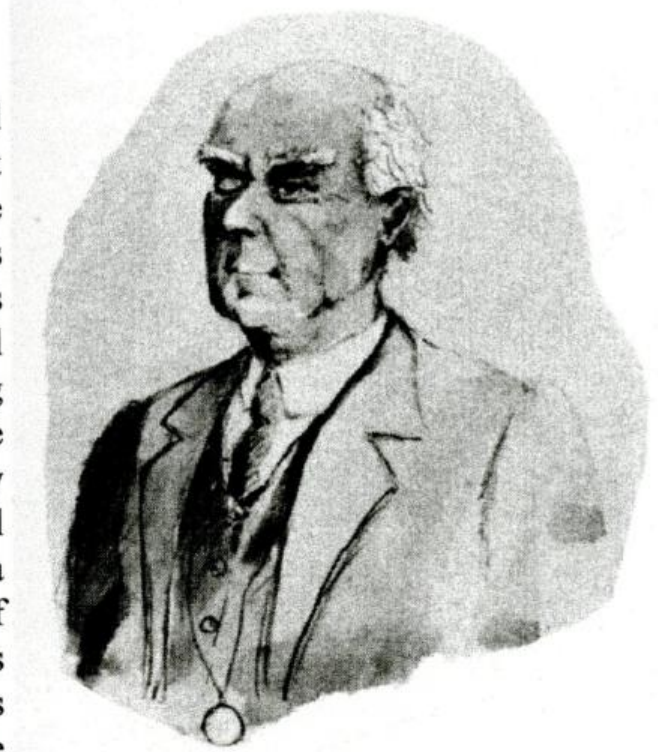
The house has a wealth of interest and was the first house in the world to be lit by electricity, generated by water power by means of one of Lord Armstrong's own inventions and the co-operation of Sir Joseph Swan. It was certainly a National Trust property with a difference and I would recommend a visit as a 'must' to anyone visiting Northumberland.

During all our holidays in England we enjoyed the most beautiful weather in this lovely summer of 1983 - quite the opposite to the dreary weather we experience in the Rhine Valley in September - but that is another story!

Death of Mr. H A Tipping

Harefield Loses a Benefactor

By the passing of Mr Henry Avery Tipping, who died on Thursday at the age of 78 years, Harefield has lost one of the best friends it ever had. From the time he came there, eleven years ago, until his death he was keenly interested in the life of the village. He was essentially a gardener, and the people of Harefield will long remember with a sense of gratefulness being privileged to share the lifetime hobby of one of the foremost of England garden designers. For not only did Mr. Tipping frequently throw his beautiful grounds open to the public, but he actually reserved a large part of them specially for the encouragement of village activities. Amid those charming surroundings fetes, displays and sports would attract large numbers of the villagers, and Mr. Tipping found great pleasure in watching the visitors enjoying themselves.



Although few people in the locality could claim to know him intimately, Mr. Tipping's name was honoured and well-loved by all. He will be greatly missed.

Appreciation's

The following appreciation, written by an old friend, appeared in the 'Morning Post' - 'What with his work in his own gardens, his literary output, which was very great, his extensive correspondence, and his great hospitality, his friends wondered how he contrived to find the time and energy to fulfil the duties of perfect host and loyal friend. Masterful and fixed in his opinions, he would admit opposition with a charm which often turned it into agreement.

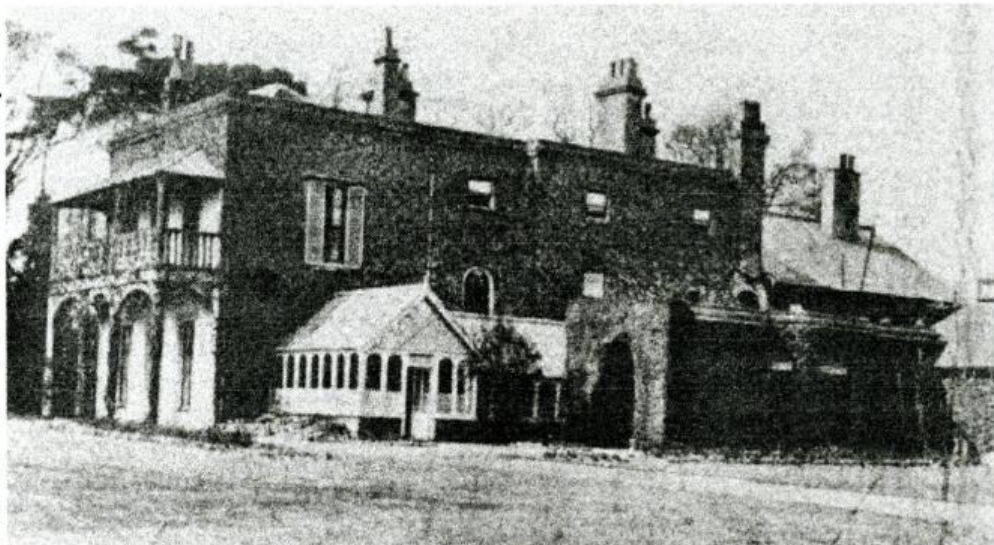
No man in England was better acquainted with the historic houses of England, great and small. His memory was prodigious. One had only to mention the name of a house and he would rattle off a list of people who had occupied it over a period of centuries, how they obtained possession by marriage, inheritance, or fraud. It was a sheer delight to listen to him when he was launched on this topic.

Country life in all its phases interested him; gardens, sport, old habits and customs-anything, in fact, that was part of English country life. His generosity was magnificent. Hot tempered and sometimes a bit impatient, he was incapable of feeling resentment of anger for more than a quarter of an hour. He was a wealthy man able to indulge in his favourite hobby of finding a beautiful site or an old house and turning them into wonderful gardens of picturesque mansions. He built, in this way, Mountain near Chepstow, and designed for it a watergarden of surpassing beauty. At an near Monmouth, he built a house on a superb site which he found in his wanderings. He did the same at Harefield and was engaged in a similar task in Oxfordshire when he died. Once the house and gardens were finished, he lost a great deal of his interest in

them.

He had a host of friends, who will mourn the loss of a man of great and generous character.

Some idea of his interest in local affairs may be judged by an appreciation we have received from a resident in the village: 'By the passing of Mr H Avery Tipping, Harefield loses its greatest benefactor of recent times. Coming to Harefield



some eleven years ago he took up residence at Harefield House. He enlarged the grounds, and with that skill in all matters concerning gardens for which he was so justly famous, transformed them as by a fairy wand into a garden of exquisite taste and beauty. With a generosity too rarely met with in these days, he placed these delightful grounds at the disposal of the for fetes, sports and the annual flower show. There is not an organisation in the village but will feel keenly the loss. The allotment Club was an association in which he took a keen personal interest, providing special accommodation for the storing of their supply of seed potatoes and giving the use of his grounds for their annual show. The British Legion received many marks of his favour, for he provided and maintained excellent cricket and football grounds, and gave generously to their building fund. The village Nursing Fund, the Choral Society and the church too held their fetes and sales of work in the grounds of Harefield House. The school children were ever welcome visitors on the occasions of their displays of drill and dancing, and nothing seemed to give him greater pleasure than watching these gay youngsters in such a delightful setting as was afforded by his beautiful grounds. The Boys Brigade, too, have for several years enjoyed the privilege of holding their annual inspection display on the spacious lawns.

In many ways Mr Tipping was almost a recluse and one who loved to do good by stealth, desiring no thanks beyond seeing, as he once put it - 'the villagers doing things themselves for their own pleasure and amusement and not looking for others to provide them'. What more fitting epitaph could be found than the following words of Shakespeare:

"His life was gentle, and the elements

So mixed in him that Nature might stand up.

And say to all the world: This was a man".

Mr Tipping was well known in literary circles and published several books besides contributing articles to COUNTRY LIFE of which he was at one time editor, The OBSERVER and The MORNING POST. A personal recollection of Mr Tipping by one of his oldest friends, Lady Congrove appears in the last issue of Country Life. She speaks of him as she knew in his early twenties, when he was at Oxford. 'He was a very fine actor and an important member of the O.U.D.S., He would most certainly have made a name for himself professionally if there had not been so many other things he did better than most people! He was fond of getting up plays for village charities; and was the living contradiction of the saying "Jack of all trades-master of none", for he was certainly master of everything he undertook. His versatility was amazing, he was even an excellent cook!'. The recollection is accompanied by some delightful illustrations of Mr Tipping's work.