

Harefield History Society

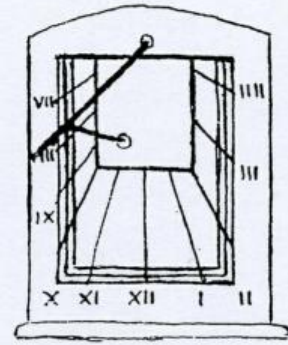
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Committee

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



Summer Programme 2002

Saturdays 4th and 11th May

'Talk in' in the Park Lane library to record people's reminiscences of Harefield in days gone by (See back page)

Saturday 25th May

The Harefield Festival to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee. We hope to have a float in the procession and a stall on the Village Green.

Saturday 13th July

Visit to Broadlands House in Hampshire, the home of the Mountbatten family

Saturday 14th September

Visit to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre for a matinee performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

At the moment there are places remaining on the visits to Broadlands and the Globe Theatre and they are not restricted to History Society members so do bring your friends. For further information or booking contact Robert Goodchild on 01895 823993

If you are able to help or take part on May 4th, 11th and/or May 25th, your involvement will be greatly appreciated. Again, please contact Robert.

Winter programme 2002/3

The first meeting will be at 8 p.m. on 23rd September, 2002 in the Park Lane Village Centre when Robert will be telling us about the **HAREFIELD FAMILY TREE.**

Margaret Evans

Most of the illustrations in this newsletter were drawn by Margaret and we are grateful for the wonderful legacy she has left us. What a talented lady she was and how we already miss her. Margaret was our Secretary for long periods from the beginnings of the Harefield History Society until the Spring of 1998 and she was also the tireless Editor of our newsletter from 1992 until she was too ill to carry on. Those lucky enough to have saved editions of her newsletters have fascinating and informative articles on local history as well as more wide ranging topics. Her research was deep and showed her love and dedication for the subject.

Margaret was born and bred in York. In 1939 she joined the WRENS working on Naval codebooks in Scotland and then at the Admiralty in London where she endured the blitz. After the war she married Ted and she went back to Wales with him to start their married life. Subsequently they moved to Chiswick and then on to South Ruislip with their son Julian and daughter Elizabeth. Sadly Elizabeth died of hydrocephalus. Margaret and Ted had researched the disease hoping to find a cure for Elizabeth. They discovered a new treatment in the U.S. and found a specialist in London who was willing to try it out. Although it was too late for Elizabeth, thanks to Margaret and Ted the lives of many others were saved.

Margaret and Ted were able to adopt Elaine and once the children were growing up Margaret trained to become a Montessori teacher. This led in time to her starting her own school in Eastcote which she continued to run until she was 72. In 1971 the family had moved to Harefield and each day, whatever the weather, Margaret could be seen travelling to and from Eastcote on her moped.

Apart from her love of Local History and of course of her grandchildren, Jason, Hannah, Jenny and Christopher, she enjoyed using her obvious artistic talents. Margaret attended a Residential Course on etching, bought herself an *Intaglio* press and began to produce beautiful prints which we hope to reproduce for you from time to time. Always resolute, determined and so talented many will mourn her passing. Margaret died on 18th October last.



One of Margaret's
fine drawings

The old workhouse Harefield

SOME CORNER OF A FOREIGN FIELD

Anzac Day is almost with us again and as is always the case, St. Mary's Church will be full to overflowing with Official Guests including Service Representatives from London's Australia House, Local dignitaries, representatives from Harefield Hospital, the Royal British Legion, Local Youth organisations and not least of all ordinary people who live in Harefield and are proud to pay homage to the brave Australian Soldiers who after giving their lives during the Great War of 1914 - 1918 now rest in Harefield Cemetery. As always, the Village children will have paid their respects and placed their flowers on the graves of those heroes who died all those years ago far away from their homes. The Anzac tradition in Harefield lives on.

The following extract was sent to us by Brian Watkins a very keen History Researcher from Adelaide, South Australia regarding just one of the brave men who rest in the Anzac Cemetery. The information came to Brian from Joanne & Ron Flack.

Subject : WWI Digger Cpl Frederick Rugg 2805, 56th Bn Australian Infantry - buried St. Mary's, Harefield.

My great uncle, Frederick Rugg, joined the A.I.F. on 4th August 1915, aged 21 years 10 months. He was an optometrist, the eldest son of James and Alice Rugg (both born in U.K.). He was wounded in Rouen, France in August 1918 - a shrapnel wound to the head and was gravely ill.

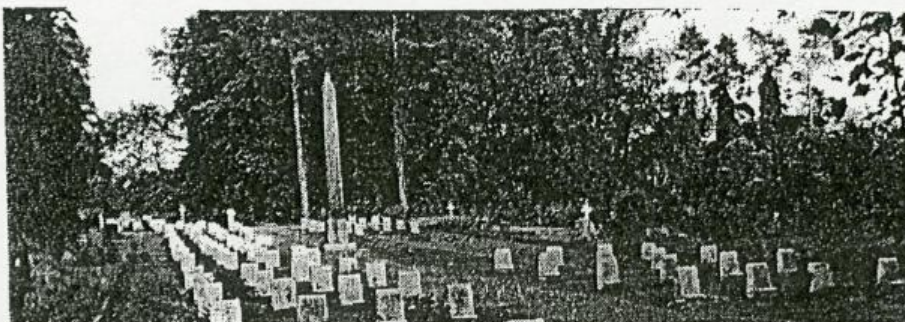
He was transferred to Grantolly Castle in September and a few days later to 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell. On 29th November he was transferred to 1st Australian Hospital, Harefield. He was recovering and wrote to his family on 29th November saying that he had just arrived ...

'I suppose it will not be long before I go out on furlough for my wound is almost healed, then all aboard for Aussie as soon as my turn comes. With all my love, Fred'

The family was advised on 7th December, 1918 that he was gravely ill and on 11th December, 1918 he died from a cerebral abscess from his wound.

We have photos of the grave No 95, buried 18th December 1918, the letter setting out details of the military funeral, photos of the Firing Party and Bugler. Relatives attended - Mrs Reeve and Mrs Potter, but we don't know of them now. A wreath was sent from Mr. C. Billyard-Leake. We even have the piece of shrapnel which was included in his effects which his father received.

He was honoured each Anzac Day by his grieving parents and his only sister, Mabel and her daughter Maisie. After his parents died, Mabel, Maisie and her children would attend the Dawn Service, Maisie making laurel wreaths and the family wearing sprigs of rosemary. He was a much loved and missed soldier. I have his records, photos, letters and cards he sent. Unfortunately, some years ago his medals were stolen from our home - the only one missed was the Memorial Plaque.



Dressing

Boys and mens shirts were very different from those common today - separate collars were almost invariably worn but were attached to the body of the shirt by two studs - a stud with a short stem attached the collar to the shirt at the back of the neck while a different type, with a long stem pinned together the ends of the collar and neck of the shirt. Both studs had wide bases and small adjustable caps to ease their insertion through the button holes in the shirts and collar. Often there were also buttons on the shirt front and eyelets in the collar further to secure them.

Separate collars were needed because they were more quickly soiled than the shirt itself and were less trouble to wash. Moreover collars could readily be changed to suit the occasion - soft collars for normal wear - but, on special occasions, at church for example, one might be expected to wear a stiff, starched collar, or at work if a professional man, doctor or solicitor for instance. Neck ties were worn, often with tie pins to keep them in place.

Mens and boys suits were invariably of the three-piece type i.e. a jacket, waist-coat and trousers and almost always made with heavy warm, woollen serge, worsted or tweed cloth. Girls and women also wore warmer skirts and blouses, of wool or flannel even though, in the 1920s, fashion demanded what were then considered almost indecently skimpy (and revealing) garments. Boys, until they were twelve, or more, years old, wore short trousers. Stockings were universally favoured by boys because they were warmer and smarter than the short socks worn by men under their long trousers. Stockings also had an advantage in offering protection from the bruises and grazes consequent to games in the fields and woods of the countryside. Elastic garters (often with decorative tags) were essential to hold up these garments.

Laces were universally employed for boots and shoes either threaded through eyelets or wound round metal sprags. Braided cotton laces secured lighter boots, shoes and ladies footwear while leather thongs fastened heavy boots such as those used when working outdoors. Gum boots were not available. Wellington boots, too costly for ordinary folk, were worn by gentlemen on horseback, though smart and waterproof, they were not hard-wearing. Game keepers and farm workers often guarded themselves from the hazards of thorns and mud by wearing buskins, of stiff, glazed leather over their ankles and trousers up to the knees. Smartly 'blancoed' white gaiters, of linen or leather, were still worn by better-off gentlemen to preserve their clean socks and glossy 'patent' shoes from the dust and dirt of city streets.

Metal studs of various types (usually Blakey's) were inserted at points of wear on the soles and heels by the cobbler or, more commonly, by father at home using a hammer and cobbler's iron last! A thick rubber disc (a Phillips) was often attached by a screw to the heel, This offered good protection against wear and also, being free to rotate, wore evenly and so lasted longer than an iron stud!

Sandals were not to be seen, but cheap shoes, notably espadrilles, with rush soles and canvas tops were available for leisure use though unsuitable for work. Plimsolls, without heels but with cloth tops and rubber soles, were almost universally employed for school gymnastics and games such as tennis though special footwear, then as now, was required for other sports such as Soccer, Rugby football and cricket.

Hats or caps were almost invariably worn when outdoors. Top hats and bowlers denoted the upper and professional classes, caps were the mark of the working man while grown girls and ladies wore hats according to their status and the fashion of the times. School girls and boys wore caps or hats which were specially designed as a part of the school uniform of private schools., Men, and boys, invariably lifted, or touched their hats if they met or even passed a female acquaintance in any public place. No man or boy would wear his hat indoors - whether in church or home - ladies and girls however would be expected to wear some head covering except in their own house or that of a close acquaintance.

A LITTLE BIT OF BYGONE HISTORY – THE CRICKETERS

One of the old photographs of Harefield High Street, taken at about the turn of the century and looking towards the Park Lane Junction, shows what appears to be a very large inn sign standing almost in the middle of the road. It is indeed an inn-sign and belonged to a public house known as 'The Cricketers' Inn' or just 'The Cricketers'. This public house served the village for some 150 years until it was demolished in 1956.

We know, of course, that Harefield stands on one of the highest points in the County of Middlesex and, as a matter of local interest, it was said that the handle of the bar-room door at 'The Cricketers' was the same height above sea level as the top of the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral.

The history of this old ale-house begins long before the 20th Century when a cottage known as 'Tylers-at-the Butts' stood within its acre of meadow-land at the corner of Harefield High Street and Park Lane (then known as Mill Lane) in the early 16th Century.

By 1688, it was owned by Thomas Lovatt, a Quaker, and he left it to his daughter Mary who was married to one Jeffrey Dennington. By 1784, Mary was a widow and the property had been divided into six cottages. When Mary died in 1763 she left five of the cottages to her grandson, Thomas Dennington, and the other which was now known as 'The Bull and Butcher' (possibly because it had partly become used as an ale-house) to another grandson, Jeffrey Field. The five cottages continued to be known as 'Tylers'

When Jeffrey Field died, his widow, also called Mary, continued to live there until her own death in 1768 when the property passed to their son George Field who later became a wheelwright. However, at the time of his mother's death, George was only ten years old. His appointed guardian, his uncle Benjamin Treadaway, came to live with him and stayed on as a tenant after George became of age and assumed full ownership. By 1779, the property was again divided, this time into three cottages.

In 1780, George Field's sister, another Mary, inherited the property and it was then described as having stables, barns, a yard and an orchard as well as 'other lands'. Mary Field married Stephen Wise but by 1790 she was widowed and sold the property to Daniel Norton, a brewer from Uxbridge, and his wife Anna-Maria. Mary, however, continued to live there as their tenant until her death in 1818. Daniel had died in 1794 and when Anna-Maria died in 1804, the property had passed to their son Daniel Scott-Norton. It was from this time that it became known as 'The Cricketers'.

There was a succession of inn-keepers during the 1800's including Abraham Bennett, William Beverage (a good name for a victualler) and Alfred Hazell, who lived there with his wife Cecilia, their daughters Mary and Gertrude, and Cecilia's mother Sarah Petley. They were followed by John Sperring of Bushey, George Jeliffe and in 1890, George Ryder, a surname still well known in Harefield.

By 1920, the landlord was Charles Baines and it is about this time that the property was sold to Harman's Brewery. The last occupant was a Mrs. Cooke until it was finally closed in 1936 and the licence transferred to another well known pub, The Millet Arms in Perivale.

The local council, then the Uxbridge Urban District Council, bought the property in 1937 and used it as a store and a yard until the building was finally demolished in 1956 to make way for the present shops which stand on the site today.

Thanks to Betty Dungey for this interesting piece of research.



HAREFIELD VILLAGE CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY PANEL

The Conservation Area Advisory Panel (C.A.A.P) continue to meet every six weeks or so. The members of the panel have been particularly concerned with a new initiative called LOCAL AGENDA 21. 'What's that?', you may ask - as we all did!

It seems that at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, World leaders decided that changes were needed to improve sustainable and ethical practices world wide. A tall order! The World leaders concluded that the only way to tackle this enormous task was to find solutions that would apply at local level. In other words, to start at the bottom instead of the top. Hence the need to develop 'local agendas' for the 21st Century.

How is Harefield involved? Well, at last LA21 has filtered down to us via the Hillingdon Planning Department. The issues we have been asked to deal with include -

Tackling the breakdown of Communities.
Improving prosperity in the poorest areas.
Conservation of wild life habitats.
Reducing waste and energy use.

It really is all about making life better for everyone and encouraging people to care for their environment which is, I suppose, what the Conservation Panel is all about anyway.

On the practical side, the Harefield LA21 project for the year ending 31/3/02 was to improve the walk from London Gate up to Church Gardens and on to St. Mary's Church (part of the Hillingdon trail) and hopefully many of you will have noticed that this has been completed.

May Isaacs.

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DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN

NOSTALGIA, REMEMBRANCE - CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL, BUT WE WANT YOU TO RECORD YOUR MEMORIES OF YEARS PAST IN HAREFIELD.

Come and talk to us on Saturday 4th May or Saturday 11th May between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m in the Park Lane Library so that we can record your memories of life in Harefield when you were a child (and after). This is part of our contribution to National Local History Week and your memories will hopefully form the basis of a book to be issued at a later date. We cannot do it without you so please do not let this chance go by.

If you are not available on either of those Saturdays or cannot make it to the Library, please let Robert (01895 823993) or Reg. (01895 823414) know and we will make other arrangements. If you prefer to write down your memories, that will be good as well.