

HAREFIELD HISTORY SOCIETY



NEWS LETTER

Harefield History Society

Autumn Newsletter - September 2009

Committee

Gordon Isaacs
Beryl Waterman
Margaret Dawson
Tom Hillier
Jill Hillier
Robert Goodchild
Anne Batchelor
Lorraine Piercy
Shirley Higgins

Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Vice Chairman
Publicity
Archivist



The Society meets at the Park Lane Village Centre on the fourth Monday monthly from September to April with the exception of December. Meetings commence at 8.00pm. Tea and coffee and biscuits are provided at the conclusion of the meetings.

* * *

Season 2008/2009 was once again very well supported by members and occasional visitors and a wide ranging programme of speakers was much appreciated, from the Denham Murders to Gilbert and Sullivan. The duet by Nick Hardey and John Chamberlain from G&S brought the house down.

Our main trip out was to Arundel situated in a beautiful part of the country and possessing a magnificent castle and striking R.C. cathedral. Shame about the weather! In October 2008 we went to Westminster Abbey and had a guided tour that enhanced the spectacular and towering beauty of the place. Every coronation since that of William the Conqueror has been held there and the history of the place is almost overwhelming. It is not all ancient history for there is a dedicated chapel to the Royal Air Force, commemorating their heroes and all who did so much to preserve us during World War II.

In March we visited the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, the oldest in the country, and where the bell for Big Ben was cast. It was a fascinating tour much appreciated by all. The Queen must have heard about our visit for she and Prince Philip followed in our footsteps shortly afterwards! The building and the method of casting bells does not seem to have changed since the foundry was established in 1570. With all the modern technology available this is quite remarkable.

In May we were guided around the Manor Farm site in Ruislip by the very knowledgeable Eileen Bowlit. 8,000 years of history right on our doorstep which you will see illustrated within these pages.

Nearer home Maisie Marjoram has called it a day having been on the committee since its beginning in 1980, and even before, and we thank her sincerely for all she has done. New arrivals on the committee are Lorraine Piercy, coming back to where has been before, and newcomer Shirley Higgins. Anne Batchelor has taken over from me as your Auditor, a logical move following her many years as Society Treasurer.

I thank Kay Holmes and John Parkinson for providing articles for this Newsletter and I hope others will follow suit and give me articles for future editions. I hope you will enjoy the contents of this Newsletter and thank you all for giving the Society such whole-hearted support which makes all our efforts worthwhile. See you all on 28th September... the Women's Land Army is coming.

Gordon Isaacs **Chairman**



HERALDIC GLASS AT BREAKSPEARS

Breakspears has come into prominence lately with Eileen Bowlt's talk and the article in the *Gazette*. All that can be seen of this interesting and rather splendid building is scaffolding and sheeting. One hopes that the house is adequately protected from further decay and dilapidation.

One of the treasures, long hidden from view by boarding, is the heraldic glass in the windows on the front. There are the arms of Elizabeth I, two of her most important nobles, and a short series showing some of the marriages of the Ashby family. One of the panels (Fig.1) displays the date, 1572, presumably not only the date when the glass was installed, but possibly also the date of the modernising from medieval to Tudor style and standards.

The royal arms (Fig.2) are those for Elizabeth I who, uniquely, used as supporters the gold lion of England and the red dragon of Wales for the Tudors' Welsh origins. The unicorn for Scotland did not come in until the accession of James VI and I in 1603.

The arms of Dudley (slightly damaged) impaling Russell (Fig.3) are for Ambrose Dudley, the oldest surviving son of John, Duke of Northumberland. The Duke, his eldest son, Guildford, husband of Lady Jane Gray, and Lady Jane herself, were all executed in the reign of Mary Tudor, after the failed attempt to put Jane on the throne. Ambrose was created Earl of Warwick and married as his third wife, Anne; daughter of Francis Russell, Earl of Bedford. Ambrose died in 1589. Although the Russells' main residence was at Woburn, they still owned and no doubt visited Chenies, which is not far from Harefield.

The other panel of the Dudley arms (Fig.4) is for Robert, Earl of Leicester, Queen Elizabeth's favourite, in command of the land forces during the Armada. He died in the same year, 1588. The arms are ensigned by an earl's coronet and encircled by the Garter

One cannot help wondering whether the Ashby family had real connection with either of the Dudleys, or whether the display was to show loyalty to the Queen and a bit of heraldic 'name-dropping'.

The Ashby panels show Ashby impaling Wroth (Fig.5) for the marriage of Thomas Ashby and Ann Wroth. Thomas died in 1559, and Breakspears passed to his son, George. The quartered arms of Ashby and Wroth (Fig.6) which appear on the fireplace in the house must therefore have been carved after 1559.

The dating of the 1572 puts at least some of the glass into the time of George Ashby, and it seems likely that all belongs to the same time.

The other Ashby panels, some damaged and repaired, (Figs.7.8.9) indicate marriages, but the names of the wives' families cannot be identified with certainty. Names appear to include Gernon quartering Henson on the 1572 panel and Chappe or Chaplin. Extant pedigrees of the Ashbys are of little help. Surprisingly the arms of Peyton quartering Bernard, and of Eden, which appear on one of the brasses in St Mary's Church, and are mentioned in the available pedigrees, do not appear in the windows at Breakspears, but the glass may have been lost or damaged over time..

Nevertheless, such a series is rare, if not unique in Middlesex; other examples on a grander scale can be seen at Montacute in Wiltshire and Lyme Park in Cheshire..

It is to be hoped that the glass has been sufficiently protected to survive the general neglect and disrepair of the house, and may again be seen in its glory – and perhaps some of the questions of its dating and rationale may be answered. My thanks are due to Colin and Eileen Bowlt for some of the illustrations and for transferring all of them from slide to print form.

Kay Holmes

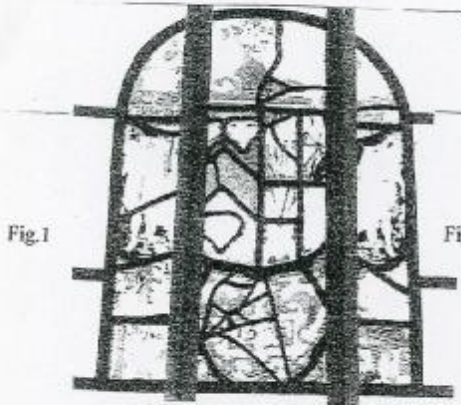


Fig. 1

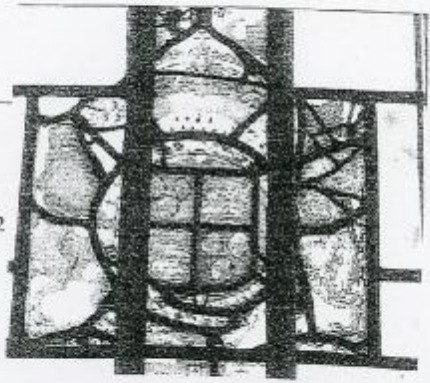


Fig. 2

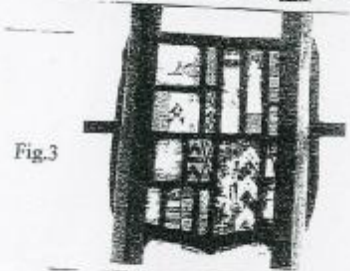


Fig. 3

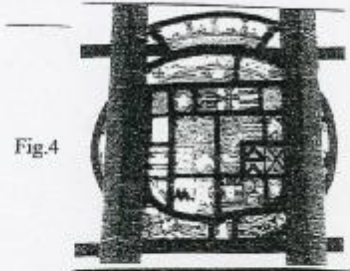


Fig. 4

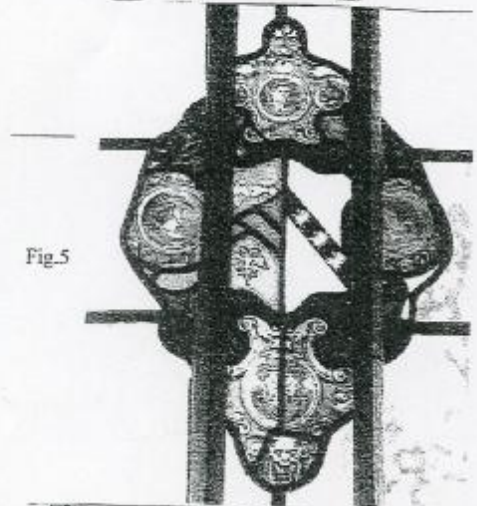


Fig. 5

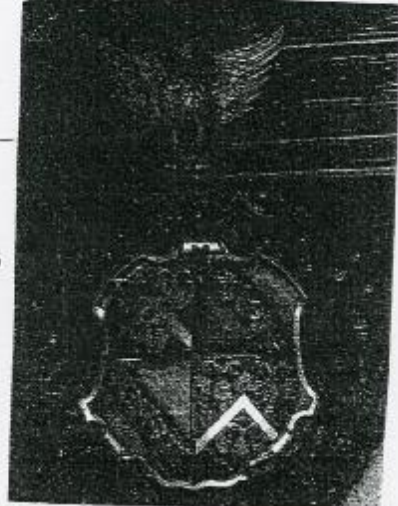


Fig. 6

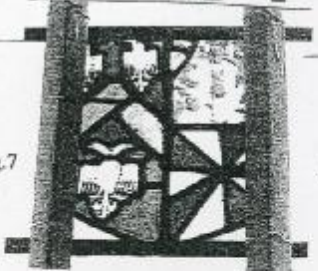


Fig. 7

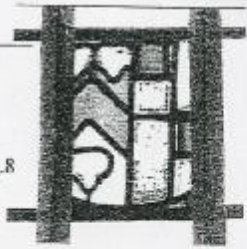


Fig. 8

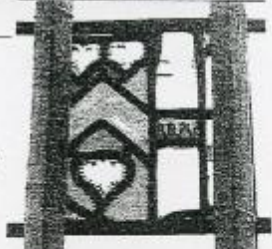


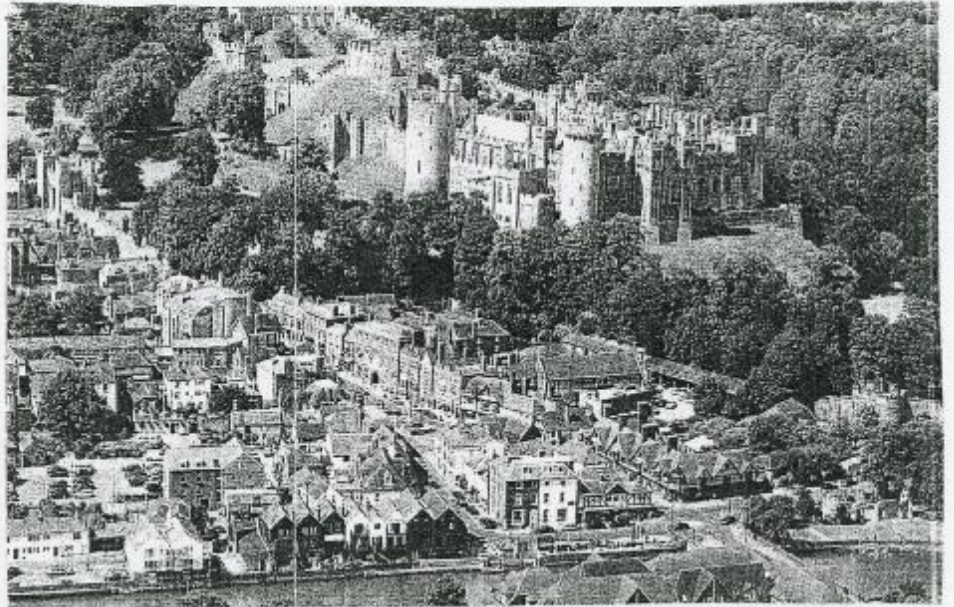
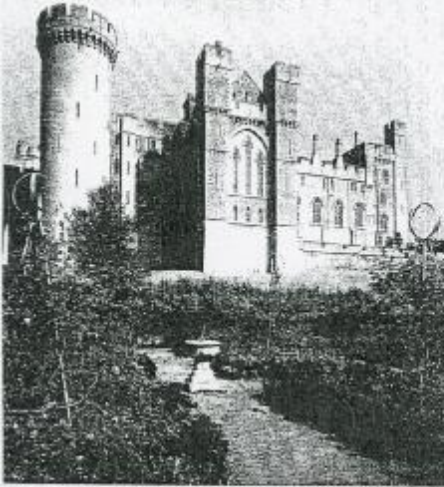
Fig. 9



ARUNDEL CASTLE

WEST SUSSEX

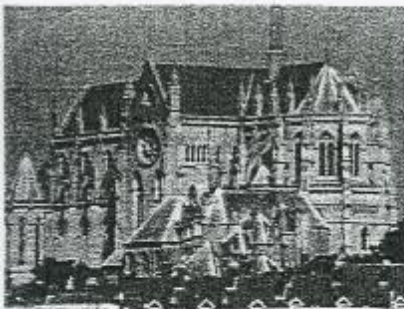
ANCIENT CASTLE, STATELY HOME
& GARDENS



OUR OUTING TO ARUNDEL

About a month after the event I was asked to produce a short article on our visit to Arundel which took place on 7th July. So these are my personal impressions - and the first is that we had a good time. And we had an excellent coach driver, Mike of Cabin Coaches, who I had met many times previously through the West Middlesex branch of the National Trust.

It was a showery day so that when we arrived at the entrance to Arundel Castle grounds we were pleased to climb the hill inside the grounds to reach the shelter of the towering stone gateway. But once inside one of the first things I did was to go through to the outside again to climb the steps to the keep at the top of its steep sided mound, with views from the lofty battlements of all the surrounding countryside. The Normans had chosen the site of the Castle well, for not only does it dominate the area, it also commands the estuary of the River Arun, and the river crossing point.



● CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY AND
ST PHILIP HOWARD.

The highlights of the Castle for me were firstly the paintings, notably by Raeburn, and a chat with a curator who was also keen on pictures. Secondly, tales about the family are always interesting. A story about 20th century portrait of a lady confirmed what the picture showed - a person of haughty quick temper who was unlikely to be pleased by even the most willing person. To amuse her would be a task indeed.

Conversations with curators are usually rewarding, and one told the story of how a recent Duke of Norfolk often dressed as poorly as an underemployed assistant gardener. One day he was about to board a train when a lady on the platform gave him a couple of pennies so he could mend his shoes. Our entrance ticket to the Castle was marked red, so we could not go to the upper floors which needed the more expensive gold ticket.

We found a really "olde worlde" cafe with lots of black beams, charming waitresses, and good food, so this prepared us to explore the town's book and antique shops in the afternoon. We later went up the hill at the top of the town to the Roman Catholic cathedral. Of the Victorian era, it was more austere than expected. It was built by a Duke, and dedicated to a past Duke who was also a saint.

Returning to the coach we had to brave a heavy shower, but it was a good day out. We had met some nice people, enjoyed the Castle and Mike's navigation around the traffic delays on the M25, revised our knowledge of history and buildings, and very much look forward to the next History Society outing.

John Parkinson.

The original castle was founded on Christmas Day 1067 by Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Arundel, one of William the Conqueror's most loyal barons. He was awarded a third of Sussex with the stipulation that a new castle be built near the mouth of the Arun to protect the approaches to Sussex from attack.

Arundel Castle is one of the longest inhabited country houses in England. Many of the original features such as the crenellated Norman keep, gatehouse and barbican and the lower part of Bevis Tower survive. Between the 1870s and 1890s the house was almost completely rebuilt and the magnificent architecture in Gothic style is considered to be one of the great works of Victorian England.

1086

The Domesday Book records Wlward Wit as the last Saxon owner of Ruislip Manor before the Norman Conquest. In 1086 the manor was held by Ernulf de Hesdin and the entry for Ruislip refers to a "park for woodland beasts".



Eight Thousand Years of History

Archaeological finds provide evidence of pre-historic settlements in the area. Other discoveries suggest that the Romans were using the site from the 1st to 4th centuries. **There is evidence of continuous occupation of the Manor Farm site from the 11th century.**

Motte and Bailey

The mound near the Manor Farm house is thought to be the remains of a Norman motte and bailey.



12th century

20 years after the Norman Conquest, the Manor of Ruislip was donated to the Abbey of Bec-Hellouin in Normandy. A Priory was built on the site of the present Manor Farm house.

c1300. Great Barn

Built to store the crops and other produce of Ruislip Manor, including wheat, peas, beans, barley and wool. The Great Barn is the oldest timber framed barn in Greater London and a rare survivor.

1451

The lordship of the Manor of Ruislip passed to King's College Cambridge. Manor Farm's land and woods were leased to a succession of people for the next 480 years.

Pre 1600. Little Barn (Library)

Together with the Great Barn and other outbuildings, the Little Barn formed the main farmyard of Ruislip Manor. It continued in use as a farm barn until the 1930s and has been a public library since 1937.

c1508. Manor Farm House

Built on the site of the old Priory by King's College to provide more comfortable lodgings for visiting college dignitaries. The now empty Priory buildings were left to decay.



1932

Kings College gave the Manor Farm site as a gift to the people of Ruislip.



19th Century. Cow Byre

The Cow Byre dates back to the 19th century and forms part of the farm courtyard. Re-built in 1980 following a fire, today it houses a tea room and art gallery.

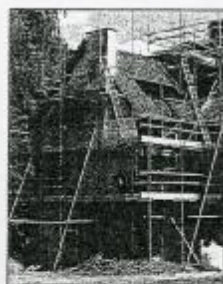
Cart Sheds

Manor Farm's cart sheds have been converted into craft workshops, where local artists and craftspeople can display and share their work with visitors.



1967. Winston Churchill Hall

Built on Parker's Field next to the historic Manor Farm site, Winston Churchill Hall provides a venue for art, culture and community events.



2007-08

The Manor Farm site was extensively restored and enhanced to ensure its survival for future generations.



A. G. CHAGLE REFRESHMENT ROOMS HAREFIELD

THE MALT HOUSE

On the preceding page you will have seen a picture of what is now the Malthouse Pharmacy in Breakspear Road South opposite The Green and another picture of the same building which I think would have been taken sometime between 1920 and 1930.

By juxtaposing both pictures it is clear that very little has changed. The building is the same. The windows are unaltered and the fascia board is also the same shape now as it was all those years ago.

I got quite intrigued to try and find out the history of the building and particularly why it is called the Malthouse. Was it every used for such purposes? A malthouse by definition is where barley or other grain is prepared by soaking, germination and drying for brewing purposes. Was this building ever so-used?

There is a reference in "*Harefield ... at that time of day*" to a party held in 1877 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Silver Jubilee in the fields at the back of Harefield House, if fine. If wet, in a large building belonging to Mr Brown, formerly the Malthouse. So as far back as 1877 there appears a mention. There is a further reference to a malthouse near the end of Breakspear Road South opposite the common. So it does look like there was a malthouse on this site.

There is mention in '*Life and Work in a Middlesex Village*' of another malthouse, this one in Park Lane and part of Ratcliff's Brewery. As Harefield had thirteen pubs in the mid 19th century there could have been more than one brewery so several malt houses in the village is not out of the question.

In my research I have been told that the building was once a private house and subsequently a variety of activities have been carried on there. Ashita Mashru, the proprietor of the Malthouse Pharmacy, has this year completed 25 years there. I asked her why she call it Malthouse Pharmacy and she said "*well it always has been so*". It may well have been so years ago but I rather doubt this title has been used for perhaps the last hundred years. The Swan public house next door is visible in both pictures and that was reckoned to be built around 1900. Was the Malthouse there first or did it come later? Most of the older residents I have spoken to remember it as a sweet shop and tea-rooms. The bottom picture bears a caption reading '*A.G. Challis Refreshment Rooms, Harefield*'. Alf Challis was also a postman so probably the shop was run by Mrs Challis. Yet in another book there is a reference to "*Mrs Challis, the hairdresser working late on a Saturday night, to 10 or 11 o'clock as she used to keep open until the pubs turned out when the men used to turn up for a shave. The men only had a shave on a Saturday as they couldn't afford no more than a penny.*" Was this business in the same shop as the sweet shop?

Don Chapman remembers his parents used to cycle out into the countryside of Harefield and stop at the Refreshment Rooms for a cup of tea and a cake. The café part was at the side and apparently did good business not only from passing cyclists and walkers for whom it became a welcome meeting place but also for visitors to Harefield Hospital which did not provide such services. Some time later part of the building was put to a different use. Cyril Ibberson, remembered for his good works at the Church Hall, was installed as a barber and Terry Clements, who now has his own hairdressing business in the High Street, worked with him. This was probably in the early 1960s. At this time entry was the central door and this remained so until the Pharmacy turned things around in 1984. As you entered there was a men's salon to the left and a sweetshop to the right. There was a third business going on too. Carry on to the rear and there you would find a ladies' salon. Terry left there about 1966 and moved to the High Street and I can but assume it remained mainly a sweetshop until the Pharmacy took over. Ashita and her staff are adamant that they took

over from an ironmonger's shop, selling lawnmowers and the like, which was ill-fated, but I have not been able to establish anyone to corroborate this.

It is fascinating to look back into the past and try to unravel what has gone before. The trouble is that I have not unravelled enough and anyone who can throw further light on the history of this building do please let me know. I am sure a lot of interesting facts are about to emerge.

Gordon Isaacs

WINTER AND SPRING PROGRAMME 2009 / 2010

28th September 2009

Geoff Paine

The Women's Land Army

26th October 2009

Paul Croft

Aspects of First World War

23rd November 2009

Terry Lomas

*History of Metro Electric Locomotives
and associated names*

25th January 2010

Geoff Donald

The London No-One Knows

22nd February 2010

Mike Beech

A Concise History of Whitefriars Glass

22nd March 2010

Rita Boswell

Harrow School

26th April 2010

Annual General Meeting

Followed by something "interesting"