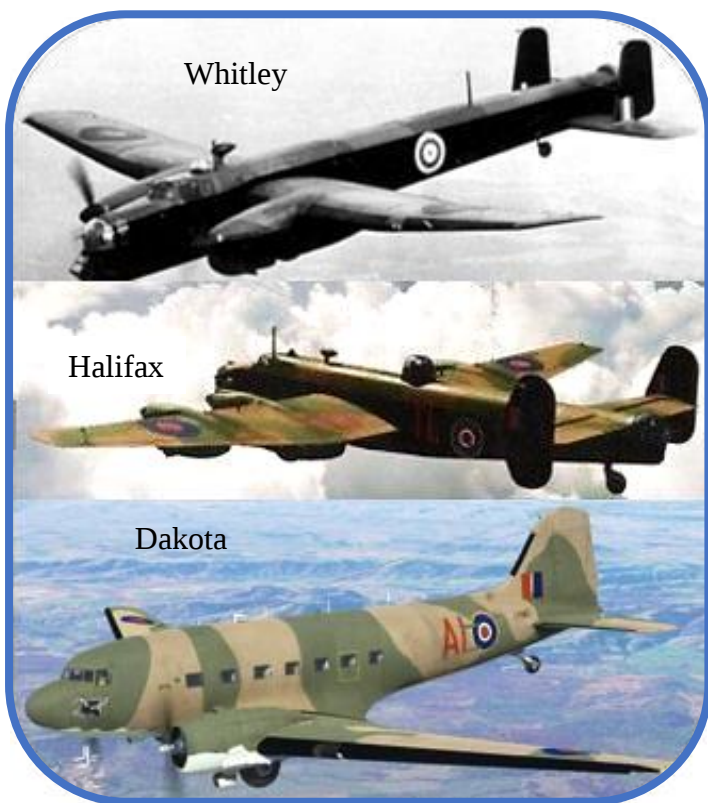




HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Member of the Family History Federation



The pilot flew each of these types (see page 27)

JOURNAL No. 152

DECEMBER 2025

2026 PROGRAMME of MEETINGS

Unless stated otherwise meetings take place at:
Hillingdon Park Baptist Church, 25 Hercies Road, Hillingdon,
Middlesex. UB10 9LS.

Doors open 30 mins before start time.

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
Tuesday 11 th November 2.30pm	Ian Waller	'Nonconformist Records for Family History'
Tuesday 27 th January 2.30pm joint with U3A	David Annal	'Read All About It'
Thursday 19 th February 2.30 pm	Frankie Pugh	'The Working Class Women of Harmondsworth'
Thursday 19 th March 2.30pm A.G.M. Followed by a talk	Kathy Chater	'Suicide' (Links in with her last talk on coroners inquests)
Thursday 9 th April 2.30 pm ZOOM	Linda Hammond	'A.I. for Family History'
Thursday 21 st May 2.30pm ZOOM	Dr. Sophie Kay	'Mapping Alchemy'
Thursday 11 th June 2.30 pm	Alison Wall	'Kensington Palace'

***NOTE: ZOOM MEETINGS. The link to join each meeting
will be included with the preceding NEWSLETTER.***

We always welcome visitors to our meetings at an entrance fee of £1

© Hillingdon Family History Society & contributors No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without written permission. The contents do not reflect the opinions of the Editor or the Executive Committee. The Society cannot vouch for the accuracy of any offers of services or goods that may appear.

INDEX

John's Jottings <i>by John Symons</i>	2
From the Editor <i>by Alan Rowland</i>	4
They Were Only 'Ag Labs'! <i>by Alan Rowland</i>	6
The Pinner Village Show	12
Was He One Of Mine? <i>by Paula Hill</i>	13
Do You Know What They Did?	16
Battle of Britain 85 Exhibition Grand Opening <i>by Val Fitch</i>	17
What Did They Do? <i>by Alan Rowland</i>	22
Memories of a WW2 Pilot <i>by Gill May</i>	26
Cousins – Are They Really There? <i>by Alan Rowland</i>	29
A.G.M. 2025 Agenda	30
A.G.M. 2024 Minutes	31
Quiz Answers	32
A Talk – Using Research Methodology on Family History report <i>by John Symons</i>	32
A Talk – The History of the Foundling Hospital report <i>by John Symons</i>	34
A Talk – Forgotten Women <i>report by John Symons</i>	37
From the Membership Secretary <i>by Val Fitch</i>	40
Research and Help	41
Don't Forget This Facility	42
H.F.H.S. Publications	43
Where to Find Us	44

Visit our website at: www.hfhs.org.uk

Contact us by e-mail at: enquiries@hfhs.org.uk

Contributions to the journal are most welcome please send to our email address or by post to John Symons (address on back cover).

A LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THE JOURNAL CAN BE REQUESTED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.



Recently it was deemed timely to check on some old documents and there I found my old school reports. They were not effusive in their praise for my efforts or lack thereof. 'Must try harder' was one of the kinder sentiments expressed. The directness of this comment is in marked contrast to those earned by my children and grandchildren which usually offered encouragement.

Putting this into context, I was one of the 'baby boomers' born after the war. The classes had more than 40 pupils, the teachers were under pressure, the buildings were inadequate for the numbers of children and much of the teaching took place in temporary huts with a stove in the corner for some heat in the winter.

I did not engage with school life hence my poor reports, but in no way am I blaming anyone. It all came good for me once my schooldays were over. I am now firmly of the opinion that you never stop learning.

There was however a rigid structure then with its foundations in the early years of mass education. Both boys and girls could have places at schools but the difference was that girls were not expected to progress towards higher education. That all changed in the later years of the 20th century but even in my day, girls education was biased towards home care with domestic science on the timetable.

The boys had classes in metalwork and woodwork and as I had no aptitude for the latter, cooking, for example, would have been a better life skill.

The same rigid approach also covered sports. In the summer the girls played tennis and the boys cricket. In this case I was happy with the arrangement but it might not have been the case. It has taken a long time to bring equality into many sports.

(contd.)

You are now increasingly likely to find the school records of your ancestors on the main commercial websites often with an entry for both primary and secondary school. Most of them give just dates of admission and leaving, date of birth, address and the fathers name, all worth confirming.

If you are lucky you may also find log books, such as the Society has published for the National School in Ickenham. These give attendance records and other events such as new teachers. They can also throw light on other events in the community, attendance might dwindle at harvest time in rural areas for example.

These are valuable sources for enhancing your family history especially if you are able to find out more about the conditions at the school in that era.

FROM THE EDITOR

By Alan Rowland

DEADLINE DATES FOR 2026 JOURNAL EDITIONS

MARCH EDITION	13 TH FEBRUARY
JUNE EDITION	15 TH MAY
SEPTEMBER EDITION	15 TH AUGUST
DECEMBER EDITION	17 TH OCTOBER

Microsoft will no longer provide free security updates, technical assistance, or other software updates. While your computer will continue to function, it will be more vulnerable to security risks.

It is a great pleasure to once again offer my thanks to Jenny Morrish for her proof reading skills over the past year.

My thanks also go to all those who submitted pieces of work for inclusion in the journals. At this point, as usual, I make my annual request for more journal material from members and for that matter from non-members.

Finally I wish all our members and other readers of the journal a very peaceful and happy new year.



SEASONS GREETINGS
from
John, Alan
and
the Committee

‘THEY WERE ONLY AG. LABS.....’

By Alan Rowland

Below is another précis of an article in the May ‘Really Useful Bulletin’ No. 57 from the Family History Federation. The full article can be read on their web site: www.familyhistoryfederation.com together with all the sources.

Rural life

Life in the countryside was nothing like it is today. The agricultural depressions, particularly post-Napoleonic wars and again in the last decades of the nineteenth century, saw farms without tenant farmers. Rural living was very hard for the average agricultural worker in times past. There is a great deal written about the Speenhamland System (1795), Swing Riots (1830s), Tolpuddle Martyrs (1834) and much, much more. The enclosures acts were fatal to three classes, the small farmer, the cottager and the squatter. After enclosure, when harvest was completed, the ordinary cottage-dwellers lost the right to glean the open fields, although some landowners still allowed access to the enclosed land.

High prices for food followed a series of poor harvests including that of 1816 caused by the eruption of Mt. Tambora, Indonesia which produced severe famine throughout Britain and Europe. The potato blight of the 1840s devastated Ireland and decimated potato crops throughout Britain.

These and many other factors help to visualise and understand the hard times in the nineteenth century of rural life for the hard-working agricultural community of our ancestors (our Ag. Labs.)

Many Ag. Labs. were regularly moving from area to area, but rarely travelling any great distance – if they could change parish, county and diocese in a short move, they did. They are the true ‘border hoppers’ who tax the research ingenuity of many a family historian.

Many of these labourers and their families were termed live in farm servants which meant that they lived in the farm house with the farmer and his family.

(contd.)

The male servant would be the Ag. Lab., his wife would help in the dairy and do other housework and the children were employed to clear the fields of stones or in bird scaring.

Alternatively, a cottage might be provided, although many were described as being hovels. Some farmers and larger estates did provide cottages of reasonable standard often with a garden or allotment for vegetable growing. If the employer and employee found all things to their liking, the annual contract could be renewed between them.

It can be a mistake to dismiss an ancestor as 'they were just ag labs', there was a considerable hierarchy in the agricultural workforce and you are fortunate if you find your ancestor listed in the census as teamster or shepherd. Those who worked with their hands were often recorded as labourers, ignoring their skills and ability to run their own businesses – people whom today we might refer to as self-employed or artisans.

When we look at the census entries throughout the nineteenth century, it is obvious that some agricultural labouring families moved regularly between employers – the varying birthplaces of children is a key indicator. Do we accept the moves as simply being for work? If so, how did they know there was work to be had in another place?

Hiring fairs

A hiring fair was where those who needed to find work could find those wishing to employ workers and vice versa.

The hiring fair was not just about those seeking employment on farms, women and girls seeking employment as domestic servants would also attend.

The hiring fair was a key part of life for the rural community; it was not just an opportunity to find work but a time for getting together, meeting friends or family, making connections, exchanging news and more. Such fairs or gatherings were not peculiar to Britain; they were also held across Europe

Do you ever wonder how your agricultural worker or servant forebears met? *(NB We often meet this question in the research room).*

(contd.)

Research indicates the fairs were held at different times of year across the country and between areas with different types of agriculture and other trades. Check the date of your forebear's marriage – was it around the time of the local hiring fair? Did the two parties come from places in opposite directions from the region's hiring fair? Use your imagination to work out what may have been feasible!

Research has also found that there was often a surge in Autumnal marriages, after harvest wages were in hand, which were usually followed by some short pregnancies!

The origin of hiring fairs

In 1351 the Statute of Labourers was introduced by Edward III. In the aftermath of the Black Death, there was a chronic shortage of labour including in agriculture. The statute fixed rates of pay for many artisans to encourage workers to stay in their own area. By 1516 there existed 2,400 fairs and further legislation followed which required constables to publicly proclaim the rates of pay and conditions of employment. These events developed into a more general hiring fair. Some hiring fairs, probably those that date back to the Statute, were known as Statute Fairs or the 'statty'.

Hiring or Mop fairs frequently took place in autumn when harvesting was over. Scottish and north of England, hiring (or feeing) fairs similarly occurred in autumn but there were a number held in springtime as suited the regional farming calendar. Some areas held both spring and autumn hiring fairs, especially where six-monthly hiring for seasonal work was dominant. Where agricultural employment was seasonal, a family had to earn enough to carry them through the winter or they could fall on the poor law. Fairs continued into the Edwardian period, though very few continued beyond WWI.

The day at a hiring fair

At the fair those seeking employment would discuss freely with others who was a good or bad employer and presumably employers would share similar intelligence about the workers.

(contd.)

Bargains were clinched with a ‘fastening penny or money’ which was worth much more than a penny.

For example, in the late nineteenth century a head-waggoner was usually given five shillings, a seconder half-a-crown, and lads a shilling. It is reputed that much fastening money was then spent at the fair which could become very rowdy.

Those seeking work displayed their trade or speciality. A shepherd carried his crook or had sheep’s wool pinned on his smock (a cotton or linen overgarment) or coat, while a housemaid may have carried a mop or worn a white apron and a dairymaid carried her pail. A piece of whipcord, tucked into a hat or pinned on a smock or coat, could indicate a carter.

The decline of hiring fairs

The hiring or statute fairs declined as the agricultural workforce decreased. In the 1850s it is reckoned that some twenty per cent of the working population was employed in agriculture – it had been higher in earlier times. The financial ups and downs of farming also affected the number of workers that individual farmers could afford to employ. The arrival of better literacy and newspapers also provided an alternative means of finding workers through advertisements.

There was opposition to hiring fairs from various quarters including the Agricultural Workers’ Union (formed 1872) which campaigned for better pay and conditions for agricultural workers. Early mechanisation led to a reduction in the number of farm workers needed. The number employed in agriculture steadily decreased to a suggested six per cent by time of WW1 which itself further reduced the workforce.

All these factors added to the decline of hiring fairs.

Hiring/Mop fairs today

The Fun-Fairs that today pay regularly visits to local towns have their origins in the old hiring/mop fairs.

(contd.)

Conclusion

Our rural forebears can lead us on a merry dance around all manner of records as we seek snippets of their lives. However, do not write off your nineteenth-century census-identified 'ag lab' as a straw-chewing yokel who regularly moved for any job he could find!

On the contrary, he may have been a highly skilled specialist, sought after by employers, who moved periodically to better himself and his family. He may well have found those work opportunities at the local hiring and statute fairs.

About the author:

A family historian for some four decades, Jacqui Simkins comes from a long line of tenant millers and farmers along with others who earned their living in the countryside. She is editor of the *Really Useful Bulletin* and is one of the small team of volunteers operating Family History Books.

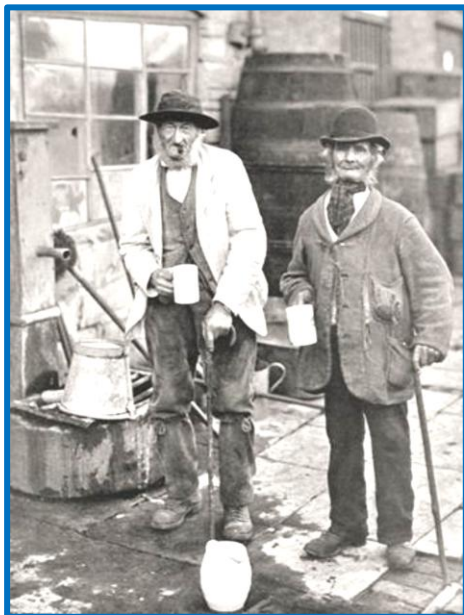
The article also had a number of illustrations including the following:



Hiring and statute fair, north of England from *London Illustrated News* No.2217, November 1881 (contd.)



Thomas Pitkin in his smock



Rural workers Swanbourne c1894, Bidford Mop

THE PINNER VILLAGE SHOW

By Gill May

On 6th September we attended, as we usually do, Pinner Village Show. Although in the days leading up to the show rain was in evidence the weekend weather was good. With the help of Paula, Jenny, Fiona and John we set up our stall and gazebo - the same team was on hand to dismantle our pitch when it was all over. This was no mean task as everything had to be packed into my car and transported home. We had a mishap during the day when two of our display tables, after many years of use, finally collapsed. New ones will be needed for next year!

The day itself was busy with many people attending the Show. We managed to sell a number of books, jigsaw puzzles and a few toys. All the proceeds will help towards the cost of running of the society. Hopefully, some of the many people that showed an interest in the Society will come along on a Friday for research help and join the society.



The team: Jenny, Paula, Gill – John took the picture!

WAS HE ONE OF MINE?

By Paula Hill

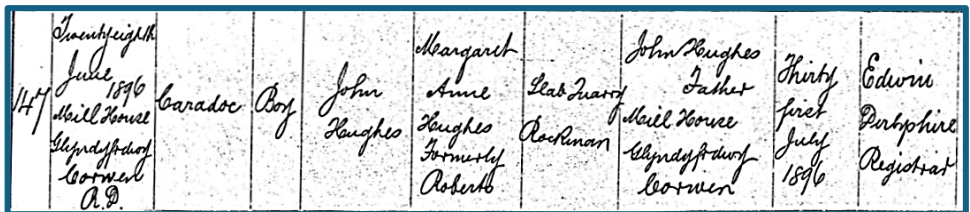
Whilst connecting my DNA matches to my Ancestry tree I started to look again at documents that had been previously added to the tree.

One of these was the 1911 census records of my great grandparents Llewelyn and Annie ROBERTS. They lived in Penrhiwceiber, Glamorganshire, South Wales and my re-examination of this record revealed that they had a lodger.

He was Caradoc HUGHES aged 15, born in Llangollen, Denbighshire, North Wales and he worked as a hewer in a coal mine.

Knowing that both my great grandparents were born in Denbighshire (North Wales) I began to wonder if Caradoc could be a potential relation to one of them.

I found Caradoc's birth record on the G.R.O. and ordered a digital copy for £3.00 (see below).



A handwritten birth record on a G.R.O. form. The text is written in cursive ink. The record is for a boy named Caradoc Hughes, born on the 28th June 1896 at Mill House, Glyndyfrdwy, Corwen, North Wales. The parents are John Hughes, a Quarry Rockman, and Margaret Anne Hughes, formerly Roberts. The record is signed by Edwin Porthphire, Registrar.

Twenty-eighth	June 1896	Caradoc	Boy	John	Margaret	John Hughes	Thirty	Edwin
1/4	Mill House			Hughes	Anne	Father	first	Porthphire
Glyndyfrdwy				Hughes	Hughes	Quarry	July	Registrar
Corwen				formerly	Roberts	Rockman	1896	
N.D.				Roberts		Glyndyfrdwy		
						Corwen		

As can be seen, Caradoc was born on the 28th June 1896 at Mill House, Glyndyfrdwy, Corwen, North Wales to John HUGHES a quarry rockman and Margaret Anne HUGHES formerly ROBERTS. Examining my tree I discovered a Margaret Anne ROBERTS and she was a sister of one Llewelyn ROBERTS.

But I had to be sure that I had the right Margaret Anne Roberts so I ordered her marriage certificate.

(contd.)

I knew that my Margaret had married John HUGHES and that her father was Jeremiah ROBERTS and when the certificate arrived it confirmed all the various names. .

1883. Marriage solemnized at the English Wesleyan in the District of Cardiff in the County of Mid Glamorgan

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
25	25 June 1883	John Hughes	21 years	Bachelor	Quarryman	Hymon Werni Uangetelo	John Hughes	Quarryman
		Margaret Ann Roberts	21 years	Spinster		Gaithuchaf Llcw	Jeremia Roberts	Coal Miner

Married in the English Wesleyan according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Wesleyans by Certificate by me, William Thomas Minister

This Marriage was solemnized between us, John Hughes and Margaret Ann Roberts in the Presence of us, Elias Jones and Mary Elizabeth Roberts Edwards Roberts Registrar

On looking at various census and military records, on both Findmypast and Ancestry, I found that Caradoc had five siblings John David HUGHES (1885-), Mary Elizabeth HUGHES (1886-), Hugh Llewelyn HUGHES (1890-), Margaret Anne HUGHES (1893-) and Gwladys HUGHES (1895-).

Mary Elizabeth, Gwladys and Llewelyn were all names of Margaret Anne HUGHES (née Roberts) siblings which proved to be another link.

On the 8th August 1912 Caradoc joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers Reservists in Wrexham, Denbighshire, with his service number 4755 his Attestation took place on the 10th August 1912.

I knew I had the right military record because the given next of kin and his address was John HUGHES of 141 Penrhiwceiber Road, Penrhiwceiber, Glamorganshire. The names of his siblings (Hugh, John, Mary, Margaret and Gladys) re-enforce the link.

Sadly, it seems the military life was not what Caradoc really wanted but when he attested in 1912 he was 16 years old and he was working underground in the mine - not the best of environments!

Perhaps it was a sense of adventure or maybe a recruiting officer's enthusiasm that enticed him to enlist, I will probably never know.

(contd.)

Having joined the reservists he did not seem too enthusiastic in complying with the rules that he had agreed to accept as this conduct sheet proves:

Squadron, Troop, Battery and Company Conduct Sheet.		Army Form B. 121.						
GALE & POLDEN, LTD. PRINTERS, ALDERMISTON, (WILMSTON) WILMSTON-ON-AVE. WILMSTON, YORKS.		Number of Sheets <i>10</i>						
Regiment of <i>3rd. Royal Welsh Fusiliers</i>		Signature of G. O. Commanding <i>Thos. Jones</i>						
Regimental Number and Name <i>4755 Lardoe Hughes</i>	Enlistment Age on <i>7. 8. 12</i> years months <i>17.</i> days <i>12.</i>	Trade <i>Shiner - Coal.</i>	Good Conduct Badge, Service Pay or Pendency Pay					
Joined <i>21. 12. 12</i> Date <i>2. 7. 13</i>	Period of <i>with Colours</i> years <i>6</i> months <i>6</i> days <i>6</i>	Religion <i>Weslyan.</i>						
Joined Date	Period of <i>Special</i> years <i>6</i> months <i>6</i> days <i>6</i>							
Joined Date								
Place	Date of Offence	Rank	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment awarded	Period of award or number of days' suspension	By whom awarded	REMARKS
Wrexham	13. 12. 14	Pte	Drunk on parade at 9.30 a.m.	4 Sgt. Williams	3 Days. C.D.	15. 12. 14	Capt. Gough	S. 26. 5
Wrexham	13. 12. 14	Pte	Absent from parade at 6.45 a.m. until found in his barracks room at 6.55. (no money)	4 Sgt. Charles	5 Days. C.D.	15. 12. 14	Capt. Gough	S. 27. 5
Wrexham	15. 12. 14	Pte	Absent off duty after break at 2.0 p.m. until reporting himself at 7.30 p.m. (3rd time)	4. 41. 12. 14	7 Days. C.D.	15. 12. 14	Major Galtbrett	S. 28. 5

-Place Wrexham 12th September 1912 Dirty on Parade at 9.30 a.m.
punishment Awarded 3 Days C. B. (confined to barracks)

-Place Wrexham 13th September 1912 Absent from parade at 6.45 a.m. until found in his barracks at 6.55 a.m. punishment awarded 5 Days C. B.

-Place Wrexham 15th September 1912 Absent off Defaulters Parade at 2.0 p.m. until reporting himself at 5.30 p.m. (3½ hrs) punishment awarded 7 Days C B. Perhaps it is unsurprising that as soon as his punishment was served he left the barracks on 26th September 1912 and never returned. He is recorded as 'Deserted':

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. <u>4750</u> Name <u>Caradoc Hughes</u>							
Corps	Regt. or Depôt	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Rank	Dates	From	To	Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries
Service towards engagement reckons from <u>8-8-12.</u>					<u>W. Hughes</u> Recruiting Officer, Wrexham.		
Joined at <u>Wrexham</u> on <u>11.8.12.</u> <u>2d Fus 38th Attatched</u> <u>Private</u> <u>8.8.12</u> <u>R. H. Fus:</u> <u>3rd</u> <u>Special course of</u> <u>Regt:</u> <u>1912.</u> <u>8.8.12.</u> <u>3rd</u> <u>training.</u> <u>Pl.</u> <u>1912.</u> <u>26.9.12</u> <u>Deserled</u>							

N.B. Reservists were the auxiliary forces of the British Army, formed in peace time and designed to support the regular army in the event of war.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY DID?

We present here the last five odd names of occupations. These originally appeared in the Cornwall Family History Society, June 2024 edition.

QUARREL PICKER

RANSACKER

MILESTONE INSPECTOR

MONDAY MAN

SAGGAR MAKER

You will find the answers on page 32.

If you have discovered any strange occupational names please send them, together with their explanations, to us for inclusion in the journal

BATTLE OF BRITAIN 85 EXHIBITION GRAND OPENING

By Val Fitch

On Friday 12th September I attended the Battle of Britain 85 Exhibition Grand Opening at the Bunker located in the old R.A.F. Camp Uxbridge.



BATTLE OF BRITAIN 85

You're invited to the
Battle of Britain 85 Exhibition Grand Opening

Friday 12 September 2025, 6pm to 8pm
at the Battle of Britain Bunker, Wren Avenue, Uxbridge, UB10 OGG

The evening will include talks with curator Charlotte Dennehy and former curator Chris Wren, plus music from Naomi Cook.

Refreshments available.

RSVP to
bunker@hillington.gov.uk
by Friday 29 August

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN BUNKER

HILLINGTON

The Exhibition was officially opened by the Mayor of Hillington, Councillor Corthorne.

Also in attendance were; Charlotte Dennehy, curator of the Bunker and former curator Warrant Officer (Retired) Robert 'Chris' Wren (see right). During the evening of the Grand Opening, about 120 people were invited. We were offered prosecco and canapes and Naomi Cook sung many wartime favourites.



(contd.)

We then walked around the exhibition and I took photographs some of which follow.

One exhibit caused quite a stir it was a model of the Bunker Operations Room made by a young lad, aged eleven, called Elliot. He was praised for the beautiful model which he made with the help of his grandfather, for a school project. The model was on show and he received a certificate from Chris Wren on behalf of the Bunker.



Chris started the museum in 1985. He began by contacting former staff members of the R.A.F. and they provided memories and many stories of their experiences.

Chris also started to collect wartime objects and together with 'The Friends of No. 11 Group', laid the foundations for the museum and the exhibition for the Battle of Britain which he looked after for more than thirty years. (No. 11 Group squadron was based at Uxbridge during the war and left there in 1958) The Bunker was Grade 1 listed in 2005, officially protecting it for future generations.

(contd.)

As part of the exhibition, Chris talked about his R.A.F. service, his work at the Bunker and his reflections on The Battle of Britain.

A full recording can be found at: battleofbritainbunker.co.uk/bb85

Eighty-five years ago, between July and October 1940, the Battle of Britain raged over southern England. The most decisive moment came on Sunday 15th September, now celebrated as Battle of Britain day. The Luftwaffe made more sorties than on any other day of the battle, and although they destroyed 34 R.A.F. aircraft, they lost 76 of their own. The Luftwaffe recognised they would not achieve superiority in the air.

Winston Churchill visited the Bunker on 16th August 1940 and spoke the famous words 'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed, by so many, to so few' as he left. He then repeated them in the House of Commons on 20th August. The King and Queen visited the Bunker on the 6th September 1940.



A typical group of pilots from the Battle of Britain. Airmen came not only from Britain but also Poland, Belgium, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
(contd.)

No. 303 (Polish) squadron, stationed at Northolt, was the most successful in the Battle shooting down 126 German aircraft in 42 days.

On the 15th September, Battle of Britain Day, a wreath is laid at this memorial located in the grounds of the Bunker. The inscription reads:



**No. 11 FIGHTER GROUP
ROYAL AIR FORCE
OPERATIONS ROOM
1939-1946**

BENEATH THIS STONE IS THE SITE
OF THE UNDERGROUND OPERATIONS
ROOM FROM WHICH THE GREATER PART OF
THE HURRICANE AND SPITFIRE
SQUADRONS WERE CONTROLLED
DURING THE
BATTLE OF BRITAIN
DURING THIS EPIC BATTLE TH THESE
SQUADRONS SHOT DOWN OVER 1500 OF THE
1732 ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED
THIS GREAT ACHIEVEMENT CONTRIBUTED
LARGELY TO OUR ULTIMATE SUCCESS AND
SURVIVAL AND INSPIRED
SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL'S
NOW FAMOUS WORDS

'NEVER IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN CONFLICT
WAS SO MUCH OWED BY SO MANY TO SO FEW'

Unfortunately the Bunker wasn't open for us to see, but I would like to go back and see it, and go around the grounds. A very interesting place to visit.

(contd.)

The photographs that follow are of the two Hawker Hurricane exhibits that are suspended from the roof. The Hurricane together with the Supermarine Spitfire were our main day time fighters during the Battle of Britain.



Witold Urbanowicz escaped after the fall of Poland in 1939 came to Britain where he joined first No. 145 squadron and then No. 303 (Polish) squadron. Squadron Leader Urbanowicz was the most successful Polish pilot of the Battle of Britain being credited with 15 victories. In October 1940 he came to No. 11 Group Headquarters at Uxbridge as the Polish liaison officer.

WHAT DID THEY DO?

By Alan Rowland

I know that I always make the point that my abridged versions of the Really Useful Bulletins (RUB) from the Family History Federation are to help those without access to a computer but unfortunately there are so many records available on line it is hard to ignore them. Also, many public libraries provide computers for public use and you may be using these to carry out your research. In the hope that one way or another you can get to a computer, here is an abridged version of the April 2025 RUB No. 56:

NB If you can visit the Federation site there is a list of the resources for further research.

Whether we like it or not, we are all defined, to some degree, by our occupations. If anything, it was all the more so for our ancestors. Most ordinary people would start work at a young age, have few days off and keep going until they died or hit their dotage. Even the Acts of 1870 and 1880, which introduced compulsory elementary education for children aged between five and ten, was widely resented as it took children away from contributing to the family income. The long school summer holidays is a legacy of the compromise reached to allow children to help with the harvest.

Occupations have inevitably been influenced by changes in society and technology witness the impact of the Industrial Revolution from the late eighteenth century onwards. At the start of the nineteenth century, around three-quarters of the working population were involved in agriculture and only a quarter in urban industry – less than a century later, the proportions had reversed.

This not only meant that your ancestor may have changed trades, but also that they may have migrated within the UK. Census data shows urban populations exploding as people flocked in search of work and this often meant cramped and insanitary conditions, which affected their health. Some migrated abroad, people have always relocated in search of a better life or more available employment.

(contd.)

Occupation records

With an almost endless range of different trades over the ages tracking down occupational records can be complicated. Many businesses kept records and some trades faced specific bureaucracy which left a paper trail that can be followed. Others have been lost to obscurity.

One is the census, of course, which from 1841 onwards listed an individual's trade and from 1891 whether they were employed, self-employed or an employer themselves.

Birth, marriage and death certificates can often provide occupational clues. Parish records often record occupation (in baptisms, for the father, usually after 1812), but this is not always the case.

Apprenticeship records in some cases date back to the thirteenth century when the trade guild system began.

From 1563, it was actually illegal to enter a trade without undertaking an apprenticeship. Older apprenticeship records can sometimes be found in county record offices or transcribed in the Society of Genealogists' library in London. Between 1710 and 1811 stamp duty was payable on apprenticeship indentures. This left a paper trail and records can be found on all three of the main data websites, The Genealogist, Ancestry and Findmypast.

The Genealogist also has merchant navy apprenticeship records (1824–1910); Ancestry has regional collections for Dorset and West Yorkshire; and Findmypast also has a collection of London apprenticeship abstracts from 1442 to 1850. If you have ancestors in the capital, it's also worth looking at www.londonlives.org. These records will typically list both the apprentice and their master.

The following major categories of record may help to shed light on your forebears' work history.

Directories and newspapers

Trade directories are an obvious resource, and again Ancestry, Findmypast and The Genealogist all have large and growing collections which have been digitised.

(contd.)

If you should be lucky enough to trace your ancestry back to pre-Tudor times, your ancestor may have been a member of a trade guild or London livery company. Local record offices sometimes have holdings for the former, and the latter all have archives (usually at London's Guildhall Library). See also the records at: www.londonroll.org which cover 1400 to 1900.

Over the last 200 years, newspapers can also reveal occupational titbits, e.g. occupational awards your ancestor may have won, encounters with the law, or reports of industrial accidents. The British Newspaper Archive (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) is a great starting point.

The trade union web site www.unionancestors.co.uk has a variety of useful information on the subject, as well as a list of known trade unions by name.

The Modern Records Centre

An essential resource for much occupational research is the Modern Records Centre at the University of Warwick:

www.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/

This is the main British repository for national archives of trades unions and employers' organisations. On weekdays the centre is open to visitors, check the website for up-to-date opening times. For an overview of its offerings, see:

www.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/holdings/main_archives/
and the A-Z list of occupations at:

www.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/explorefurther/subject_guides/family_history.

Websites for trade directories

The University of Leicester and has many directories dating from the 1760s to the 1910s and the collection is now available within Ancestry.

Scottish Directories

This collection, by the National Library of Scotland, offers more than 700 digitised directories covering most of Scotland and dating from 1773 to 1911, all for free.

(contd.)

Irish Directory Database

Compiled by Shane Wilson and Joe Buggy, the database has links to more than 1,000 historic trade directories for Ireland.

Some of those are free online, others at paid-for sites or, indeed, on CD (the database indicates which have to be paid for).

www.swilson.info/dirdb.php

Larger businesses will have kept their own records – the Postal Museum Archive, for example, will help you find records of postal workers see: **www.postalmuseum.org/visit/the-archive/** ; BT has archives going back to 1846 **www.bt.com/about/bt/our-history/bt-archives** and The National Archives catalogue provides information about many business-specific archives around England and Wales.

One type of record which you might not have come across is fire insurance certificates – businesses were required to have them and they can provide useful information about a business, its premises and the people involved.

It is easier to follow middle-class or professional ancestors, because clerical work left more paperwork, as did occupations that required qualifications e.g. the law, medicine or the clergy.

But, if your forebears were typically manual workers, don't despair! There are many surviving factory records, trade union lists, registers of social clubs and so on which can be tracked down – county record offices or The National Archives Discovery catalogue will be good starting points as is The Modern Records Centre.

Other relevant archives are the People's History Museum in Manchester at **<https://phm.org.uk/collection-search/>** and the Museum of Rural Life in Reading at **merl.reading.ac.uk/**.

The National Museum of Wales's library has many records relating to work in Wales, such as apprenticeship indentures and craftsmen's account books see:

<https://museum.wales/curatorial/social-cultural-istory/archives/>

Researching your ancestors' occupations is a rewarding activity and it will bring them more vividly to life, will help you understand their status, location and some of the decisions they will have faced in their lives. Much the same as our jobs affect us today.

(contd.)

MEMORIES OF A WW2 PILOT

By Gill and Mike May

I was looking back recently at some old journals when I came upon an article by John Symons about historical objects.

This put me in mind of some memorabilia which my husband and I inherited from his late sister. The objects originally belonged to their late father, Alan Leonard Jose MAY and included his flying cap, squadron insignia and flying log books. Having recently had chance to look through these, we learned of Alan's service.

Alan was born in 1922 and enlisted in the RAF in 1941 at the age of 19. He then embarked on a number of training courses in England, Canada and Florida, USA before becoming a fully trained pilot. He eventually ended up in 77 squadron, flying bombers into Germany in 1944/45 and completed 27 missions successfully before the war ended.

Around this time he met Moira and after a whirlwind romance they were married a few days before he was sent to India. During this period he was flying various aircraft to deliver supplies and on one such mission, he was able to rescue the crew of another aircraft who were forced to land because of damage to their aircraft.

He left the RAF to work with London City Council and his wife worked at Fortnum and Masons before the birth of my husband in 1947.

Alan missed flying to such an extent that he joined the R.A.F. Voluntary Reserves and assisted in the training of new recruits. He was subsequently drafted back into the R.A.F. on a short term basis.

Shortly after rejoining he was tragically killed as a result of a mid-air collision in July 1952. As part of the training programme pilots had to learn how to fly using instruments only and to ensure that they used only the instruments, the cockpits were hooded.

(contd.)

The aeroplane was hit by another and both two man crews were killed. Alan was buried along with the others with full military honours in South Cerney, Gloucestershire near the scene of the crash.

My husband's sister was heavily involved in local history in York, as well as family history and I understand she must have inherited Alan's possessions from her mother. Her interest gave her the incentive to research Alan's service in more detail and the extent of her research suddenly came to light when we received Alan's personal effects. His flying cap and service insignia (see photographs below) were well preserved.

His log books (see below) showed considerable detail of his service record including details of the bombing raids and the various types of aircraft he flew including the Whitley and Halifax bombers. After the war he flew Dakotas on supply missions.

Alan reached the rank of Flight Lieutenant and it was ironic that having survived the Second World War he was killed in that way.



(contd.)



YEAR	1944	AIRCRAFT	Type	No.	PILOT OR 1ST PILOT	2ND PILOT, PURSUIT OR PASSENGER	DUTY (INCLUDING RESULTS AND REMARKS)	DAY	
								DATE	TIME
JUNE	16	WHITLEY V	8 218	19 O.T.U. K49 635	SELF	CONVERSION 7 4385	128.43	401.34	
	17	WHITLEY V	6822			"	4 4385		
	17	WHITLEY V	6822	SELF	CLAN	"	2 4385		
	18	WHITLEY V	634	170 SNEEDON	SELF	"	6 4385		
	19	WHITLEY V	6822			"	3 4385		
	20	WHITLEY V	6822			"	6 4385		
	21	WHITLEY V	218			REMARKS 6 4385			
	22	WHITLEY V	236	170 SNEEDON		RE MARKETS ST. BODICE 407046			
	23	WHITLEY V	682	SELF		407046			
	24	WHITLEY V	639						
JULY	5	WHITLEY V	218			RE. K49 REV.			
	6	WHITLEY V	639			RE. K49 REV.			
	7	WHITLEY V	639			RE. K49 REV.			
	8	WHITLEY V	218			RE. K49 REV.			
	9	WHITLEY V	509	170 SNEEDON	SELF + CREW	NIGHT CONVERSION 7 4385			
	10	WHITLEY V	218	170 SNEEDON		6 4385			
	11	WHITLEY V	634			8 4385			
	12	WHITLEY V	639			5 4385			
	13	WHITLEY V	639	SELF		4 4385			
	14	WHITLEY V	639	170 SNEEDON	SELF + CREW	6 4385			
GRAND TOTAL (Total 1 to 100)								401.34	

COUSINS, ARE THEY REALLY THERE?

By Alan Rowland

Why are we so interested, even at times obsessed, with the multitudinous cousins that we all possess?

With the arrival of D.N.A. tests, smart telephones/tablets etc. and the masses of results that they generate, it seems that each cousin has to be researched and if each individual cannot be tracked down to the n^{th} degree, despair reigns!

But the question remains why – are we hoping to discover a flock of black sheep, a famous connection or even royalty?

Do these myriads of ‘ordinary’ cousins really add to our family history? Apart from adding peripheral names to trees, what does their inclusion really achieve? Yes they are related to us but with each generational removal the points of commonality grow weaker and in a sense less relevant.

Surely the real interest is tracing our family back through the direct blood lines, after all they are where we come from and make us what we are.

Is it true that to complete your family tree you would have to include every match thrown up by D.N.A. whether or not you can prove that the indications are in fact true? Can we ever be sure that every member of your ancestry is accounted for? And don’t forget there may be cousins out there who are related to you but if they haven’t performed a D.N.A. test they will never show up in your results.

Given that cousin research will continue, if anyone does stumble upon a particularly interesting individual why not share your discovery with us by writing it down and submitting it for inclusion in the journal.

Also we would be interested to know of your research experiences following a D.N.A. test: did it help or provide something you did not previously know? Did it answer or create further family questions? Did it prove that an individual from previous research was part of your family history? Let’s have a discussion across our journal pages!

HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The 38th Annual General Meeting to be held on

Thursday 19th March 2026, 2.30 pm at

Hillingdon Baptist Church, Hercies Road, Hillingdon

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence.
- 2 Minutes of the 37th A.G.M. held Thursday 20th March 2025
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Treasurer's Report
- 6 Election of Officers
- 7 President
- 8 Chairman
- 9 Vice Chairman
- 10 Administrative Secretary
- 11 Treasurer

Executive Committee (maximum 15 members), the following are proposed:

Alan Rowland; Valerie Fitch; Paula Hill

Appointment of Auditor

Any other business

Nominations for the above should be with the Administrative Secretary, Gill May by 16th February 2026.

(contd.)

HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Minutes of the 37th A.G.M. held on Thursday 20th March 2025

Apologies for absence from John Symons, Mary Ghrist, Jill Boyd, Sue Hampshire and Rosemary Hall

Minutes of the 36th A.G.M. held on Thursday 21st March 2024.

Proposed by Alan Mellor and seconded by Alan Rowland.

There were no matters arising.

The Acting Chairman's report (printed in the June 2025 journal) was read by Charles Hampshire and accepted. Proposed by Jenny Mundy and seconded by Alan Mellor.

The Hon. Treasurer provided the unaudited accounts which will be issued in the June journal. Proposed by Gill May and seconded by Chris Allum.

The following Officers were elected:

President	:	Michael Gandy
Chairman	:	Vacant
Vice-Chairman	:	John Symons
Administrative Secretary	:	Gill May
Treasurer	:	Charles Hampshire

Proposed and accepted unanimously.

A vote of thanks was expressed to Michael Gandy for continuing as President.

The following, together with the above, were elected to the Executive committee:

Alan Rowland	Valerie Fitch	Paula Hill
--------------	---------------	------------

All the committee were proposed and accepted unanimously..

Appointment of Auditor

Both previous auditors are suffering from ill health. Charles Hampshire examined the bookstall accounts and Gill May examined the No 1 account. This was unanimously accepted.

Any other business. Nothing.

QUIZ ANSWERS

QUARREL PICKER A glazier

RANSACKER Worker who sorted or overhauled fishing nets brought into a net warehouse for repairs (East Anglia)

MILESTONE INSPECTOR A vagrant.

MONDAY MAN One who works for a landowner on Mondays in lieu of rent.

SAGGAR MAKER Pottery worker who made fireclay containers in which fire stoneware was placed, prior to being fired in the oven.

Hopefully, besides being of general interest and providing a little amusement this series might have answered a question or two as to what the recorded occupation of an ancestor really meant!

A TALK – USING RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN FAMILY HISTORY

Report by John Symons

A Zoom Talk was given by Phil Isherwood on Thursday 17th July 2025 to Hillingdon FHS.

Most of us do family history research by instinct. Our speaker showed that whilst there was nothing wrong with this approach, a more structured methodology could well help us with ways of ensuring that all the relevant information available is brought to bear on problems we all face. We need methods that are consistent, repeatable and thorough. *(contd.)*

Phil's contention is that this topic is not well represented in family history books and publications. He compared it with books written on the use of sources to underpin our research which are of course essential for accuracy. There are fewer guides that show how to use these sources and associated data to minimise cases which seem unsolvable or to draw false conclusions which is worse. We need to understand how to extract information from available sources to use them as evidence to support a theory and then to develop them into proof.

To illustrate this Phil used a case study from his own family in Lancashire.

This involved a woman shown on a marriage certificate about whom Phil knew little except that on the subsequent census she was shown as being born in Ireland. He could however find no matching records to conclusively show who she was.

The method Phil used was firstly to identify the research objective, in this case the identity of the woman, her earlier life, a record of her birth and the names of her parents. What then was the precise sticking point and what needed to be done to move this forward.

His proposal was to create a timeline to see if there were any gaps left unfilled.

These could be, for example, other censuses, information about another member of the immediate family, probate information etc. Anything in fact that might shed some light on the individual under review.

Old information needs to be rechecked in case recent data might give additional details not available when the problem was first diagnosed.

Phil listed everything he had found in chronological order to see if clues or trends emerge that suggest a different line of enquiry. He suggests that one particular piece of data that you should never overlook are given names. This more often applies to women but sometimes to men as well. Although someone may appear under a variety of names, check which are used and when. Anyone who appears with a name variation never used by your target individual is unlikely to be the correct one. *(contd.)*

Look for information that may be shown once but not repeated. This is less likely to be the correct answer.

In the example Phil showed us there were four different historic candidates who might have gone on to become the woman he was looking for. His method was to look at each of the candidates to see if any evidence supported their claim to be the correct person. In so doing he was able to dismiss three out of the four as in each case some elements did not match those shown on the marriage certificate. He then checked all possible examples post marriage to ensure that other information would rule them out. Finally having eliminated all other possible outcomes he was left with just one match.

He then advised writing down your method so that if anyone wishes to know how you arrived at your conclusions will be clear to them.

In this case he was thrown off track by the 1901 census that gave a birth place as Ireland but when all the available censuses were checked it would have been clear that this was erroneous because all the other censuses gave Liverpool as the birth place. This was shown to be correct, although she was of Irish extraction.

So a thorough examination of all the evidence and not just concentrating on the first you find should provide sustainable proof to properly identify a person. Many of us do this instinctively but Phil showed how a more meticulous approach minimises the risk of false outcomes.

A TALK – THE HISTORY OF THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL

Report by John Symons

On Thursday 18th September 2025 Jane King gave this talk to Hillingdon F.H.S. Jane was a guide on tours around the present museum which stands on the site of the Foundling Hospital in London. *(contd.)*

She told us all about the institution founded in 1739 to care for infants who had been abandoned or were at risk of abandonment

The hospital was founded by Henry Coram, a philanthropist, who was concerned about the number of infants being abandoned by mothers who could not or would not care for their children. Having an illegitimate child then led to social shame and stigma for the mothers so they were very much under pressure and abandonment was often the unfortunate result.

The demand was greatest in London and consequently he needed land to build a hospital based on similar institutions in other European cities. For this he needed funds and a Royal Charter.

There was at the outset much opposition to these plans because it was felt it would contribute to prostitution. Eventually in 1739 a site had been identified just outside the then city borders called Lambs Conduit Fields in an orchard which was considered to be a suitable environment.

When the hospital first opened the demand for their services far exceeded the available places and so a ballot was adopted to decide which children could be admitted. Those admitted were given new names but a means of identification including a unique number was also kept so that mothers who later wanted to reclaim their children could do so.

Central London was not the only place where the demand for care existed and so subsidiary or branch hospitals were opened in other towns and cities across the country.

In our June 2024 issue, our Secretary, Gill May, wrote about her ancestor, Henry Rowley, who was initially admitted into one of the branch hospitals in Shrewsbury before being transferred to London. A photograph of the Shrewsbury Foundling Hospital appears on the front cover of that issue.

Children were often named after famous people of that era. They would then have been baptised using that name. Following this the children would usually be sent out to be fostered to approved families. After typically returning to the hospital they received schooling until they were apprenticed out, boys to various trades and girls as domestic servants.

(contd.)

The apprenticeships continued to be monitored until completion to ensure that the children were receiving the necessary skills to find employment and therefore be able to support themselves.

The artist William Hogarth was a founding governor of the charity and an active one. His involvement raised the profile of the Foundling Hospital and the publicity enabled it to gain better financial support. He also donated both money and artworks. Many of these works remain on display in the museum to the present day. They represent one of the largest mid-18th century collection of portraits in the country. The composer Handel arranged a musical performance to raise funds for the Hospital. A children's choir was also formed.

The Hospital outgrew its original site and was moved out of London, first to Reigate in Surrey and then to Berkhamstead in Hertfordshire from 1936 to 1952. When the original building was demolished a museum and playground was formed to occupy part of the original site.

This museum is open for visits to show more about the history of the Hospital and the ongoing work of the Charity. Their website shows more about this: <https://foundlingmuseum.org.uk/>

Jane embellished her account with numerous illustrations which added another dimension. She recommended a visit and at the time of writing the Society is arranging a group visit which promises to be very interesting.

A TALK – FORGOTTEN WOMEN

Report by John Symons

On 16th October 2025 Janet Few gave a Zoom talk to the society. A welcome return by Janet Few, this time to talk about women on the margins of society, or as she put it, 'misfortunate' women.

She started out with the undeniable premise that women have always been under represented in historical records. Women rarely left a will and they sometimes didn't even appear as mothers on early baptismal records. You might have thought that they had a significant role in the birth process but apparently not. Much later on many birth announcements in newspapers also mentioned only the fathers' names. Girls had fewer apprenticeships than boys. There were many more such instances with the end result is that you are less likely to find your female ancestors recorded as you their masculine equivalents.

If you do however find your women ancestors recorded it may well be in a less than flattering way. Here Janet suggested some of the headings that might occur:

Criminality: Illegitimacy: Poverty: Mental Illness: Disability:
Prostitution: Ethnicity: Witchcraft.

Janet made the point that while you will probably want to tell the full story of your ancestors, warts and all, you also need to bear in mind the sensibilities of others who may not share your delight in finding, for example, a criminal in the family. This echoes my own experience when my cousin and I were pleased to uncover a wealth of documentation associated with the arrest, trial and conviction of 2 x great grandfather which did not sit well with my great aunt! It is a matter of judgement but you do need to be aware of the feelings of others who share this ancestor and might not view your findings in the same light.

(contd.)

Taking criminality, often the first clue you will come across is in newspaper reports. They are often pleased to cover misdeeds especially if women are involved and any salacious details that will help sell copies will be reported in full.

Often the source will be court reports and whilst the newspapers will provide an indication of what occurred, there are some online sources which will provide full reports such as the proceedings of the Central Criminal Court from 1674 to 1913 available at:

<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>

The names you will find here are indexed and not just the defendants but also victims and witnesses.

Other records include the Habitual Criminals' Register, Prison Records and Calendars of Prisoners some of which have been digitised as part of an agreement with the National Archives and are available on the major commercial websites.

The next category is illegitimacy and the stigma attached to this should not be underestimated. Local parishes were often very concerned about this as the charge for bringing up an unsupported child would usually fall to them, unless of course the father could be found. It would therefore often fall to the woman to name the father and he might be served with a bastardy bond requiring payment of a set amount to cover some of the expense involved in raising a child. Although these records should appear in the parish chest collections often they are missing but you might be lucky. Such women are definitely on the margins of society and here Janet gave one example of a woman who was also involved with criminality and alcoholism. It was quite a sordid tale.

Often overlapping with illegitimacy is the issue of poverty. Prior to 1834 the responsibility for dealing with poor people lay with the parish. Poor relief was administered by the Overseers of The Poor but would only look after those with settled residency in their own parish. If they had arrived from elsewhere removal orders would be issued for their return to their parish of origin.

(contd.)

Children under the care of the parish would be given parish apprenticeships once they reached working age but for girls this usually meant training for domestic service. Boys would typically apprenticed out for other skills such as carpenters or wheelwrights.

After 1834 and the establishment of union workhouses where parishes pooled their resources to provide for larger institutions, workhouse records offer a valuable insight into the conditions afforded to the inmates as well as recording the individuals themselves. These are also usually deposited at local record offices and many are now available online (some from the Hillingdon Union may be found on Ancestry).

For those with mental problems county asylums were established from the 1840s and their records are also kept at county record offices. In London there was the Bethlem Royal Hospital and in both cases records are remarkably detailed with patient admissions, case books and so on. I have seen some of these and they are some of the most comprehensive records you will be able to find. Those with disabilities are often under other headings such as workhouses etc.

You will be unlikely to find prostitution given as an occupation but they can often be inferred from information given on the censuses and other sources.

Janet then highlighted the women from other countries or travellers who moved around. They may not often be encountered but are likely to be recorded as something out of the ordinary on parish records. Witches used to be persecuted and witchcraft was outlawed in earlier times.

The talk included numerous case studies highlighting many of the issues covered by the talk. Janet has also written a book 'Tracing Your Marginalised Ancestors' which gives a full account of the themes covered in her talk. A full list of the sources used and other information is given in her handout here:

<https://thehistoryinterpreter.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/marginalised-women-handout.pdf>

(contd.)

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

By Val Fitch

How quickly the years pass! It's nearly Christmas again! Although it must be said some shops have been selling their festive stock since August!

Our Society continues to function well and although we have lost nine members this year, we have welcomed thirteen. It's always a good sign when we gain more members than we lose. Not only does it help our finances but by maintaining and growing our numbers the society ensures its existence.

At this time of year, we remind members that their membership subscription is due for renewal on the 1st January 2026. It is with regret, that this year we have to increase the subscription. Not a big increase, but an increase all the same made necessary by increased costs including postage stamps, hire of hall etc. If we don't increase subscriptions our finances may well go into the red and we believe that the members definitely don't want that to happen!

The new subscription rates are:-

FOR U.K.

Individual Member with printed journal	<i>from £15 to £16.00</i>
--	---------------------------

Individual member with pdf journal	<i>from £12 to £13.00</i>
------------------------------------	---------------------------

Joint membership with printed journal	<i>from £18 to £20.00</i>
---------------------------------------	---------------------------

Joint membership with pdf journal	<i>from £15 to £17.00</i>
-----------------------------------	---------------------------

FOR REST of the WORLD with pdf journal	<i>from £12 to £13.00 (sterling)</i>
--	--------------------------------------

Enclosed with this journal is a Renewal Form which gives you all the details of the various ways of paying. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to 'Hillingdon Family History Society' (In full please, NOT just initials) and send it to me. My address is on the Renewal Form and the back page of the journal.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER- W92 Joan Ward from Eastcote

It just remains for me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

RESEARCH AND HELP BY H.F.H.S.

RESEARCH.

We can undertake, both for members and non-members, limited investigations at the London Metropolitan Archives, the National Archives and other London record offices.

Members are charged £5.00 per hour (non-members £10.00 per hour) plus any expenses incurred i.e. copying, postage etc. Should you choose to this service please be specific as to your requirements together with the upper limit of expenditure. You must appreciate that if the investigation produces no results the charges will still apply.

HELP.

We also offer help if you have become 'stuck' at some point in your researches. If you believe that there is a connection with our corner of Middlesex, we may have local knowledge that might help. However, in this modern age of the internet we are not restricted to Hillingdon or indeed Middlesex. This service is free to members and for non-members a charge of £2.00 is made for each family name forming the help request.

If you wish to use either of these services, please list out your requirements with as much detail as possible (names, dates, locations etc) and send to the society either by email on:

enquiries@hfhs.org.uk

or by mail addressed to: **Mrs. Valerie Fitch,**

43 Doncaster Drive, Northolt, Middlesex. HA5 4AT

DON'T FORGET THIS FACILITY

A gentle reminder, our website carries a number of other societies' journals which can be viewed in the Members' Area. Others will be added when received.

FROM SOCIETIES IN ENGLAND	
Airedale and Wharfedale F.H.S.	Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies
Barnsley F.H.S.	Felixstowe F.H.S.
Bedfordshire F.H.S.	Lancashire F.H.S.
Berkshire F.H.S.	Nottinghamshire F.H.S.
Calderdale F.H.S.	Waltham Forest F.H.S.
Cheshire F.H.S.	West Middlesex F.H.S.
Chesterfield and District F.H.S.	Weston-Super-Mare F.H.S.
Doncaster F.H.S.	
FROM SOCIETIES IN SCOTLAND	
Aberdeen F.H.S.	
FROM SOCIETIES IN WALES	
Glamorgan F.H.S.	
FROM SOCIETIES IN CANADA	
Alberta F.H.S.	
British Columbia Genealogical Society F.H.S.	
FROM SOCIETIES IN AUSTRALIA	
Heraldry and Genealogical Society of Canberra	South Australia Genealogy Society
Richmond Tweed F.H.S.	

THESE RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE ON CD – ROM		Cost
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Baptisms 1538–1877		5.50
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Burials 1538–1877		5.50
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Marriages 1558–1841		5.50
St. Mary's Church, Harefield, Middlesex. Monumental Inscriptions.		5.50
St. Laurence Church, Cowley, Middlesex. Monumental Inscriptions.		5.50
Holy Trinity Church, Northwood, Middx. Monumental Inscriptions.		5.50
St. Martin's Church, West Drayton, Middx. Monumental Inscriptions.		5.50
The Church School, Ickenham, Middx. Pupils & Teachers 1873–1929		5.50
St. John's Church, Hillingdon, Middx. Burials 1903–1924		5.50
THESE MIDDLESEX RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE AS FICHE SETS		
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Baptisms 1538–1877 (set of 4)		4.00
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Burials 1538–1877 (set of 2)		2.00
St. Giles' Church, Ickenham. Parish Registers. Marriages 1558–1841 (set of 1)		1.00
St. Mary's Church, Harefield, Monumental Inscriptions. (set of 3)		3.00
St. Laurence Church, Cowley, Monumental Inscriptions. (set of 2)		2.00
Holy Trinity Church, Northwood, Monumental Inscriptions. (set of 2)		2.00
St. Martin's Church, West Drayton, Monumental Inscriptions. (set of 1)		1.00
The Church School, Ickenham, Pupils & Teachers 1873–1929 (set of 2)		2.00
Middlesex Sessions Records (Hillingdon Extracts) (set of 2)		2.00

Please add postage and packaging as follows:

For each set of fiche £1.50

For each CD–ROM to UK address £2.00

For airmail costs to overseas addresses..... Email Mrs. G. May

Cheques should be in pounds STERLING, crossed A/C payee and made payable to Hillingdon Family History Society.

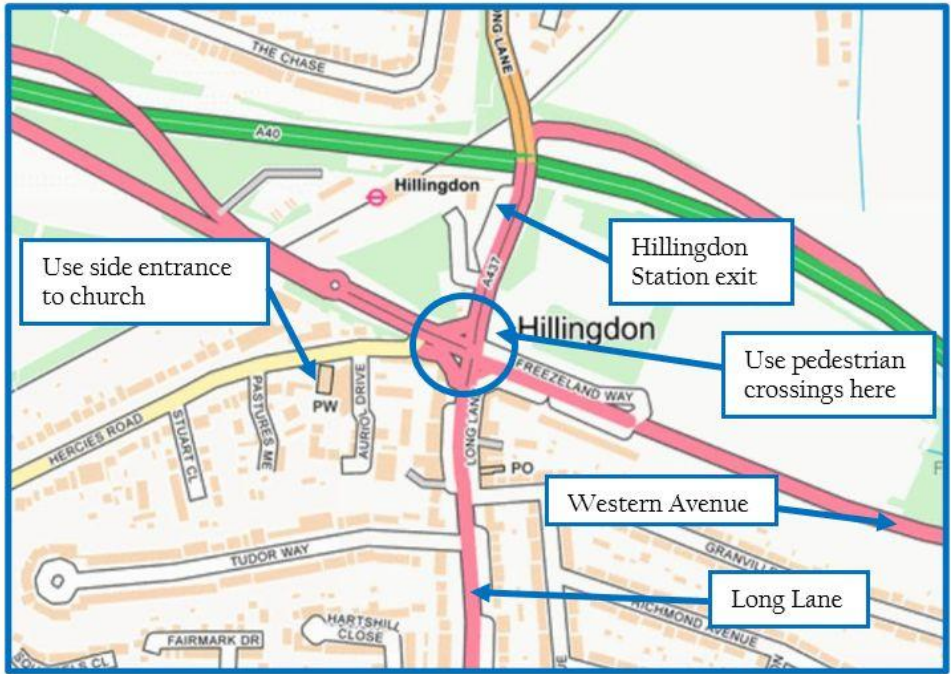
The publications can be obtained from:

Mrs. Gill May, 20 Moreland Drive, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 8BB

Telephone: 01753 885602 Email: Gillianmay375@gmail.com

or alternatively visit this on–line bookshop: www.parishchest.com

WHERE TO FIND US



Hillingdon Park Baptist Church, 25 Hercies Road, Hillingdon, Middlesex. UB10 9LS

By Car: The Church has a very small car park that can be reached via Auriol Drive and there is a public car park on the eastern side of Long Lane: entry alongside the Co-op store or via the exit slip road off the A40 from London.

By Public Transport: The nearest T.F.L. station is Hillingdon which is within easy walking distance of the Church. There is also a frequent bus service, the U2, which stops outside the Church. Please note the main entrance to the Church is on the side of the Church and our Research Room is on the 1st floor.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Michael Gandy, B.A., F.S.G.	
<i>Chairman</i>	Vacant	
<i>Acting Chairman</i>	John Symons 11 Wye Close, Ruislip, Middlesex. HA4 7RQ	01895 677722
<i>Secretary</i>	Gill May 20 Moreland Drive, Gerrards Cross, Bucks. SL9 8BB	01753 885602
<i>Treasurer/ Publicity</i>	Charles Hampshire 4 Barrington Drive, Harefield, Middlesex. UB9 6RL	01895 821351

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<i>Membership Secretary and Librarian</i>	Valerie Fitch, 43 Doncaster Drive, Northolt, Middlesex UB5 4AT	0208 864 4980
<i>Programme Secretary</i>	Paula Hill Email: Paula.hill3@hotmail.co.uk	Mobile 07714568569

Journal Editors John Symons and Alan Rowland

Projects Vacant

Website: www.hfhs.org.uk
Email: enquiries@hfhs.org.uk

Printed by: ***FLEXPRESS***

0116 267 6269

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON



The London Borough of Hillingdon is the most Westerly of the Greater London Boroughs. It is bounded by the counties of Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey and was formed from nine ancient these Middlesex parishes: Cowley, Harefield, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Ickenham, Ruislip and West Drayton.

Hillingdon embraces a mixture of Greater London suburbs: ancient, modern, large and small, each with its own distinctive identity. In the South of the borough lies Heathrow Airport.

Other localities within the borough are: Colham Green, Eastcote, Longford, Northwood, Ruislip Manor, Sipson, South Ruislip, Uxbridge, Yeading and Yiewsley.

Most of the parish registers for the original Anglican parishes and some more recently created, are deposited at the London Metropolitan. Archives and can be viewed online at Ancestry. Many of the monumental inscriptions in the churchyards have been transcribed and may be searched on Findmypast under the 'Middlesex Monumental Inscriptions' dataset.

*If undelivered please return to: Mrs. V Fitch,
43 Doncaster Drive, Northolt, Middlesex UB5 4AT*