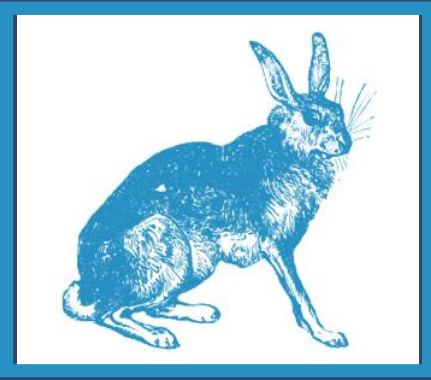


Harefield History Society



NEWSLETTER No. 17

January 2025

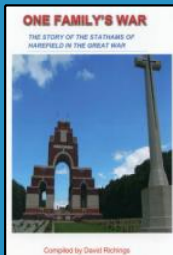
Staying in touch with members and friends of the Harefield History Society around the world.

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B. Winstone & Sons Ltd

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newspaper report of the opening of
the Harefield Sanatorium

Editorial

Not for the first time, I start with an apology for the lack of a newsletter during the summer break. I always start the year with good intentions but with the best will in the world, not everything always goes to plan.

I also offer apologies for the mix-up which caused the first meeting of the season in September to be cancelled at short notice. So short, in fact, that it wasn't possible to arrange a replacement programme.

However, I am pleased to say that in October we were royally entertained by **Chris Hillier** from the Rickmansworth Historical Society (who has promised to come back one day with more interesting stories, if we wish and which we do!).

Then in November we had a visit from **David Ray**, a member of the team that runs the Ruislip Lido Railway. He brought back many happy memories as he transported a packed audience through over 100 years in the life of the Lido.

You will see in the panel below that, not for the first time, we kick off the new year with a talk from me. This year it is something completely different to anything I have done before. It is a talk about the famous English poet **Geoffrey Chaucer**. Please don't be put off if you think this will be too highbrow. If you are an academic who has studied the Canterbury Tales (which I am certainly not) you will know what's coming, but if not, please be prepared for the surprise I discovered when I did the research. (I will explain why I chose this subject when I begin the talk).

Programme for 2025

Jan 27th "The life & times of Geoffrey Chaucer & his Canterbury Tales" by
Andy Harris

Feb 24th "Behaviour Unbecoming" by **Paul Davidson** (Hillingdon Museums
and Archives)

Mar 24th "Winston Churchill" by Nick Hardey

Apr 28th "A talk (subject tbc)" by Keith Piercy

May 19th AGM followed by "A talk (subject tbc)" by Robert Goodchild

Newsletter Editor:- Andy Harris

(13 Pond Close, Harefield, Uxbridge, Middx, UB9 6NG)

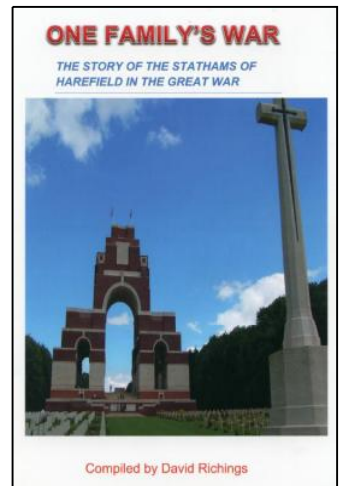
Website:- www.harefieldhistorysociety.co.uk

Email Address:- harefieldhistorysociety@virginmedia.com

Three years ago we ran a major article (*in newsletter no.12*) about the Statham family whose origins in Harefield date back to the middle of the 19th century. The story came from a book, **One family's War**, written by **David Richings**. The Richings, who came from Rickmansworth, are closely related to the Stathams through two marriages in the early 20th century.

The family we are interested in here is **William and Elizabeth** Statham who brought up their ten children in Hill End. By the outbreak of WW1, Elizabeth was already a widow and the book traces what happened to her five sons.

Third son, **George**, proved the most challenging to research. He was eventually tracked down to Australia where he had emigrated for work in 1911. In 1915, the Australian Imperial Force was established and George was one of the first to enlist. He saw action at the disastrous Battle of Fromelles where he was killed on July 20th 1916. His body was never identified.



I have now received an update to this story from David Richings who writes as follows:-

I have been contacted recently by the Australian Army who are engaged in a project to identify their missing soldiers who were killed at the Battle of Fromelles on the Western Front in 1916. In 2010 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission opened a new cemetery at Pheasant Wood in Fromelles for 250, mainly Australian soldiers, but also some British, whose remains were recovered in 2009 from several mass pits where they were buried by the Germans. Quite a lot have been identified - I assume from name tags etc - but there are 59 remaining, and the Australian Army hope that the DNA of relatives might unlock the secret. That was why they contacted me, because I had put my name on their database of people willing to see if they might be a DNA match. Apparently my male line to George Statham (he was my grandmother's brother) will not work but apparently the DNA of one of my female cousins would. So one of the latter has agreed to do a DNA test.

I'm not over confident that George would be among the Pheasant Wood group because I included in my book an apparent eye-witness account of his death on the battlefield, and subsequent burial. But in the fog of war, who knows? Anyway, they are still searching the battlefield for remains so our family DNA on the database may help at some time, if not now.

The Fromelles Association of Australia has a copy of my book and someone is writing George's story, hopefully to coincide with the identification of his remains. But the story will still be published on their website, even if there is not a clear DNA match.

Isn't it incredible that after nearly 120 years they are still looking for a son of Harefield?!

Queries Received - Can You Help?

From:- **Julie Isard-Brown** who is trying to find out any information on the **Hibbert** family, who were farriers in Harefield in the late 18th century. Their names are **Stephen and Eleanor Hibbeard** (various spellings), married in 1770, and their children born between 1771-1779, one of whom was **Daniel**. Daniel's son (also Daniel) moved away to London. He is my ancestor through his third wife, Elizabeth. I am trying to research his forebears. Does anyone have links or knowledge of the Hibbert family?

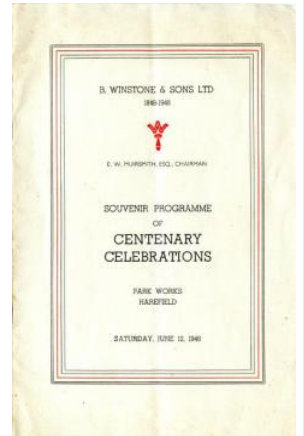
From:- **Michael Rowe**, who has been researching the **Pulteneys** for many years and has written the DNB entries on most of them. It is always believed that **Daniel Pulteney** died at Harefield in 1731 at his father's house but, he can find no evidence of where they lived. He would like to be put in contact with anyone who might know of **Daniel or John Pulteney** living in Harefield in the early 18th century.

(Answers to the editor, please. Thanks)

B. Winstone & Sons Ltd

Historical research is an interesting and often rewarding experience, particularly when it concerns the relatively recent history of Harefield. However, there are times when it can be very frustrating. Here is a case in point where the journey starts with some definite facts but which, so far, I have been unable to connect with any other known information.

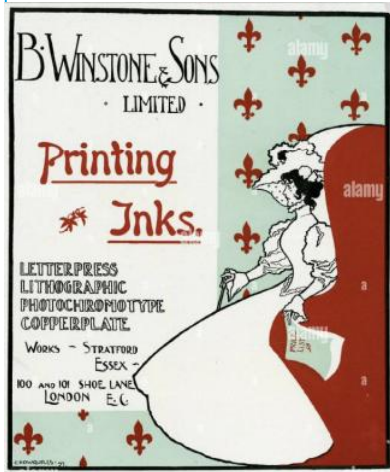
The starting point in this case is a document I found in the society archives concerning the centenary celebrations of a company called **B. Winstone & Sons Ltd** held at their premises at **Park Works, Harefield** on Saturday 12th June 1948. (*The Park Works site is at the bottom of Park Lane roughly where Salamander Quay now is*).



HISTORICAL DATA	
Before 1848	A Mr. Foster invented an ink-distributing device for cylinder machines. This possibly led him to an interest in Printing Ink.
1848	Mr. James Foster, son of the above, joined with Dr. Benjamin Winstone and together they entered upon the business of Printing Ink Manufacturers under the title: Foster & Winstone. Their premises were in James Street, Walsworth.
1852	The business expanded to such a degree that more convenient premises were soon required, and a building site was acquired in Shoe Lane and larger and better premises erected.
1856	In consequence of restrictions in the scope of manufacture, factory premises were secured at Stratford where there was freedom to manufacture Black, Varnish and other ingredients of Printing Ink.
1870	On the death of Mr. Foster, Dr. B. Winstone carried on the business under his own name.
1876	He was joined by his son, Ernest H. Winstone.
1884	A second son, Arthur B. Winstone, joined the business. It was at this point that the title of the firm was changed to B. Winstone & Sons.
1897	On January 1st the firm was converted into a limited liability company—B. Winstone & Sons, Ltd.
1928	The Shoe Lane premises secured the Company's requirements for many years, but during this year further premises were secured in Shoe Lane on either side of the original building to house the developing activities.
1930	An island site was acquired abutting on Clerkenwell Road, Eyre Street Hill, Summer Street and Back Hill Street.
1932	On this, Winstone House, a 1,000,000 cubic ft. modern building, was erected with amenities which would doubtless have staggered the Founder of the Company. Although this building secured commodious beyond any possible requirements, the few years since its erection have shown further development in Winstone's premises.
1945	Winstone House became overcrowded and fresh accommodation was secured at 50 Stamford Street, London, S.E.
1946	The purchase of Park Works, Harefield opens up a further vista of activity and this 15 acre factory together with Winstone House and Stratford before long will be filled in every corner with activity directed towards supplying our customer's requirements.
1948	Completes our first Century.

The document is the programme for a day-long event for staff, beginning at 11am with a tour of the Park Works Factory and finishing in the evening with a dance ending at 9pm. The document, very helpfully, includes a detailed history of the company which says that the Park Works site was bought in 1946. It also says that the company's head office, originally in Shoe Lane, London, was, from 1932, located in a purpose built block on the Clerkenwell Road called **Winstone House**, with an overflow office in Stamford Street acquired in 1945.

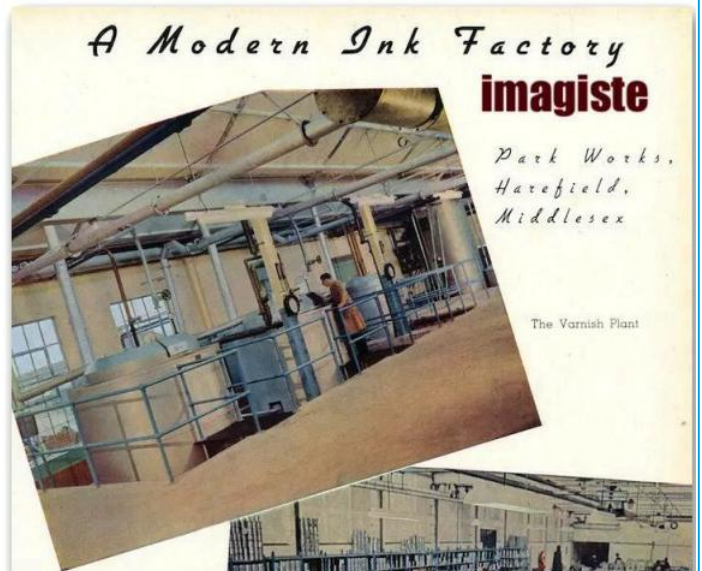
A quick internet search found that Winstone's business was printing ink and had been so since the company's beginning in 1848. Here are five examples of their work, two from 1897 and one each from 1905, 1930 and 1950. The latter shows the factory at Harefield.



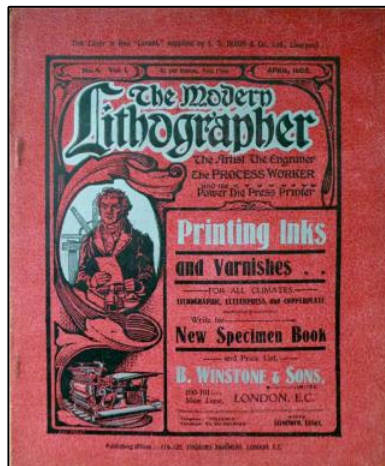
1898



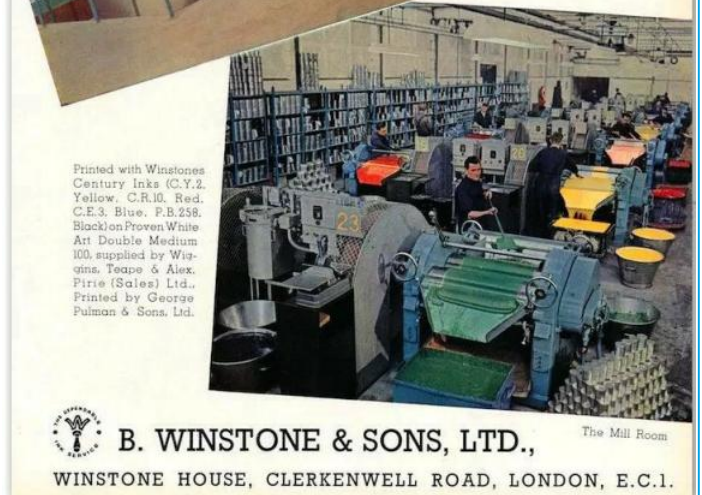
1898



1930



1905



1950

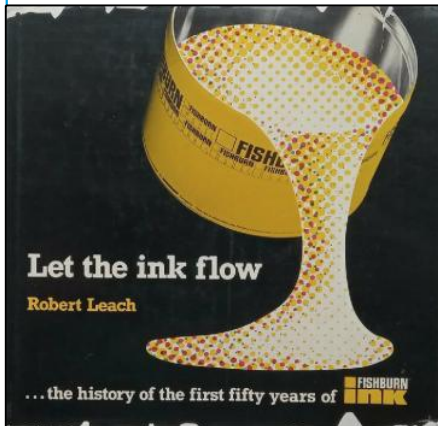
(continued →)

All the offices sites have been redeveloped since the Winstone days and the only nod to the past appears to be at the Stamford Street address where there is a pub called the **Fountain & Ink**.



The mystery is, that I can find no mention of B. Winstone & Sons Ltd in any of the many books, research papers and photographs in the HHS archives. The next occupier of the Park Works site was Croda Inks and it might be reasonable to assume that Croda bought the business from Winstone. However, I can find no evidence to confirm this anywhere on the Croda UK or Croda International websites.

Another curiosity is that in the Hillingdon Unitary Development Plan of 1998, in paragraph 15.36, it says:-
 "... the **Croda/Fishburn Ink (Park Works)** site is an area of 3.24 hectares set away from the canal and is now a cleared site." So, here we have **Fishburn Ink** mentioned in connection with the Park Works site.



Fishburn Ink was obviously another player in the "Ink" world and was the subject of a book "*Let the Ink Flow: The History of the First Fifty Years of Fishburn Ink*" published in 1980. The registered address in the UK was a private house in Watford belonging to one of the directors. Also there was correspondence in the local Watford newspaper in 2020 with people sharing memories of working for Fishburn Ink. So, here is another mystery: "was there once a Fishburn Ink factory in Watford or were the people actually working at the Croda site in Harefield?" The Fishburn Ink company was dissolved in 2016.

If anyone has any information about anything in this article, I would love to know, thanks. Ed.

Found in the Archives

After the end of WW1, the hospital created by and for the ANZAC service personnel was purchased by the local council for use as a TB sanatorium. At first the wooden huts left behind by the ANZACs were reconfigured. These were eventually replaced by the permanent structure which forms the core of the current hospital. It was officially opened with the usual pomp and ceremony on 8th October 1937 and here is a newspaper article written shortly before the event.

ROYAL VISIT

Duke of Gloucester at Harefield

TO OPEN NEW SANATORIUM

When His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester opens the Harefield Sanatorium on Monday afternoon, he will visit the three blocks for men, women and children, and it is anticipated that other parts of the Sanatorium that will interest His Royal Highness will be the Recreation Hall, Dining Hall, and Administration Block.

The new Sanatorium has replaced the Australian Military Hospital—a collection of temporary buildings erected during the war—and embodies the very latest equipment which medical science has devised for the treatment and cure of tuberculosis.

The general layout is aeroplane shape in outline, and the buildings, chiefly in brick and concrete, provide accommodation for 378 patients.

When His Royal Highness arrives at

three o'clock, he will be received by Lord Rochdale C.B., Lord Lieutenant of the County. Those who will be immediately presented to him will be Sir Howard Button, D.L., J.P., (the High Sheriff), Mr. Forrester Clayton, J.P. (Chairman of the County Council), Mr. Gilfrid Craig, J.P. (vice-chairman of the County Council), Mrs. F. M. Baker, J.P. (Chairman of the Public Health Committee), Mrs. G. Barnes, J.P. (Chairman of the Sanatoria Subcommittee), and Mr. C. W. Radcliffe (clerk of the County Council).

The Chairman of the County Council will give an address of welcome to His Royal Highness and the Duke will reply and declare the Sanatorium open.

The Bishop of Kensington will then offer a prayer of dedication, and after the Duke has inspected various parts of the Sanatorium he will sign the Visitors' Book.

The above plan, which is reproduced by courtesy of Mr. W. T. Curtis, F.R.I.B.A., County Architect, shows the layout of the buildings, with the various sections numbered as follows: 1, Administration; 2, Women Patients; 3, Men Patients; 4, Children; 5, Recreation Hall, etc.; 6, Boiler House, etc.; 7, Observation; 8, Nurser' Home; 9, Mansion.