



HARPENDEN & DISTRICT  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 142  
DECEMBER 2020



# Front cover illustration: Brewery House, Harpenden

Photo: John Wassell, February 2020



Margaret Pratt

1936 - 2020

NEWSLETTER 142  
DECEMBER 2020

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**DEADLINE**

**Please note that the deadline for publication in Newsletter 143 is  
28 February 2021**

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## PROGRAMME FOR 2021

The Society's programme of talks for 2021 comprises those talks in the 2020 programme that had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Although it is hoped that this programme of talks will go ahead, they will of course be subject to any future COVID-19 restrictions. Updates will be announced on the Society's website and in future Newsletters.

As well as being subject to any future COVID-19 restrictions, the location of these meetings and future exhibitions may vary, depending upon the date at which the Society gains access to the new Cultural Centre in Rothamsted Park.

- |                |                                                                                                            |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 23rd     | 70 years On the Crest of a Wave: The History of the Harpenden Gang Show<br><b>Ewan Murray</b>              |
| April 27th     | Discover, Protect, Innovate, Inform - 175 years of the 'Arc & Arc'<br><b>speaker to be announced</b>       |
| May 25th       | Redbourn, 70 years ago, through the Lens of Harpenden's John Heather<br><b>John &amp; Pauline Ridgwell</b> |
| June 22nd      | St. Albans Town Hall: The Making of a Museum and Gallery<br><b>Sarah Keeling</b>                           |
| September 28th | Nursing: Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole<br><b>Colin Oakes</b>                                       |

October 26th            On and Off the Footplate  
                                 **Bill Davies**

November 23rd        Short contributions by members and refreshments

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

In the current challenging times, the Charity Commission have allowed charities some flexibility with regard to holding Annual General Meetings (AGM). Members agreed, following a consultation earlier in the summer, not to hold a physical AGM or one using ZOOM but that they were content to vote on resolutions presented to them by email or post. This is permissible both under the Society's new constitution as a Charitable Incorporated Institution and under Charity Commission regulations with an AGM being required by 22 November 2020

Members were circulated with the agenda and resolutions on 15 October 2020 and 68 votes on the resolutions proposed were received before 2 November 2020, the date set for the meeting. All 68 were cast in favour of each of the four resolutions included in the agenda papers sent to members. These resolutions concerned (1) the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019, (2) the reappointment of Trustees (as listed on the inside rear cover), (3) the resignation of Diana Parrott as a Trustee (Diana will continue to deal with enquiries concerning local history), and (4) the appointment of Christine Bristow as a Trustee and as Secretary.

The meeting was held remotely on 2 November 2020 by a quorum of Trustees and the Chairman noted that all the

resolutions had been approved by members and they were therefore passed.

## CHRISTINE BRISTOW

The Society welcomes Christine, whose appointment as a Trustee and as Secretary was confirmed at the 2020 AGM.



‘I was born in Sunderland in February 1955. At the age of 18, after ‘A’ levels I continued my studies at Southlands College of Education in Wimbledon where I trained to be a mathematics teacher. My first appointment was at an all-boys comprehensive school in Wandsworth – quite a baptism of fire for a young teacher! After a number of senior posts in Croydon, Enfield and St Albans I finally retired in 2003.

I have been married to John for 18 years and have two daughters, one step daughter and one granddaughter.

I am really looking forward to getting more involved with the History Society as it starts its new venture inside the Cultural Hub’.

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Pinner Local History Society    Newsletter 142    Summer 2020

Herts Past & Present            3<sup>rd</sup> series – issue 36    Autumn 2020  
Hertfordshire Association for Local History

The Hitchin Journal            Volume 30 no. 2    September 2020  
Hitchin Historical Society

## NEW MEMBERS

There are none to report since the issue of the last Newsletter. The Society extends its condolences to members who have lost loved ones during the current pandemic.

## ERRATA – NEWSLETTER 141

The caption to the photograph by Alan Bunting on page 6 of Newsletter 141 should read ‘Sports and Leisure Centre adjoining the swimming pool’.

The following was omitted from the top of page 16 in the printed issue of Newsletter 141 (August 2020):

‘resident in both Harpenden and St Albans, had any involvement in the business. The name Kingston has caused some confusion to’

The relationship between the Kingstons has since been found; see the history of the ‘northern’ brewery in this issue.

## WARINGTONS AT ROTHAMSTED

Robert Warington FRS, whose work on well waters was drawn upon for the article ‘Two Wells in Harpenden’ in the August 2020 Newsletter, was an agricultural chemist working at Rothamsted.

He was the father of Katherine Warington (1897-1993), in whose honour the new school at Batford has been named. Katherine also worked at Rothamsted after graduating in 1921 with a BSc (Hons) in Botany. She worked there until retirement, specialising in the effects of trace elements such as Boron on plants. For more information see the article on Katherine Warington in the Society’s website.

## MY YEAR AS MAYOR OF HARPENDEN: May 2018 to May 2019

A report by Joyce Bunting on the talk given to the Society by David Heritage at the meeting held on 28 January 2020.

David Heritage gave a resumé of his working background, which was mostly in retail and family business in locations across the country. For eighteen years he was a local councillor before taking up his year of mayoral duties.

“I had a magnificent year as Mayor,” he said. “I’d been Deputy Mayor twice, but still did not appreciate how much the position demanded. The Mayor is on call 24/7. Each week, there are 3 or

4 events to attend, and at Christmas 3 or 4 events on some days. It was hard work, but it was great fun.”

David listed some of the public events at which he had presided wearing the Mayoral Chain of Office: inaugurating The Harpenden and Southdown Christmas Carnivals, opening the refurbished play area at Oakley Road, judging the schools’ Public Speaking competitions, choosing names for the local Hopper Buses, attending the centenary party at Southdown and the local Christmas Pantomime - where he was called up on stage to find himself the butt of jokes, to everyone’s amusement. “The most moving event for me was lighting the beacon on the Common outside the Public Halls on 11th November 2018, to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.”

The Mayor always chooses a charity to support. “I decided on two charities - *Mencap* and *Hertfordshire Homeless* – and aimed to raise £10,000 between them.” He succeeded.

“Fancy a lad from Yorkshire becoming Mayor of Harpenden!” he said in conclusion.

Questions from the audience followed:

*Q: Did you have to make any difficult decisions as Town Mayor?*

A: “The worst was whether to cancel the Farmers Market on one occasion. I know how much work goes into setting up these markets and how much it means to the stall holders. That had to be balanced against the very bad weather forecast, the cost of insurance and danger to workers and shoppers. I decided to cancel it.”



David Heritage

*Q: What is the role of the Town Clerk in relation to the Mayor?*

A: “At one time the Town Clerk’s job was part time. Today the Town Clerk runs the town council, plus staff and finances, sorts out real problems and does all the legal stuff. The Town Clerk must consult the Council on important policy decisions. The post of Mayor is Leader of the Council and a ceremonial position.”

*Q: Does the Mayor have a guidance manual?*

A: “Yes, a Guide is issued by the Local Government Association. It lists offences which prohibit some actions.”

*Q: Have you ever had to use the Mayor’s vote as the casting vote in Council?*

A: “No, fortunately. It would be a difficult thing to do.”

*Q: At one time all Harpenden Town Councillors were independent of party. Wouldn't it be better if they were all independent now?*

A: "Probably. But it would be too expensive to get elected without party backing. Our councillors all work for the good of Harpenden." David also commented: "at present the Town Council is aiming to get more areas under its direct influence. We already have responsibility for managing the Commons and would like to take on Rothamsted Park."

Joyce Bunting

## MARGARET ANN PRATT

(18th August 1936 - 6th October 2020)

Margaret was born in Otley, Yorkshire but moved with the family to Dundee when her father, a Post Office engineer, was posted there. She had an older brother (Michael) who is still alive and who, with his extended family lives in Canada. Their mother died when they were quite young but their father married again.

She went to St Andrew's University but for some reason did not complete the course. However she obtained a position at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Pathological Laboratory when it was still at 28 Milton Road, Harpenden. Later it became, in purpose built labs at Hatching Green, the Plant Pathology Laboratory, or "Path Lab" (for short). She worked on potato wart disease which is a notifiable disease and therefore her work was most important and included being in charge of the testing of potato varieties for their susceptibility to the disease. She wrote a number of scientific papers on the

subject and also a thesis which allowed her to become a member of the Institute of Biology (now the Royal Society of Biology). Her work also included dealing with import licenses for plant material and she was promoted to the level of Higher Scientific Officer. Having reached the mandatory retirement age of 60 she left the Path Lab in 1996 so never worked at their new site near York.



Margaret enjoyed organising social events, including doing the catering, in particular some very successful dinner dances held at Rothamsted Manor. Some of these were for the Path Lab but others for Rothamsted personnel. She fully joined in the social life of Rothamsted and made many friends. She attended the Pavilion regularly, became an honorary life member of the Rothamsted Sports and Social Club after the Path Lab moved. She held her 80th birthday party at the Manor, again a successful (and nostalgic?) event but she didn't do the catering that time!

Margaret had wide ranging interests. Her interest in plants meant she liked gardening and wild flowers and relatively recently ran a wild flower course for Harpenden WEA. She was also keen on

fungi and enjoyed autumnal fungal forays. She was a member of the National Trust and Friends of Cosne-sur-Loire; the St Albans French Club and Harpenden Writers and probably other groups. When she was younger, despite a leg problem due to contracting polio in early life, she liked walking and lead a number of walking holidays, even one in Kashmir. She loved travel and often recalled a trip by car to Turkey with a group of young friends. In recent years it has been visits to France and to a family time share in Scotland.

As far as local history is concerned she was a member of Lionel Munby's WEA class on the Local History of Wheathampstead and Harpenden run 1969 -1973 and was therefore presumably a founder member of the H&DLHS which she supported for the rest of her life. She was co-opted to the Committee in 2012 and was Programme Secretary from 2013 to 2015, arranging an excellent list of speakers and successful outings.

Diana Parrott

## THE TWO BREWERIES OF HARPENDEN

### Part 2 – The Northern Brewery, 1836 - 1893

During the nineteenth century two commercial breweries operated in Harpenden from adjacent premises on the east side of the High Street. The two breweries were separately owned until 1893 when the northern brewery was purchased by Martha Mardall, owner of the southern brewery.

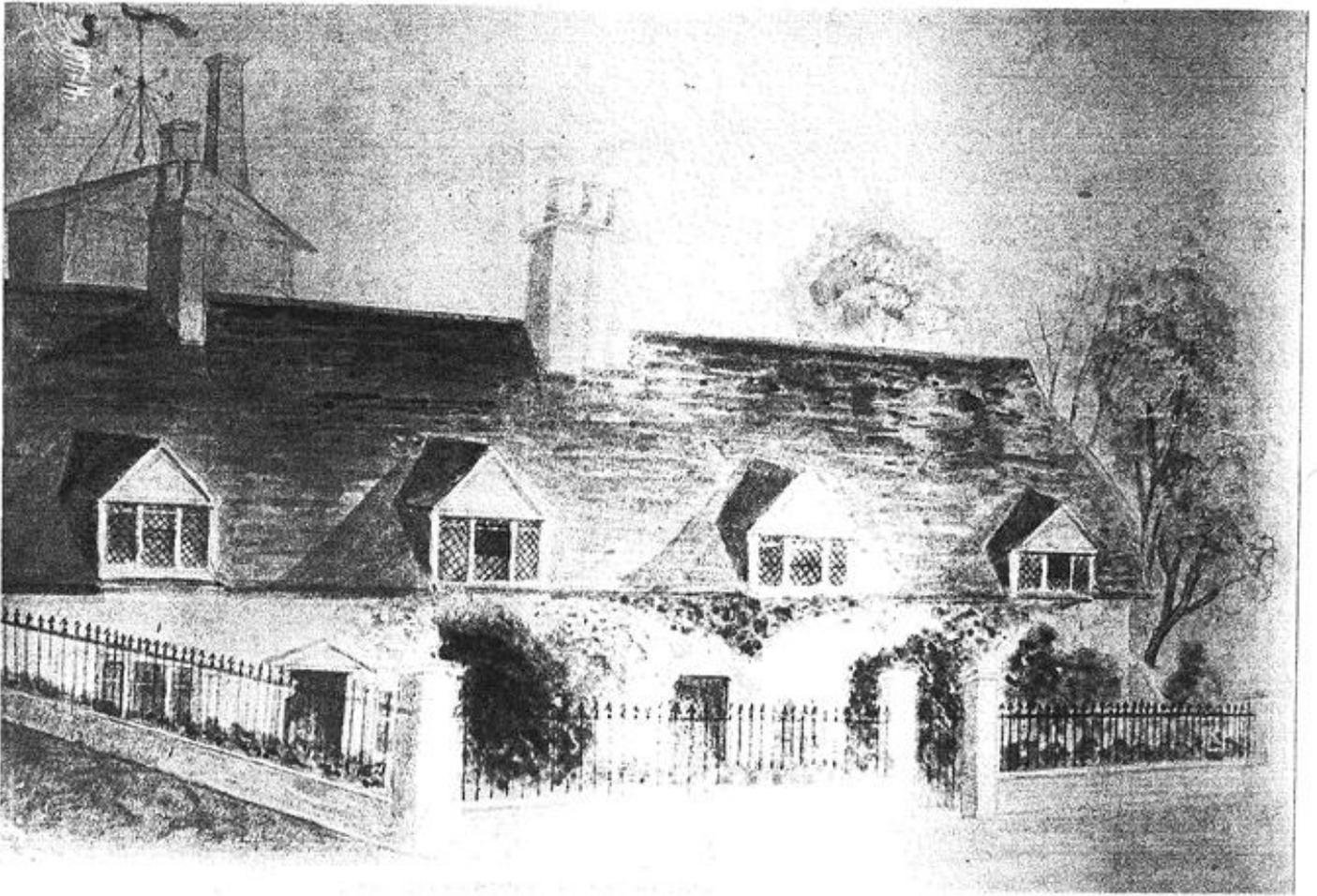
This is the second in a three-part study of the two breweries, the third part will cover the combined premises from 1893 until closure in 1919.



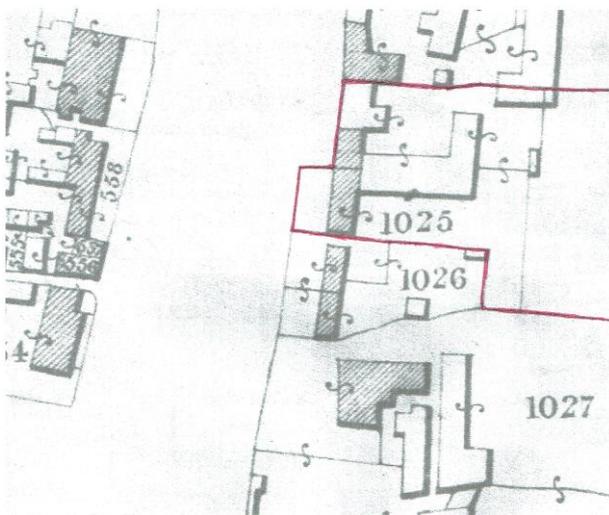
Painting by an unknown artist of Peacock House (House's Brewery) LHS Archive



Photograph of Peacock House, undated but probably c1870.  
LHS 53



Second generation black & white copy (probably cropped) of a painting by Lady Gilbert (wife of Sir Joseph Gilbert) of Peacock House. Undated. Note the peacock on the weathervane. LHS LAF NC 9.69 and BF 19.8



The 'northern' brewery property (1025 - outlined in red) on the Harpenden Tithe Award map, 1842. Inhabited buildings are shaded.

The front garden boundary extending across part of the property is clearly seen both on the map and in the illustrations.

The two cottages, owned by J. B. Lawes of Rothansted in 1842 (1026) were occupied in the 1861 Census but by 1871 had been acquired by one of the breweries and demolished, leaving an open space; see Newsletter 141, page 15.

## William Kingston (1786 – 1837)

In the first article it was noted (Newsletter 141, page 16) that the relationship between William Kingston and Francis House Kingston was unknown. Further research has established that they were brothers. They were sons of William Kingston (deceased 1820), Veterinary Surgeon of Harpenden, and his wife Sarah. William also became a Veterinary Surgeon and married Sarah Burchmore at Harpenden in 1813. Why Francis, born in 1788, was named 'House' remains unknown as no marital connection between the Kingston and House families prior to 1788 has been traced.

As Francis had married John Lines' widow Jane in 1821 (see Part 1), William would have been aware of brewing as a business, even though there is no evidence that Francis took any part in running the brewery. As a surgeon and general practitioner in Harpenden, he may not have had the time to do so.

Brewery, Dwelling House etc

Harpenden, Herts

To be sold at auction by Mr. Rumball at the Peahen Inn, St Alban's on Wednesday Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 1837 at 2 o'Clock. By order of the Executor of the late Mr. W. Kingston, deceased.

Comprising the brick-built dwelling house situate in the best part of Harpenden, 25 miles from London, good yard and out buildings and premises, which have been fitted up about a year ago by the late Mr. Kingston as a public brewery. The plant (which brews 3 quarters at a time) is of the best construction. Immediate possession can be obtained. Two cottages (one a beer shop) will be included in the purchase. Copyhold of Rothamsted Manor, quit rent 1s 7d, fine customary, land tax redeemed.

May be viewed at any time. Particulars on the premises; the usual inns; and of Mr Rumball, Land and Tithe Surveyor, St Alban's.

Hertford Mercury and Reformer, page 2; Saturday 2 December 1837

The first record of the 'northern' brewery comes from an advertisement for the auction of the premises following William's death without issue in 1837.

We may conclude that the Brewery was set up in late 1836 or early 1837. Presumably William saw a future in brewing due to an increased demand for beer following the passage of the Beerhouse Act, 1830. This act made it easier to open a beerhouse and repealed the onerous tax on malt which reduced the cost of brewing.

One question that remains unanswered is Jane and Francis' opinion of the new brewery; did William set up in competition or co-operation?

As with most auctions advertised in the newspapers, the result of the auction is not reported. The two cottages mentioned in the auction notice appear not to have been sold. Sarah Kingston, William's widow, is recorded in the Harpenden Tithe Awards of 1841/42 as the owner of two cottages (premises 578 & 579) in Harpenden.

One was a beer shop, which strongly suggests that these cottages are those in the advertisement. The beer shop was the Oddfellows Arms at Leyton Green, which has recently had the name reinstated after some time as the Oak Tree. The chemist's shop was in the adjacent building facing the Green. Both premises were occupied by William Lewin, who was also a cheesemonger, but which premises he used for this is unknown. The Oddfellows Arms was bought by Elizabeth Healey in 1879, becoming part of the 'southern' brewery's estate. It was still

copyhold of the Manor of Rothamsted but the freehold was subsequently acquired from Rothamsted <sup>1</sup>.

### **John Isaac House (1817 – 1870)**

John Isaac House was the eldest son of John Isaac House (1793–1849) of The Grove in the parish of Wheathampstead. First recorded in the area in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the House family had lived at The Grove since the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. At the time of the Tithe Awards of the early 1840s John Isaac the elder owned over 500 acres of land in Wheathampstead and Kimpton parishes and 72 acres in various locations in Harpenden parish. The House family also owned the Swan public house in Wheathampstead and a John House was an alehouse keeper at Nomansland Common in 1655.

The younger John Isaac (aged 23) is listed in the 1841 Census as the owner and occupier of the brewery premises. He is described as ‘brewer’ and was head of the household, which comprised his brother James, sister Elizabeth and one servant. The family probably acquired the brewery either at the auction or in a private transaction with William Kingston’s widow. The Harpenden Tithe Awards show ‘John Isaac House’ as the owner and occupier of the brewery; whether the owner at that date was the father or the son is not evident. If the father, the property would have passed to the son in 1849.

It is possible that the House family had invested in William Kingston’s venture; the elder John Isaac had received a legacy of £1,000 in 1835 from his uncle William Oakley of Wandon End<sup>2</sup> (his mother was Oakley’s sister).

The 1851 Census records John Isaac (now 33) as ‘Brewer & Farmer’. One occupant is of particular interest; Elizabeth Rowed

(34) is listed in the family column as ‘companion’ and in the occupation column as ‘housekeeper’, details repeated in the 1861 Census. Make of this what you will; no doubt the details of their relationship were common knowledge in the village. John Isaac and Elizabeth were married at Harpenden in 1866.

Elizabeth was the daughter of Michael Rowed, Land Agent, of Cheverells Green, Flamstead and his wife Sarah (née Burchmore, who was probably related to the Sarah Burchmore referred to above).

The 1851 Census also notes that House employed 16 labourers but this evidently refers to farm labourers – note the addition of ‘farmer’ - no labourers are noted in either 1841 or 1861 where he is described solely as ‘brewer’, and there was only one other servant in the property in these two Censuses.

As with the ‘southern’ brewery, there is very little information as to the actual brewing capacity of House’s brewery during most of its existence. It was described as a ‘3-quarter brewery’ when built. This means that the brewery’s mash tun was large enough to process 3 quarters of malt at a time for brewing beer, or for any other use, such as vinegar. A ‘quarter’ consisted of 448 pounds weight of malting barley. The amount of beer brewed from a quarter varied in volume according to the type of beer being brewed and how many times a year beer was brewed. At maximum production a 3-quarter brewery was estimated to produce about 3,000 36-gallon barrels a year, but it is unlikely that the brewery produced this much, especially in the early years.

Although House is described as a brewer, the brewery was rented out in the early 1840’s to a Mr. Complin, whose death led House to put the brewing equipment up for auction. There were

two contemporary brewers of this name; we can rule out Francis Denyer Complin of the Park Street Brewery as he lived on until 1851. The other was Anthony Complin, listed in the 1841 Census as a 20-year old brewer in Whitwell, Herts.

He is a 'possible' but there is no other record of Anthony.

The only Complin found that fits the description was one Henry Complin of South Mimms, who died in October 1842, but there is very little other information recorded about him.

#### BREWING PLANT

#### HARPENDEN,

To be sold by auction by Mr. Rumball,

On Friday, March 31, at 2 o'clock on the Premises, in consequence of the death of Mr. Complin, who rented the same.

Comprising a Seven-Barrel Copper, three-quarter mash tun, and all the requisite plant, pipes, barrels, forcing pump etc, all fitted new by the late Mr. W. Kingston and but little used.

Catalogues at the Cross Keys, Harpenden: other usual Inns; and of Mr. Rumball, Land Surveyor and Auctioneer, St Alban's.

Hertford Mercury and Reformer, page 1; Saturday 25 March 1843

Given the auctioneer's comment that the plant was '*but little used*' and had been rented out, it appears that neither House nor Complin was brewing much beer in the early 1840's. No sale is recorded and House evidently decided to continue brewing on the premises.

### The Brewery Estate

Available records show that only three public houses/beer houses were owned by the House family in the early years; the Swan in

Wheathampstead, the Horse and Jockey on the St Albans Road opposite Beesonend Lane (see Wheathampstead Tithe Awards, 1841) and the Silver Cup in Harpenden, stated to have been built by John Isaac House c1839. This may explain the low beer production in the early years.

By the time of House's death on 21 January 1870 the tied estate had grown to 13 public houses and beershops. The Harpenden Rate Books for 1867 show a rateable value for House's brewery of £93-10-11, compared to £119-14-00 for the adjacent 'southern' brewery.

The brewery and estate were put up for auction on 12 September 1870 following the death of John Isaac; the newspaper advertisement gives the locations only for the 12 premises that were to be auctioned in one lot with the brewery. The Silver Cup was auctioned as a separate lot. Note that the property is now freehold, which had been acquired from the Manor of Rothamsted.

HARPENDEN, HERTS, SALE of BREWERY KNOWN AS HOUSE'S BREWERY,

On Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 1870 at The Mart, Tokenhouse Yard, London

A valuable freehold and copyhold Property comprising:

Lot 1. The BREWERY, desirably situate at Harpenden, near to the Railway Station, with malt and hop stores, tun rooms, underground cellars, stabling, residence with spacious and well-stocked garden, and two closes of meadow-land, containing nearly three acres, together with the fixed plant and machinery in excellent condition. The Brewery is abundantly supplied with water of an unusually pure quality from an artesian well on the premises; also twelve Public and Beer houses, situated within easy distances of the Brewery, at Harpenden, Wheathampstead, Redbourn, Gustard-common, Bury green, Hamwell, Timberlog-green and Luton, in the Counties of Herts and Beds; and the goodwill of the trade carried on for upwards of thirty years by the late Mr J. J. (sic) House and his family.

Extracted from the Herts Advertiser, 3 September 1870, page 4

The names in the attached table were found in the short abstract of title to 11 named premises contained in the auction papers for

the 1897 auction of the combined breweries<sup>3</sup>. Abstracts of title list the documents that proved the vendor's title. The abstract refers to an Indenture dated 'in the year 1871' for the premises acquired in 1871 by James Mardall of the 'southern' brewery. The eleven premises can be matched to the locations given.

Harpenden	Old Cock, Royal Oak, Fishmongers Arms
Wheathampstead	Swan, Railway Arms, The Folly
Redbourn	The Bull
Gustard Common	The Cricketers
Bury Green	Walnut Tree
Hamwell (Amwell)	Elephant & Castle
Luton	Richard the Third

The 12<sup>th</sup> property was the Horse and Jockey at Timberlog Green, on the St Albans Road opposite Beesonend Lane. This had been put up for auction in 1873<sup>4</sup> and was purchased by John Bennet Lawes of Rothamsted<sup>5</sup>. It had become a private dwelling house sometime before 1887<sup>6</sup>. Timberlog Green (also recorded elsewhere as Timberley Green) was the name of the plot of land on which the premises stood.

The Old Cock, Swan, Railway Hotel and Richard the Third were public houses, the remainder were beerhouses.

All the premises were close to the brewery, in contrast to the estate of the 'southern' brewery, which included premises as far afield as Borehamwood, Park Street, Hitchin and Abbots Langley (see Newsletter 141, page 20)

As noted above, the brewery was purchased by James Mardall. The purchase was completed during 1871 and Elizabeth subsequently moved to The Grove, where she died in 1907.

## Peacock House to Brewery House

The dwelling house facing the High Street was known as Peacock House, a name which predated the construction of a brewery on the site. The name is rarely found in official documents and the brewery was generally described as either 'Kingston's Brewery' or 'House's Brewery'.

The map attached to the Harpenden Tithe Awards of 1842 clearly shows a garden area in front of the premises which does not extend along the full frontage of the house. This feature is clearly shown as a railed garden enclosure in a painting of Peacock House (see colour centrefold) inscribed 'House's Brewery' – to which someone has added 'about 1865'. The Society's archives have a copy of a drawing or painting that shows the same railings from a similar perspective, although the northern, unfenced, section of the building is not shown. A photograph, taken from a different perspective, also shows the railings.

The property apparently got its name either from topiary peacocks in the garden space or the peacock shaped weathervane. Four large shrubs that look like topiary birds can be made out in each of the pictures and the weathervane shown in one picture is clearly a peacock.

Peacock House was demolished in 1871 and a new dwelling house was built on the site. One source in the Society's archive suggests that the railings were re-erected in front of the new building. This was 'Brewery House, which still stands today as the only remnant of the two breweries that still exists above ground. The demolition and new build appears to have been carried out by James Mardall at the very beginning of his ownership. The 1870 auction advertisement makes no mention

of a newly-built house and the 1871 Census (taken on 7th April 1871) shows Elizabeth House in residence. The same Census reveals that James Mardall and his wife Martha were present at her father's house at Carlton, Cambs, presumably as visitors.

The Harpenden Rate Books for 1871 record a snapshot of the transfer of ownership; the executors of the will of J. I. House are the owners but Mardall is the ratepayer, suggesting that he was already brewing there.

It is probable that Brewery House was erected in the second half of 1871.

### **James Mardall (1822 – 1881)**

Son of James Mardall of Wheathampstead, who in 1842 owned Leasey Bridge and Amwell farms and was the tenant farmer of Westminster Abbey's farm, all in Wheathampstead parish. At this time Ann Mardall (whose relationship to James has not yet been traced) was the tenant of the Marquis of Granby in Harpenden. The Marquis of Granby was owned by Ann & Sarah Goodyear but was purchased at an auction held at the Bull Inn, Harpenden on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1842 by James Curtis of the 'southern' brewery. A copy of the auction notice recently found in a miscellaneous file of Society papers bears the manuscript annotation '£605 Curtis'.

In 1841 the 22 year old James Mardall was living at Bury Farm and his occupation is recorded as 'surveyor'. His father died in 1844, and in 1851 he was living with his mother, occupation 'farmer of 150 acres employing 16 men and 2 boys'. In 1860 he married 28 year old Martha Long of Carlton, Cambs at St Ives. Martha was the daughter of Hanslip Long, owner of 1,200 acres

at Carlton. In 1861 he and Martha were living at Gustard Wood with his occupation given as ‘corn & coal merchant’.

### **Martha Mardall (1833 – 1912)**

Martha took over the brewery in 1881 following the death of James. The 1881 Census shows her as the head of the household at the ‘Peacock Brewery’. This is the only time that this name occurs in Census returns, ten years after the demolition of Peacock House!

The 1891 Census shows her residing at ‘The Brewery’ and ‘living on her own means’, as she was no longer running the brewery. It appears that the Trustees of the Will of James Mardall took over the operation of the brewery at some time after James’ decease.

The ‘southern’ brewery was acquired in 1893 following the death of Elizabeth Healey in the previous year. In November 1897 the Trustees put the entire brewing operation - now called ‘The Harpenden Brewery’ - up for auction; the winning bid was £58,500 according to newspaper reports. The auction particulars describe the two houses but refer to only one brewing plant, which was producing 5,000 barrels annually. It was probably the ‘northern’ brewery that ceased production; a matter to be researched for Part 3, which will cover the Harpenden Brewery up to its closure in 1919.

John Wassell

Some of the sources for this article are given below – most have been omitted due to limited space. Please contact the Editor for further details of sources.

1. Abstract of title for ‘Oddfellows Arms’ in 1897 auction particulars. Society Archives, LAF 11.28A. *‘formerly copyhold of the Manor of Rothamsted, with an admission in 1879’*
2. Will of William Oakley of Wandon End, 1835. Canterbury probate 11/1848.

3. Abstract of Titles in 1897 auction particulars, LAF 11.28A.
4. Herts Advertiser, 21 June 1873, p4. Auction notice, including Horse and Jockey public house on Timberlog Green.
5. Luton Reporter, 28 August 1875. Dispute over lease of the 'Jockey' public house at Timberlog Green. Owner is Mr J. B. Lawes of Rothamsted.
6. Luton Reporter, 7 May 1887, p8. Report of a missing person; abandoned clothes found near the house formerly known as the Horse & Jockey on the St Albans Road.

In the autumn of 2019 your Editor agreed to give a 15-minute presentation on brewing in Harpenden to a workshop organised by the St Albans & Hertfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society: 'The Rise and Fall of the Breweries of Mid-Hertfordshire, 1800-1925' which was to be held at Sandridge Gate in March 2020. Presentations were due to be given on brewing in Wheathampstead, Harpenden, Welwyn, Kimpton and St Albans.

The workshop had to be cancelled, but the volume of information available from the H&DLHS archives and from online sources, especially the ever-growing contents of the British Newspaper Archive and *Ancestry*, enabled research to continue despite the lack of access to physical archives once social distancing measures were introduced.

