

WILLIAM HARVEY

As you may or may not know William Harvey the discoverer of the circulation of blood is buried in a little village seven miles away from Saffron Walden. The tomb was to be moved to London in 1973 but the villagers didn't want this to happen so they made a protest, this protest stopped the tomb from being moved to London, so as you see in the picture post-card number 1 that the tomb is still in its resting place where it was put in 1883 by the Royal College of Physicians of London there is still a society which meets once a year to visit William Harveys tomb, as you can see by the old programme the society has been about for a long time.

In the early seventeenth century William Harvey discovered the fact of the circulation of the blood, William Harvey became the predecessor of many great men of England of his time, England was in the process of a scientific renaissance, one expression of which was the formation of the Royal Society under the patronage of Charles II- a Society with such members as Sir Christopher Wren, Robert Hook, the greatest microscopist of his time, Boyle the physicist, Sir Isaac Newton, Pepys and many others. All these men had a curiosity which extended beyond the bounds of their particular subject and thus it was Wren the architect who first suggested the possibility of intravenous injection of drugs, and carried out this with other members the first experiment on blood transfusion. They transferred blood from a dog to another dog from a sheep to a man, and from an old man to a young man, the fact that nobody died seems more to luck than good guidance, since as we know there are four well-defined types of human blood, and some types are so incompatible that mixing will cause acute distress and possibly death.

William Harvey was born in Chigwell in 1578, but he later moved to Hempstead and lived in Wincelow Hall, the house you can see in the second picture postcard this house was once burnt down because they thought that William Harvey was a warlock.

The ancestors of William Harvey used the chase as a path-way to the church, picture post-card number three shows how the chase was in William Harveys days, but know it it doesn't look a bit like this as it is very over-grown and only horses use it.

The local church of Hempstead is packed with interesting things about William Harvey and his family which are all buried in the vault below the church. If you ask anybody they will be pleased to tell you about about the History of William Harvey and his family

When i visited the church i noticed that the marble on William Harveys brothers tomb had started to be attacked by vandals and that the glass in the North East window had been broken so allowing birds to enter William Harveys area dedicated to him. When i had finished looking i learned a lot more things than i knew before i entered the church. I would recommend you visit the church, as i went out of the church i glanced at the visitors book i noticed people from everywhere had written their names in the book there was a family from America, Germany, London and quite a few from Northampton and Liverpool so the tomb is seen by tourist every year.