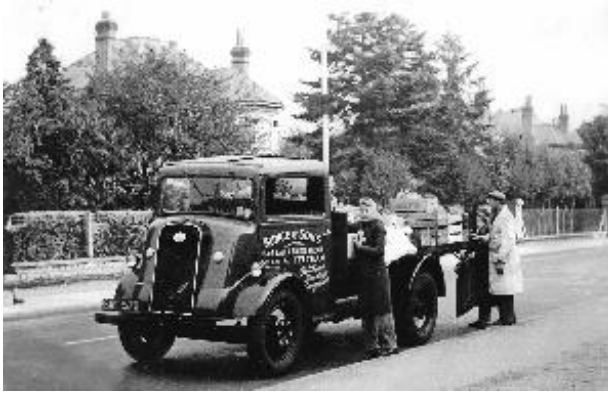


## Feltham History Group October 2023 meeting



Bunce Green Grocers

**The Chair's introduction** began with a request for all members to provide 'first point of contact' – it was explained that this is necessary for health and safety purposes. A form for such being circulated.

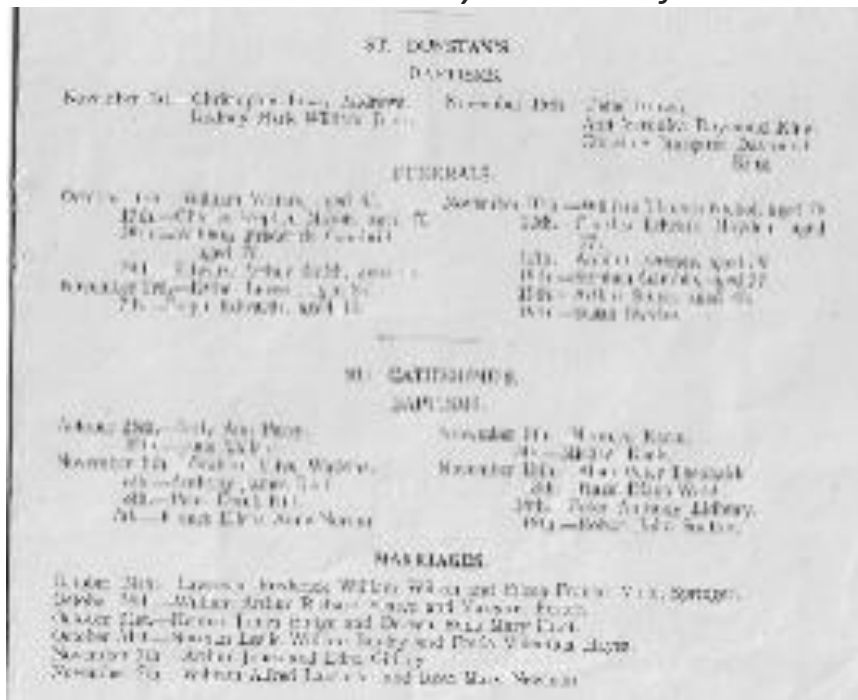
**Under Items of interest** the Secretary spoke of an email enquiry from a Mr Bob Soutter, who, as a child, lived in Feltham in the 1950's his enquiry was a request to confirm the date of his "Baptism" This was duly done – Mr Soutters return email begins "*Dear Alan thank you very much indeed for your email with its attachment. Fascinating stuff! Lots of familiar names.*"



Tom Parker pictured here with his father

*Your Records Office came up with the date and place of my Baptism, but the Register in use at the time did not record the name of my Godparents. And the following is of interest to us because at least one mentioned is well documented. He continues "I know about two of them: my Godmother was **Hilda Spence, Tom Parker's daughter,** and one Godfather was Neil Johns, my cousin from Ashford. And he*

states as many of us have or will do “but there is no one alive now who can remember who is or was my other Godfather”



18<sup>th</sup> Nov 1942

He continues - “We Soutters lived in Harlington Road West; we moved down to Basingstoke in 1951. My mother Before her marriage was a member of the Tripp family who lived from the 1920's at 68 Queens Road. My two maiden aunts, Vera and Ada Tripp lived there until the late 1980's. Ada was the cashier at a **Davis the Butchers** in Wilton Parade;



Vera worked in the printing division of Minimax (Manor Lane) down towards lower Feltham. Mum did secretarial work at the Minimax factory on the corner of Staines Road.

My Dad worked on the Railway - mainly, whilst we were in Feltham, in the Marshalling Yard.”



He continues - *“Mum was in the choir as a young lady at St Dunstan's and was married there in 1935. And here is the connection with Tom Parker “Because her father had already died, Tom Parker gave her away. “Vera and Ada worshipped at St Catherine's until it closed, but refused to transfer to Christchurch as it was 'Chapel'! We three Soutter children went to the Sunday School at St Catherine's.* He finishes with - - *Thank you again for being so helpful. Every good wish. Robert J Soutter FCIB*

The next item concerned Penny farthing bikes and the many local people that road them around the Feltham area



Ted Fry and daughter at Feltham Carnival(s) late 1950's



Dietrich family in Faggs Road – Ed and ‘an-other’

The penny-farthing, also known as a 'high wheeler' was popular in the 1870s and 1880s, but became obsolete by the late 1880s

The name came from the British coins 'penny' and 'farthing', the penny being much larger than the farthing, so that the side view of the bicycle resembles a larger penny (the front wheel) leading a smaller 'farthing' (the rear wheel).

However, many survive and indeed are still ridden as was the occasion through a charity event made from Paris to London earlier this year by members of Classic Car Club who hold their monthly meeting in Feltham Railway Club

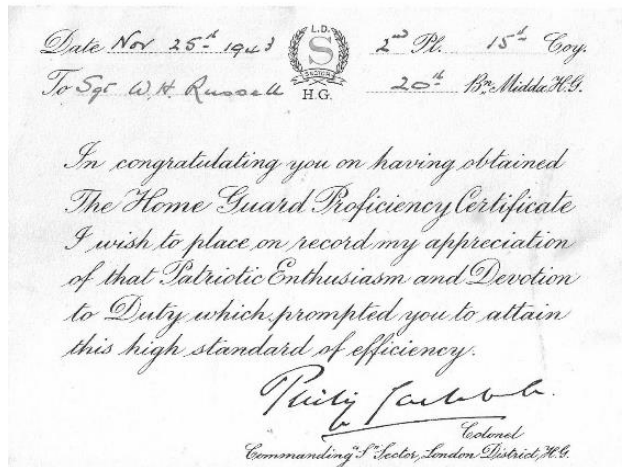


[Michael Gray](#) of the CC Club came with his own Penny Farthing and offered members a 'ride'; Michael also gave an account of his 'epic' ride from Paris to London

**Under AOB** there was an update on the talk(s) given at Rivers Academy by history group members, Ray Edwards, Tony Fredjohn. Roger Cowing and the Hon Secretary. The theme was the evolution of Feltham and the many changes that have happened 'and indeed witnessed' by members of the group over the years.

Member Max Carrington gave an insight to a paper he is producing on WW2 and the part that local people played in it through being part of the many contingency measures such as 'Air Raid Wardens'

and many associated auxiliaries, foremost being LDV or what came to be known as the Home Guard.



The above certificate is donated to Hounslow Local Studies by the grandson of Sgt Russell, a local man Martin Wickes. The Warden's post is situated at the entrance to Feltham Hill Junior School in Ashford Road

**Finally** - there was no short talk but instead was a showing of a short war time film, '[Shunter Black's Night Off](#)' – this was a Public Information film produced during the war based on an actual incident at Feltham Marshalling Yard.

The Chair sounded the 'all clear' and closed the meeting at 9-10 pm thanking all for their attendance.

The next meeting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023