

# *Feltham History Group*

September 2014 meeting

held at Christ Church Hanworth Road Feltham (Ruffle Room)

The September meeting of the group was held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 7pm at Feltham library in the Community Rooms and featured a talk by the writer and broadcaster Jeremy Banning. Jeremy gave a very interesting insight to his work excavating a WW1 battle site “practically undisturbed” since 1918.

The name of his work “The Somme Cauldron –Life and Death in the La Boisselle Sector”, centred on a little und known area of the Great War fought mainly underground. Jeremy’s manner of presentation meant that the talk was lively and very illuminating and is recommended that effort be made to attend other talks given by Mr Banning.

The history group mounted a superb display which complimented the talk.

The Chairman upon welcoming 20 members and a similar number of visitors outlined World War One commemorations that had taken place during August.

The third of August witnessed an unveiling of a new War Memorial outside Holy Trinity Church Hounslow. The memorial was supplied by the well known firm of Funeral Directors Lodge Brothers with the unveiling by VC recipient Lance Corporal Johnson Beharry

The Sunday following there was a special service at Christ Church Feltham followed in the afternoon by a commemorative service at St Leonards Church Heston.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August saw another unveiling; this time of a memorial specific to the civilians of Isleworth who lost their lives during Air Raids. This memorial is on the Village Green Lower Square Isleworth.

Present at most of the commemorations was the MP for Feltham and Heston Seema Malhotra and the Brentford and Isleworth Member of Parliament Mary McLeod together with Hounslow’s Mayor and a great number of local people and many members of Feltham History Group.

The chairman noted that there will be many more commemorations and thereby occasions in the coming four years for members to participate.

Under 'forthcoming events' the Chairman informed members of a 'mobile' event 'Ride and Stride' which is organised by Heritage of London Trust and is supported by the National Churches Trust and certain other bodies. Locally here in Feltham St Dunstan's Church will be open Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September, with the day being hosted by the history group. The date for the event is Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September from 10-00 – 4pm.

Under 'Items of Interest' Andi Barnes informed members of the new public enquiry set for Feltham Peoples Centre; 11<sup>th</sup> November – the enquiry is expected to last 3 days. The Chairman made members aware of 'confusing road signs' these it would appear have been erected [by Hounslow] and pertain to Ward Boundaries which infers certain roads [addresses] have been 'moved', e.g. Spring Road Feltham is now Hanworth Park, as are houses on the Parkfield estate. It is understood that this practice is not specific to Feltham but Borough wide.

The Secretary informed members of correspondence received regarding 'Railway houses' from the Editor of the South Western Circle (London & South Western Railway). The enquiry centred round some 52 cottages and 48 flats that the LSWR wanted to purchase for their employees. The houses were at Queens Road and Bedfont Lane.

The final 'item' was the annual London Open House Weekend which will take place Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Booklets are available at Libraries in the Borough.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at Christ Church, when the guest speaker will be Patsy Langley who will speak about her research on local woman, Susan Chick and her young child Charles.