

Feltham History Group

September 2015 meeting held at Christ Church Hanworth Road Feltham (Ruffle Room)

The September meeting of the group, the first following our Summer break, was well attended and also attracted 4 first time visitors.



The Chairman following his usual introduction spoke on an article that appeared in the Hounslow Chronicle pertaining to a project being put to the Council regarding a variation of use of Hounslow Heath Golf Course, The variation would be development of children's zoo an adventure park together with a 9 hole golf course with driving range; worrying however was a an indication of altering the area north of Staines Road. The Secretary writes 'as noted in Hounslow's own publication 'Nature Conservation in Hounslow' a large area of which is designated a site of ecological importance.

It was a place where Sir Joseph Banks, whilst collecting specimens was arrested as a 'likely' Highwayman, he being released when brought in front of the magistrate who recognised him as a neighbour. One wonders will anyone [authority] be brought to book if another area of land is given away. If such heath land is to go gone will be the 'skylarks' 'Linnet' 'Meadow Pippit' Stonechat' also will go 'Gorse' 'Broom' and grasses such as 'mat-grass' 'purple moor grass' 'common bent grass and much more of the wonderful flora and fauna that make Hounslow Heath a truly wonderful and enjoyable place to wander.

The Chairman continued with an account of a meeting by history group members with Hounslow's new Heritage Project Officer Aretha George – in which reference was made to possible future partnership between Hounslow's Heritage Project and Feltham History Group. Amongst places noted where Holmwood - Thomas Faggs family home, St Dunstan's Vicarage the St Dunstan's, Hangar?, It was noted that site visits would be undertaken before any decision is made.

The next matter concerned Bridge House and its Garden; Friends of Bridge House Gardens is a new group similar to the other friends groups.

Bridge House itself is likely to be sold or let to the World Zoroastrian Organisation as their UK HQ. It is perceived that together with the Bridge House Gardens and the planned road 'improvements' would all be included in the successor to the Feltham Master-plan (more next time)



Assistant Secretary Mark Savage spoke on a variety of Apple that was mentioned on a radio broadcast 'Feltham Beauty' this was cultivated by the Veitch Nursery in Bedfont Lane



In 'other' business Roger Cowing and Andi Barnes confirmed that another two Feltham buildings were to be demolished Rose and Crown and Feltham Peoples Centre (Railway Hotel/Feltham Hotel).

The Chair informed members of a visit that he and the Secretary had made to Squires Garden Centre Fulwell where a 'play-let' was performed pertaining to Jam making in the area, in which a 'skit' was performed about someone, who shall remain nameless, concerning cabbages.

The Short talk/discussion was given by The Chairman and it concerned the plans to restore and refurbish Hanworth Park House. Ed gave a history of the House and its grounds together with the 'new' owner's plans to restore old vistas and walks along the meandering Longford River.



Also included is the building of a number of Houses/flats on the site together with offering the Ballroom for local use. The many rooms in the house are to be converted into luxury flats. It was agreed that the plan was the best and most probably the only way of retaining the house.

The meeting closed at 9-19.