

Feltham History Group meeting

Tuesday 2nd April 2024

at 19:45

Christ Church.

reports on 2024 AGM and the April 2024 meeting.

The Chair following a greeting to all those there present, called for the annual reports to be read.

Officers Reports (see website)

- 1) Chair's Report 'events and proceedings fiscal year' 2023/24 (RC)
- 2) Secretaries Report (forthcoming events) 2024/25 (AR)
- 3) Treasurers Report 2023/24 (TF)

Feltham History Group Secretaries report 2024/25, forthcoming meetings, talks walks and other events.

The monthly meetings will continue 'as published on our website' together with other activities of the 'group' for fiscal year 2024/25. With regard our Spring Talks the venue is confirmed as St Dunstan's Church, **Saturday 27th April** when a talk will be presented by Roger and Hilary Parritt entitled 'Rights of Way' with on **Saturday 25th May** Feltham and its Railways with James Marshall. **Saturday 22nd June** has been set as our annual display at St Dunstan's Church, plus we hope to be participating in Feltham Green Fete 'date' ?

We are also planning Two (maybe 3) walks in July and August and September; the walks will not be too arduous but stout shoes are advised together with utility garments and a kit bag full of vitals! They will be planned as to a circular nature 'where possible'; the first of which will **Sunday 7th July** on Feltham Common including Feltham Park which this year celebrates '100 years of pleasure. On **Sunday 11th August** we shall tread parts of Feltham Field 'Highfield' Boyers Pit that are not known by many as being part of Highfield; with on **Sunday 8th September** a 'visit' to The Green Gym Pevensey Road Hanworth is planned. All walks are free

Short Talks, 'monthly' meetings are as follows.

April 2nd 2nd Battalion Middlesex Home Guard (Hounslow) (MC)

May 7th	Clymping Dene/The Dell (RE)
June 4th	'railways' pt 1 (WH)
July	'no meeting'
August	'no meeting'
September 3 rd	'railways' pt 2 (WH)
October 1 st	Rights of Way (short version) (R&H Parritt)
November 5th	Remembrance talk (TF)
December 3 rd	Drinkwater Houses (RE)
February 4 th 2025	Farm Survey (AR)
March 2025	tba

Following the submission of the reports the chair requested that they be proposed and seconded as being a true record of the group's proceedings and activities for fiscal year ending 31st March 2023/4

Election of Officers 2024/25

The *Chair dissolved the current committee and vacated his position and transferred control of the **meeting** to the current Honorary Secretary, who subsequently called for nomination for Chair of the group for the coming year,

*NB the Chair of 28 years Roger Cowing made it clear that he no longer wished to stand.

Election of Chair, It was proposed by Angela Parton and Seconded by Ray Edwards – that Tony Fredjohn be elected to the post* - although not being proper procedure the following measure was taken to elect TF as per constitutional requirements to the somewhat care taker role, i.e. of 'Acting Chair' until such time a member indicates an interest in undertaking the role of Chair.

Thereafter the newly elected Acting Chair took control of the meeting and called for nominations to the position of Honorary Secretary, as there was but one nominee 'Alan Rice' he being nominated by Jane Fredjohn and seconded by Chris Seymour was, following a vote, elected to the position.

The Chair then dealt with the position of Treasurer for which ‘again’ only one nomination was forwarded, that being the current Treasurer Tony Fredjohn – the nomination came from Angela Parton and was seconded by Ray Edwards and as there was no other candidates a show of hands was requested and the said Tony Fredjohn was duly elected as Treasurer for fiscal year 2024/25

The position of Vice Chair, was next considered and produced but one candidate, i.e. Will Horgan, he being proposed by Jane Fredjohn and seconded by Mike Parsons, and following a show of hands produced an overwhelming response to the positive.

The position of Assistant Secretary, was next evaluated and as there was no other nominees the current holder of the position [Mike Dance] was re-elected in his absence – his absence was due to an illness.

Assistant Treasurer, the current holder of the position ‘Roger Griffiths’ being the only nomination was proposed by Roger Cowing and seconded by Angel Parton was, following a show of hands, re-elected to the position.

Membership Secretary, the role of Membership Secretary was then considered; the current holder indicated that he had no wish to continue in the role was thanked for his work and a nominee for his replacement was invited. There being but one nominee, i.e. Jane Fredjohn, who was proposed by Angela Parton and seconded by Ray Edwards, and following a show of hands, the said Jane Fredjohn was duly elected to the position.

The Acting Chair in closing the proceedings thanked the long-standing Chair [28 years] for all his sterling work during that lengthy period

Following election of Officers, the April meeting commenced

FELTHAM HISTORY GROUP

April meeting

Tuesday 2nd April 2024

The Chair opened the meeting with a note on an increase in annual subscriptions for year 2024/25, the increase is in consideration of the group's necessary compliance with Health and Safety particularly with regard the obligation to be properly insured. The membership fee will rise to £7.00 per annum

Items of interest – there was but one matter under items of interest that being an email enquiry on the McClaren works in Feltham from a Mr Cooper

My response - Dear Mr Cooper

Sorry for the delay in responding but I have asked a number of local people regarding the 'McClaren works in Feltham, unfortunately little has come to light.

Belvedere Works, as the site was known, is today a 'high rise' block of the same name and whereas other buildings, in the area, bear names with local reference, none are in any way associated with McClaren. There are no references in any trade directories of McClaren or are there in telephone directories. Someone hinted that their time in Feltham was very short, '1950's' 18months

However, the Belvedere works were in Railway Terrace Feltham and they housed many small firms over the years, one being an 'Accumulator

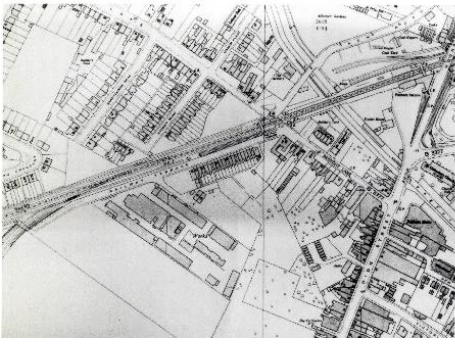


works – battery charging etc -and a Ladder Factory plus, , Ivory Works but all were gone with the development of early 1960's – the whole High Street 'suffered' these are my words as a local historian who laments



the passing of all things of old 'c'est la vie'

We have a monthly local history meeting in April and I shall place it on the agenda so as to a hope that someone may know a little your enquiry



The accompanying Ordnance survey maps show 'Belvedere works' which are of a fair size. The 1970 map image is of the works as they were 1965



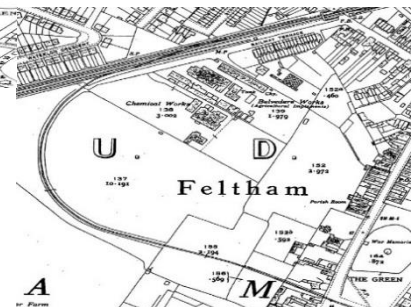
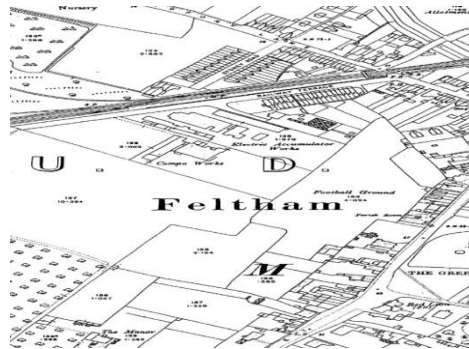
– the people along the track side were standing in silent reverence to Winston Churchill's funeral train



The following image was one of the buildings that were on site

The Factory of B.F. Collingridge, who made wooden ladders among other items. The building stood on the land between the backs of the High Street, Feltham and the Railway lines on the land better known as Highfields.

The O/S maps are of various dates but 'works' are shown!



As said your enquiry will be part of the agenda for our forthcoming meeting and if any recollections are 'fruitful' please be assured I shall contact you again.

Forthcoming events

1. **Spring talks at St Dunstan's Church** The talks will be held at Dunstan's Church; dates being Saturday 27th April 'Rights of Way' with Roger and Hilary Parritt and Saturday 25th May Feltham and its Railway with James Marshall.

2. **Display and open days**, Saturday 22nd June St Dunstan's Church including 'a history of the church and the memorials 'within' (TF)

3. **Summer Walks** – three Summer walks are planned - all being accessible via public transport 'H BUS' - they are as follows

Sunday 7th July meet 1-30 Feltham Park and thence to Glebe Lands and the giddy heights of Feltham Common. (circulatory)

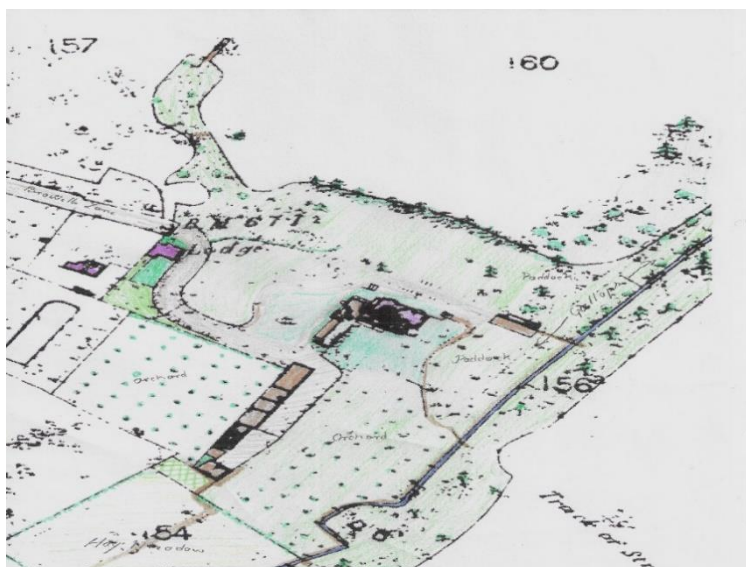
*(Feltham Park is celebrating 100 years of pleasure this year. all areas, pre-1800, formed part of Feltham Common.)

Sunday 11th August meet 1-30 meet in car park at Bedfont road entrance to Bedfont Lakes Country Park thence walking Feltham Field 'Highfields' and Boyers Pit area. (circulatory)

Sunday 8th September meet 1-30 at Crematorium for a trip around the Green Gym Pevensey Road – our guides will be Roger and Hilary Parritt (circulatory)

AOB

There were two items under AOB, the first was from Angela Parton and concerned 'sale of land' at the 'soon to close' MOD land – it was reported by Angela Parton that during excavations an unusual amount of water was found to be present in the sub structure- this appeared not to be associated with drainage but more a sub surface flow of water. The honorary Secretary responded with an insight as to research that he had entered into as to a licence being obtained by the occupants of a very old property 'pre The



Grange' from the Duke of Northumberland as to the supply of water for various purposes. This water was a 'cut' from the Crane River to the large mansion like houses now within the area of the MOD [see map]

Right of map 'blue' is a flow – additionally another flow or 'cut' is indicated via "track of stream" which fed a pond that was no longer in evidence along today's Forest Road but maps show a pond and an exit flow towards what is now noted as a 'Valve House' – this flow, apart from feeding Hanworth Rectory eventually joins Feltham Brook near the roundabout of Feltham Brook Way. Further research is required!

[One other AOB was provided by Mike Parsons who enlightened members as to one of the largest craft of the air Blackburn Beverely that had its initial production history at Feltham. Mike further spoke of the current 'home' of the last surviving 'kite' and that it was possible to visit the site.](#)

Short talk, this was given by Max Carrington and concerned 2nd Battalion Middlesex Home Guard (Hounslow) see website for full text

The Chair closed the meeting with an insight as to the short talk at the 7th May 2024 meeting - Ray Edwards will seek to explain the anomaly that is 'Clymping Dene/The Dell