

## Feltham History Group October Meeting

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7-50

The October meeting covered various subjects but before the promulgated business the Chairman introduced the guest speaker, Patsy Langley. Patsy gave a general overview of her book about a young Feltham/Bedfont woman, Susan Chick, who died 9<sup>th</sup> December 1839 of what was then a commonplace antenatal condition. The story covered her early life in Bedfont and Feltham. Further detail of the book will not be disclosed in this missive save that it has an unexpected twist and therefore is a good buy.

The Chairman continued with 'Items of interest' opening with detail of the current use of Bridge House. It concerned a 'variation' of condition of use, i.e. reversion to office use until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014. There was detail of the use of Feltham's St Catherine's Church [Tower and Spire] since the departure of Hounslow Homes, they being relocated to Hounslow Civic Centre - as should be the case with what were Local Authority services. The grade 2 listed building is being prepared for use as a Youth Hostel with the curtilage being realigned so as to improve the pedestrian use of the busy and dangerous junction. Members voiced concern as to the retention of the remaining original wall and railings



Miss Eva Helen Armstrong with her highly decorated Pony and Trap during the celebrations on the fall of Pretoria (1900) note the beautiful ornamental wrought iron railings of St Catherine's. Another example of this 'work' girdled Feltham Cemetery.

The annual London Open House weekend was discussed by member Roger Cowing who had visited Admiralty Arch. Amongst the other places that members had visited were, JWM Turners House, The Foundling Museum, Barber Surgeons Hall with more local places being, Hounslow Heath Infant School's Adobe Village, All Hallows Church Twickenham, Quakers Meeting Rooms Isleworth and many more.

The Chairman noted that although there were some places in Hounslow Borough 'open'; little was the case in the west of Hounslow Borough.

Member Andi Barnes provided an update on the future of Feltham's People Centre, the ex Feltham Hotel.

The final item of interest concerned a company known as 'Girlings Feltham' and was given by the Hon Secretary. Girlings was formed June 1921 and were makers of concrete contrivances and heavy structural beams and reinforced frame buildings.

Their works were situated along The Great South West Road at Hatton, today the only tangible evidence is a road that bears their name. Additionally they made 'street lighting' lamp standards and various street furniture, an example of which came to light following a fire at the Cranford Park Interpretation Centre, in which much material was lost and the 'Grey Lady' suffered severe fire damage.



As is 'sometimes' the case through such misfortune something interesting comes to light, the particular item here was of 'street furniture' a Girlings made Trough.

Under forthcoming events were 'Over 50's event' at Feltham Assembly Hall 23/10/2014, Old Cine Film request at Hounslow Library 17/10/2014, Jam today and Tomorrow at Marble Hill Park 25/10/2014, Post Card Fair at Chiswick Town Hall 25/10/2014

Under AOB

Hounslow's Local Studies Officer, James Marshall informed members that he had had a visit from The London Metropolitan Archives regarding recently donated material [including images] of Feltham Borstal.

The Chairman brought to member's attention of the death of Mr Victor West, Victor was a Bedfont school teacher and a noted Artist displaying, some may recall, on the railings at Feltham Green Pond during Feltham Carnival Week.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9-20pm informing members that the focus of the November meeting would be Remembrance.