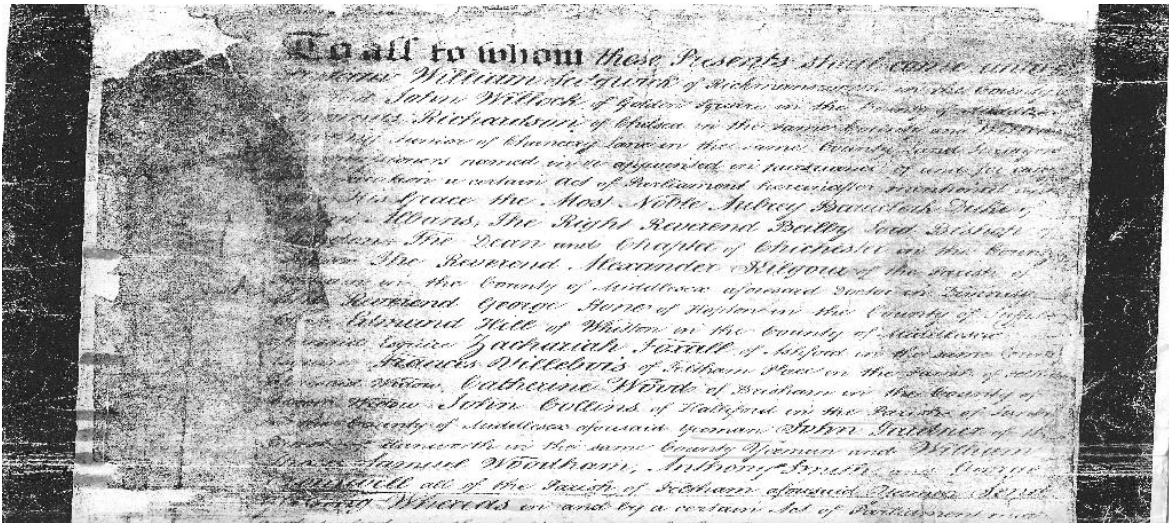


Feltham History Group
May Group Meeting 2022

The Chairman's introduction, apart from being his usual welcome, gave tribute to Dave Turvey; Dave was a founder member of the history group from the early days when it was called 'Feltham Work Shop' his contribution cannot be spoken of too highly, from transcribing various documents held at many an archive. Particular amongst the documents transcribed was the Enclosure document pertaining to Feltham '1800' – some 80 foolscap (full-scape) pages and detail held under The Finance Act 1909 (land tax/land values) some 2104 entries and many other Feltham related documents.



Dave was one of life's gentlemen and never happier than when assisting others, he will be sadly missed by many of his friends at the history group. Thank you, Dave.

Under 'Items of Interest' there was a piece on Feltham Paddling Pool



'Some of you may have noticed the clearance works of the area where the Paddling Pool once was - -rear of Richardson's Rochester Parade'

The following images show the area of the 'Pool' where the clearance is happening, we were told it is to hold the necessary plant storage area and site office; and chemical toilets. The work is in conjunction with the enlargement works to the 1960's pleasant Council housing in Rose Gardens



'A little on the history of the Paddling Pool'

On Saturday 15th May 1937 at 2-30 a Paddling Pool was opened by Mrs Councillor Rhodes. The report in the Middlesex Chronicle stated that *"it is behind Rochester Parade"* and it is interesting to note that its area description was given as *"near RASC depot"*. It also had a small building for changing in and a playground. This followed a report of the Open Spaces Committee meeting of Feltham Urban District Council 27th March 1937, reporting that 'Bathing Pool loan charges £104.00 have been secured.

This notification was preceded by a report in the Feltham Journal [local rate payers journal] of a meeting of the Feltham Open Spaces Committee June 1935 - basically approving a specification for a paddling pool – there was a fresh call for tenders and in that regard the matter [should] be put back for 6 months, it was further stated that the cost would be £1400. Mr Tannett was somewhat perturbed at the cost *"he regarded as ridiculous and out of all proportion to the value of the pool continuing with "there was a perfectly good pond at the Green"*

The land at that time contained a long strip of property covering an area of 4 Acres 15 Perches with a Brook running along the border, which was in the ownership of Reverend George Stone and was called *Barleymow Mead*. The land was farmed in 1867 by a Mr Tillier and later by Mr Batson and later still the land formed part of AW Smith's Feltham Farm.

The Paddling Pool has, over the years had various upgrades and alterations and it is hoped that the works planned, once completed, will see the paddling pool restored to its former glory and that young children can enjoy themselves **'free of charge'**

In answer to a query Mrs Cahill

Feltham Brook recce Boyers Fishing Lake 'feed of water' The Chair firstly gave a description of the course of the brook from its source on Bedfont Green through Feltham and Hanworth to Sunbury where it skirts east of Kempton Park before

emptying into the Thames at Puck's corner Sunbury. The query was as to the paucity of water in the brook. To understand this The Chair and Hon Secretary had made a visit to Boyers Fishing Lake East Bedfont to investigate. It was found that Feltham Brook had suffered a diversion, i.e., diversion into the lake which prevented water from continuing its 'ancient' flow – the level of the fishing lake's water is maintained by introduction of 'bars' to contain the water, this is compounded by the early months of the year being fairly dry, additionally the water is prevented from exiting the lake 'second lake' due the blocking of the brick culverts that were in place to channel the water under the railway near Edward Pauling School – thereafter 'in days past' the water piped until east of Rose Gardens 'Poplar Way



Therefore, the preventions outlined at the three points/places mentioned are, it could be deduced, 'in the main' reason for the brook only having a damp bed. Further exploration is to be made together with a letter to the Environment Agency as to their responsibility and indeed future policy of the brook, although not operating in its original capacity is/was a pleasant local feature.

The next item concerned an update as to the closure of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation Site Elmwood Avenue. Angela Parton of Friends of Feltham Green and history group member informed all that it is now scheduled to close in 2025 not 2023. Angela also gave details of the transfer of areas of the site, one being Reach Academy.

Under 'forthcoming events' the chair reminded all of the second of the group's Annual History talks which takes place 21st May 2022 at St Dunstan's Church Feltham and is entitled 'An Enumerator Calls'. This to be given by the Honorary Secretary

Donkey Woods flora and fauna 'visit', a late item concerned a invitation to Donkey Woods East Bedfont Mills. Further information next time.

AOB

Under AOB there were requests (Ray Edwards) on the history of position of Albany Villas, at North Feltham, and Spring Cottage Feltham village its whereabouts and indeed 'name' plus the occupants over the years. Information to be provided at the June meeting

The short talk for the May meeting was on the Peel family of Feltham Place by the Treasurer Tony Fredjohn. Full detail of which will appear on the website under Feltham's Military Associations.

Following much general discussion the Chair closed the meeting at 9pm reminding members of the June talk scheduled for Tuesday 7th June

Next meeting Tuesday 7th June 2022