

## Feltham History Group September 2022 meeting (web submission)

The Chair opened the meeting with an update on the health of our President Edwin Munday stating that he, Anne Dollery [Vicar] and the Secretary had made a visit to West Middlesex Hospital and found him in fairly good spirits. The Chair continued with a resume' of the Summer Walks, i.e. Hanworth Brook and The Mills along the Duke of Northumberland River and remnants south of Baber Bridge. The Hanworth Brook walk however did not take place due the extremely high, and dangerous temperature's

The following images show Ed interviewing contestants in the 1967 Milk Race at Hampton Court (acknowledgements to Mx Chron for image), Hanworth Brook, and views of the Duke of Northumberland River 'low in water' plus a layout of the mill area around or near Baber Bridge – note reference to Occupation Road which still exists today but as vehicular maintenance route.

Ed at work, Milk Race 1967



©1977-2008. Charles and Edna Munday. A collection of milk delivery vans. The annual Reliability Trials in 1967. They will replace every year from Hampton Court Bridge. Please do not remove.



Hanworth Brook



Under 'Items of interest' the Secretary spoke of the featuring of **Feltham Brook** recently in a Hounslow Borough newspaper, The Hounslow Herald, it referenced an on ongoing concern for those whose houses 'abut the brook. This was covered at our June meeting but due the fact it has now been featured by the 'Herald' and that our MP Seema Malhotra had been contacted we thought we would share this short up-date from Keiron Thompson whose house backs onto the brook – Keiron relates - -

*Have not heard back from the MP yet so will chase her this week. The brook filled up the day it rained and by the next morning was bone dry again. Very sad*

Briefly the concern is the lack of water in the brook particularly where it is open behind houses in Queens Way Hanworth. To recap the brook begins [began] its life from ponds on Bedfont Green and journeyed through Feltham and Hanworth on its way to Sunbury and the Thames.

The following images show ponding north of Bedfont Road, the culvert under the railway and the open brook near General Roy PH



The second item of interest 'hot times' was on the recent hot weather and the drought like conditions it produced and remembering the summer of 1976, some 46 years ago. Then as now it was covered in the local media and here are some of the reports –

the Middlesex Chronicle emblazoned on the front page “*crisis point for industry*” (again acknowledgements Mx Chron images)



And – it referenced a Drought Act and reduction of water pressure and how it will mean filling a kettle or bath would take much longer – it stated that 40million gallons ‘per day’ could be saved through this reduction!

# New moves over water

IT'S going to take you longer to fill a kettle or run a bath since London's water pressure was reduced on Tuesday.

Thames Water Authority's metropolitan water division has already turned down the pressure in many parts of Greater London, and hopes to reduce the rest of the City's supply to a mere trickle in the next few weeks.

Water authority officials are waging "psychological warfare" on consumers in a bid to save ten per cent of the consumption. They hope this could amount to a daily saving of 40 million gallons.

"It works on the basis that people get fed up waiting for the bath or kettle to fill at a slower rate, and so use less," commented a

TWA spokesman this week. "But there is a more practical side to it as well. Reduced pressure will mean less leakage from dripping taps and faulty pipes," he said.

The authority is also seeking an order allowing further limitations on the use of water.

## DROUGHT ACT

The Drought Act allows the Secretary of State for the Environment to identify particular uses of water which may be affected by such an order.

If the order were to be approved, which now seems likely in view of the current water shortage, it could affect watering of parks and sports fields; filling of ponds other than those containing fish; car washes; road cleaning vehicles except where this would affect safety or hygiene.

Since the Thames Water Authority imposed a ban on the use of hose pipes last month, it claims, there has been a good response, with many people imposing other voluntary restrictions on themselves.

Unfortunately, it says, even this has not resulted in sufficient savings, and further restrictions may be inevitable.

And this coverage of how communities were affected throughout Hounslow area -

You'll be lucky if you can do this much longer ▶

**Totting up cost of a baked earth**

THE drought has taken its toll on Hounslow, and the cost has been rising. The price of a ton of baked earth has risen to 150p, and the cost of a ton of topsoil to 100p.

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background to the news

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# HOSE BAN— FIRST FOR 18 YEARS

THE Thames Valley Water Authority area, which includes Hounslow, Feltham and Twickenham, has had to impose a ban on hosepipes and sprinklers—the first in 18 years.

As well as the total ban on domestic users which comes into force at one minute past midnight on Saturday, July 24, the authority is asking water consumers to take it easy at all times.

"Selfish behaviour by consumers on any scale will be disastrous. The ban is being imposed for their own good. They must be sensible.

"Our reservoirs are at 60 per cent of normal capacity. We need a month of good old British drizzle," a spokesman said.

Though many parts of the country have had restrictions on the use of water since early this year, the Thames area has had well-stocked reservoirs.

A few weeks ago, when temperatures were in the 90s, a spokesman said they had plenty of water, but had difficulty distributing it fast enough. But the drought has now caught up with them.

And a Hose pipe ban – "first for 18 years"

And finally here is Albert Newberry head groundman Feltham Park - here Albert can be seen removing, from the Bowling Green, the only things that would grow 'weeds' - you may note behind Feltham ladies team are practicing 'irrespective' of the conditions! Albert was a very lovely, genuine and honest man'



Under 'forthcoming events' the Chair spoke of a talk arranged for Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 7-15pm Hounslow United Reformed Church, which will be an illustrated talk on Bushy Park by David Ivison (Friends of Bushy Park) the Chair also invited members and others to a Walk around Feltham Cemetery on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September (meet at Lych Gate 1-45pm)

There were various subjects under AOB examples being an update on the Drinkwater families of Feltham and Bedfont, and some interesting information on the Military establishment at Feltham Depot plus an alert regarding this years 'Open House Weekend' where various locations/buildings will be open for public entry

The evenings 'short talk' featured an ancient dispute surrounding Eldeford Mill at Hanworth this was given by the Secretary (full transcript on website under 'short talks')

The Chair closed the meeting with the date for the October meeting 'Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022'