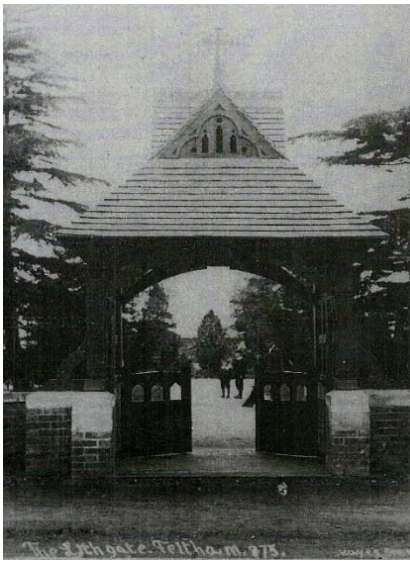


Feltham Hill Walk, Sunday 12th September 2021

The walk, conducted by the history group's Honorary Secretary, provided detail and information regarding a place [Feltham Hill] that since the 1930's (Middlesex Review Order) has been part of Sunbury. Attendees were firstly alerted to the fact that much of the walk would be along fairly busy roads and that whereas means of amplification would be used, at times it may be necessary, to stop talking to permit passage of vehicles.



Beginning just inside the Lych gate entrance to Feltham Cemetery those there assembled were informed that this was the original entrance of the new cemetery 'as it was known in 1886'

The solid oak Lych gate (translated by some as meaning 'coffin gate') was erected by Mrs Benyon and her husband's sisters in memory of Edward Lloyd Benyon, of 'Oak House' Feltham Hill. The Benyon's were a wealthy family and were related to the Lee's who also lived at Feltham Hill (now in grave O27 Feltham Cemetery)

The Lych gate was erected in 1903 and, it would seem, replaced the original iron and wooden gates of 1886 (iron Pillars still in place) Sometime in the 1930's 'concertina type gates' were added (similar in style as to the image here pasted) and were only removed c1985 by which time they were damaged and difficult to 'close' which was a necessary requirement for those on overtime even though the three high cemetery wall could be easily skipped



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Unfortunately the double leaf gates were stolen 20th October 2000, and subsequently replaced by the current ones but even they have been damaged. Pictured A Rice Hounslow's Cemeteries Officer. The wording on the internal structure is still readable. Before setting off members were shown the grave of George Tito Brice - of whom more was to be related at a later stage.

Walking south-easterly Sunbury Crescent was the first stopping point 'mainly' to appraise of the history of Rylands Close - 'William Wynne Ryland was an exceptional engraver 'IN HIS TIME' and he pioneered the art of 'stipple engraving'.

He was executed at Tyburn after being found guilty of forgery in 1783. Why a felon should be commemorated in this way is baffling - *Stipple engraving is a technique used to create tone in an intaglio print by distributing a pattern of dots of various sizes and densities across the image.*

Here also is the line of Spring Road Brook 'align yourselves with the Lombardy Poplars in Ludlow Road which are to the east side of Lodge Brothers HQ' and the general route can be collimated.



The walk then continued through 'the white alley' (white walls) which is not of particular importance, but it takes us to Ellington Road where, during WW2 on the night of 7th /8th October 1943 houses numbered 33 to 47 suffered a direct hit whilst many others were severely damaged - sadly 5 members of one family 'the Allen's' lost their lives.

The whole of this area pre 1800 had names such as Hill Meadow, Ray Shot and Wheatearsh 'truly agricultural in nature'

Arriving at Hamilton Corner walkers were apprised as to naming of the roads and what or to whom they allude – Snakey Lane/Feltham Hill Road 'an old route to Hanworth' and Hamilton Road; Mr Hamilton was Foreman to AW Smith from 1904 to the 1920's, here also was a house called Burnham or Barnham's cottage with next to were Smiths Cottages.



From this point all present proceeded 'south' down Vicarage Road to the entrance to Second Sunbury Guides – pointing out that the building opposite was once AW Smiths packing sheds - now in today's Sunbury proper.



In this image can be seen 4th row Mr Hamilton Foreman, next to him, AW holding Bowler Hat, far right same row Alfred Lucas 'drooping moustache' Foreman until 1905

Passing the guides HQ members walked to Hallows Grove along Vicarage Road.



Note the narrowness of the path, which was one of 4 points of danger and one that Spelthorne should address with some urgency

The area where the Allotments are was part of a larger piece of land called Running Horse Yard 'yclept' because in the days of **Henry V111**, it was used to exercise horses – the 'gallop' was all the way to Sunbury Cross. The Pub (**The Running Horse**) takes its name from such, but the original of that name stood at Sunbury Cross some 6furlongs to the south.

At Hallows Grove was once the Lodge House entrance to Groveley House, Groveley was by far the largest and most impressive of house's along Groveley Road - here also was the Groveley stables which for a short period following demolition of



Groveley House became a Lutheran Church but now as can be seen there are dwellings.



Following such explanation a short detour into Grovelley Road to view an old bungalow was undertaken *"if you remember at the cemetery we saw the grave of George Tito Brice – here inter twined on the house plaque (dated 1904) are the letters of his name"*

Crossing now into Kings Avenue 'to avoid traffic' we return to Vicarage Road and orientate to a southerly direction and proceed to the parish boundary. Here members were called to a halt and it was pointed out that 'some' had crossed the parish boundary whilst 'others' had not.

At this point Feltham Hill Brook forms the old boundary between Feltham and Sunbury



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The brook, brick lined, is somewhat hidden from view 'between houses'

Crossing over into Bryony Road those on the constitutional were shown the remnants Groveley Farm and line of the brook 'ditch' into Kenyngton Manor Recreation Ground, here there is a line of Poplars 'which generally indicate the borough boundary between Sunbury, Feltham and Hanworth – also viewable are Kempton Water works.



Bryony bridge 'utilitarian in design'

Returning to Vicarage Road and walking into Cavendish Road eventually an entrance to Grovelley Park is found; on entry the Brook is once more in evidence (the same brook seen earlier)



Now into Grovelley Park and walking the southern perimeter path 'in a westerly direction' found at the northwest corner the brook is traceable back to its source in Ashford Recreation Ground (Clock House Farm).

The next section leads to a vehicle gate and standing in the car park indication was given as to the large mansions of old, i. e. '**Groveley**' '**Cumbernauld**' and '**Oak House**' (no image) the Benyons place of residence.



The proper name of the park is King George V Playing Fields 'c1935' as witnessed by the depiction on the carved gate pillars.

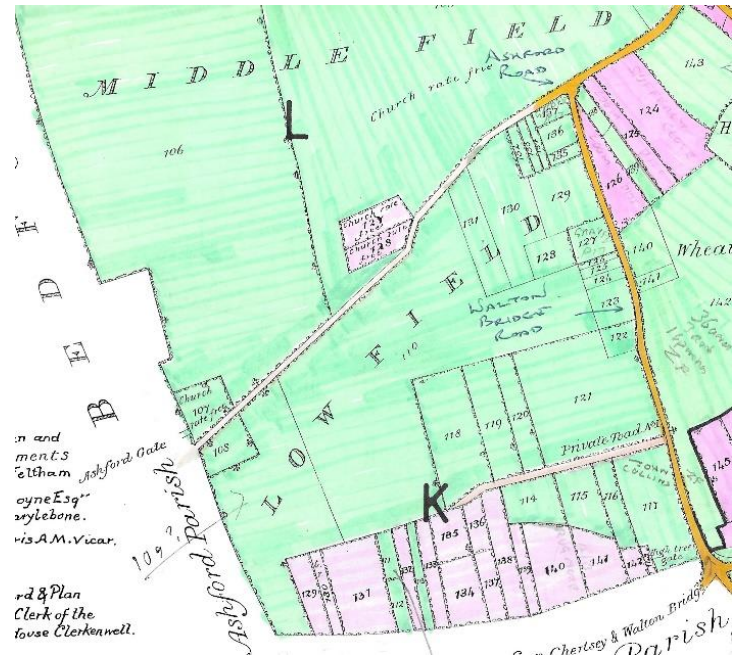


Exiting the park it is but a short walk to the final mansion, 'still in-situ, The Park - home of AW Smith until his death in 1927.



Crossing now to Chertsey Road and to the 'crossroads' – here is a place which alludes to some antiquity, we have now reached 'High Tree Gate' This was one of the recognised 'ways' into the village of Feltham as recorded in the Enclosure document.

From whence the journey is down Chertsey Road and to Private Rd Nr 1 and Low Field. Private road nr 1 is so identified as to its past (15th c) use of entry to many 'Strip like' farming areas. (bottom of map)



Private road No 1, branching off the road known for many years as Walton Bridge Road but now Chertsey Road it was close to the fields called 'Short Blackengrove and Long Blackengrove Shots' which could be found on an area, following enclosure, known as Low Field.

Directly opposite is Feltham Rough (a place of special scientific interest) parts of which form the new boundary with Sunbury

It is some 300 yards to 'Gravel Pit cottages' (Leonards Cottages 1884) and it was from there on 11th December 1886 @ 4pm that 47 year old Mr Richard Gardener set out to dig a grave for the first burial in Feltham Cemetery. (Mr Drinkwater)



Walkers were next availed of a more modern item, i.e., a 'house brick' set in a wall bearing the date '1950'

The penultimate matter of interest was the location of the Sawyers Arms – here also, as noted on Rocques map 1754 stood a Windmill. For the unindoctrinated here is a large area of ‘virgin’ land called ‘MIDDLEFIELD and long may it remain!



From here the walk returns to our starting point but not before taking in odd looking houses which occupy a corner of Ashford Road and Shelson Avenue called Sufferlong (a corruption of South Furlong) here also are 2 pseudo mock Tudor or Tudor revival houses, the latter however are replacements as Sufferlong used to extend to the cemetery but they also suffered a hit during an air raid of WW11

We have now returned to the cemetery where our journey ends and ‘where many of life’s stories ended!