

Feltham History Group

Feltham History Group April Meeting 2015

The meeting was held in the main body of the church due the numbers in attendance, something that may have to be repeated.



Following an introduction from the Chairman members were availed of an item of interest from Andi Barnes concerning a Royal Visit to



Bedfont by Sophie Countess of

Wessex. The Countess came to officially open a special home for Forces Veterans named in her honour.

This was a much delayed royal visit originally scheduled for the 10th November 2014 but certain other matters meant a rescheduling was necessary.

The 94th Feltham ATC did the area proud by forming a Guard of Honour for the Countess of Wessex and other honoured guests which included Corinna Smart the Mayor of Hounslow. Feltham 94th “were credit to the area and young people” as commented by the Mayor. In reality the 94th stood more or less on the same spot for 3 hours.

“ I was a little surprised to see that Sophie drove the car herself with a protection officer in the passenger seat, then thought to myself why not”.

She was met and greeted by Deputy Lieutenant Maria Pedro - HM Queen’s representative in the London Borough of Hounslow. My son Samuel then presented Sophie with a gift of flowers. Sophie greeted us all with a smile and a hello. I must admit though that this is a case where photo’s really do not do justice as we all commented how beautiful she is.

Sophie then proceeded through the guard of Honour and entered the building. Within the building she met with residents and guests, had a tour of the building and grounds and conducted a small ceremony on official opening of the building.

At around 18:00 Sophie exited the building with Field Marshal Lord Walker of Aldringham through Feltham 94th’s guard of honour and into her car.

Sophie The Countess of Wessex a beautiful, friendly and wonderful lady that we all now have the honour of saying has visited our area and will have a continued connection in the building named in her honour.

The Chairman continued with notice of forthcoming events, i.e. Spring Talks one 25th April at Feltham Library by James Marshall on Feltham Borstal. The second scheduled for 30th May [also at Feltham Library] will be on Feltham in the 1950's 60's and 70's the talks being given by Eddie Menday Roger Cowing and the Secretary

The Chairman alerted members to a special 'ring/chiming of the bells at St Dunstan to mark the 70th Anniversary of VE Day- all members were welcome to engage in a personal attempt at campanology.

The short talk for the evening was given by the Chairman Eddie Menday

The meeting closed at 21-21

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