

Feltham History Group

September meeting 2021

The proceedings were conducted by the Vice Chairman due the absence of the Chairman Mr Edwin Menday.

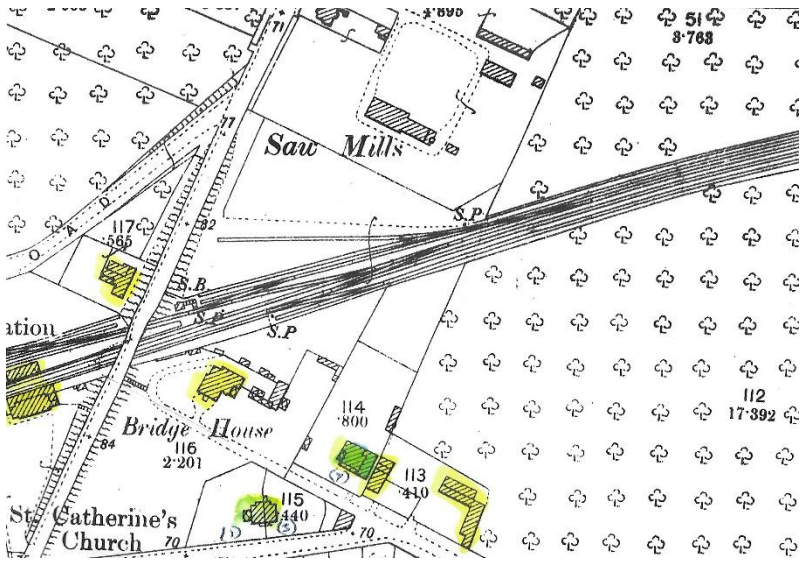
Following a general greeting and thanks the VC introduced the Treasurer, Tony Fredjohn, who gave a brief financial report and informed members that annual membership fee would remain as per year 2019/20 (£5.00) and that subscriptions would be payable April 2022

The VC then introduced the Honorary Secretary who proceeded to speak about two matters that had been posed under 'Items of interest' beginning with [Feltham Area Signalling Centre](#)

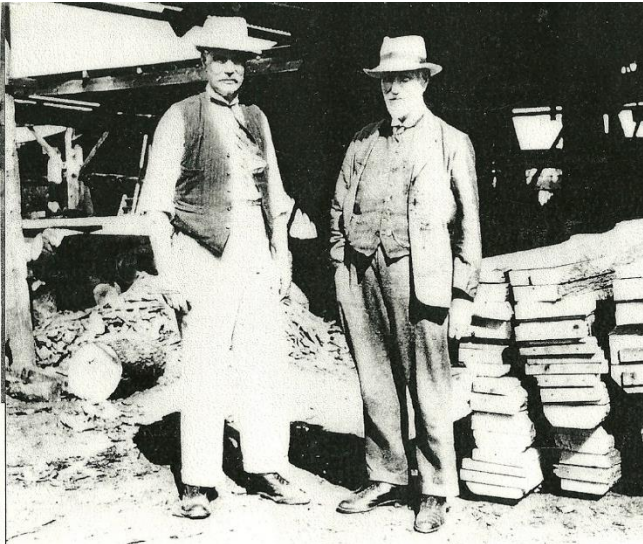
This centre, although always looking somewhat prefabricated, has guided various rolling stock through Feltham for many decades.



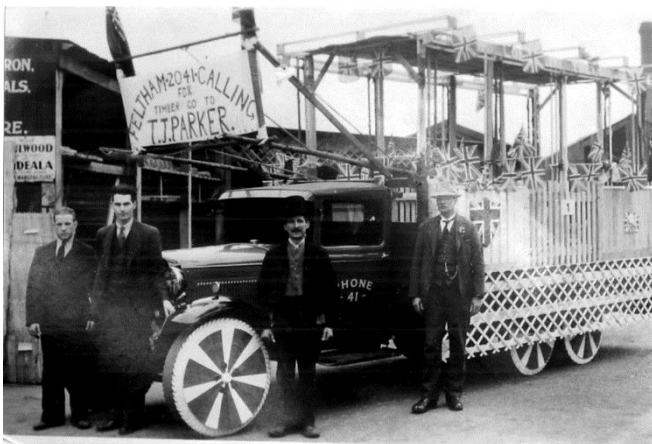
Shown here is an old style Telephone Pole together with its climbing ladder which is situated on entry to site although somewhat obscured by intrusive Billboards Pre-1952 however the area where the signalling centre stands today was part of Parkers wood yard



This image, c1930, shows of James Ashmead Parker and son Tom outside one of the large storage sheds



Shown in this image are Captain Tom Parker 'on right' and Stan Gardener 'second left' who used to run 1st Feltham Boys Brigade – Edwin Menday ran the 2nd.



This was on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of King George V – as can be seen by this highly decorated image of the Lorry.



In September 1974 it became the signalling centre for the southwest region area of the railway “knocking out” [in the words of long serving signalman Barry Wakeman] 20 + *lever style signal boxes.*

Since that time technology has moved on apace and the centre is planned for closure in 2023/4 when it will be relocated to Basingstoke.

The road access to the site is oblique by any

standards and its close proximity to St Giles Hotel to its north east, the railway on the south and on the north west by Feltham Bridge means future use could be somewhat restricted. It is a fairly large space but the limited ‘access’ precludes further safe use, unless the hotel is demolished and a new road made which would enable a high rise [10 high] complex of rudimentary style accommodation to be built, save of course it being returned to pre enclosure days, i.e. ‘Feltham Common’ which would be preferable for the environment! But that is unlikely!!



Parkers woodyard occupied two sites, one on the southern side of Hounslow Road, St Giles Hotel (Astronaut House) and one on the northern side where now stands two retirement centres

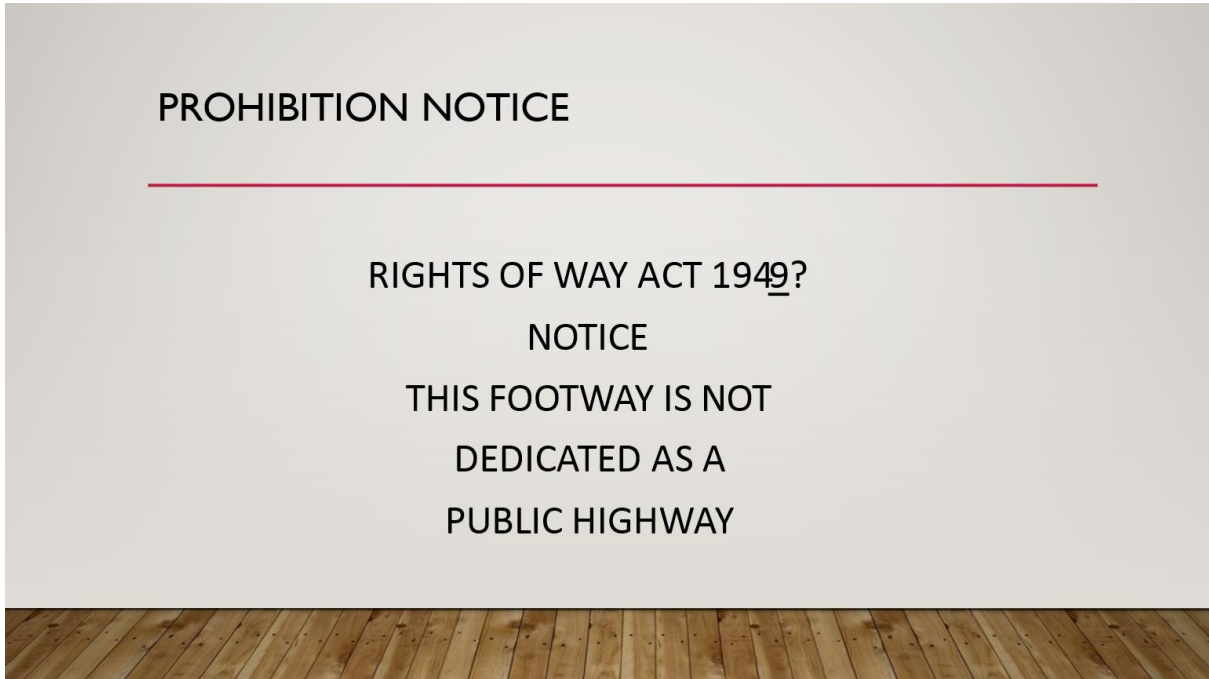
The second 'item' concerned a Prohibition stone/marker



Last month I spoke of the Longford River and the part that the Royal Parks played in its maintenance and care, 'today I shall talk about the connection it has with another object that many pass by on a daily basis and not give it a glance let alone know of its purpose ' To orientate it is 70 yards south of Whites Bridge at the northern end of Ruskin Avenue



It is pseudo wedge shaped marker of some 12inches in height by18inches in width, it is of lime stone with a cement rendered face which enabled incision of the following prohibition notice



Under 'forthcoming events' the Chair spoke of the [London Open House Weekend](#) scheduled for 11th September; further detailed information was given by Angela Parton of Friends of Feltham Green who are hosting the event (see FoffG Website for further information.) [Feltham Hill Walk](#) – Sunday 12th September. Meet at Lych Gate Feltham Cemetery 2-15 (RC)

AOB

Short talk, Feltham's Military associations (TF)

Next meeting Tuesday 5th October 2021 '7-30'