

Feltham History Group Meeting

Tuesday 2nd May 2023 Christ Church.

(web submission)

Upon opening the meeting, the chair briefly gave a short history of the last remaining 'Mansion' like house along the Grovelly Park arc at Feltham Hill, i.e. The Park. The image being one of a number taken upon a visit made by the group in 1998.



The Chair continued with a 'review' of April history talk

'Items of interest' there was a review of periodical that was circulating in the area in 1940 known as 'The Feltham & District Residents Association

The frontispiece stated that it was 'the official organ' of the Feltham & District Residents Association nr 18 of 1940, which was full of many 'items of interest' an example being "on its inside page it says that it is a "Monthly Review of Feltham & District" and that it has a circulation of 3500 which is 3000 more than the council's own publication! - - it also says it is a "non-party" publication! There are a number of adverts ranging from car sales at MOSS'S GARAGE (Fern Grove) to 'shoe' repairs by 'EXCELALL' (Bedfont Lane) to ROGER'S confectioners [6 High Street) to KITNEYS stores and an advert for the REX CINEMA (Hanworth) and HAMBLINS 'opticians' – are they still trading! And this advert for Drinkwater builders where they proclaim to be contractors to many prestigious organisations including Scotland Yard"



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Contractors to :

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GENERAL POST OFFICE

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL
SCOTLAND YARD
LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Houses usually for Sale from £525

The final 'advert' was one for the THREE HORSESHOES Sunbury Rd - who had, at one time, a certain tenant named Charles Winter – whose brother was Fred Winter the well-known jump jockey of his time - 'a man of very flowery language' Fred won the Grand National twice -- – this is he aboard the 1957 winner Kilmore - NO the pub is in Lambourne not Feltham



Fred Winter wins Grand National in 1957 and 1962.



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The next item of interest surrounded a certain Johnny Bird 'cyclist extraordinaire'

(Acknowledgements to British Pathe for the following clips which are from a short film taken 5th June 1956.)



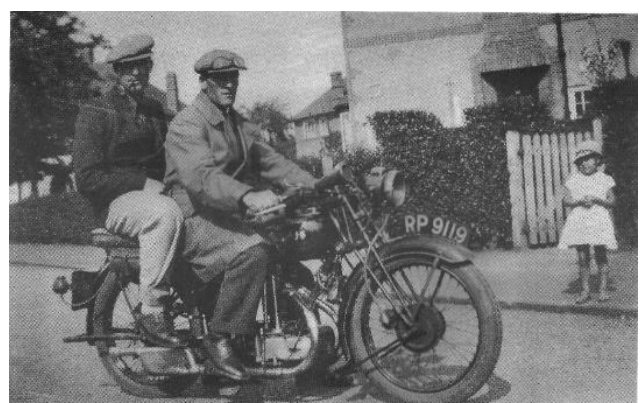
This was given by the Hon Secretary and related to ingenuity 'triumph over adversity'. *Johnny Bird can't use his legs but this hasn't stopped him cycling. He has adapted a bicycle so that the crank is situated on the 'cross bar' this enables pedalling with his hands. He uses a four-speed hub gear and two speed durailier – 8 speeds in all.* He is pictured with his wife Anna outside their home in Burns Avenue. They are shown studying a map before setting off – their journey took the route of Burns Avenue and then into Shakespeare Avenue – this particular image is near to Tennyson Close. They are next seen along a main road 'Staines Road' and passing gravel pits, probably along London Road Bedfont



Part of their return journey was along the small trackway in front of St Mary's church and Burlington House Bedford Green – in the distance can be seen the old Vicarage



Although much research has been undertaken further trace of them is yet to be found - the trace has include whether he [they] are related to Mrs Winnie Bird [Feltham Carnival] or the builder Fred Bird who is pictured (1947) in Burns Avenue – the pillion passenger is Fred Granados



Next was an email from Ed Harris - *Dear Mr Rice the Borough of Twickenham Local History Society has compiled a book entitled The Camp on Hounslow Heath – which is being published by the society*

It is on sale via The Friends of Whitton Library. The Twickenham Museum is stocking it 'as is' Richmond Local Studies. The ISBN number is: 9781911145073 if you want to order through other bookshops. Perhaps you might consider spreading the word amongst your members?

Best wishes Ed Harris

RC - Also an email from a Mr Perryman, regarding Local history paraphernalia on farming - he writes - Hello all

I have been in market garden/veg production all my life and I have been led to believe that in Feltham there has been set up a collection referring to the local history of the industry.

I am now living in Worcestershire and have some papers that relates to a fairly local farm and it seems a shame that they could be just thrown out! I hope you are able to guide me?

Keep safe Tony Perryman

reply being - *Hello Mr Perryman, thank you for your email on market gardening; you are correct when you say the Feltham had such business, the most prolific being one AW Smith 1890 to 1927 he having hundreds of acres under open cultivation and 'greenhouses' - vegetables, fruit and flowers etc. You appear to be saying that you have papers! I would ask are they 'papers' local to the Feltham area, and if you would be more specific as to the content and indeed the volume of the papers! i.e., quantity 'as storage is always a factor'!*

Under 'forthcoming events' the chair alerted members of our annual history display scheduled for 10th June 13:00 to 16:00 at St Dunstan's Church - in addition to the display there will be a short talk - commencing at 2-30pm 'the subject being 'Rivers, Brooks and Streams of the Feltham Urban District area'. The final event is the London Open House Festival, weekends of 9th & 10th and 16th & 17th September 2023 – for more info on what is planned for your area go to Open House Festival website

AOB

Under AOB there were various subjects, the first being the outcome of a submission [by Hon Secretary] to the National Archives relating to a project called "20's Streets" briefly this was submissions concerning events that took place in the 1920's – our submission centred around an issue relating to a 'stopping up' of an ancient track which was titled 'Fight for the Bridle Path' – it did not win! Another being Feltham telephone numbers and in particular who

was allocated 'Fel 1' Members may also be interested in visiting the Brentford Canal Festival in June

The Short talk was on a local family 'The Barnham family' given by Jane and Tony Fredjohn (see website under 'short talks')

Next meeting Tuesday 6th June when the short talk will be on '**Flora and Fauna**' [with](#) (Mike Dance)