

Feltham History Group December meeting 2023

The Chair opened the meeting with a welcome and spoke of a letter received from a founder member of the group Brian Inidge; those of you who do not know Brian he, apart from being an ex-member' is a grandson the prolific market gardener AW Smith. On a sadder note, the chair spoke of the passing of a current member David Cargill. David has been a member for many years and was always a delight to converse with.



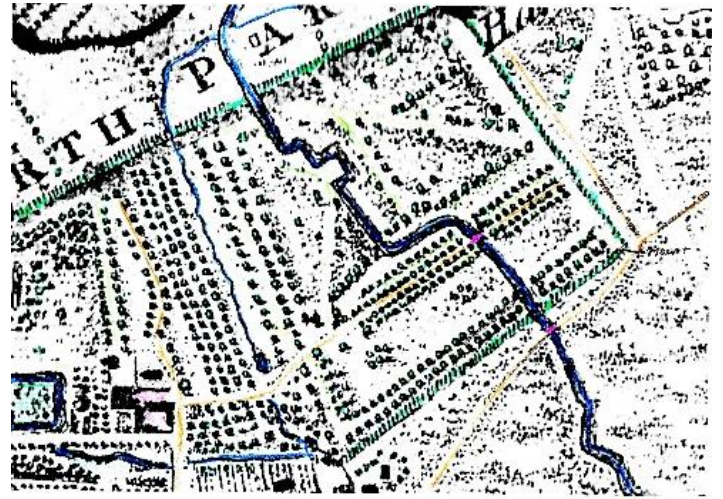
At Bedfont Lakes June 2001, Brian here talking to Bill Cole, others in the image the chair, and Dave Turvey, second image group shot, David centre middle row with his distinctive long hair.

Under Items of interest the secretary provided a short talk introduction on the much speculated upon 'Hanworth Mount. The Mount also is referred to as the site of an 'ice house' and wardens reporting post.

Hanworth Park in its early days was a much larger holding – at onetime it was known as Hanworth Great Park to differentiate it from Hanworth Little Park, which was near to today's Crematorium. On certain maps at the South East corner of the park there is what is referred to as a Mount the use or purpose of this Mount has been the subject of much debate and conjecture.

It is not shown on General Roy's map of 1784 but there is a note of a 'Summer House'

To orientate you the park is shown enclosed via a dark green hatching from Airman corner to Horse & Groom cross roads to Hanworth Moat and back to what is now Forest Road



In this image 'taken sometime in its early flying days' SHOWS the South east corner of the park a mount or mound - this image APPEARS to shows a figure atop of the Mount set between a V shaped tree trunk and what appears to be some kind of visual flying aid a 'balloon' if this is the Mount it is almost devoid of foliage as it is today.



The date of this image (Mount on the right) - is not known but as the trees are tall, i.e., pollarding has not taken place unlike the previous images – therefore it may pre date the flying field and NOTE the man, in the distance is driving a Fly



This image shows the Cross roads at the Horse and Groom pre 1930 – the H&G ‘not yet built but NOTE the advertising hoardings. The lower part of same image the Mount is adorned -with what seems to be a ‘wind sock’



On this map ‘c1934’ the mount is indicated via hauchering



ARP Route issued by FUDC 1942 the Mount is indicated by a CIRCLE



These images of the Mount are more recent '31/10/2023' and show the top of a concrete arch which may be part of a Wardens Reporting post



These recent works, I am reliably informed by one of Hounslow's senior Horticultural Officers [Jim Buchan] that such maintenance is decennial

The next item was Feltham's prisoner cage

Feltham's Cage



The Cage at Cranford

Under notice of Vestry dated Friday 8th November 1850 held 10o/c in the forenoon – in the Vestry room – ‘those of us who know the vestry room will be astonished that so many could be accommodated in such a small room’- 10 plus on most occasions’

Amongst considerations at that meeting was – “*to make a Poor Rate, ‘and to consider the propriety of disposing of materials of the Cage’ also set was a ‘Coals list’ and the setting of a Highway Rate for the coming year*

“it was proposed by Mr Winch, seconded by Mr Hume that the Cage - having fallen into ruin, the materials be immediately disposed of and the product be applied towards the Highway rate, which was ‘carried unanimously’ – and the materials to be disposed of for fifty shillings”

*a further note says “cage materials sold for £2.10/-“ it was built in 1807 The original builders accounts of 1807 ‘were rescued Ken Baldwin ‘Church Warden of St Dunstan’s’ for many years following vandalism at Feltham Vicarage in 1962’.

From the Middlesex Chronicle 7/7/1900, concerning a Mortuary enquiry at parish Council meeting – motion by Mr Parker [that] a Mortuary be provided – the position was considered? at same meeting - Mr Edwin Barnham said “*there used to be a cage and a pound near the Red Lion and he presumed that the land still belonged to the Parish, although there was no sign of it now*” It could well be that Mr Parker was hinting that the Cage be used for another purpose ‘Mortuary’.

At a FUDC meeting 1906 the same Mr Barnham recollected that it (Cage) used to be in Browell’s Lane, this assertion by Mr Barnham I find a little hard to believe as Browell’s Lane or Private Road nr2 was a private road to Feltham House ‘built c1770’ and The Grange c1754 and the very fact that prominent people occupied the houses they certainly would have objected to such a structure being in ‘their’ lane. Or maybe Mr Barnham was referring to his time in the cellar

It is said that these structures were situated near water ‘pond’ and if it is to be Feltham’s Pond, we know that that has been existent from at least 1722 when the Red Lion Inn was given its first Licence.



Feltham as with most Parishes had Parish Constables and noted in the Middlesex Sessions for the Hundred of Spelthorne and Isleworth dated 1st and 2nd of May 1617 are the names of Chief Constables together with 'sub constables', - one such sub constable charged with overseeing Feltham was one 'Robert Browne' - and of the dates that we are looking at here 'mid nineteenth' century was one Edmund Betts of Feltham - the family of Betts still reside locally

There is no image 'drawing or otherwise of Feltham's Cage, but we have from Vestry minutes a statement regarding a Smith's bill for work on Cage, note it said 'work on' which seems to infer that a cage existed prior to 1807

In 1808 there is mention of a 'voucher' issued for 'Carpenters work' for the Cage; no further info, but from it one can deduce that the Cage was mainly of wood and brick - and yet in 1809 we read of a receipt for payment for bricklayers work on the Cage; plus, a receipt for Carpenter's work on building a Cage - mention of 2 different artisans would confirm that the CAGE was of brick and wood



As to what Feltham's CAGE may have looked like – and considering Feltham was a very poor village – the nearest representation could be the one at Silsoe Bedfordshire.

Ordnance Survey maps do not show any such building neither do earlier maps therefore identifying where this place of temporary incarceration was situated may never be known as little is left of Feltham of old.

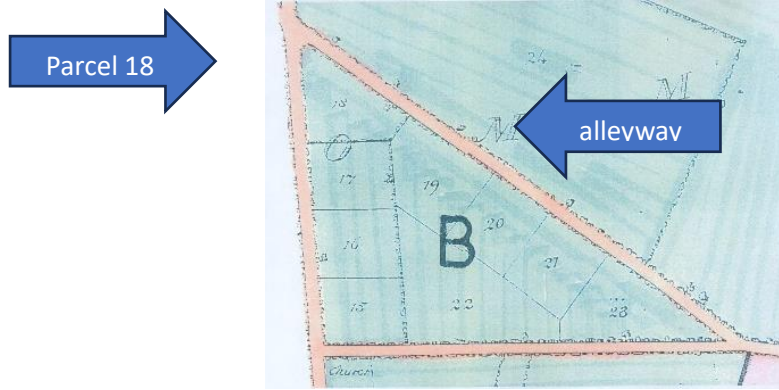
The final item surrounded a place of relative mystery 'Ngaio Whare'
Ngaio Whare or 11 Harlington Road East

Ngaio Whare could refer to a Mairo wooden house or home like structure or simply a Hut – the tree *Myoporum laetum*, has a common name 'Ngaio' which is a tree, or large shrub native to New Zealand and has another common name of 'mousehole tree' The wood being much used for the building of structures!



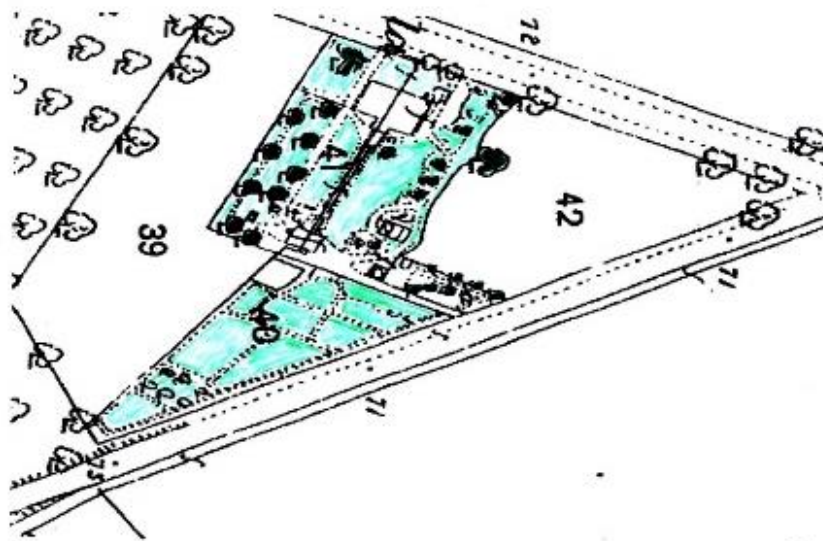
The fruit is edible and may therefore maybe another reason why it was brought to England?

Under the Act of Enclosure of Feltham 1802 the area where this place was situated is noted as being on Feltham Common but more precisely as being on Sector B 'green 18'. (our purposes) It was purchased by Thomas Cooper, a local Quaker for £84.00 and measured some 3 acres 3 rods and 4 perches



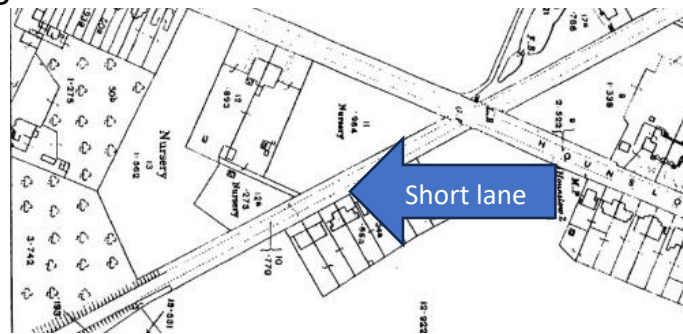
Of Interest is the short line which is where the connecting 'alleyway' from Harlington Road East and Park Way which is still in use today

On the O/S map of 1865 Ngaio Whare, although not particularly identified, i. e named, is shown as being in Harlington Road East and is part of a property attached to a House called Cambria and Shrubbs which were situated in Hounslow Rd, the two areas are shown to be attached via 'braces' – braces on a map infers that areas are connected and under one ownership.

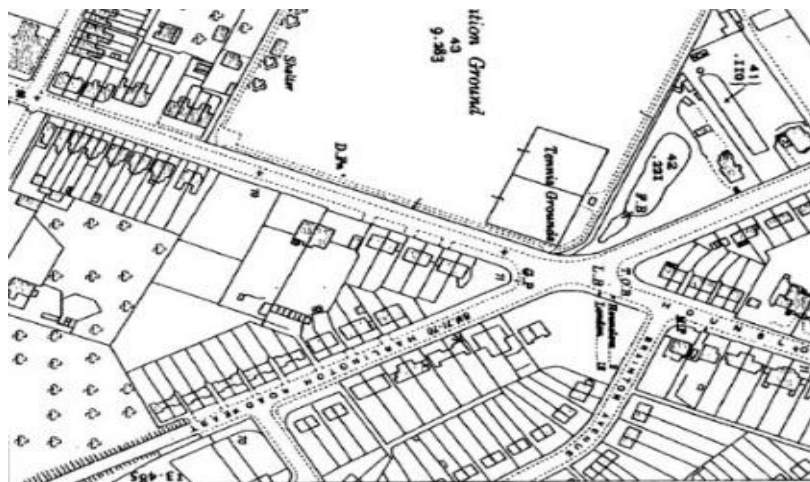


A narrow lane, off the Harlington Rd East is in evidence and leads to a small market garden or growing area. There are two structures on the land which may either be small cottages and a larger structure which is most probably a 'hut' 'Māori Hut? The area is of some considerable size with its frontage from the foot of the railway bridge in Harlington Road East and returning along Hounslow Road roughly to where Park Way is today

The 1894 map has an additional word printed i.e. “Nursery” it also shows a further structure within the grounds of The Shrubbs



The 1936 map shows houses along both sides of Harlington Road East – the small lane is still in evidence and also a row of glass houses



This driveway between the houses of today ‘nr 9 and 11 – ‘9’ being the house to the right’, the alley leads to a small bungalow with behind a much larger house which has the name of Cambria Cottage which is evidence of the land being associated with Cambria Villa in Hounslow Road



The occupier of the premises from at least 1902 was one Captain HC Barnes (born 1874)

His Daughter 'Audrey Kathleen' was baptised 9th July 1904- although the address at the time was a house called 'Lyndale' which used to sit in the middle of Mr Parkers wood yard off Hounslow Road which today is roughly where I live in Park Way.

On the baptism papers the father 'Herbert Charles Barnes' is noted as being a 'Chief Officer US? (Merchant Navy) 'it does not provide the name of the Ship

No. 762	<i>Index of entries</i>					
1904	Audrey	Herbert	Lyndale	Chief	John I	
July	Kathleen	Charles	Jellham	Officer	Cole	
9 th	DeNarissour	Barnes	Middlest	U.S.	Vicar	
	Annie					
	Emily					
No. 763						

The Lloyds of London Captains Register has "BARNES, Herbert (& Charles vol.74) b. Molash, Kent 1874 001723 London 1900 Steamships vol.59 1900-1903; vol.74 1904-1911"

Captain Barnes is buried in Waikumete Cemetery New Zealand 18th June 1951 - but that is another story.



Under 'forthcoming events' the chair alerted members of the annual event by Feltham Choral Christmas concert which is to be held at St Dunstan's church on Saturday 9th Dec 7-30pm

AOB, there was but one subject that concerned the Community Rail Partnership (Hounslow & Richmond) project from officer charged with organising the event, one Michael Olden. Michael requested photographic evidence of not just rail images of Feltham but images relating to Feltham's past. The material will form part of a 'platform' display – the installation will be sometime in the new year actual date will be posted once known

As there was no other business the Chair introduced member Chris Seymour with a 'short talk' entitled 'Flying over Feltham' WW1 airmen at Hounslow Heath airfield. The talk focused on some of the airmen who flew over the Feltham area from the Royal Flying Corps airfield at Hounslow Heath during WW1, including a holder of the VC and some young men who sadly died during training accidents
The talk (Flying over Feltham) will appear on the group's website soon