

Feltham History Group Meeting

Tuesday 7th March 2023.

The Chair, opened the meeting with his customary greeting and welcomed 6 others, 2 of whom had not been able to attend due personal circumstances and two other 'first time' attendees.

The Chair continued with a brief 'resume' of the minutes from an EC recently held - 'briefly' **Membership fees**, NO INCREASE but the Treasurer would like a quick payment at the AGM. **Committee posts** There is a need for additional Committee MEMBERS, so if it is something that you may wish to do please put yourself forward in the normal way, i.e. proposal/seconded.

Spring talks, dates being Saturday 15th April. It was agreed that the first would be 'Feltham an introduction to its history' followed by Saturday 20th May 'Rivers Brooks and Stream of the FUDC districts that made up Bedfont/Feltham/ Hanworth & Hatton' Walks - - dates to be finalised

Following the EC update the Chair continued with **Items of interest**

The first of which concerned Hatton fields and Hounslow's vision, or should that be 'mode of despoiling' the wonderful open space between the Duke of Northumberland's River and Hatton Road at Hatton. There is local opposition therefore if you wish to support the movement, please contact them. For further info on Hatton Fields see FHG Website.

Hatton Fields



The second item was in answer to an email request for information on James Brindley's map of 1770; the map was a Plan of the River Thames from Boulter's Lock or Monkey Island (Monks Island) to Mortlake' with particular emphasis on our area!



James Brindley was commissioned by City of London to make a survey of existing river ways and thereby suggest [City of London] the possibility of constructing new navigable canals. The scheme here locally concerned one Boulter's lock or monkey (Monks Eyot/Island) island Maidenhead to Mortlake. Brindley was an engineer and it is understood that his brief was to identify where new 'canals' 'shown here via blue' that could be constructed. It would appear that the scheme was fairly well advanced as the map bears reference to distances along the routes, i.e., intervals of 'one inch to half a mile



This is a section of the map from West Bedfont to Twickenham - as can be appreciated, it has few features save the Duke of Northumberland's River, Longford River, and the Thames 'bottom' of map, it does however show the old road across the heath from/to Feltham/Hounslow together with actual crossing points 'bridges' over the Longford and Crane River. Also shown is the Staines Road. His depictions of the 'villages' are somewhat different to what others have depicted - Feltham Village is not 'D' shaped and Bedfont and

Hanworth have a veritable plethora of buildings and Feltham Hill is unrecognisable! Obviously the scheme did not come to fruition! But if it had the “lower canal” and “upper canal” would have given us an altogether different land and town scape than today! ‘note villages/towns’
The upper canal (on map) would have entered our area at West Bedfont and transited south of Long Lane and Short Lane from thence running parallel with the Roman Road [Staines Rd] before crossing the Staines road (near Beehive PH) and running parallel to the Longford River – indicated here as The Kings River, and generally shadowing Uxbridge Road and continuing on to Twickenham where there would have been a converging of the canals at or near Hanworth Gun Powder Mills. The lower canal would have travelled west to east and crossing Clockhouse Lane near St Matthews church Ashford and then following the Feltham Road before turning to run south of Feltham Hill and from there continuing across to Twickenham Road Hanworth crossing the Kings River at or near Twickenham Golf Course
In conclusion this system may well have been more favourable for water borne travelling rather than the transiting ‘via coach or carriage’ of the wild lonely areas that made up the then vast Hounslow Heath

Our area could have looked a lot different!

Under ‘forthcoming events’ the Chair briefed members on the 2023 season of Spring Talks the first of which is scheduled for Saturday 15th April 1-30 to 4pm and is entitled ‘An introduction to the History of Feltham’ the second will be on the 20th May, 1-30 to 4pm with title ‘Rivers, Brooks and Streams of the area of the old Feltham Urban District Council. Both talks will be held at St Dunstan’s Church Feltham. Another event, yet to be finalised is a Feltham History Group ‘open day’ 10th June Open day where it is hoped to present a display of local history and a film show plus a short talk or two.

On the group’s ‘Summer events’ three walks are planned, the actual dates are yet to be decided. They are to be ‘July’ A, Hanworth Airpark; (circular) - August - B, Bedfont Lakes Country Park ‘perimeter walk’ and September - C, Hanworth Brook (circular to an extent) and possibly? D, St Dunstan’s ‘village walk’ (circular)

AOB – there were a number of subjects under AOB ranging from a ‘multipurpose’ cabin on Feltham green for use by local organisations to an update on ‘Feltham Destination’ and extra on Hatton Fields ‘petition et-al plus ‘Drinkwater housing’

It has to be recorded that although we welcome items on AOB those concerned **must** limit themselves to 5 minutes – this should be observed as, on this occasion, it meant a curtailing of the SHORT TALK.

The Chair, via Mike Parsons, informed members that member Matthew Savage was in hospital and that a card was available to sign for those to wish Matthew well.

The Short talk, was to be a selection of the late Eddie Menday’s weekly submission to the Middlesex Chronicle ‘Looking Back’ however due the inordinate time spent on AOB the Chair was limited to but one item – this was a short on Brentford Football Club

Next meeting Tuesday 4th April which will include our AGM