

Feltham History Group Meeting
Tuesday 6th June 2023 Christ Church
(web submission)

The Chair opened the meeting with a request regarding 'Parking' - - at the May meeting some difficulty was experienced by members of FHG and other groups with regard parking - space is limited so basically so as not to cause problems members are asked to park with others in mind and to maintain access and egress to and from the car park. It should be noted that parking restrictions in Hanworth Road and local roads do not apply beyond the 'times' we are there therefore roadside parking is possible.

Under Items of interest there was an update on Hounslow's project 'Destination Feltham. It would seem that the organiser has stood back from the project and therefore its future is in doubt

In answer to a question at the May meeting on 'telephone numbers the Hon Secretary gave a brief and general outline of such

Kelly's Trade Directories were, in many ways, a Victorian version of today's Yellow Pages it listed businesses and tradespeople and other locally associated information throughout England.

London had a large network of manual exchanges '80 in 1927' - and individual telephone exchanges were given names prior to AFN 'all figure numbers' locally the early exchanges were **POP**esgrove and **TW**ickenham Green. 707 * POPesgrove 892 Twickenham 894 **TW**ickenham Green 894 * **FEL**tham was 890 (Feltham & East Bedfont)

Most probably the one that everyone knows or knew was Whitehall 1212

In 1965 All Figure Numbering (AFN) was introduced which meant that instead of dialling the first three letters of the exchange

name, subscribers would dial a 3-digit number instead – Feltham's was 890 followed by other numbers!

According to Kelly's the first recorded number for Feltham was in 1914 and that was of Auctioneer [estate agents] Dudley W Harris of Railway Approach it being **TN 50**.

Also in 1914 we find Jessop & Co with contact address being The Railway Hotel - they were Insurance Agents and Auctioneers with an additional address South West Rail Co High Street Feltham the number being **TN45** – it was not until 1926 when we find many more numbers being allocated - examples being Matthew Appleton Greengrocer **TN22** High Street Feltham, Miss Alice Jane Austin 'Midwife' of Athelstane House Hanworth Road **TN 112** – Wm Baker Market Gardener Viola Farm **TN18** – Barclays Bank **TN34** [1926] One other that needs investigating is a 'Small Arms Manufacturer named Cogswill and Harrison Ltd **TN26** 'no address' but I suppose that is/was very necessary. I believe they had a Gun Powder Mill at Colnbrook.

There is obviously a reason for what seems a 'random' telephone number allocation but - as said it was most probably tied in with the position of the Exchange- as mentioned

Oh! number 1 Feltham, in 1929, was a Grocer named James Webb of the High Street

The Secretary continued with a request concerning a road plate that has gone missing 'Ashford Road' This road sign was on the north west wall of Feltham cemetery!



There is a possibility that the sign was first erected pre-1931, borne out by the fact that two graves (Bushnell) that today sit adjacent the cemetery wall received burials just prior to that time. The cemetery wall was re-aligned in consideration of the upgrading of the road junction, i.e., Sunbury Road, St Dunstan's Road, The High Street and Ashford

Road. Members were asked if they could shed light as to the whereabouts of this old 'Feltham Urban District' sign!

Another item that was spoke of at the May was a small Archaeological excavation along the Grand Union Canal (lock keepers lodge) Roger and Hilary Parritt gave an update



Under 'Forthcoming events' the Chair made members aware the FHG Annual History Display 10th June 2023, 1pm to 4pm at St Dunstan's Church Feltham 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'.

Details were given as to the dates The London Open House Festival the 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

The Chair continued with detail of FHG Summer Walks, they being -

July 16th - Hanworth Airpark; (circular) to include a tour of Tudor Court and St Georges Church (internal) meet 1-45 at Browells Lane near Airman Gate

August 6th - Bedfont Lake Country Park 'perimeter walk' including a visit to the cemetery and St Mary's burial ground extension **'bus**

ride' H26 Feltham to Bedfont Lakes. Meet in car park of Country Park at 1-45

September 3rd- Hanworth Brook 1-45 (circular to an extent) '**bus ride is recommended ' H25** Feltham to Hanworth meet junction of Main Street/Nallhead Rd near Lindon Bennett School

There were AOB following which a short talk was given by Assistant Secretary Mike Dance on '[flora and fauna](#)'

Next Meeting Tuesday 5th **September** 2023