

Feltham History Group,

November 2021 'web submission'

The Chairman welcomed attendees to the November meeting and followed such by a little on the group's 'objectives' under its Constitution, id-est

Whereas under the group's constitution 'clause 2' of which relates to the objectives of the group, i.e. *promoting of all aspects of Feltham's History, its people, its buildings, its industry and all those aspects that give Feltham its unique identity*, it is not a 'platform' to air 'objections or complaints of a local nature and whereas comments may be made regarding planning applications and the like, taking or promoting actions both for and/or against any such Planning Application(s) is not the purpose of the 'Group'

Under 'items of interest' the Secretary gave an answer to an enquiry received concerning the onetime Hatton Mission Chapel at Ease to St Mary's East Bedfont' the enquiry was in relation to 'demolition' of the chapel therefore it is felt appropriate a little of its history should be documented.

This is a part Ordnance Survey Map 1894 showing the chapel and surrounding area.

Francis Clive-Ross in his booklet 'The Church of St Mary the Virgin' apologises for "not being able to comment much on the Chapel at Ease at Hatton"

This was through lack of space, but he continues with "*it celebrated its centenary as a Chapel a year or so ago*" His booklet bears the date March 1978 therefore we can draw from that that the Chapel opened late 1870's

The Chapel was provided by Lord & Lady Pollock of Temple Hatton for the benefit of Hatton people who, it was said,



"had such a long walk to the mother church"

Temple Hatton was Pollock's large country pile situated opposite the Green Man Public House. The house, following Pollock's departure, became, in 1905, a Roman Catholic Home for Orphans 'St Anthony's Home'



The date of this image of the Chapel is early 1970's this is borne out by the Boeing 707 – 320b on short finals to 28L (as it was then) over the 'mission' - and the lamp Posts and the 'boys' hairstyle. The Barn in the foreground was demolished in the 1980's

In the April issue of the Bedfont Parish Magazine 1960 under the heading of 'Memories of Hatton Church 1890' the writer, Mrs Emily Maud Hine ne' Sorrell, of Faggs Road Hatton, provides some information on its early years, but it may have been written earlier as she [later] mentions Reverend Bardsley who was Vicar 1953 to 1962)

Mrs Hine also refers to the Pollock's home as Hatton House which is not correct for Hatton House was the home of the Langslow family – who through marriage were related to the Pollock's

Mrs Hine's recollections (a little short but interesting all the same) is the following

"When our little church was ready all the villagers came to worship.

The Reverend Pilkington started holding the Sunday services there at 3-30 in the afternoon for both parents and children.

The children on reaching the age of 10 attended Sunday school at Bedfont School

The appearance of the church has not altered [1890] much but the interior has been made much more comfortable".

"The Reverend Pilkington used to travel from Bedfont Vicarage [to Hatton] on his tricycle until he married a lady with means who provided a Horse and Carriage and a Coachman."

“The Reverend Reichard took the service every Sunday” “He formed a choir, of which I was a member” “there was very little entertainment during the week; perhaps the Church Army would visit for a few days”

“everything then was so peaceful and happy”

‘no airplane noise to drown the Vicars sermon’

She continues further ‘stating we had ‘good parents’ with many happy times with them – they also attended Church – ‘she remembers’ always chatting at the church gate and then going home to a good old fashion Tea – and how clean their house was “nice white cloth on the table and brass candle sticks at each end”

The chapel was the home of Hatton Band of Hope



As can be seen the Branch was formed 1880 and it would infer that the group was part of the Chapel at ease with St Mary’s

The image was taken June 1912 in the grounds of The Riding School Whitton Dene upon the annual gathering of the South West Middlesex Band of Hope Summer Fete and Sports day



The Banner also bears out that the Chapel was opened around or just before the date displayed

The Reverend Nicholas Gee Pilkington MA was vicar at Bedfont from 1871 to 1909 retiring, after 38 years, to Brighton and dying in 1915 six days before his 88th birthday.

Although not being 'collated' to the post at Bedfont until 1871 he first came here as Chaplain to Middlesex Industrial School [Feltham Borstal] in 1861.

In 1867 he became Curate to Reverend Henry Vincent Le Bas at Bedfont 'under the title "a kind of voluntary winter *missioner*"

Continuing with Mrs Hine's account she speaks of the Pollocks –
"Lord Pollock held the highest of situations in the Judiciary and many other high profile government positions".



On the 15th May 1960 local people gathered to protest about night flights – this was taken outside the home of Lord Douglas of Kirkside Denham Buckinghamshire

It is felt that among the protesters are some Feltham and Hatton people, particularly the man, on the left, in the dark glasses.

On a personal note, I [Alan Rice] recall on a number of Saturday mornings back in 1964 helping 'Pop' Butt, then in his late 70's, together with his grandson Peter Goddard, re-point the brickwork, both inside and out, of this place. Pop used to work for the Bedfont builder Fred Bird.

With regards the Mission 'of recent times' [1984] a report in a local paper mentions a grant [Listed Buildings Grant] towards essential roof repairs. The amount was given as "up to £1000" the Planning committee agreed the grant because the Tiles were of special 'Clay Type' which is an architectural feature in their own right.

The demise of the Chapel came in June of 1992 when worshippers were ordered to leave the church 'immediately' because of concerns that the roof might collapse.

The Vicar of the time, Father Patrick Hutton, was adamant that the damage was due jets *thundering* overhead but this was discounted somewhat 'forthrightly' by a Heathrow Community Liaison officer – saying "recent research showed aircraft noise could not damage buildings" – the Reverend Hutton retorted with that "*he had done services there when Concorde has flown over and the whole place shook*"

The building became an Office in 2000; presumably fully sound proofed and *shake* proof

The Register held by Hounslow Local Studies of listed buildings does not give any information to it being a mission church despite what Francis Clive-Ross says!

The following are extracts from The Middlesex Chronicle which appear, profound in nature, but do not provide answers or outcomes

30th October 1875 – *Hatton Chapel 'Endowment' 'an important presentment in relation to the endowment came before the Bishop of London at his visitation at St Pauls'*

29th June 1876 *under 'disappointed congregation 'Vicar indisposed' it would appear that the Vicar was not well enough to take morning service at St Mary's and that fact was not translated to the Hatton people' The service 'at a late stage' was taken by Vicar Stedman of Stanwell.*

13th December 1877 Advent Service and 23rd December 1878 'service of song' 'a sort of Choral service by Mr Godwin'



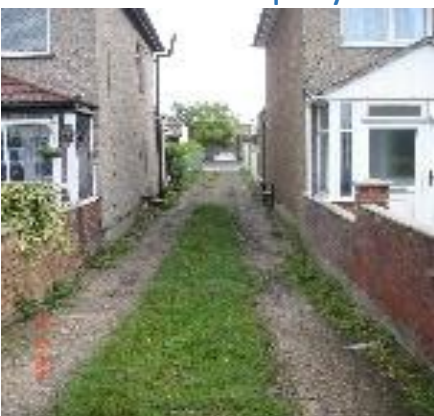
Oliver Newell outside his minkby,
with Willoom Wild, 1942

Returning to Mrs Hine; she finishes with,
"I pray that our little church at Hatton will be kept for many years and with God's blessing get more support" we prayerfully echo that here
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Another enquiry concerned Harwin Electrics, (Harold and Win) whose premises on Airman Parade had closed after 60 years of personal service



One further enquiry concerned RAOB Hanworth (Labour Club)



This came through a friend who on clearing out old family items found some 'things' of old and asked if we had any further info on this place and the organisation – 'which is little I am afraid!

However it would seem that the 'club' was accessed via an alley between house and was the way in and out to a Hall once used by Hanworth Labour Party many years ago!

As said these images were taken from original photo's given by a friend of mine whose grandfather is one of the sitters.

They are of RAOB members 'the buffs' who periodically met at the Hall. Which is off Hounslow Road Hanworth – near the Mount



image c1930's and c1950's

The hall bears a significance to my family given my youngest sister had her wedding reception there 5th September 1970 today it is a HQ of a small consultancy firm called GLS AR Ltd



Under 'forthcoming events' members were told of arrangements for the Remembrance Day service at war memorial on Feltham green, it being scheduled for 3pm Sunday 14th November 'with wreath laying but no procession. Several civic dignitaries will be in attendance including the MP Seema Malhotra. The history group Chair will lay a wreath on behalf of the History group.

The short talk was a reflection by the Treasurer Tony Fredjohn on Remembrance (detail available)

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 7th December 2021, when the talk will be 'What went before the Longford River?' by Richard Clark.