

## Feltham History Group October 2022 'web submission

The Chair commenced the meeting with an update on our founder member Edwin Menday, Ed has now been transferred to George Potter Home Battersea and although being 99 (100 October 31<sup>st</sup>) remains articulate. The Chair continued with a briefing of our visit to Feltham MOD where we had a talk and tour. Thanks must go to Angela for organising our visit to an establishment that has been the home of various organisations since WW1 – many of you know it ordinarily as the 'depot'. The talk was given by a member of personnel and the walk by another member of staff - the talk centred around the part that a onetime Feltham based firm of 'Archibald Low' whose premises were at 86 High Street, Feltham and an assembly building, the old Ivory Factory in Railway Terrace. Low played a major part in the design and construction of what today has become essential and effective military hardware 'the drone'. The walk, which we cannot say too much on, as it is subject to restrictions! but it consisted of a guided external tour of the buildings on the site which included some of the oldest buildings and in particular the 18century Feltham House. The depot is set to close 2024/25



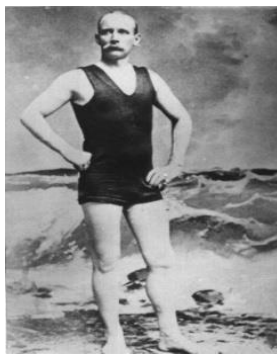
Under 'items of interest' there was delightful talk by Mike Dance on a visit to Gunnersbury Park Museum where he is a volunteer guide – Mike gave a very illuminating presentation of the visit and we urge all to make a visit to the Museum and grounds

The next item concerned the final walk of our Summer programme, i.e. Feltham Cemetery



The walk was conducted by the Honorary Secretary who provided information on the acquisition of the land where the cemetery is positioned with the walk taking in the graves of many Felthamites from the date of opening '1886' to more recent times.

The Chair next spoke of a recent publication by the National Archives surrounding a onetime Bedfont man, Captain Matthew Webb.



Briefly Webb lived was a swimmer of some note in his time, briefly lived in New Road Bedfont. He sadly lost his life swimming 'below' the Niagara Falls (a good read) The history group's own magazine 'Feltham Notes' also featured Webb in one of its publication's.

Under Forthcoming events the Chair introduced Angela to provide an 'update' on the planting of a miniature Elm tree that has been donated by the 'depot' to commemorate the depot's time in Feltham and also to commemorate our late Queens 'platinum jubilee'

Before the short talk of the evening members were reminded of the date for annual act of Remembrance; Feltham's act of remembrance will be Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November '2-30 for 3pm'

AOB – as there was no 'any other business' the chair introduced the treasurer, Tony Fredjohn and history group member, Ray Edwards who between them gave a very in-depth family history and general history pertaining to Southville church and the housing in the area; much of which was built by the Drinkwater family. The article will be posted on our website separately.

Next meeting Tuesday 1st November 2022