

**Feltham History Group**  
March meeting 2022,  
held 1<sup>st</sup> March @Christ Church Feltham

The Chairman welcomed members to the March meeting and thanked them for their attendance on such a dank and dark evening.



The opening image on the Power point presentation was of the Tesco's store which stood on the corner of High Street and Bedfont Lane – its position has now slipped into history! 'how strange the change from major to minor'

Under 'items of interest' the chair provided an update with regard Rights of Way Act from the last meeting. Their announcement stated: *"We (Government) will repeal the 2026 cut-off date for recording historic rights of way, as set out in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to allow more time for paths to be identified and added to the public rights of way network"* but they have not given a new cut-off date! But if you have any 'ways' that you wish to be evaluated please go to the government website

The second item was via an enquiry regarding the families Purkiss and Kendal. The following reply is an abridged version.

At the time of your 'journey' Feltham and East Bedfont [with Hatton] had separate parish status.

There were many farms and market gardens and other smallholdings in the area; Bedfont's main farmers were Sherbourne's, Tillier, Curtis and Barnfield, Barnfield operating between mid 19c to mid 20c - others being at an earlier period. Feltham

We have Kendall and Purkis family firstly noted in the area in about 1836 onward

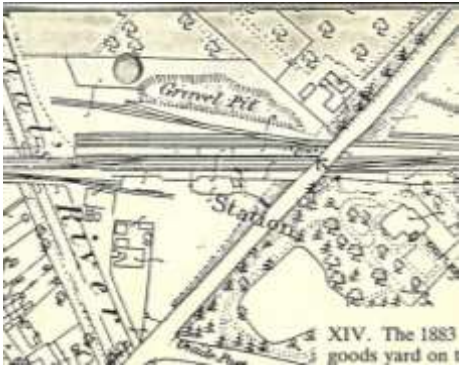
The following is from St Dunstan burial register; entries as follows - Richard Smallwood E Kendall aged 70 buried 31<sup>st</sup> May 1876 'market gardener' with prior to that William Henry Kendall aged 2months buried 11<sup>th</sup> September 1836.

Also from the St Dunstan's register there is a *Purkiss [as here spelt]* and she being Martha Purkiss (from Hampton) aged 57 years she being buried 13<sup>th</sup> March 1872; on the 1871 census she is aged 56 and noted as being "Independent" this infers she has own income. With her is *Isobelle* aged 30, "daughter of Martha" from

Poole Dorset. The address given is Railway Terrace Feltham. The railway came to Feltham 1848. As can be seen from this image there were many houses in Railway Terrace but the one with **Araucaria Araucana** (Monkey Puzzle) in the garden was a much larger house and given the families 'business' horticulture they would have been more likely than most to have such an exotic tree in the garden



They are enumerated on censuses from 1841 to 1871, but by 1881 Mr Kendall had died and his wife is noted as 'head of household' a "house proprietor"— there place of abode is described 'mainly' as "near the station [Feltham Station] where he had a smallholding where various vegetables and fruit were grown.



This 1883 map around Feltham Station shows in the top right quadrant an orchard/smallholding cum market garden and the house shown to right of 'gravel pit' along Hounslow Road "near railway" is most probably the property hinted at in 1881 census. With regard the image you provided showing dwellings and a shop and Public House (Rose & Crown) this is St Dunstan's Road 'the original Feltham Village'

It would appear that the Kendall family had ties with Bedfont therefore the story continues there.



This map is a section of the O/S map c1894 of Bedfont— showing the ponds on Bedfont Green with to the south [of Staines Road] beginning far right the 'Dukes Head' then small shops, The Bell coaching Inn and further houses. The capital letters 'BM 64.3' indicate a 'bench mark' which was incised on the wall of the Dukes Head. It is just possible the Kendall's

house was one of those shown in the map and the image 'c1905' – they were very old houses



We were told [via family] that one of the family worked at East Bedfont Gunpowder Mills as a 'Stationery Engine Driver'



This shows general layout of the East Bedfont Mills – they were situated north of Staines Road, East Bedfont opposite the Crown & Sceptre Public House mentioned earlier. There are

some remnants of the mills still in-situ c2018

For your information the gunpowder mills closed in 1926 by that time however they came under the umbrella of ICI 'Imperial Chemical Industries'. The occupation of Stationery engine driver was to do with the operation of piece of apparatus that was used when water in the river(s) was low so as to continue production of the gunpowder. This 'engine' mixed the gunpowder.

As said this is an abridged version; further information available on request.

The next 'item of interest' centred around The Red Lion Inn which this year celebrates its 300 years an Inn (1722)

This Inn in the early 18<sup>th</sup> the century, was at the edge of the Parish, because until 1800, Hounslow Heath encroached upon much of the area as far as the pond. Its position at the convergence of the old road from Hounslow and what is the High Street of today was favourably positioned. Situated obliquely on the east side of the High Street at what was the beginning of Private Road nr2 (Browells Lane), which in itself, possibly holds a reason for the Inns existence, but that is another subject.



It is the oldest surviving public house in Feltham still functioning as a public house; the only other Inn of such an age is the "Rose & Crown", and although that building still stands, it is no longer used as a public house.

Its name 'today' and is still so the most popular name for a public house in Great Britain - its name derives from the coat of arms of the de Montfort family (Barons War) (Simon De Montfort) who, it seems, were very popular and influential in the thirteenth century.



I doubt, though, if there has been a pub in Feltham since that time! (13c) but definite proof of its existence dates to 1722 - although the building itself was probably erected around 1700 - but even **that** suggests another Inn 'on or near' the site before the present one.

The proof referred to are the Licensed Victuallers returns which are to be found at the London Metropolitan Archives – [series MR/LV], wherein one William Carter is given as being the landlord '1722 & 1730'

The Parish Registers reveal that William was a widower from Heston, who, in 1714 married, *the' widow Catherine Beauchamp'* (pronounced Beecham) - and that her first husband Francis 'born 1680' was most likely to have been the landlord before William Carter. (Francis's brother 'Christopher' was also known to be a Victualler by trade).

One or other of the Beauchamp family seems to have been landlord for most of the 18th century, and when this situation changes in the 1780's, an extraordinary set of circumstances is seen to take place.

'John Beauchamp is still running the pub as his father had before him'

'In 1768 he marries Mary Smith'

'In 1781, Joseph Pope, local builder, marries Ann Beauchamp, sister of John'

'In 1784 John Beauchamp dies; in 1785 Ann Pope dies' and we find the pub being run by John Smith (possibly a brother of Mary Smith?) however in 1790 John Smith dies, and in 1791 his widow Eleanor Smith marries widower Joseph Pope and shortly after the wedding Joseph is licensed as landlord of the Red Lion!

We can therefore 'see' that over a period of about 10 years it changed hands through various means (marriage or death) and returns to the licensee of 1781. Coincidentally the same Beauchamp family were resident in Feltham from the Civil War until about 1900.

It was Joseph Pope with 'carpenter' William Massey who demolished the old Church and built the new St Dunstan's 1800-1802. Pope also acquired and erected, in 1819, the parish clock, which is still operating today? He also built several large houses in the town, and for good measure the 'town' cage (an early type of confinement for local offenders). Joseph lived to 90 years of age dying in 1843 and is laid to rest in the churchyard, where a memorial marks the resting place of 'Joseph and his first wife Ann.

He [Joseph Pope] was not landlord of the Red Lion any later than 1798, when it passed to the care of one Daniel Shepherd. - Shepherd was at his most welcoming during the enclosure of Feltham permitting use of his establishment by the Commissioners to put into force the Act of Enclosure and from the Red Lion on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1800 they met to perambulate the Parish commencing at 8am.

During the 19th century, the Red Lion enjoyed a prominent position in the centre of the fast-developing High Street, and often would be used for making proclamations important or otherwise to the townsfolk together with public meetings and the occasional Coroner's inquests - even post mortems – 'not sure which bar or what table was used or even the cellar'

With the coming of the railway in 1848 its importance waned being that a new and larger venue for meetings etc was built - that being the Railway Hotel – which was further north in the High Street. [1864]

Until recently [FHG 2000] the Red Lion held the last recorded ceremony of an old custom known as 'beating-the-bounds' - this centuries old custom involved parishioners marking the boundary of the parish by walking around it 'and' one would suppose afterwards, exhausted by their hike, were welcomed into the Red Lion by the then landlord of 1842 'John French'

The wife of John FRENCH, strangely, was Eliza ENGLISH who we think is linked to the family of Thomas & Sarah English who had managed the Rose & Crown a few years earlier. - John French was also a butcher and continued this trade until his death in 1846 - it seems his daughter carried on the trade of butcher following his demise!

You may all by now have the same notion that the business of managing a public house was 'in olden times' very much married in with another trade, many of the landlords of this place seemed to be quite well-off, through having other occupation or business.

'You can envisage 'French' on hearing entry to the Pub coming in from the slaughterhouse with a blood soaked knife!!' More probable though he only needed to manage proceedings and could employ more menial staff to actually run it, whilst he took care of other business.

John French's successor was James Cooper, he was a farmer having some 82 acres and employing 4 men and 2 women', as described in the census of 1851, some of his 82 acres were behind the High Street and Bedfont Lane generally Highfield.

The census of 1851 names 27 year old George Downes from Ash Surrey as “Innkeeper” together with his wife Hepzibah aged 26, with them are two Servants, Martha Slyfield aged 28 Jeremiah Phillips aged 57 and a 68 year old lodger Joseph Ainslie ? whose trade was a Carpenter.

By 1861 the Innkeeper is 28year old William Lovell with his 30year old wife Susannah and 3 children, Eliza aged 4, William aged 2 and a young son of 11months. There are 2 House Servants, Mary Reynolds 16, George Cox 17, then there are 3 Lodgers holding the distinction of ‘Servants’ William Terry aged 25 and John Terry aged 36 and William Lynch aged 30 from Tralee Ireland - these could have been Bar Staff

It is not well known that, at one time or another, almost every pub in Feltham has had an APPLETON as its landlord - the Red Lion was no exception, examples being The Locomotive, Queens Head, and the Railway Tavern. In this image of the Railway Tavern, the man first left ‘we understand’ is Reuben Appleton and the man 5<sup>th</sup> along in the ‘natty’ attire is the novelist Nat Gould – off to the races no doubt because Nat’s many novels centred around horse racing.



However back to the Red Lion - Reuben Albert Appleton took over the Red Lion in 1886, after nine years as landlord of the Locomotive in Bedfont Lane - his ‘common-law’ wife, Emma Elizabeth Learwood had originally married Reuben’s brother Matthew, who was landlord at the Locomotive before Reuben, but Matthew had died aged 26, leaving Emma with five young children. Reuben accepted them as his own and went on to have eight more by Emma, so that by the time the family moved into the Red Lion there were nine children in the family (two of the youngest had died within one week of each other, the year before) Reuben only stayed three years but when he moved to the Railway Tavern in Bedfont Lane in 1889, he left his ‘son-in-law’ (actually Emma’s son-in-law) Alfred CANTLE in charge of the Red Lion.

The rest of the family grew up to be either licensees or wives of licensees; Emma’s fourth child Frederick was one, and fifth child Matthew Albert was another – he managed the Queen’s Arms ‘which was near the Railway Tavern’ [crossing gates] Reuben’s own son Alfred was also a licensed victualler and went on to manage a pub called The Hope on Stanwell Moor.

Some here will have known of the Appleton's in other guises, such as Greengrocers, Coal Merchants, Undertakers, etc



The twentieth century saw many landlords, notable amongst them was a Mr Timothy.

To finish an incidental or two. The first concerns a motion 'set' at a Parish meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> July 1900 concerning the provision of a Mortuary. In the ensuing discussion Mr Edwin Barnham stated that there used to be a Cage and a Pound near the Red Lion in Browells Lane, and he presumed that the land still belonged to the Parish although there was now no trace of it. This is of interest to us in as much that its whereabouts had previously been a mystery.

Another mystery was the odd arrangement in the cellar, which until recently had been most mystifying – they are actually Ovens – one would pose the question are these 1722?



Feltham's Red Lion as far as is known has never had a philosophical society like the one that was formed in a pub of the same name in Birmingham in 1839 and not wanting to appear derogatory but one would be hard pressed to find semblance of a literary gathering today, save the legendary Boo Neville of course. Currently it now functions 'unfortunately' as many other Pubs as an extension of their home, i.e., televisions and children **ugh!**



Outside for many years was a Horse trough – this trough like many others was donated by 'The Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association' free of charge this one being installed around September 1899 (Mx Chron)

#### Listed status

In 1969 The Red Lion was the subject of a demolition order, but a petition organised by Mrs Thora Reeves of the Hounslow and District History Society together with one from the Inn's customers, and other interested local people the building was listed as being "worthy of preservation"

Of recent times it has undergone a name change, which I understand 'although' a listed building, is permitted

Finally I was told 'not so long ago' that the Inn 'internally' had not 'materially' changed for decades and I understand 'there were cracks in walls and ceilings' where, lying in bed at night the room swayed in the wind – or was that due to other influences!!

Under forthcoming events the chair gave a brief update on the annual Spring talks usually scheduled for Feltham Library and informed attendees that April meeting will include the AGM, which had not been held since 2018 due the pandemic.

In AOB the Chair requested that members submit nominations for Committee posts. There were 2 other matters the first being provided by Tony Fredjohn and concerned the history he is compiling on the two branches of the Drinkwater families. It is hoped that this will form a short talk in the coming months. The second matter was from Mike Parsons who alerted members to a website that is displaying 'local' historical images and asked if members were aware of the site. Given the content 'images' he suggested can they, should they be referred to Hounslow Local Studies for inclusion in their repository .

Due the lateness of the hour it was not possible to present the short talk on Hanworth Water Mill, (Eldeford Mill) which will be rescheduled for later in the year

The Chair closed the meeting at 21-10

Next meeting, includes AGM 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022