

Feltham History Group June 2025 meeting

Chairs intro **JF**– resume’ of recent events, firstly Will Horgan to speak on Phillip Snell Pinner Historian followed by the ‘official tape cutting’ of the wall mural for MF (Russell Finex)

FHG were well-represented on Wednesday, 21st May, when Alan, Tony, Jane, Ray and Angela were invited to the “Official Opening” of the two murals on the end buildings of the Company Russel Finex in Browell’s Lane. For those who don’t know, the subjects of the Murals are Freddie Mercury and Mo Farah. Sir Mo Farah was invited to the event.

A large gathering of people (including many of the employees of the company), gathered opposite the murals. The Chairman of the company spoke first.



Then Mo was invited to cut the ribbon.

There were a number of presentations made including one to Ray (as owner of Freddy Mercury’s residence in Feltham).



Angela Parton (who was presented with a plaque on behalf of “Friends of Feltham Green”).



After the presentations, Mo was asked to say a few words.



During his speech he mentioned (among other things), his PE teacher, Alan Watkinson, who encouraged him into sport.

He did more than most teachers do (because he not only invited Mo to sporting events, but made sure he got there by giving him a lift in his car! Mo attended Feltham Community College and lived in Hanworth when he first arrived in England (from Somalia).

When the ceremony had finished, there was a reception in the board room of Russell Finex where we were able to speak to directors of the company and Mo also stayed to chat.

For purposes of orientation on the plan below Russell Finex are numbered 17 & 18 at the foot of this picture.

FELTHAM'S HERITAGE - Epilogue

With the aid of a unique aerial view and some research notes from Reg Milner, we have compiled an illustrated summary of details referred to in the course of our story of the Site's development. This (absolutely final) article may become the most authentic record of the existing site.



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| <p>1 Feltham School, completed 1982.</p> <p>2 Electro Optics Division, completed 1987.</p> <p>3 Forest Road, constructed circa 1970.</p> <p>4 ICL Building, opened circa 1971.</p> <p>5 Longford River. Dug in 1638 to provide water for Hampton Court Palace gardens. Culverted in 1916 to allow Whitehead access to the airfield. Culverting extended in 1932 by NFS, to enlarge airfield.</p> <p>6 GAL Flight Shed (more recently occupied by Stagg Corrugated Ltd.). Built 1939.</p> <p>7 Brouwells Lane. Adopted at the turn of the century, but has existed for hundreds of years. Named after the ^{the} Brouwell, vicar of St. Dunstan's Church 1911-1931. c) 7A, Grange</p> <p>8 Whitehead's Eastern Erecting Shed, built 1916. Occupied by GAL prior to, and during the war. Subsequently used by Sperry and (until 1986) by Chubb. Bombed in 1941 as indicated by the flat-roofed bays, which were originally ridged.</p> | <p>9,10 Aircraft component assembly areas, built by GAL between 1939-45.</p> <p>11 Whitehead's Western Erecting Shed, built 1916. Feltham Tram assembly area circa 1930 ; extended forwards by GAL during the war.</p> <p>12 Site of Whitehead's Power Station, now Browcom.</p> <p>13 Whitehead Offices, built 1916 ; site of Aston Martin works 1926-47 (latterly taken over by David Brown). Now Longford Building.</p> <p>14 Whitehead's Canteen, built 1917, later used as GAL's Canteen. Taken over by DHSS in 1940 ; now Breaks Snooker Hall.</p> <p>15 Originally GAL Club House ; used as Civil Defence Centre during the war. Currently Feltham Seniors Citizens Centre.</p> <p>16 Sports and Social Club.</p> <p>17,18 Originally Whitehead Storage Sheds. Occupied by Mono Containers 1930-39. Now occupied by MPL Pumps Ltd.</p> |
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Items of interest



AR Wyman's – The following item is due an invitation from one Michael Gray to the opening a small 'bicycle museum' at Hanworth. Michael is Secretary of the local Classic Car Group – amongst the many conversations that day



was one concerning an old Feltham Cycle Store 'Wyman's'.



The firm of Wyman's cycle and associated fixtures and fittings store, opened in Feltham in Bedfont Lane c 1928 moving in 1965 to the High Street

In the Bedfont Lane image there are a number of advertisements including the 'vertical' Raleigh cycle sign - you may also notice the mannequin dressed in full riding attire, or was that a ghost of a past resident of Feltham

Wyman's, like all enterprising businesses of that time, entered a float in the Coronation Day festivities which toured the Feltham area in the afternoon of that momentous occasion, others who provided floats etc were members of a 'walking and cycling fancy dress performers'. The Carnival Queen's entourage headed the

procession, which included the Feltham Military and Salvation Army Bands, and Hanworth Military Band, Feltham Fire Brigade, and trades such as: Minimax, Ltd., Feltham Sawmills, Stewart's Stores, H. Reynolds of Hanworth, Edwards and Stewart, Fear Bros., **Wyman's Cycle Stores**, Co-operative Stores, W G Kitney, Madame Ames, Coombe Bakeries, Davies the Butcher, Express Dairy, and Blenheim Farm Dairy (Bedfont Lane) Carnivals of that time always received excellent effort from individual Felthamites.

Feltham Carnival and its Queen



Feltham began having an annual carnival in 1953 (the Coronation year of Queen Elizabeth II). The first carnival took place in Feltham Park, the route of the Grand Procession was between Burns Avenue and St Dunstan's Church.

At each carnival a young woman would be crowned Feltham's "Queen for the day."



I understand that the 'Queen' on that occasion was Christine Best 'nee Foster whom I knew

.....Christines husband Peter worked on 'film production'

Info from Max – "I would say that Peter

Best was a member of Post-Production/part of the Post-Production team, as he was involved in the editing process after shooting had concluded.

I looked Peter up on IMDB - he had quite a collection of credits to his name!"

-- the days of Carnival and indeed Carnival Queens are long gone, but every so often a Hounslow Council initiative hints at a resurrection of, or a community event such as the Feltham Fete which is scheduled for August at Feltham Assembly rooms and in the "field" (Feltham Park) at the back – as referred to by an organiser who will remain anonymous!

Forthcoming events

Sunday July 20th Feltham Town Walk 13:30 meet o/s 'Eco Cabin'/
Feltham Pond (circulatory)

Sunday August 17th Hatton Walk meet 13:30 in car park of
Hatton Cemetery (circulatory)

Sunday September 7th Feltham Village Walk meet 13:30 o/s St
Dunstan's Church (circulatory)

AOB

Talk Structure: (discussion)

We need to make early decisions on:

- Themes
- Door opening times
- Talk Start times
- Welcome should be given by Chair
- Questions should be managed by someone other than the person giving the talk to help control things, this could possibly be the Chair, Vice Chair or Secretary
- Closing remarks should be given by the Chair to include any special announcements including future events.

Short talk – RE: The Jones's

Next meeting Tuesday 2nd September