

Welcome to the first of our initiatives to maintain social contact with our members albeit not in the way members would prefer but the EC of Feltham History Group together with our webmanager, Jonathan, here present **items of interest** which many will know is generally a feature of our monthly meetings.

We shall begin with an email from our member Mike Dance. It would appear that Mike's wife had a narrow escape whilst walking the garden of their house. Feltham like many villages and towns had little in the way of 'mod cons' of today that we take for granted, e.g. clean running water, in house Toilets, gas supply, electricity, etc I am sure you get the gist!

Cess Pit – a onetime essential, an enquiry from Mike Dance

Mike's house is in Bedfont lane on the corner of Southern Avenue [new Southern Avenue] – I say new Southern Avenue because it would seem that when rebuilt Southern Avenue was moved some distance from its original position bringing about, although some 25 years following rebuild, the source of this enquiry.

As said Mike's wife had a fortunate escape from injury whilst walking in the garden, basically part of a concrete hard standing gave way revealing a bricked cavity, initially it was uncertain as to the function of the 'find' but Mike offered me and other members a 'viewing' which I subsequently availed myself of.

Many or most houses built before the early 20th century in Feltham had a shed or outhouse 'toilet' wherein was a bucket (made for a specific purpose) they were normally situated at the bottom of the garden – a long and perilous trek when daylight was fading, however this particular cavity 'pit' was 'beehive' like in shape and constructed of 'red rubbers' and without getting too close to ascertain their true brick type, but that is what they looked like.

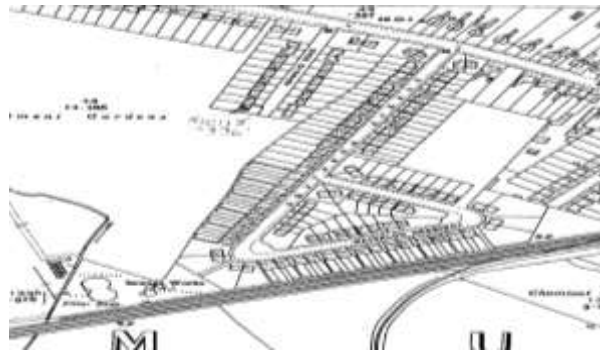
The below image of Gravel Pit Cottages clearly shows back garden 'out houses' plus three Well's – quite a boon.



From the surface we adjudge it was 42 inches in depth 24 inches in circumference – it had two pipes set eighteen inches below the surface which suggested it was more than an individual cess pit but one akin to a collecting Pit for many others in the near vicinity.



The moving of Southern Avenue meant that any Victorian 'pits' or 'pools' were not in their original place of reception and now were firmly in no mans land, or no receptor land – it appears that this cavity would most probably had been connected to the small sewage works at the railway end of Southern Avenue [



Ordnance survey map 1913

Similar pits have been found in Feltham, the below image provides an indication of the depth [valve cock] of one found some 30 years ago and there is one such Cess pit collecting system near the two bridges in Hatton road Bedfont which until recently was still in operation



The houses on the 'railway estate' Waterloo Crescent and Southern Avenue and Ashmead Road are not shown on the 1909/13 countrywide property evaluations therefore dating the original dwellings to c1920, although houses in Bedfont Lane have similar appearance and are of an earlier age.

The origins of names of the two roads on the railway estate are obvious but as for Ashmead many may not be so familiar with; James Ashmead Parker came from a place called Goytree [forest] on the Welsh borders he was a timber merchant who initially had a yard in Bedfont Lane moving to a new site Hounslow

Road adjacent the station. He was on Feltham Council for about 30years dying about 1933 and is buried in Feltham Cemetery.

His son Tom, (on the left) lived in a house on the corner of Kings Road 'it' having a plaque until recent times with Goytree thereon incised



Mikes has now refilled and resurfaced the area in his garden where the Cess Pit was located