

# Feltham History Group

February 2014 meeting  
held at Christ Church Hanworth Road Feltham (Ruffle Room)

The Chairman welcomed members and guests to the first meeting of the year.

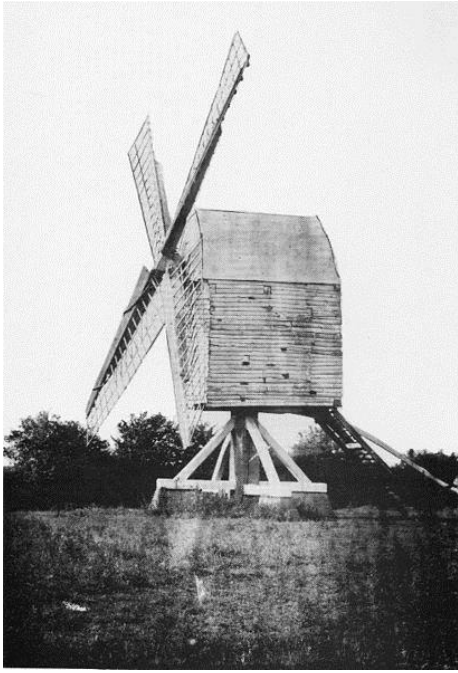
The first item on the agenda was the 'latest' on the Feltham Peoples Centre [ex- Feltham Hotel] given by Andi Barnes who informed members of an appeal against refusal by Doble & Gooch and Thamesview. Given the immense interest 'locally' The Planning Inspectorate are to schedule a public enquiry later in the year. It was suggested that the Secretary submit a letter detailing the history of the site as it was inferred that there was no historic background to the area and that he [Hon Sec] reiterate the Conservation Status of the Hanworth Road area and surrounding streets together with their buildings.

Second on the agenda was mention of the somewhat uncertainty surrounding The Mansion lately Rose & Crown - there is, we understand, plans to close; the Chairman indicated that he hoped to have more on this next time, he did however point out that we would be left with just three public houses along the extended High Street where just a generation before five could be found.

The Chairman then introduced the Secretary who gave an historical account of The Sawyers Arms which, unlike the Mansion had closed its doors a little before Christmas.



The Secretary informed members of the first documentation of a place of imbibe situated on this site was circa 1860 when it was noted as a Beerhouse under the 'control' of one Stephen Turner, he continued with the history before the 18th century when the land was referred to locally as Windmill Hill, confirmation of a Windmill is borne out by a depiction on Rocques Map of 1754 showing one such contrivance.



‘It was most probably a Post Mill such as the one at Pinchem near Shrewley Warwickshire’

At the Enclosure of Feltham in 1802 the land was part of a parish gravel pit numbered 137 on the Commissioners Map where’ it is described thus:-

“one other plot or parcel of land or ground situate at Windmill Hill containing two roods and thirty six perches – bounded on the north side by the said Ashford Road, on the east by Walton Bridge Road (Chertsey Road), on the south by the tenth Allotment herein awarded to William Shore and herein assigned in exchange to Samuel Woodham

and on the west by the allotment awarded to Edward Layton” these were all people of some prominence in Feltham at that time.

This same area was sold under an act in the time of William 1V, 5/6 CAP 50, as having ‘exhausted gravel’ –

As noted in its early days the place was a Beerhouse and it would appear it lead a somewhat desultory life opening or closing and/or changing hands frequently and falling foul of the law.

In 1874 it is noted the licence was renewed - and again in 1875 - but under whose auspices is not known. No mention is made for a while until we see a George Burlingham in receipt of a licence ‘again of a date unknown’ but that was to the latter part of the 19c.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> August 1878 a Mr Spong was found to be selling beer out of hours – the Chronicle report read - PC Farley and PC Finch ‘in evidence’ said they followed a man down the alley at the rear of gravel pit cottages (Leonards Cottages) and in a shed found 18 – 20 men which they thought was suspicious!

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1897 at a ordinary meeting of the rural district council Mr Harris heard from Dr Morris [medical officer] that Mrs Turner, Landlady of the Sawyers Arms, had lodged a complaint in consequence of the cellar being “full of water” and “stagnant” – “in his opinion” ‘Dr Morris’ having regard to the height of ‘land water’” this cellar ought either to be completely filled in or

properly concreted as pumping out would be useless considering the adjacent Gravel Pit”

It goes on - Mr Jacobs [inspector of nuisances] was instructed to serve notice upon owner of Sawyers Arms calling upon ‘him’ to “fill the cellar up” – “failing which the Council will take steps to close the house under the Housing of the Working Class Act” – ‘you could say that Mrs Turner’s complaint somewhat backfired’!

On a more positive note for the Inn at the celebrations of Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee the meadow attached to the Sawyers Arms was used for the celebrations and “a good time was had by all” various sports were played and prizes given, shortly following this however on the 12<sup>th</sup> March at a local Sessions the Licence was not renewed - but would “be re-examined at the next Sessions” – possibly the cellar had not been filled in.

The property is fully described In the 1909/14 property Evaluations Act.(full description available)

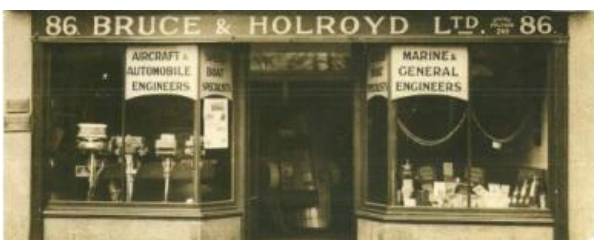
Other holders of the licence were - George Burlingham, yes he reappears albeit some time later in 1914 when it is still noted as being a ‘Beer House’

The ‘house’ a small place albeit added to occasionally had a Public Bar, Saloon Bar, Bar Parlour and an Office Licence – all of which became one some twenty years ago.

As for its name obviously it would have something to do with Sawyers but Feltham was not noted for having a ‘wood’ but nearby is Loom Pits Close the ‘pit’ part seems to suggest sawing and over at ‘Bedfont Way’ was an old piece of land called Woodfield from where timber could have been brought.

It is a wonder it lasted as long as it has - as its car park has always looked ripe for development ‘many flats’ but possibly on stilts!

The Chairman then introduced James Marshall Hounslow’s Local Studies Officer who gave an in depth account on a company once operational in Feltham High Street namely Bruce and Holroyd



The company operated in Feltham from 1929 into the early 1960’s making engines for a number of assorted craft, aeronautical

or marine, together with other motor parts. The shop window gives an insight as to the engines produced.

In 1926 The Honourable Victor Bruce won the Monte Carlo Rally, additionally he won many other road events – it is interesting to note his wife, Mrs Victor Bruce, was a British record-breaking racing motorist, speedboat racer and aviator in the 1920s and 1930s, and later, successful businesswoman.

In AOB subjects as diverse as ‘Ypres Times’ ‘Post Office Service 1914/18’ ‘60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Feltham Sea Scouts’ ‘local and governmental plans for Feltham Station and surrounding area’ and it was noted that another meeting is to be held on the future of the Glebe Lands and Feltham Arena’

The Chairman then gave a short talk on ancient ‘Field Names’ of Feltham – plotting and matching the houses of members to field names of old – which was a surprise to many.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21-15 but reminded members of the meeting scheduled for March where the short talk will be entitled ‘forever captured’