

## May 2019 meeting of Feltham History Group

The Chairman opened proceedings by thanking members for their attendance.

Under 'items of interest the Vice Chair, Roger Cowing, gave a 'power-point' presentation concerning a recent recce he and the Secretary had undertaken ('Bridge 'on the river' Crane') on the ex Marshalling yard site which included parts of the Crane Valley Walk Way.

The Marshalling Yard visit was to detail the extent of the 'clearance' work being undertaken to establish a "Train Care Depot" on the site. Whereas a small amount of vegetation had been left much of the site was devoid of mature plant life. It would appear that South Western Railway had not made proper recognition of the timing of the work and how it would impact upon flora and fauna; a survey of 1990 identified a species of 'black broom' *Cytisus nigricans* 'Cyni' found nowhere else in Britain – on this particular visit its actual area on the 'yard' could not be identified!

The other part of the 'visit' was to the CVWW with the express purpose of locating the position of a new foot bridge that was to be installed; this it appears was to connect the east of the site [Crane River] and the west. The visit however failed to identify such therefore a further recce was undertaken on the 4<sup>th</sup> May. On this occasion entry to the site was made from the entrance off Hounslow road 'Crane Park 'little crane park' where although there is a 'path' of sorts it is fairly overgrown – however progress was fairly swift with the Mill Stream to our right we soon approached the bridge that shields the stream from view. Often is the case when undertaking such sorties surprises are a welcome extra! And it was here upon turning around we viewed the new bridge.

Although the CVWW is well advertised its use is not as would be hoped so I encourage all to make the effort to do so, because the effort is worthwhile; we did encounter a couple with their young Son who upon conversing with them were told of their purpose that day and that was to find the 'Orchard' – this is an area planted with various types of fruit trees 'Apple' 'Plum' 'Pear' – another bonus.

The next item was on the visit, and final presentation of the findings by the American Students, particularly the 'presentation' that they made at Hounslow's new CC Hounslow House nr2.

Under forthcoming events the Chairman informed members of the date of the second spring Library talk set for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May, the subject being 'Rivers,

Brooks and Streams' which will be given by the Secretary and Vice Chair Roger Cowing. Members were also made aware 'History days' organised for the following dates

June 15<sup>th</sup> St Dunstan's History display set up at 10-00

June 22<sup>nd</sup> St Mary's Bedfont History display set up at 10-00

June 29<sup>th</sup> 1-30 Christ Church talk on Veitch display to be prepared by FHG

Under AOB the Chairman made members aware of an application to demolish two old Victorian House's in Hounslow Road Feltham 'Uplands and The Firs, these of recent times have been used as a Hotel, previously however, during WW11, they were used by Feltham Urban District Council as offices for various purposes. It should be noted that these two house are fairly unique in feature and therefore removal should be opposed.

Short talk for the evening was given by the Secretary on the subject of 'Sector J' Feltham Hill – this was another detailed exposition of the features of the landscape of Feltham both pre and post enclosure

The meeting closed at 9-15 with notification of the next meeting Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June.