

# FELTHAM HISTORY GROUP

**MONTHLY MEETING**  
(Except January, July August)

**AT CHRIST CHURCH FELTHAM**  
**At 19:45**



Your notes go here

**WELCOME:**

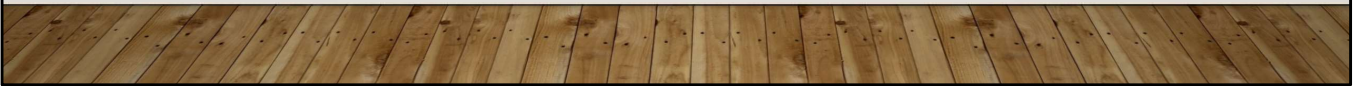


**PRIMARY  
EXIT**

**SECONDARY  
EXIT**

The meeting was conducted by The Treasurer and 'acting Chair' Tony Fredjohn whom following the usual welcome and introduction

**WELCOME:**



# **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP 2024/25**

**Fee will be £7.00**

**Payable by cash or Direct to Bank**

Name of account: **Feltham History Group.**

Sort Code: **20-38-83 (Barclays Bank)**

Account Number: **10952184**

Please put your name as payment reference.

The Treasurer and 'acting Chair' Tony Fredjohn gave a finance update and reminded members that annual subscriptions were due.



Where is this?

As is often the case, upon introduction, members were set a question as to identifying a local feature, this time it was a plaque – some thought it may be, given the depiction had a date and bears the royal acronym HRH, that it is on the gate pillar entrance to Rectory Meadow Hanworth or Grovelley Park Feltham Hill – both opened under the 1932 National Playing Fields Association Charter. In fact, it is but 70 yards from where our meeting place and is and is upon the wall of the Telephone Exchange.

**CONFIRMATION OF ANY OTHER  
BUSINESS:**



## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### BEA TRAINING (VIKING) CENTRE, HATTON, EAST BEDFONT

This information came from the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) World Airline Accident Summary. 'The gutted remains were reportedly buried in the sand.' Are they still there? This seems very unlikely as the airport has been extensively developed over the subsequent years. In March 1961 a Viscount fuselage was noted at the BEA Viking Training Centre, Green Man Lane, Hatton Cross, Feltham, Middlesex along with an Ambassador fuselage. They were both reported to be the prototypes and in use as cabin-crew trainers. Does anyone have any more information to confirm whether this really is the prototype, returned from Sudan after its accident.

**AR** 'Aircraft training centre' at Hatton [East Bedfont] an email from Steve Thirkettle Steve writes -

*Dear Sir/Madam*

*This Unit (site) was located close to the Green Man pub on the same side but a little further along the lane. I attended training courses there in the summer of 1959 and again in 1960 when I was a British European Airways engineering apprentice.*

He continues - -

*Despite internet searches I have been unable to find any details of the history of this site (it was possibly a small army barracks during WW2). It was almost certainly abandoned and presumably demolished by the mid 60's. I have in fact only come across one mention of its very existence.*

*I recall that on the site was an aircraft fuselage used for training cabin crew and a number of classrooms used for aircraft engineering training purposes and possibly other disciplines as well – most of these buildings were, I believe, old Nissan huts. Also on the site BEA housed their Stationery & Printing Unit.*

*Any guidance/information/photos you might be able to offer would be most welcome.*

*Kind regards*

*Steve Thirkettle*

Can anyone help?

- a correction is required as the fuselage was of a Viscount not a Viking G-AHRF which CRASHED in

Khartoum some years earlier but the Ambassador G-AGUA is most probably correct!



# ITEMS OF INTEREST

## BA VANGUARD HOUSE ,TRAINING CENTRE C2023



## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### BALGOWNIE HOUSE, HANWORTH ROAD, FELTHAM (SITE OF)



Another email came from my Sister Lynne, – she came across the name of Balgownie which was the name of house situated in 61 Hanworth road Feltham, it had 8 bedrooms. By 1930 the name had changed to BULAMATARI – I understand Bulamatari was a name given to Dr Henry Moreton Stanley by the Congolese and I understand it means ‘breaker of stones’ or someone of strong will and determination! – this was the same Stanley of Dr Livingstone I presume ‘renown’.

However back to the house - it no longer exists like many of Feltham’s old houses. In Gaelic the word "**baile**" means a town or a village - it prefixes many such places including Balnagowan (village of the blacksmiths), Balquhiddy (fodder village) and Balmore (big village) and of course Balmoral the Scottish residence of KC111.

There is a link ‘1920/22’ with this house and Emma and Llewelyn Lloyd Jones the parents of Buster Lloyd Jones of Veterinary fame ‘hold up book Animals came in one by one. At other times it was the home of Edward Thomas Swinson who held a very high position on the London County Council.

The house was subject to a demolition request in 1991/2

together with acquisition of parts of gardens of surrounding houses to provide an “exclusive estate”

**Briefly there was** objection by the council as to the application BECAUSE of a lack of social housing and other matters but eventual planning was granted - 4 names for the development were put forward by the then Local Studies Officer James Marshall! James being present at the meeting, the names provided all having a local connotation - Alfred Lucas House, Lucas was Foreman for AW Smith the prolific market Gardener - Lucas lived at a house in Harlington Road east named Blenheim – the second suggestion was **Lucas House** which is self-explanatory, then **Highbury Garden House** which is the house next door to Blenheim and finally **Gardeners House** again self-explanatory - but none were selected! instead the estate is called Leigh place – the developer’s name was Lee I let you read into that what you will!

We hope to source an image of Balgownie and use it at future meeting!

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **Spring Talks 2024 at St Dunstan's Church**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 14:30 for 15:00**  
'Feltham and its Railways' by James Marshall.

**Annual Display at St Dunstan's Church**  
**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024 12:30 – 16:00**

the Acting Chair Tony Fredjohn made members aware of the second of the annual spring talks - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May namely Feltham and its Railways 2-30 for 3pm with James Marshall presenting. The group's annual open local history day is Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 12-30 at St Dunstan's Church at which a short film taken mid 1970's +by a local man Roger Brunskill on Hanworth Gunpowder Mills will be shown.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS Summer Walks 2024:**

### **Sunday 7th July - meet 13:30**

Feltham Common - (meet Feltham Park and thence to Glebe Lands and the giddy heights of Feltham Common.

### **Sunday 11th August - meet 13:30**

in car park at Bedfont road entrance to Bedfont Lakes Country Park, thence walking Feltham Field 'Highfields' and Boyers Pit area.

### **Sunday 8th September- meet 13:30**

at Crematorium for a trip around the Green Gym Pevensey Road – our guides will be Roger and Hilary Parritt



## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

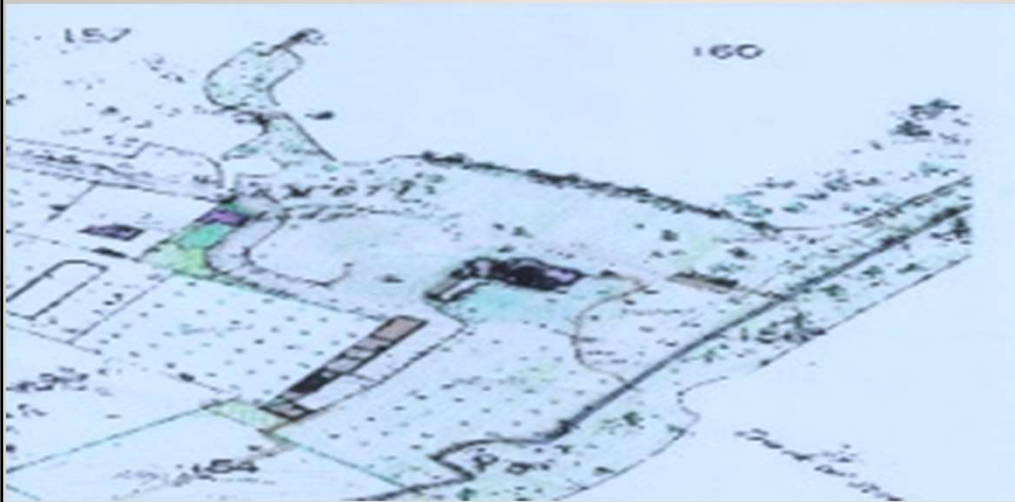
### MOD, sub surface flow of water 'update'

#### **AP** MOD, sub surface flow of water 'update'

Under AOB member Angela Parton gave an update on a surface water problem at the MOD, identifying the problem being on or near to the playing fields along Elwood Avenue adjacent a number of Lombardy Poplars, one of which had recently fallen.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

### THE GRANGE



- Note water source 'right of image'

As a follow up the Secretary gave an explanation as to the water problem which may well have its history some 400 years previously when a licence was obtained from the then Duke of Northumberland to supply water from the River Crane, which he called Duke of Northumberland's river, to Hanworth rectory via, or close to a house called The Grange, which also may have provided Feltham House with much required fresh water with the residue emptying into Feltham Brook after filling the curved shaped pond situated at the southern end on the estate; the site today is the roundabout near to the General Roy Public House.

'Right of map' 'blue' represents 'flow' – additionally another flow or 'cut' is indicated via the words "track of stream" which fed a pond that is no longer in evidence along today's Forest Road. Overflow from this pond exits towards what is now noted as a 'Valve House' Elmwood Avenue – this flow, apart from feeding Hanworth Rectory eventually joins Feltham Brook near the roundabout of Feltham Brook Way. Further research is required!

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Other Items

#### 'Feltham, Bedfont and Hanworth Town Council'

"Feltham, Bedfont and Hanworth Town Council' it was explained by [Angela Parton] as an interested persons group, *there is to be 3 open day for people to come and find out about forming a town council and the pro's and con's involved in doing so – see website for further info*



# ANY OTHER BUSINESS' in brief'

**Built in 1848**

## FELTHAM RAILWAY STATION

Feltham Railway Station was built in 1848. This timeline celebrates some things that have happened in Feltham's history.

- 1086**: The Domesday book notes that there are 2 villages, 2 Thanes (officials of the king), and 19 villagers living in Feltham.
- 1848**: As Feltham station opens Thomas Carlyle writes "railways are entering all the towns of Britain into new places... portable railways have set all the towns of Britain on-rolling."
- 1850**: The most famous actress of her day, Frances Maria Kelly, escapes from the stage to open a drama school in Feltham.
- 1860**: Lucy Howkins is a familiar sight in Feltham delivering the post to the rapidly expanding village.
- 1880**: St Catherine's Church is built and eighteen years later its distinctive tower and spire are added.
- 1890**: Mr A.W. Smith runs a very successful market garden in Feltham helping feed London, then the largest city in the world.
- 1905**: Feltham Fire Brigade with the latest equipment. Horse drawn steam fire engines like this could pump 500 gallons of water per minute.
- 1914**: It is reported that Feltham inventor Archibald Montgomery Low demonstrated a new apparatus, by which it is possible for persons using the telephone to see each other at the same time.
- 1926**: Aston Martin builds sports cars in Feltham from 1926 until 1957. Their world beating racing team continues in the factory until 1964.
- 1924**: Feltham Rail workers take a break in the marshalling yards.
- 1922**: A war memorial is erected to all those who died in service during WW1.
- 1920**: Feltham station gets a new photograph.
- 1932**: The Graf Zeppelin, Germany's luxury passenger airship, visits Hanworth Air Park in 1931 and again in 1932.
- 1931**: The Al Cross 'trolley' trolleybuses designed and built in Feltham.
- 1939**: William 'Buster' Llewellyn Lloyd-Jones opens a shelter for abandoned pets in Clumpy Lane beside Feltham Park. Later his veterinary surgery is patronised by the country's most famous pet owners, including Prime Minister Winston Churchill.
- 1944**: The Women's Land Army helps Britain feed during WW2, many work in the market gardens in the surrounding area.
- 1956**: Puma Fire Trucks are developed and built in Feltham serving almost every international airport around the world.
- 1966**: The last Steam train runs through Feltham station.
- 1991**: Queen's husband Freddie Mercury dies. In an interview his assistant says "If Freddie had his way, he would have been born in Feltham aged 18."
- 1995**: Aged 12 Mo Farrak started school at Feltham Community College and went on to win four Olympic medals World titles.
- 2023**: Feltham Station celebrates 176 years with a commemorative plaque and station party.
- 2024**: The first of a new fleet of Aveling trains is introduced to South Western Railway.
- FELTHAM POND**: Many centuries ago, Feltham village was part of Hounslow Heath, which was covered in ponds. Feltham Pond is the last heathland pond remaining.

**WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:**

- Feltham History Appreciation Group
- Station Station Appreciation Group
- HOUNSLOW REFORMED CHURCH
- WILD Artwork by Claire Watson
- South Western Railway
- London Borough of Hounslow

Other AOB 'in brief' were an update on Station 'time line display' courtesy of Paul Lehner of BR, an invite to the 200 years anniversary of Hounslow United Reformed church and an invite to a 'Ward Walk' [Hanworth park Ward] with local councillors on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 the latter being advised by the Reverend Anne Dollery

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

### **Feltham, Bedfont and Hanworth Town Council** **('interested persons group)**

*there is to be an open day for people to come  
and found [find] out about forming a town  
council and pro's and con's*

**Clymping Dene  
and  
The Dell  
'an anomaly'  
by Ray Edwards**