

SOUTHALL LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

Newsletter Number Seven.

Spring 1964.

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To any member of the Society who keeps the issues of this Newsletter, we must apologise for the change in format, as it will certainly not go easily with previous issues. The blame or credit for this change must, we suppose, go to the Chairman who over the last few months has given to the editor such a rough passage, that he, the editor, at last succumbed to his arguments and undertook what appears to be a most difficult task of filling a journal now twice the size.

In truth, the Chairman's aims are most praiseworthy. He is a very firm believer in the maxim that nothing remains stationary and that our membership either grows or diminishes. One method of attempting to increase the membership is to introduce our Newsletter to a wider circle of non-members, but to do this, it is necessary to increase the content and interest of the publication.

Quite obviously, if a larger issue simply means more or longer articles by the same contributors, then the venture is doomed to failure, and we do feel that with more space at our disposal other members would do well to reflect upon their abilities in authorship and, more important, their own knowledge and memories of local affairs.

Elsewhere in this issue is list of names and addresses of three committee members, any of whom will be most willing to take your Contributions to this journal.

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PROGRAMME FOR 1964.

May 11th.	Mrs. J.J. Trott.	Early Uxbridge Quakers.
June 8th	Evening Outing.	St. Mary's Church. Norwood
July 13th	Mr. E.A. Weeks.	The Story of the Local Press
Sept. 14 th	Short papers by members.	
Oct. 12th.	L.E. Jones.	Ancient English Churches. Colour slides
Nov. 9th.	History of Wembley.	A.M. Murgatroyd with Filmstrip
Dec. 14 th	Annual General Meeting.	

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN.

I am hoping that this Newsletter has been passed to you by one of the members of the Southall Local History Society, and that you will spend at least just a few minutes in its perusal. We have put this into your hands because we believe that you have some interest in your own locality, both in what goes on from day to day and year to year, and in the events of the immediate and distant past that led up to the present day happenings. It is truly said that the present has its roots in the past.

Firstly let me say something of our Society. It was formed in 1958, primarily believing that there is something of interest in Southall's history. Time and again this we have proved to be true. You have most probably visited our exhibitions at the Southall Show; these invariably attract an enormous amount of interest. We carry out a moderate

programme of research into our past, and this is not merely looking at old documents and probing in dusty corners, but is often active and absorbing.

However, the prime object in addressing you in these pages is to offer you a very sincere and cordial invitation to attend one of our meetings which, I can assure you will be far from dull or slow. The majority are well illustrated with colour slides, sound film, and on some occasions by small exhibitions.

We meet on the second Monday in each month. at the Central Library in Osterley Park Road at 8.p.m. Our secretary is Miss Jean Cooke, 21 Longford Avenue, Southall, (Tel. SOUthall 2870) and she will be delighted to hear from you.

At least once a year our monthly meeting is not held indoors, and this year, on Monday June 8th, we shall be meeting at the Church of St. Mary at Norwood Green for a tour of the Church with Mr. B.J. Hanson as our guide. Why not come along at 7.45.p.m. and meet us at the Church door? It is our oldest building and a great deal can be learned from a visit conducted by Mr. Hanson.

Finally I would add that we possess quite a young and vigorous committee who provide a high standard of programme; all we require is for YOU to come along and enjoy it, and by all means bring your family and friends.

A.J. ERRINGTON.

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The Elections for the Parish of Norwood completed at the late Vestry Meeting being now over it will perhaps be well to give a list of the Officers by whom the Parish will be governed. There has been a very great deal of dissatisfaction felt and expressed in the representation of the Ratepayers, but without avail, the influences that govern the votes of the majority have proved too strong and the Parish as to submit to the effects of the voting..

SOUTHALL TIMES, May 11th. 1886.

Go along to the reference Library and read the list of elected members, and you will surely see the reason for the above disgruntled report. - ED.

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MEMBERS WANT TO KNOW

To the Editor, Newsletter.

In the last issue of the Newsletter, information was required regarding the site of the Southall Workhouse; Mr. Neighbour is under the impression that this workhouse was situated somewhere between "Welch's Folly" and A.B. Hanson's business in Featherstone Road, most probably behind the small shops by Featherstone Terrace, but this is all that he has heard, and it is unconfirmed.

Elmfield Road had some connection in name with the row of elm trees in the old asylum opposite.

Do you have any record of the school which stood at the end of the Church Paths and which is now called the "Reliable Garage"? I think a Mr. Len Goddard bought it from the Education Authority first. As a school, I faintly remember some children there in 1912. I believe parts of it still remain.

Yours faithfully,
Elsie Neighbour.

Here is room for research! In an earlier issue we learned that a probable site of the stocks was on the corner of Featherstone Road, indicating that the centre of affairs was in that vicinity, so it seems quite likely that the workhouse would not be too far away.

We would have imagined that Elmfield Road took its name from Elmfield Lodge, but again the name "Elmfield" must have come from somewhere, so the row of elm trees are a very likely origin.

The school of the Norwood Bridge end of the Church paths was formerly known as the Bridge Schools. I have contacted a man who moved to Southall in about 1909 and who had connections with the place, but unfortunately his memory is not too clear on some points. This man's connection was that of Assistant Scout Master to the Lady Jersey's Own Scouts, which office he assumed in 1912 or 1913; the troop was actually formed by a young man who we believe went to Brownsea Island with Baden Powell and formed the Southall scouts in about 1910 or 1911. Their first meeting hall was the Bridge Schools, and my informant's recollection is that the scouts moved in very shortly after the school children moved out, presumably upon the completion of Clifton Road School which was built to accommodate the growing population of children in the Norwood area. Obviously some useful work could be done in this connection, and we recommend it to a research group.

Mrs. G. Galbraith wants to know just what was the Romans at The Green.

The writer well remembers the house of that name which stood next to the Gem Cinema; in the front of the house stood a very fine and rare tree, but why it was called The Romans we have no idea. Does anyone have thoughts on the subject?

THE NORWOOD PARISH REGISTERS.

A REGISER BOOKE CF BIRTHS MARRIAGES AND DEATHS BEGUN YE 28 OF MARCH 1654. CHOSEN BY US THE PARISHIONERS AS REGISIER FOR THE KEEPING OF THIS BOOKE AND PERFORMING THE SERVICE BY THE ACT REQUIRED –

MALACHI OLFE.

By the above, entry in 1654 was started the Registers of the Parish Church of Norwood, Norcote and Southolt Green which, now, for over three centuries have recorded the names of those who have lived and died in the Parish.

Some time ago I had occasion to examine the registers and soon came to the conclusion that it would be a local disaster if they were damaged or destroyed because, of course, they are irreplaceable. The task of transcribing these records was therefore commenced, and now all Baptismal, Marriage, and Burial entries have been copied from 1654 up to the year 1812.

The system used is to write each entry on a separate card which is then filed under the surname in alphabetical order, and for marriages, there are cross-references under the maiden names. Thus many hours of thumbing through the registers can be saved because whole families are grouped under the same cards. The entry is copied verbatim complete in original spelling and with the Parish Clerk's comments. If it is desired to see the original entry the date on the card will lead the searcher to the appropriate Register in a matter of minutes.

The eventual aim is to transcribe Norwood Parish Registers up to 1837 at which date the registering of Births, Deaths and Marriages with the State. became compulsory. The searcher has access at Somerset House to records from that date onwards, so that the local registers lose their importance as being the sole source of tracing one's forbear's. By the kind permission of the Rector of Norwood, Father Lambert, I have access to all the Registers of Norwood Church and so if anyone has a query or wishes to trace their ancestors, I shall be happy to help either by means of the record cards or directly through the Registers. I can recommend the compilation of a family tree as a most interesting hobby and as a good grounding for research into local history of a more general nature.

B.J.Hanson.

SPYING INFORMERS.

Not long since one of these miserable minded fraternity was good enough. to lay information against sundry Southall tradesmen for encroaching upon the footpath, by hanging out their sun blinds etc. and now another airs his malice by informing against his neighbours, on the allegation that they use their business carts for other than business purposes, and do not pay licenses for the same. Happily in both cases the hand that penned the assassin lines has been exposed, and the intended stab turned aside, the authorities having kindly warned the tradesmen against the devilish malice of their neighbour.

SOUTHALL TIMES, May 11th. 1887.

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From Mr.C.P.Abbott:

Featherstone Road was formerly named "Workhouse Lane", and it is my belief that the Workhouse stood on the ground occupied by Messrs. A. and B. Hanson. I am told that the firm still use the original bell which they took over when the Hansons started business in 1837. Presumably the Workhouse was run by the Vestry of Norwood until about 1834, when the parishes were grouped into Unions.

The First Poor Rate was levied in 1572, and the consolidating Act of 1601 empowered overseers to build Workhouses etc., but I do not know when the Southall building was erected.

Further to the Birth of Southall Local History Society; in order to live up to our suggested motto, may I go back a little further than Mr. Errington's letter and his meeting with me. In connection with the celebrations in 1959, the Council asked me to film the procession, and I decided to go a stage further and bring some history into the film. Mr.Jordan, the Borough Librarian, had collected a great deal of material in an unofficial way, but it was stored away. I was kindly given access to this material and photographed much of it for use in my film. I also wrote to the papers asking for other material and received many useful contributions. The Library now has good photograph copies of all the material so garnered. It was this publicity that led Mr. Errington to get in touch with me, with the happy result that the Society was born.

Mr. Abbott also raises the point that it is not always easy to remember the names and addresses of the officers and editor of the Society, and requests publication of same. We are happy to oblige and they are:-

Chairman: Mr. A.J. Errington,
185 Tentelow Lane,
SOUTHALL

Secretary: Miss Jean Cooke,
21 Longford Road,
SOUTHALL

Editor, (who will joyfully receive any contributions):

Mr. R.D.Wheeler,
29 Park View Road,
SOUTHALL

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We have often wondered about the origins of the name of PLUCKINGTON PLACE, a most unlikely name to come across. In Part 1. vol 21 of the TRANS LONDON & MDX. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, there is an article dealing with the Hospital of All Angels at Brentford. Dealing with the finances of the hospital, it reads, "Richard Plokyndon, one of the feoffees at the foundation of the hospital in 1446 (with others) granted to Philip Malpas and others, lands in Isleworth, Chiswick, Heston and Northwood, on condition that certain payments were made to the hospital". According to the Enclosure map of 1815, Pluckington Place was just in the Parish of Heston, and the above extract demonstrates the Plokyndon connection with Heston.

THE BATTLE OF BRENTFORD.

There can be few people who have not seen a copy of the painting "The Laughing Cavalier"; and this portrayal, together with the general idea that the reading and teaching of history has given us, is apt to convey the impression that the Cavaliers serving King Charles the First in his way against the Parliamentary Forces under Cromwell, were a dashing and romantic body of gallant soldiers defending their rightful sovereign against stern and puritanical Roundhead tyrants.

The unfortunate truth is that these Cavaliers could be as cruel and ruthless upon occasion as any of the merciless armies recorded in the pages of history, a fact that our neighbours at Brentford found to their cost on November 12th, 1642. Stationed at Brentford as part of the Parliamentary forces guarding the approaches to London, there were a few regiments of Roundheads under the command of Colonel Denzil Holles, but taken by surprise under the cover of mist, the Colonel and his men were driven from the town by the attacking Royalists under Prince Rupert. Many of the Parliamentary soldiers attempted to escape by swimming the Thames, but a great number fell to the guns of the Cavaliers before they gained the Surrey Bank.

The next objectives of the Cavaliers were the inns and ale-houses they were all soon satiated with ale and wine, so they proceeded to pour what they could not consume into the cellars. Then the drunken soldiers sallied forth into the streets of Brentford where they robbed the unfortunate citizens of their clothes, money and valuables, and, adding insult to injury, beat them without mercy. To their everlasting shame, they even assaulted some old ladies in the alms-houses and destroyed their spinning wheels. They also robbed and ill-treated a blind beggar and his wife.

The townsfolk who stayed behind their locked gates and bolted doors, fared no better, for the soldiers broke in and sacked the houses, taking furniture, bedding, clothes, pots and pans, and driving off horses, cattle, pigs and hens. The whole town narrowly escaped being razed to the ground when a house was set on fire, but luckily some brave people extinguished the blaze. The fisherman by the river had their cottages sacked and their boats and nets destroyed.

The men of the town were bound and manacled, and most of them were incarcerated in the dirty cattle pound and all captured Roundheads were lodged for the night in the slaughter house, and the next day they, were taken to Hounslow Heath. Subsequently they were taken to Oxford, tried and condemned to death, but the Parliamentary Forces in London threatened a like fate to all their Royalist prisoners, and the sentences were not carried out.

The departing Cavaliers had left the town of Brentford completely without food and the plight of the people was pitiable; it was estimated that their total losses amounted to some £4000, and it must also be remembered that it was during a bleak English November that they had to face this disaster. Parliament, in response to their Petition for help, ordered that the churches of Middlesex should appeal to their congregations for assistance and it may well be that St. Mary's of Norwood was one of those where a liberal response was forthcoming.

The King's army now retreated westwards, and Brentford was not again threatened, but the citizens took a long time to recover from their ordeal. The Battle of Brentford was the nearest fighting to London during the Great Civil War, and it is interesting to conjecture whether any of our own villagers saw or heard any signs of the battle or its aftermath, After all, three miles or so is not far on horseback.

J.G.

BOOKS.

NAMES AND PLACES: WITH A SHORT DICTIONARY OF COMMON OR WELL KNOWN PLACE NAMES
BY GORDON J. COPLEY. PHOENIX HOUSE 16s.

There are a great many books, pamphlets, and articles relating to the subject and derivation of place names, indeed the subject has a learned society formed to deal exclusively with its origins, but the majority of these publications have a good knowledge of the subject as a prerequisite of their reading. To my mind, this new book by Mr. Cotley will bring the subject well within the range of the intelligent newcomer and can be recommended as an addition to the shelves of the mature historian.

Although quite a small book, the author finds space to deal with our own place name in better detail than other larger and better known books, and I think it well worth quoting the relevant passage as follows:- "Holt is a common place name, occurring in at least a dozen shires from Dorset to Lancashire; and it is equally common in compounds with other words, though few of the places so named have any but local importance. Northolt, Middlesex, which appears to be a compound of holt, has in fact a different derivation. It is recorded as aet nord healusa in the tenth century, and meant "at the north angle of land", as opposed to Southall, Middlesex, in which healh is more nearly preserved".

We have heard of a number of explanations as to the origin of our town name, but to me, this seems to be the best so far.

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NOTES AND VIEWS.

Possibly the most significant item of news is the decision by our Committee not to participate in either the Southall Show or the A.E.C. Gala. While the decision is disappointing in a way, especially as this may well be the last "Southall Show" I can quite understand the reasons. I know there was a great deal of heart searching on the part of members before taking the final decision, but the major points against participation are the time and energy expended by the all too few people who can and will carry out the preparatory work.

The programme this year has been well up to standard, but what a pity that attendances are not higher. However, the members who do attend are invariably very appreciative. Elsewhere in this issue the Chairman is appealing to members to assist in a campaign to increase our membership by bringing along visitors with a view to prospective membership.

Since the last Newsletter, we have had the welcome decision on the preservation of Osterley Park and I think that quite a number of us were far from confident of a favourable outcome to the enquiry. But we can now rejoice in the pleasure that this park gives us and let us take advantage of it to the full, even with the M.4. slicing across its Northern section.

One wonders about the effect of the Greater London reorganisation, especially as we shall be part of Ealing. Viewed from an historical aspect this will be interesting, but will the local organisations in Southall fade into insignificance and perhaps eventually disappear? This would be a considerable loss, as our Borough is very rich in the number and variety of voluntary societies providing many types of entertainment and recreation for our leisure hours. What of our own Society? Will the interest decrease if we are but a part of a main constituent? I do not think that this will be so; after all, there could be sufficient justification to have, say, a local history society in Norwood, as part of Southall, if this is a comparison for the future. For my part I think we should strongly resist any movement to make Southall

just a minor part of Ealing, either as regards the conducting of local governmental affairs or in the future life of our local societies.

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OBITUARY.

It is with a very sincere sense of loss that we record the passing of Cyril Moore of Hayes. He was, of course, the prime mover in the Haves and Harlington Society, but we knew him better as a valued member of the Southall Society, It is mainly his warm personality that we shall miss the most. Always an interesting speaker and an attentive listener we think it a great tragedy to witness the going of a man so very much still in the prime of his life. Words are but empty vessels but we do sympathise deeply with his family.