

SOUTHALL LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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IN ANSWER TO A CRITICISM

Recently a visitor attended one, just one, meeting of our Society; it happened to be a meeting when we had a visiting speaker from a neighbouring society, and a splendid lecture it was, the majority thought so too. But as he left the assembly, our visitor was heard to mutter to a committee member " I thought I was going to hear something about Southall", and this was delivered in tones that left little doubt that he would not come again - and he didn't!

Now, unfortunately, I very much doubt whether he will see this article, which is a pity, because he may be able to help, us; yes, we could do with his help.

You see the only reason why we cannot fill our year's programme with Southall subjects is simply that the half dozen people who carry out the bulk of our research just cannot turn out two "Papers" per annum. In other words there just aren't enough people willing and able to present a "Paper" at one of our meetings.

The committee are not public entertainers and can only do so much during the year, and among our problems is the major one of filling a programme with items that are interesting, attractive, and informative.

If you analyse the membership of a society such as ours, from our total membership, perhaps some 20% are able through various reasons to work for the society, some of these are filling all their spare time in committee work, others are on lesser research projects; leaving a few on major research work and of these only one or two feel confident enough to present a lecture that will be entertaining as well as informative.

There you have it! If this gentleman had come along and offered his services, or waited for an answer to his criticism, something may have been achieved. Believe me nothing would be more pleasing or satisfying than a whole year's programme on Southall's local history, what a mammoth "Transactions" we would have.

A.J. Errington
Chairman

THE SOUTHALL WINDMILL

CONSIDERABLE interest has been aroused in the Southall Windmill since the original painting by Turner came up for auction in Christie's famous rooms on March 19th. 1965. The painting fetched the sum of nineteen thousand guineas, and was knocked down to Agnew's the art dealers.

Firstly, a short history of the painter himself Joseph Mallord William Turner was born in London on April 23rd. 1775. His father, Devon man, kept a barber's shop at No. 21 Maiden Lane, Covent Garden. His mother died insane.

Turner's only schooling was a few months at New Brentford, and later, at Margate, where his first known drawing appeared, he was in his ninth year. He chose an artist's career from the age of thirteen and worked and studied under various people in London. At fifteen he exhibited at the Royal Academy, and by his twentieth year had travelled most of England and Wales on commissions for magazines.

After a second tour of the Continent, Turner commenced issuing a series known as the "Liber Studiorum". These were prints of sepia drawings made from the original paintings. The first of the "Liber" drawings was issued in 1807, and the issue continued until 1819. At that time Turner had a Town house in Harley Street, and from 1813 to 1826, a country house at Twickenham, where he kept a pony and gig to venture out on sketching expeditions. The first reference to the painting of the Southall Mill is that it was exhibited at Turner's Gallery in 1810, before he bought the house at Twickenham.

In later years Turner's paintings became more colourful and most of his well-remembered works are from the latter period.

The year 1850 saw his last exhibition, and he disappeared from the public eye; it is suggested that Turner's mind had given way, for he had settled in a small house in Chelsea, 119 Cheyne Walk, and was known locally as "Admiral Booth". His old housekeeper eventually, traced him but his health was failing rapidly and he died on December 19th. 1851. He was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral.

The painting of the Southall Mill was executed about 1807. The catalogue prepared for the sale at Christie's gives an excellent illustration of the picture and an old sepia print was on view at the March meeting of the Southall Local History Society. This print was mounted in a frame and was subsequently presented to the Southall Central Library. For this generous and unselfish action we are greatly indebted to Dr. Hector Smith.

The description as quoted in the Christie sale catalogue reads:

"Lot 102; "The Grand Junction Canal at Southall Mill."

"On the left, the windmill against a sunset sky, the lock in the centre it's gates being opened by the lock keepers to let out a barge of which only a smoking funnel is visible, another barge waiting in the pool at lower left; in the centre foreground a white barge horse near a clump of dock leaves, and in the background right, more figures, a donkey, another barge and a canal bridge; below the mill, which is approached by a steep ladder, a cart and a mill stone".
(picture size 48" x 36".)

The picture was auctioned previously at Christie's on May 23rd. 1857 from the collection of Leopold Redpath, when it fetched 500 gns. purchased by Thomas Birchall, then later from the collection of John Heugh, on April 5th. 1874, when it realised 1,750 guineas and entered into the Cook family collection at Doughty House Richmond.

It has been loaned, to public exhibitions on many occasions; recently on public view at Kenwood House from 1958 to 1964.

To elaborate a little more of the picture; the viewer is standing on the canal tow path about 200 yards East of what is now known as "Three Bridges", but up to fifty years ago, known as "Windmill Bridge". The railway is, of course, non-existent, as is the St. Bernard's Hospital. The Asylum was not built until 1829-1830 ' and the Brentford line of the railway in 1859.

The Mill is standing on a slight rise on the South side of the canal very close to the first lock on the Hanwell side of the bridge.

If we assume that Turner copied the design of the Mill fairly accurately, then the Mill was a "Post Mill." It is difficult to assess, without further research, the date of building, but it is roughly of the second stage of mill development.

First references to windmills occur in the 12th century, and for some three or four hundred years they were built quite simply with the mill building rotating on a timber trestle. The turning of the mill into the wind was carried out by men or horses heaving on the "tail-pole".

Later the trestle was replaced by a brick or timber "roundhouse" which naturally served as a store for grain and flour. The Southall Mill was of this latter type.

The tower and smock mills were developed in the 16th. Century; in this type only the upper section or cupola was rotated, the main tower remaining stationary. But post mill construction did not cease, it was a useful design for small millers, and of course later developments did not occur all at the same time all over the country, so one cannot necessarily date a mill in this way.

In the middle of the 18th Century, Andrew Meikle, a Scottish millwright, invented the fantail, which is a small fan at the rear of the cupola and at right angles to the main "sweeps", and this device automatically turns the mill into the wind.

We can assume that the Southall Mill was in existence before 1675, for it is clearly shown on John Ogilby's map of "The Road from London to Buckingham" published in 1675 (see "Transactions of the Southall Local History Society No.4.") but it does not appear on the Ordnance Survey of 1840.

Here then is the basis for further research. The writer has referred only to these two maps, others may well narrow down the date of demolition and there may be records existing somewhere containing reference to our local mill.

A.J. Errington

AMATEUR archaeologists carrying out a "dig" at Canterbury have found what is believed to be the ruins of the bell tower of the ancient St. Augustine's Abbey. The Abbey was established over a thousand years ago and was the burial place of the Ancient Christianised Kings of Kent.

PROGRAMME 1965

June 14th	OUTING. To "digs" at Northolt and visit to Church
July 12th	HISTORY OF PEAIVALE CHURCH E. Beavis Esq.,
Sept. 13th	SOUTHALL CHARACTERS. A.J. Errington Esq.
Oct. 11th	INNS OF SOUTHALL A.C. Hilson Esq.
Nov. 8th	THE NATIONAL TRUST. An illustrated lecture. L.R.Townsend Esq. Lecturer for the National Trust.
Dec. 13th	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, SOUTHALL
A SHORT HISTORY.

PREFATORY NOTE, Holy Trinity Church has been the subject of very intensive and painstaking research by our member Mr. W.J. Green, and the full results of his labours will be presented to the Society, at a later date, but meanwhile, so that the Newsletter's list of Southall Church Histories shall be complete, Mr. Green has very kindly, prepared this shortened version, and for this the editor tenders his very sincere thanks. - Ed.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH stands on the north side of the Uxbridge road opposite the Park gates. It is in the Early English or first pointed style of architecture faced with Kentish Rag Stone and Bath Stone dressings. It was built by J. Dorey of Brentford to the design of J.W.T. Lee, architect, of 26 Great James Street, Bedford Row, London, and it seats a congregation of 500. Worthy of special mention in its interior is the intricately carved oak chancel screen and the stained glass windows all of which except two survived the hazards of bombing in the last war. The Window on the north side near the west door is of particular interest; it shows the events recorded in the final chapter of St. John's Gospel and included among the disciples on the sea shore are representations of the first vicar and the Bishop of London of that time. The Church garden with its well-kept sward is set amid trees and altogether the church presents a pleasing appearance to the traveller from the direction of London.

The first church which Southall had on the north side of the railway was a temporary iron one which was transferred from Brentford in July 1868, where it had done duty for ten years until St. Pauls church was erected. It was built on a site opposite the "Three Horse Shoes" public house, in Mr. Bignell's field on land owned by Earl of Jersey. It had a fence round it, with entrance gates, and the fields round about being used for the grazing of cattle there is no doubt that the fence served a useful as well as an ornamental purpose. Nevertheless it is understood that the lowing of the cattle sometimes blended (not too harmoniously) with the singing in the church. The building was varnished inside together with the roof and the seats, although the walls appear to have been papered because this is specified in the removal and re-erection tender, all for the sum of £200 which was raised by appeal throughout the district. It seated 436 people, and had an organ and a bell and was under the jurisdiction of Rev. H. Worsley, Rector of Norwood. The first curate-in-charge was Rev. W. Littlewood and the church was opened on Sunday November 15th 1868.

From 1868 to 1886 the church had a succession of eight curates; it is of interest to note that until 1877, it was known as Trinity Church, from that date onwards the Minister signed himself as minister of Holy Trinity Church.

In the year 1880 the parishioners discovered that a scheme was afoot, through the action on the part of the Rector of Norwood and the Vicar of St. John's Southall Green, to separate the District of Holy Trinity from the Parish of Norwood and to attach it to St. John's District. Negotiations with the Bishop of London took place without the knowledge of the parishioners of any of the churches concerned, but when they did find out what was doing they sent a memorial, to the Bishop of London on 17th August 1880 asking him to delay action until their voices could be heard. No reply was received so a petition was addressed to Her Majesty Queen Victoria; but this was passed on to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners by the Secretary of State. Meanwhile, the Bishop had replied saying that in making alterations in the boundaries of Districts the only question was that of the most convenient working of the Parish. With the endowments he had nothing to do this being left to the Incumbents and Patrons. The order had already been signed and sealed. Thus what the parishioners of Holy Trinity had feared had come about.

Part of the proceeds of the brick earth which were to have been set, aside by Norwood to help towards the maintenance of a curate of their part of the Parish which would in the ordinary course of events become a separate District were now lost to them. That part of the Parish did, of course, ultimately become a separate District but the Church Warden who recorded these happenings at a later date wrote ".....there seems to be a good old plan that they shall take who have the powers and they shall keep who can."

1886 saw the arrival of the Rev. Henry Mills who was sent as curate-in-charge by the London Diocesan Home Mission. Under his enthusiastic leadership the idea of building a permanent church, to provide for the rapidly expanding population and to be a memorial to the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria, became a reality. The first meeting to discuss the project was held in the Southall School, (North Road, built in 1851) on the 4th February 1887.

Three years later, after much hard work, the Committee had raised £3,000 towards the £5,000 that we required, a creditable achievement in a district that was not at all well-to-do. The foundation stone was laid on June 5th 1890 by the Earl of Jersey, and seven months later the finished church was consecrated by the Bishop of London on January 31st 1891 and Henry Mills was the first Vicar. His incumbency lasted until his death on April 25th 1917. It is obvious from his obituary notice and from the account of his funeral in which a procession of five hundred people followed the hearse, that he was well-loved in his Parish and that his life had been devoted to serving others.

There were many who were benefactors to the new church, but the principal benefactor was William Welch Deloitte, of Hill House, Southall. He was the founder of the famous firm of Accountants, Deloitte, Plender and Griffiths, and he came to live in Southall in 1855. He gave the stained glass window over the Altar, also the reredos, the Pulpit, the chancel screen, the organ, the brass lectern and the altar rails. There is a memorial tablet to his memory and a window to the memory of his wife Mary Ann Deloitte, both on the south side of the church. People acquainted with Mount Pleasant may have noticed the Almshouses given by W.W. Deloitte in 1897.

Since the building of the permanent church, there have been seven incumbents, as follows:-

1891	Henry Mills
1917	Samuel Martin Young
1931	J.B. Harington-Evans
1939	W.H. Wilson
1947	G. John Halsey
1951	Stanley Spencer
1961	Interregnum
1962	Maurice Rowlestone-Jones

Thirty curates have also served during that time.

The Golden Jubilee was held in 1941 and was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. F.G. Smith) and the Deputy Mayor (Alderman G.A. Pargiter). The Rev. W.H. Wilson officiated and the Bishop of London was the preacher. Among the congregation were four people who had attended the consecration fifty years before, Mrs. Dunn and Mrs. Pearce, Miss Day and Miss Lack.

The members of the Church look forward to the 75th anniversary of the consecration in 1966.

DARTMOOR AS A TOURIST CENTRE:.

Dartmoor Prison, scheduled for closure, should become a tourist attraction, says the Dartmoor Preservation Association who oppose a proposal to make it a key settlement for expansion. They also suggest that cottages in the prison village could be let by the Duchy of Cornwall to holiday makers.

BOOK NOTE

A recent remainder now available at the bookshops is A QUESTION OF HISTORY by LAWRENCE STENHOUSE. This is a Quiz Book devoted entirely to history and should be of great interest to quiz minded historians. Fortunately the book also contains the answers. The book was published at 7s.6d. and is on sale at 2s.6d.

INDUSTRIAL MONUMENTS.

The local council of Redditch, Worcs., is hoping to raise sufficient money for the preservation of a forge mill connected with the needle making industry. Parts of it are thought to be over two hundred years old. Needle making was carried out at the site for more than 750 years. The present mill merged from an early 19th century reconstruction. The council has in mind the preservation of the mill as a needle museum at a cost of about £25,000.

Ten original hand looms in a Leeds woollen factory, now being demolished, may be preserved with the help of Castle Museum York. Their age is thought to be late 18th or early 19th century. Another discovery is of a massive steam engine assembled in 1870, but its size makes it improbable that it will be preserved. A special industrial museum for such machines is mooted.

Mr. Rex Wales, consultant to the Ministry of Public Building and Works, has been making a survey of industrial monuments. The Survey has been in progress for the past two years and he has recently inspected machinery in the Metropolitan Water Board Works at Kew. He is hoping for a Grant to enable him to continue to look at old gasometers, steam pumps, woollen mills, blast furnaces and mines for a further six years.

NOTES BY OUR ARCHAEOLOGIST

Many archaeological sites are being threatened by urban development, but the real tragedy is not so much the haste with which many digs have to be conducted, but the investigation must be taken as final. "Once the corn waves above the long-barrow, or the television masts sprout over the neolithic post-holes, it is too late for second thoughts". One such prehistoric site at Barford, near Warwick, is likely to be lost by road works and quarrying. Again, the Director of Public Prosecutions has decided to take no action over the building of a forestry road through an Iron Age field system at Horridge Common on Dartmoor. The system is scheduled as an Ancient Monument, the owner said he forgot it was scheduled, and the Devon County Council has no record of it.

Staffordshire Rural Community Council is appealing to its local committee and to historical and archaeological societies in the County to watch out for land planning which might encroach on sites where historical finds could be made. These bodies are also being asked to report cases where bulldozers might uncover known sites.

C.B.