

# WALK YOUR BOROUGH



## Southall Historic Walk



WAR MEMORIAL



SOUTHALL MANOR HOUSE



The walk takes about two hours at a leisurely pace.

Transport



## The Martin Brothers

Robert Wallace Martin, the first of nine siblings, made a career out of sculpting and pottery that led to a family business involving three of his brothers - Charles Douglas, Walter Fraser and Edwin Bruce. He started out in central London and worked for a number of years in various businesses before setting up his own business in Fulham during 1873-77. His brothers became involved in the business in 1877. Eventually, in 1877, Robert Wallace bought the site of the Old Soap Works on Havelock Road in Southall, in order to set up what they called 'The Pottery'. The wares made here would supply the shop they owned on Brownlow Street.

During their time the brothers picked up a number of accolades and awards for their work. In Spring 1881 at the Richmond Industrial and Fine Arts Exhibition they submitted fifty specimens of Art Pottery by Robert Wallace Martin, Walter Fraser Martin and Edwin Bruce Martin. These were sold to spectators and received the highest award in the class, a bronze medal.

They were renowned for their work at Southall, producing the popular 'Wally Bird' collections. Robert Wallace had made them with the purpose of being tobacco pots and so the heads were removable. Other popular works were 'Face Jug' these were jugs with faces on both sides of the handle. They are believed to be depictions of local characters Ben and Alf Hanson, this idea branched out to other noteworthy individuals for future works. Other work included a limited number of pieces now known as the 'Imps Orchestra'. It featured impish characters playing musical instruments.

Over time, with in-fighting, ill-health and a decline in production and interest, the business started to lose money. Robert Wallace, the eldest, was the last to die and by then 'The Pottery' was closed.

All the brothers were buried in Southall Norwood Cemetery, originally in unmarked graves. In 1995 their graves were marked with granite headstones, and on 15th June 2006 there was a dedication ceremony. The event was organised by the Southall Local Historic Society and Ealing Council. Reverend Mark Paulson officiated.

Charles Douglas	1846-1910
Walter Fraser	1857-1912
Edwin Bruce	1860-1915
Robert Wallace	1843-1923



## Southall Historic Walk

**This district is first mentioned in the will of a Saxon priest in 830 AD. However, archaeological evidence suggests that hunters were living in the district in the Stone Age. Part of a woolly mammoth was found here, as well as flint instruments. In the Middle Ages, Southall was part of the Manor of Hayes.**

The district itself was originally called Norwood. It was composed of a number of isolated hamlets. To the south was Norwood itself, centred on the medieval church of St. Mary. Then there was Southall, which was to the north, near to what is now the Uxbridge Road. Finally, there were the hamlets of Northcote and Dormer's Wells, which were further east.

In the seventeenth century, the leading family were the Merricks. It was in 1698 that the family were granted a charter to hold a cattle market. This remained in Southall for a little over three centuries. Agriculture was the chief form of employment in Southall until the nineteenth century, and population stood at 697 in 1801.

Major transport changes occurred in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. There was the Grand Junction Canal, which forked in Southall, with one branch turning north and the other going eastwards. Then there was the Great Western Railway, which ran through Southall, with a railway station opening there in 1838. In 1859, a branch line was opened to link up with Brentford.

Another major change was the erection of the county asylum in Southall in 1829-1831. This was the scene of significant reforms in the treatment of the mentally ill by Dr William Ellis and Dr John Conolly. Patients were instructed in trades and were no longer manacled.

The district was known as Norwood until 1894 when it was called Southall-Norwood. In 1936 when the district became a borough, it was given its present name of Southall.

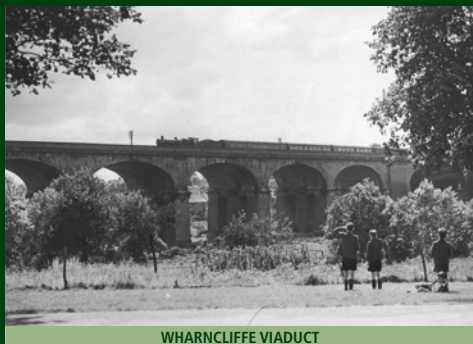
Towards the end of the nineteenth century, the district became highly industrialised. Many factories were built there, such as the Otto Monsted Margarine Works, then the largest in Europe. The population rose and the district became very much an urban one.

After World War Two, there was an influx of immigrants mainly from the Indian sub continent. This altered Southall considerably and Southall developed a large Indian community. Temples were built and shops selling Asian goods sprung up from the 1960s.

**Start at Wharncliffe Viaduct** - follow the path southwards, at the bridge head right along Uxbridge Rd.

## 1 WHARNCLIFFE VIADUCT

Built in 1836-38 by well-known engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel, it was his first major building project and took its name from the chairman of the Parliamentary committee, which steered the Great Western Railway Bill through parliament - Brunel was head engineer of the project. The viaduct was doubled in 1877. Pevsner an architectural expert noted that 'Few viaducts have such architectural panache'.

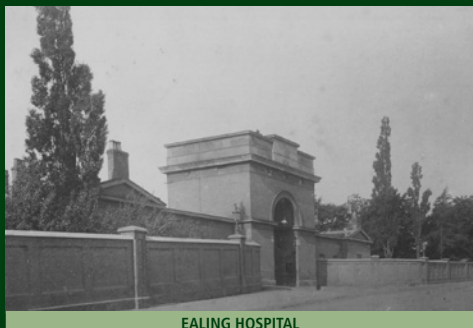


WHARNCLIFFE VIADUCT

Direction - On your left is Ealing Hospital.

## 2 EALING HOSPITAL

Starting out as a County Asylum in 1829-1831, after many extensions during the nineteenth century, it was called St Bernard's Hospital. The current structure was built in the 1960s and 80s, when the name changed. It also replaced the hospitals in Ealing and Hanwell. Much of the original structure is gone barring the imposing gateway, part of the blocks and the chapel.

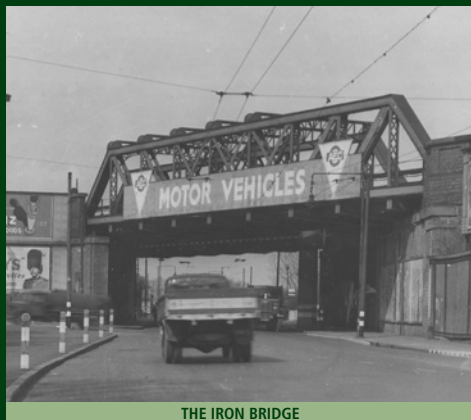


EALING HOSPITAL

Direction - Carry on westwards. You will now be approaching an iron bridge, which crosses the main road.

## 3 THE IRON BRIDGE

The original was built in about 1838, but burned down in 1847. The current structure is built of wrought iron. It carries the main line from London Paddington to Bristol and beyond.

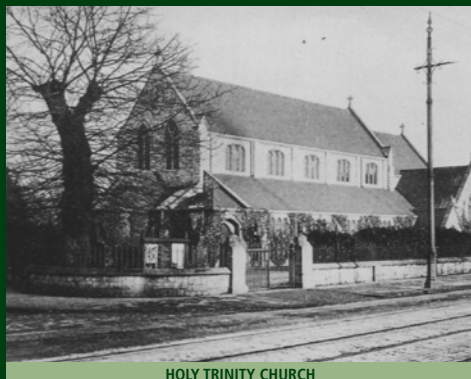


THE IRON BRIDGE

Direction - Carry on westwards. The walk from here is quite long. On the right is Dormers Wells Lane, which is the site of the Tudor manor house, of which there is now no visible trace. Eventually you will see Holy Trinity church on the right.

## 4 HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Erected by John Lee in 1890 on land donated by the Earl of Jersey and opened the following year. It replaced the iron building, which was on the site of the town hall from 1869-89. William Deloitte founder of the accountancy firm was the Churchwarden during this time.



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Direction - Continue to walk westward, on the left is Southall Park.

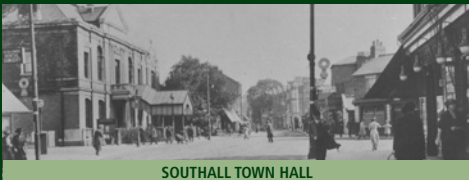
## 5 SOUTHALL PARK 🌳

Originally a large house with grounds and used as a private asylum between 1839-83. The original owners were Sir William Ellis and his wife Lady Ellis, renowned for their work in the area of mental health. The house was destroyed by a fire in 1883, in which its owner, Dr Robert Boyd, and five others, were killed. It was never rebuilt. The council bought the site in 1909, and a lake was built there in 1923. In 1924 one John Christie was arrested there for theft; he later gained notoriety as a serial killer in Notting Hill and was hanged in 1953. It has been used for a number of celebrations such as coronations and jubilees, carnivals and festivals.

Directions - Continue to walk westward. On the left is the Red Lion public house. The Red Lion has been here since 1650 and parts of the present structure date from the 1700s. Carry on walking ahead, until you reach a crossroads, just before this on your right stands Southall Town Hall.

## 6 SOUTHALL TOWN HALL 🏠

Formerly the seat of Southall Council from 1898 – 1965, this building was built by Mr Kearley's building firm in 1897 – 1898 to a design by Thomas Newall, a Southall architect. It cost £9,000 to build in 1897 and was on land given by Lord Jersey.



Direction - At the crossroads turn left into South Road, one of Southall's busiest thoroughfares. On the right hand side you will see a cinema built in 1929 with a Chinese style exterior.

## 7 THE PALACE CINEMA 🎭

In 1910 there was a smaller cinema built on the site before renowned (cinema) architect George Coles put his stamp on it by replacing it with the present structure. By 1974 it was a Grade II listed building but became semi derelict over the years. In September 2001, it was restored and reopened to the public as the Himalayan Palace. It now primarily caters to Bollywood film lovers.

Direction - Continue walking and after you have passed St Joseph's Drive on the right, you will see ...

## 8 THE KINGS HALL 🏠

Architect Sir Alfred Gelder built this in 1916. He was responsible for redesigning the city of Hull during Victorian times. In 1952, classical singers Elisabeth Schwarzkopf and Kathleen Ferrier sang here as part of the council's celebrity concerts.

Continue southwards. On the left is the Asian pub, the Glassy Junction. Then you reach the railway bridge.

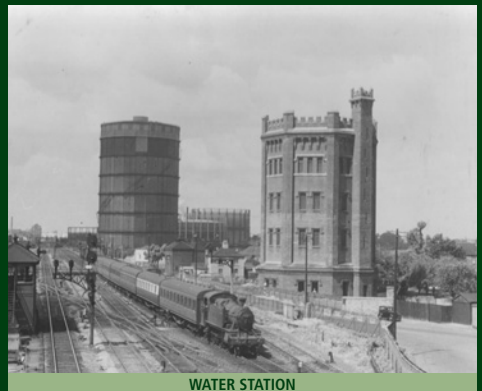
## 9 SOUTHALL STATION 🚉

A stop was established here in 1839. A station was not built for another twenty years. It was once an important point for the movement of industrial goods from Brentford docks and elsewhere.



## 10 WATER TOWER 🏠

Also know as Southall's 'castle', which from 1895-1968 supplied water to the trains using the station. It has since been converted for use as flats.



## 11 SOUTHALL GASWORKS 🏠

Built in around 1865, letters LH on the side of the gasometer are an indicator for aircraft as they fly towards London Heathrow.



SOUTHALL GASWORKS

Direction - To your left is the ...

## 12 MAYPOLE INSTITUTE 🏠

First a purpose built social club for employees of the old margarine factory in 1910, it later became once one of the largest and best-equipped WW1 auxiliary military hospitals and was visited by George V in 1916. It now serves as offices for Sunrise Radio, TV offices and studios.

Direction - At the roundabout, carry on following the main road, which becomes The Green. After a couple of minutes, on your left is Osterley Park Road. Walk along this road until you see the library.

## 13 SOUTHALL LIBRARY 🏠

One of over 2,500 libraries funded worldwide by Scottish-American businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Each library's architectural style was chosen locally. Southall was opened in 1905, the Art Nouveau lettering above the door and the triple arch entrance are most attractive.



SOUTHALL LIBRARY

Direction - Return to The Green and continue walking southwards and on your left you will see what many think to be the most important building in Southall.

## 14 SOUTHALL MANOR HOUSE 🏠

A grade II listed Elizabethan manor built in 1587 is one of a few manor houses of this date to have survived so close to London. It has seen many alterations over the centuries.



SOUTHALL MANOR HOUSE

## 15 WAR MEMORIAL +

The memorial was unveiled on 8 April 1922 by the local MP, Colonel Sidney Peel. It commemorates the residents of Southall who gave their lives for their country in World War I and World War II. Many of these memorials were erected after the First World War.



WAR MEMORIAL

Direction - Carry on walking down the main road as it turns into King Street. On the right hand side of the road are the Hindu Temple and St John's church. At Havelock Road turn left, and you will see Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha.

## 16 GURDWARA SRI GURU SINGH SABHA 🏠

This is the biggest Sikh temple outside India, finished in marble and granite with a gilded dome and stained glass windows. The temple can accommodate up to 3,000 worshippers in the first-floor prayer hall and second-floor gallery, there is also a community centre with a library and dining hall. Work started in March 2000 and finished March 2003, it cost £17.5 million and was funded through donations made by Sikh community members here and abroad.

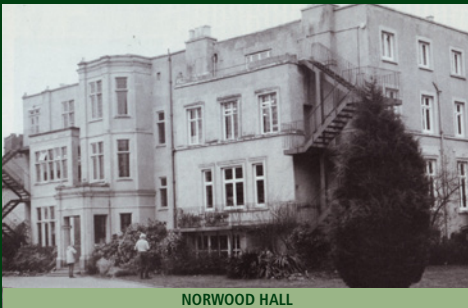


GURDWARA SRI GURU SINGH SABHA

Direction - Opposite the temples you can find the marked graves of the Martin Brothers (Off Havelock Road is the site of Martin Bros Pottery – now flats). Continue past the temple, at the junction walk right into Merrick Road, cross Norwood Bridge and walk towards Norwood Green. Turn left into Norwood Green Road. Norwood Green was made a Conservation Area in 1969 but much of the original buildings, which gave it its kudos have been replaced or demolished.

## 17 NORWOOD HALL 🏠

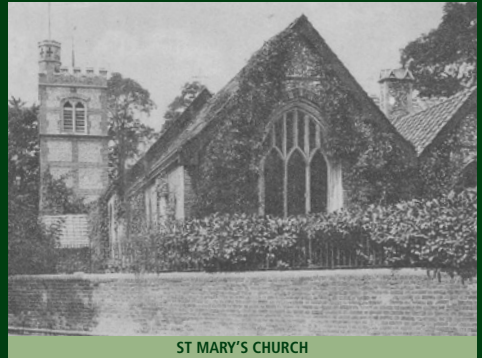
Or Norwood Lodge as it was originally known, was built in 1801-03 by architect John Soane for his friend and business associate, John Robbins, estate agent and auctioneer. In later years it was used as a horticultural college and in 2008 it was sold to the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha. It is now a Sikh education centre and a school has been built on its grounds.



NORWOOD HALL

## 18 ST MARY'S CHURCH ✝

This building has stood here since the twelfth century and it is said that there was an earlier Saxon church. Parts of the church are Norman, but there has been, as with most old buildings much rebuilding over the centuries. There were some changes in the early fifteenth century due to Archbishop Chichele's intervention, and there was also major work in the 1860s including replacing the old spire with a tower. Inside there are a number of interesting monuments, including one to Francis Awsiter (1624).



ST MARY'S CHURCH

## 19 THE PLOUGH INN 🍺

The Plough is the oldest of Fuller's public houses, and is probably the oldest pub in Southall, though the building has changed considerably over the centuries. Tradition alleges it dates back to the fourteenth century, but there is no evidence for this. During work on the interior in the 1970s, wooden bricks were found.

## 20 FORMER BISCOE SCHOOL 🏠

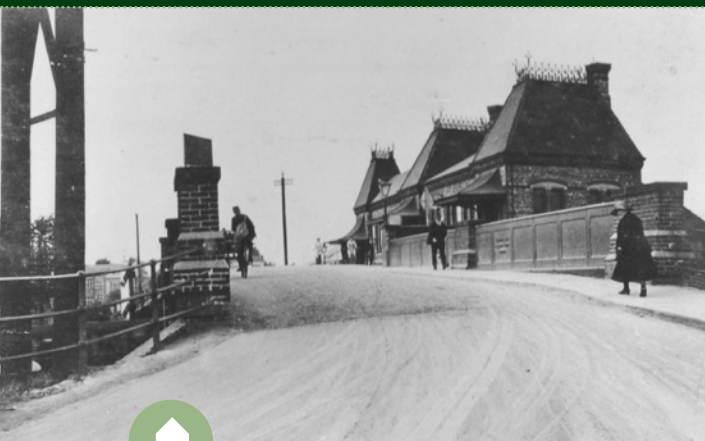
The Biscoe School was founded by Elisha Biscoe in the late eighteenth century, and his money was used to finance the school. It educated a small number of local pupils until its closure in 1950, when the last headmaster used the building as his own house.

## 21 THREE BRIDGES 🌉

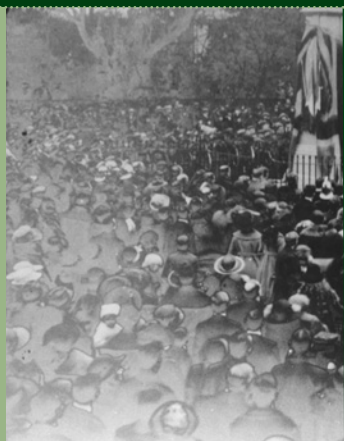
This was one of Brunel's last pieces of work. He designed it so that the railway branch line from Southall to Brentford could pass beneath both the existing canal and Windmill Lane. He completed it in 1859, the year of his death. The canal was called the Grand Junction Canal from 1794 until 1928, when it and all the other canals around London were called the Grand Union Canal. This part of the canal eventually leads to the Thames.

Further information on walking routes in Ealing can be found at [www.ealing.gov.uk/walking](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/walking)

Further information about London on foot can be found at [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)



SOUTHALL STATION



CREDITS: Thank you to Dr Jonathan Oates Ealing's local Library Historian and George Twyman Southall Historian for their input. For details on sources contact the Ealing Central Library.