

Turnham Green & Chiswick High Road in 1863 **SPEAKER'S NOTES**

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1 Title slide

We'll use a range of contextual information – maps, 1861 Census, prints, paintings etc to squeeze the maximum information out of the image

2 The photo that started this off

James came across a large glass plate negative when he was working in the Local Studies Collection in Chiswick Library in the 1970s. As he had a dark room then the staff allowed him to take it home to produce a print. Close examination of the emulsion, the matt surface on the back of the negative, revealed a date had been scratched there - 16 August 1863. It is the oldest photo of Chiswick High Road on record

3 Wet collodion photography was invented in 1851. It required some knowledge of chemistry and dexterity to coat a glass plate evenly with the chemicals in a dark room before placing it in the camera and exposing it via the lens

4 portable darkroom and photographer, his assistant is offering him the plate in a holder

5 Title: locating the view

6 The Tithe map, 1847: a detail cropped from the map of the whole parish, with an arrow indicating the Crown & Anchor pub numerous tiny houses, open space round forge

7 Today's views: the upper picture is the left hand section of the photo (Essex Place is still the name of the market extreme left) and the lower picture shows a glimpse of the yellow stock brick houses with a tiny pediment above Greggs which you'll recognise as Wellington Place in the photo

8 OS map, 25" to on mile, 1891-5 – included because it shows the layout of the area with many small terraced houses

9 Drawing of the houses and outbuildings behind the High Road frontage in Essex Place seen from Acton Lane

- 10 Essex Place 1920s, looking east – the lanes around Sainsbury's
- 11 Eastern section of the photo with the pub and Wellington Place. This terrace has a pediment still visible above Greggs. One house has a shopfront, probably for a tailor as two tailors appeared in the 1861 Census here. Today's shops were built over the front gardens later in the 19th century
- 12 The white blobs on the photo are enlarged here - they are white ducks on a pond. You cannot see any people moving about but two of the ducks floated without moving and a couple of others are slightly blurred as they floated during the exposure of the negative!
- 13 This section of the image shows a long dark line across the grass it is the shadow of the spire of Christchurch, suggesting that the photo was taken in the evening
- 14 **Title: who took the photo?**
- 15 The photo was taken from the south side of green, and from an elevated position - this Edwardian postcard shows the Victorian properties there
- 16 This crop from the postcard shows the four tall semi-detached villas of Salisbury place crop from postcard. Looking at the angle of the photo it is likely that the photographer was in one of these houses
- 17 Who were the residents of Salisbury Place in the 1861 Census?
No 1 Henry Budd, Dentist
No 2 Lydia Stratton Leigh, Householder
No 3 Emma Lutman, no occupation given
No 4 Sarah Lowe, Fundholder

Henry Budd lived in a house that would have the view; as a chemist in the City in the 1851 Census, who pursued a career as a dental surgeon, he is the most likely person to have had photography as his hobby. We haven't found any other photos attributed to Henry Budd.
- 18 **Title: The buildings in the photograph**
- 19 2 cottages and shop at extreme left of photo, with open ground in front

- 20 OS map, 25 inch to 1 mile, 1865 with buildings labelled - notice dotted lines of bollards, presumably to stop overtaking when traffic was busy
- 21 1848 deed allocating a plot for the new Boys' National School (from Christchurch archives) with school plan, playground and almshouses
- 22 Sketch of the almshouses - there were two very elderly ladies living there in the 1861 Census, but they had previously had 4 dwellings
- 23 This detail from an oil painting shows the pub with to the west the gothic gable of the new school and washing in the garden of the house beyond
- 24 Many local women took in laundry to earn a modest living before the big laundries came into being. Here washing is drying on Back Common
- 25 The Crown and Anchor is at the centre of the photo. The sign-writing records the landlord - he was Nathaniel Forsyth, aged 49 and a licensed victualler in the Census, from Maidstone. He ran the pub with his wife two unmarried grownup daughters and one living in servant
- 26 The pub was extended forward on the ground floor - postcard sent 1906
- 27 Later in the later 20th century it was extended on two floors - look at the side of the pub and you can identify the join by looking at the parapet
- 28 **Title: The Green**
- 29 This extract from particulars of an auction of plots owned by the Duke of Devonshire in 1821 shows the ponds on the Green very well
- 30 This prints depicts the elegant house known as The Chestnuts at the NW corner of the Green and includes the large pond with a horse drinking and waterfowl
- 31 The end of a lively oil painting, perhaps 1830s, showing the eastern pond, with carriages, a horse bus from Kew Bridge and more ducks!
- 32 In 1858 improvements were made to the Green, with new trees, a water pump and railings. This was to make it look smarter but also to provide

fresh water. It was partly because the promoters thought that the people living in the over-crowded small houses were too dependant upon beer as a safe daily drink, so also for temperance

33 OS map 25" to 1 mile, 1865 with pump marked and one well at the north

34 Kew Green which apparently inspired the Turnham Green improvements

35 This details from a 1908 photo by Thomas Warren Seears (in the collection of the Smithsonian) shows some of the wooden railings have been changed for the iron ones by the Church

36 **Title: The Roads**

37 An oil painting looking west with dominant roads. The perspective and proportions are slightly bonkers but it show the pattern of roads well

38 Aerial view with roads from London in red. A Roman road ran to the north from the City then via Marble Arch and Stamford Brook. That to the south was a much earlier route and survives as the wide paving of the south side of Chiswick High Road, Barley Mow Passage, Heathfield Terrace and Wellesley Road to meet the northern road near Kew Bridge. The middle red line shows the road which grew up to link them/

39 The Packhorse in an Edwardian painting. A useful image which shows the pull-in for carts and carriages in the front of the pub and the forge

40 The photograph again - to pull all those factors together. Worth close scrutiny - and notice the higher ground of Acton in the distance beyond

41 Acknowledgements

Almost all the images are from Chiswick's Local Studies Library and Peter Hammond's article on the High Road in 1851 can be found in *Brentford & Chiswick Local History Journal* 8, 1999 at <https://tinyurl.com/3suadcxt>