

JOHN HILL

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## Reservoir. On the Edge

A pond of proportions monumental  
with Tolkien 'Two Towers' connection.  
58 acres when full to the brink,  
holding 300 million gallons of  
clear unpolluted, rainwater sink.  
From the park, 'Rotton Park Reservoir'  
borrowed its unpopular name,  
later to be known as Edgbaston.

Thomas Telford enlarged Roach Pool  
to supply Midland levels of the Brummie,  
Wolverhampton canal system.  
With an earth dam embankment wedge  
at over 1,000 feet long by 33 feet tall.  
An engineer's dream to feed ever thirsty  
high-locks of the network scheme.  
Up to 50 tons of cargo carried per haul.

Near Telford's octagonal gatehouse,  
was built an indoor skating rink -  
popular as a Roaring Twenties dancehall  
and as 'Tower Ballroom' in thirty-three.  
Nestling in close proximity, the golden  
Buddhist Dhamma Talaka Pagoda,  
shelters peacefully from life's storm.  
And prestigious St Paul's School for Girls.

*Continued*

The 40 foot deep lake is home to Perch,  
Bream, Pike, Tench. Others got away!  
Windsurfing, Canoeing, Kayaking,  
Rowing clubs, Paddle boarding,  
Sea Cadets, The Midland Sailing Club.  
Local or visiting rare birdlife species:  
Cormorant, Purple Sandpiper, Buzzard,  
Icelandic Gull, Chiffchaff, the Arctic Loon.

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