

GEORGE DALEY

Perry Barr to Handsworth (Anticlockwise)

Wellington Road

Pic 1 – a temporary view - the pub and shops are gone, and a vacant space awaits redevelopment, providing a temporary view of the new residential tower and railway station.

Pic 2 – on the left side regeneration is so far limited to new paving and street furniture, the shops and flats unaltered.

Pic 3 – on the corner with Wood Lane stands the Calthorpe Arms, named after the famous land-owning family. Dating from 1867 it has been revived after lying empty for several years. A basic bar at the front for the drinkers, and a large, modern pan-Asian restaurant to the rear. It's a good combination.

Church Lane

Pic 4 – the 11C stop at the island with Handsworth Wood Rd. The large white house by the island dates from c1830-40 and is Grade II listed.

Pic 5 - King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Academy for Girls – part of the King Edward VI Academy Trust and a significant source of passengers on the 11 at certain times best avoided.

Oxhill Road

Pic 6 – The Grove – although its address is Grove Lane, the pub and restaurant presents significant frontage to Oxhill Rd. Dating back to 1891, and replacing an older hostelry on the site, it was originally a hotel but is now a pub and grill.

Pic 7 – St Andrew's Church – originally a mission church for St Mary's, Handsworth, the present church was designed by William Bidlake in the Arts and Crafts style, completed in 1908 and consecrated in 1914. Our Church – St Andrews Church (standrews-handsworth.org.uk)

Rookery Road

Pic 8 – this is a Vedic mission, run by an institution known as Arya Samaj. They claim to be neither a religion nor a sect, and exist to disseminate the teachings of The Vedas, which are taken to contain ‘all true knowledge, spiritual and scientific, known to the world’. The Vedas contain over 20,000 Mantras. The building hosts a Sunday congregation known as a Satsang, marriage and other ceremonies, a Day Centre and a library of Vedas and other religious texts. Arya Samaj (Vedic Mission) West Midlands (arya-samaj.org)

Pic 9 – Gurdwara Bebe Nanaki Ji, named for the elder sister of Guru Nanak, the founder and first guru of Sikhism. She is considered to be Guru Nanak’s first follower and to have inspired his use of music ‘as an instrument of devotion’, as well as for her charitable works.

Pic 10 – The Farcroft, a large 1930s mock – Tudor pub with gables and tall chimney stacks, now trading as a bar and grill. It was named for the nearby Farcroft Estate. As well as being a pub it was an important place for functions and for crown bowls. Its recent history has been chequered – part of the site to the rear was sold for housing, it survived a fire and also proposals to demolish it to make way for more shops. It is not listed.

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