

FoSJP Public History Talk – Sunday December 4th 2011

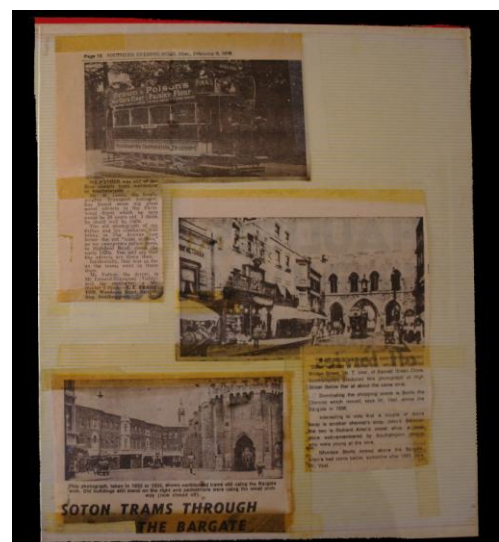
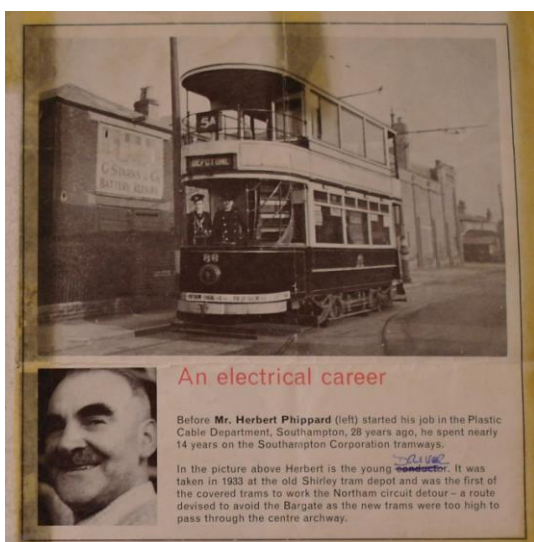
Jeff Pain's popular lecture, 'Always a Tram in Sight' marked the final in the third series of public talks funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. With slides showing many examples of trams in Shirley High Street, Jeff showed the development of trams from horse-drawn, through to electric, until they were finally withdrawn from service in Southampton on 31st December 1949. A special feature was the double decker trams in Southampton, specially manufactured to fit through the Bargate. One such tram, complete with sign to sit down and mind the overhead cables, is now housed in the National Tramway Museum at the Crich Tramway Village in Derbyshire (<http://www.tramway.co.uk/>).



To compliment Jeff's talk, Martin and Bob Petch arranged a display of scaled models of local trams and details of the Tram 57 Project, a local Tram Preservation Project. The talented Petch brothers have also built a fascinating model of historic Southampton High Street buildings, complete with trams. The working trams can be viewed at the Bursledon Brickworks during special open days. (See <http://bursledonbrickworks.org.uk/> for further info).



On one of the slides shown by Jeff was a no 5a Shirley tram, pictured with the driver and conductor. From the audience Brenda Bennett, now retired, recognised her own father, Herbert Phippard, as the driver. Brenda kindly shared her father's scrapbook of newspaper cuttings relating to the Southampton Trams adding this to the display.



Art works were on view to compliment the talk including Ken Conway's watercolour of the last tram in Southampton and Don Smith's oil painting of a Victorian Bernard Street (also containing a tram). There was also an exhibition of works by Sarah Silverstein, the illustrator whose work now features on the Parklife Cafe windows. Sarah brought along for display her personal sketch book from the project in St James' Park.



At this month's talk donations of £27.30 were received from refreshments and £31.00 from the raffle. Thanks go to Don and Mary Smith, Madge Heath, Mrs M Lawler, Mr AGK Leonard and Michaela Lawler-Levene for their generous donation of raffle prizes and to Mary and Don for running the raffle. A further £5 donation was received from the sale of Sarah Silverstein's postcards. The refreshment costs and cakes for this event have been donated by Jayne Worth, Rebecca Kinge, Mary South, Maureen Lawler and Michaela Lawler-Levene which will bring the final figure to £93.27 raised for future talks at this event.

Thanks to the generosity of previous audiences donations received should guarantee free talks for a further two years beyond the Lottery Funding. The total amount raised from the series of three talks will be shared at the FoSJP 2012 AGM.

Feedback forms to help FoSJP plan future talks were distributed at the last two talks, the results of which will also be made available.

Thanking everybody from FoSJP who has contributed to making these talks such a success and especially Theresa and the Shirley Parish Office for their continued generosity and support.

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