

PAROCHIAL TALES OF THE RIVERMAN 1

21st October 2022



To the best of my knowledge today is Trafalgar Day. I say to the best of my knowledge as there are so many people setting themselves up as historians now, many with conflicting views, that I often wonder if what we are reading is true. The same will go for what I write, as I can only put down what I have heard from previous generations and hope it is accurate. The Union flag is on my pole to celebrate Trafalgar Day, though I do wonder what there is to celebrate in battles where hundreds of people were killed. Anyway, in Glasgow Green we have a monument to Lord Nelson, to Trafalgar, Copenhagen, Aboukir Bay and the Battle of the Nile. It is an artificial obelisk. Real obelisks are cut out of one piece of stone like Cleopatras Needle, our one is built in blocks of stone. Details of the monument can be found on various web sites. What I find interesting is that it was the first monument to be erected in Britain after Trafalgar and the money to erect it was raised by the public. Special permission had to be granted to allow the monument to be erected. Glasgow Green being public land, required permission from the public for any structure to be built on it. Special permission was granted for the Monument, the Peoples Palace Museum and Winter Gardens, and the Glasgow Humane Society House. The rowing club buildings and the Glasgow Humane Society boathouses are built on the river bank, not in the park where they would have needed public permission and may not have been granted it. The riverbank railing used to be the south boundary of the park; the north boundary marked on the kerb stones in for example Greenhead Street. I wonder if anyone really knows the boundary of the old park, and does anyone really care.

It was always drummed into me that Glasgow Green is public land.

I have not heard if there are any parades at our monument today. There have been many in the past. Several years ago, an oak tree was planted I think to mark the 200th anniversary. I am not sure if that tree even exists now.

The monument has been there all my life and no doubt other people will have tales to tell, like people dying facing the monument. But these are for other people to relate.

Photos are from previous events at the Monument.



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