



## NEWS

### 2 BOYS, 2 WHEELS

Dwight & Lewis Cycle Tour  
2014: 2650(ish) miles in  
(roughly) 60 days around the  
coast of the UK.

Here's the story...

A father and son from East  
London, with a plan to cycle  
the coast of Britain in July-  
August 2014, couch surfing  
along the way. Educational,  
fun, making memories and  
making it up as we go along.  
Promoting the at risk nationally  
import Wanstead Park

[www.wansteadpark.org.uk](http://www.wansteadpark.org.uk)

Sponsored by:-

itdoesthejob.com, Sportpursuit  
Ltd, SPARA, Patrick Holford and  
especially all those who have  
offered their homes for us to  
stay the night on route.

Thank you!

Why this trip? We have  
traveled many places in the  
world but seeing all the many  
and varied places in the UK is  
an opportunity not to be  
missed.

Riding UK without all the  
support of a following van or  
car, being self-reliant and not  
using loads of carbon! What a  
great way to meet many  
generous and hospitable  
people... .. we hope it rubs off.

<http://www.pinterest.com/itdoesthejob/2ane-boys-2-wheels/>

<http://www.wansteadpark.org.uk/events/sponsor-dwight-son-in-epic-bike-ride/>

### REDBRIDGE COUNCIL

Following May's local elections,  
Redbridge has a new Labour  
council. We congratulate Jas  
Athwal and his team on their  
success, and commiserate  
with Paul Canal and  
Conservatives. The Friends  
have enjoyed a friendly and  
constructive relationship with  
the London Borough of  
Redbridge in recent years, and  
hope this will continue under  
the new regime.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### **FWP Committee meeting**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August**

7:30 Wanstead Golf Club

#### **Keepers' Walks**

TBA

#### **FWP Walks**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

Tel 020 8539 4707

#### **Music in Wanstead Park**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July** from 2pm

#### **East India Company**

**Exhibition** at The Temple 6th

**Sept-30th November**

#### **Wren Group activities**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July**

Nature walk in the Park

Meet: 10am by the tea hut

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July**

Bat Walk in the Park

Meet: 8:15pm by the tea hut

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

Bat Walk in the Park

Meet: 7:15pm by the tea hut

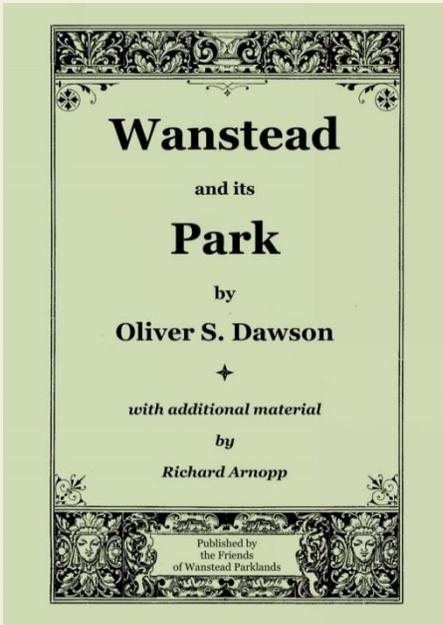
#### **Pub Evenings**

TBA

#### **Quiz night**

**October 2014**

## MORE NEWS



The group's latest publication is a new edition of an Edwardian classic by Oliver S Dawson, with contemporary photographs and other illustrations. It offers a fascinating introduction to one of England's lost treasures – a great Palladian house and its famous landscaped gardens. It tells of the remarkable people who owned the Wanstead estate and the extravagance and folly which brought about its destruction. It ends with the Corporation of London's rescue of the park's core, with its lakes and woods, as a public open space. The book includes a fascinating newly-researched account of the author's life as well as comprehensive notes on his text, and is described as "a must for local history and garden history enthusiasts". Editor Richard Arnopp said: "Wanstead and its Park was published in instalments in The Home Counties Magazine during 1907 and 1908. The text was adapted and expanded from a booklet which the author had first published in 1894.

The Wanstead estate, over several centuries, was associated with a remarkable cast of characters, which Dawson vividly described. He was also a witness to the public park in its very earliest days, and the photographs which illustrated his 1894 booklet give us a good impression of what it was like when he knew it".

"Over the five years since it was re-launched, the Friends of Wanstead Parklands has grown rapidly. We hope that our re-publication of this interesting period piece, with much new content, will appeal to the widespread local interest in the park's fascinating history".

Wanstead and its Park is a perfect-bound paperback, in A5 format, and 112 pages in length. It costs £9.99, with free delivery to the Wanstead area.

## WREN GROUP



Banded Demoiselle

Enjoy, learn about and help conserve the beautiful natural surroundings of Wanstead Park Flats and adjoining areas. The Wren Conservation Group includes people of all ages from all walks of life who have an interest in learning about and conserving wildlife in East London – mainly in Wanstead Park and nearby parts of southern Epping Forest but also in surrounding areas and neighbouring parts of Essex.

Make new friends. [www.wrengroup.org.uk](http://www.wrengroup.org.uk)

Don't forget we are now on facebook and twitter

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WrenOrg>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wrenwildlife>

A display of flowers near Jubilee Pond



## A REQUEST FOR PROJECT IDEAS

We may be able to secure funding or at least a grant.

One idea for example, there were hundreds of people working in Wanstead House and gardens. Would it be useful to try and trace some of these people and their families?

If members have any novel ideas for a project we would need a Project Brief of about half an A4 sheet and rough estimate of cost.

In the first instance contact: Editor:  
diane.ale@gmail.com



Bluebells in Chalet Wood



Almost half the global population of these lovely wild flowers can be found in this country, so there are plenty of places to soak up their beauty and scent. What's more, their presence often indicates you're walking through ancient woodland. One great show locally is in Chalet Wood in Wanstead Park. There is a superstition that anyone who walks in a ring of bluebells would be subject to 'fairy enchantment'. Also that bluebells rang to summon fairies.

However it would be extremely unlucky for a human to hear a bluebell! On a more positive note, some believed that if you wore a wreath made of these flowers you could only speak the truth. But this show didn't happen without a little bit of help.

The **Wren Group** has been working on this wood for years to improve this show. Earlier in December the group got together to clear the area of brambles and line pathways with timber logs to give our little floral friends a chance to bloom again in the spring.

From all of us couch potatoes - a big thank you to everyone who helped our little floral friends put on such a great show this year.

Or optimistically, if you could turn one of the flowers inside out without any break or tear, you would win the heart of the one you love! To join the group that carry out practical works such as that in Chalet Wood.

contact: Peter Williams 0208 555 1358 or  
e-mail: wrengroup.distribute@gmail.com

## Editor's ramblings and round up

I have recently joined the Friends of Wanstead Parklands Committee and volunteered to put together the FWPL newsletter; I hope you like it and will send in articles for publication and your comments.

My family has lived next door to Wanstead Park since 1950 so I have lots of happy memories of using the park when growing up and of the park being the sports field to Highland Primary School. Of course before the advent of the A406 the Ilford side of the River Roding was a formal park with clipped privet hedges and flower beds regularly tended by an army of gardeners, there was a public shelter, a water fountain; it also boasted a Park Keeper with his own hut and Ladies and Gentlemen's outside lavatories. We were regularly called upon to telephone the emergency services when there was an accident or incident in the park as being the nearest house with a telephone. As girls we were warned not to venture over the bridge into the forest alone and would mostly play on the field or in the 'small forest' our side of the River Roding. Being somewhat of a tomboy this included rolling down the slopes of the river banks, tree climbing, den building, skipping, cricket, rounders, paddling in the shallows of the river and emerging to find leeches attached to our feet and for some extraordinary reason crawling along the outlet pipes!

We did of course though often venture over the bridge when with friends, seasons were followed closely each having their own delights; making the first footsteps in the virgin snow and snowball fights, ice on the ponds and walking over to the islands of the Heronary; being dazzled by the sight of the bluebells in the wood, fishing in Perch Pond, and returning home to have the hook pushed through my finger to have the barb removed, foraging for blackberries, conkers, sweet chestnuts, bike riding-

against the rules-also plying in the Grotto, which I am pretty sure was also supposed to be out of bounds and diving off of the jetty and swimming in the cool water of the Shoulder of Mutton pond on a hot summer's day. Valentines Park might have its swingboat, swings and Lido but Wanstead Park was the place for the adventures of our imaginations.

My own children have often enjoyed visiting the park when on visits to the grandparents and on moving back 'home' my youngest daughter grew up exploring and playing in the park. Now it is my grandchildren who are taken for walks around the lakes and to sample the parks delights, muddy walks on a wet day to blow the cobwebs away, summer walks to enjoy the sunshine.

On one such walk we chanced across the test pit of an archaeological dig and my grandson 'found' a tesserae and was thrilled to learn all about it from experts and be able to share the knowledge at his school the following week. Visits include the tea hut and the Temple.

The way we use these lovely open spaces might change through the years but we still need them and they need to be cared for and treasured.

## Dates to note:

Music in the Park

Saturday 19 July / 2pm-10pm at The Temple  
Aldersbrook Families Association event  
[www.aldersbrook.info](http://www.aldersbrook.info)

## Of interest:

Festival of British archaeology

Saturday 12 July to Sunday 31 August at The Temple. Find out more about the archaeology of Wanstead Park and the research and investigations undertaken by the Friends of Wanstead Parklands. A City of London event. Free: no booking required: Tel 020 7332 1911



Two on a log taken by G Garner 2012

### Walking for Health

Our Sport & Health team is working in partnership with Walking for Healthwalking for health to provide weekly



walks in parks across the Redbridge. Everyone is welcome to join the walks, regardless of current fitness levels, and what is more, they're a great way of making new friends! The walks are free and are led by trained and committed walk leaders who are also fully qualified walking for health First Aiders.

Walking for Health is England's largest network of health walk schemes run by the Ramblers and Macmillian Cancer Support.

| WANSTEAD PARK                                      |           |             |
|--|-----------|-------------|
| Steady pace, some gentle slopes and uneven terrain |           |             |
| Thursday   | 17th July | Warren Road |
| Thursday   | 31s July  | Warren Road |

**Aldersbrook Families Association Present**  
**Music in Wanstead Park**  
**Saturday 19th July 2014**  
**2pm to 9pm**  
**Dance along to party band**  
**Payback**

**Tickets:**  
**£10, Concessions £5, under 4's Free**

**Temple Garden, Wanstead Park E12 5EZ**  
 Entrances at Northumberland Ave E12, Warren Rd E11

**Afternoon and evening music**  
 A melee of jazz, folk, rock, pop. African drumming plus music workshops.

**Afternoon events**  
 Regular and new Sporty activities plus family fun for all.

**Bar and Refreshments from around the world including the Star of India.**

**This is a GLASS-FREE EVENT, drinks in cans and plastic bottles only**

  **No seating provided. Sorry, no dogs in the enclosure**  
**For further details contact: [www.aldersbrook.info](http://www.aldersbrook.info)**

## CITY OF LONDON EVENTS

### Shakespeare's Macbeth

**Thursday 24 July**

gates open 6pm – performance 7pm

### Gilbert & Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance

**Sunday 3 August**

gates open at 2pm Performance at 3pm

### Roald Dahl's 'George's Marvellous Medicine'

**Wednesday 13 August**

gates open at 2pm, performance 3pm

The Temple enclosure, Wanstead Park  
 Adults £14.95, under 16's £8.95 and under 3's £3.95. booking required | Online booking – [www.illyria.uk.com](http://www.illyria.uk.com) | Tel 020 7332 1911

Find us at <http://www.wansteadpark.org.uk/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/46936535702/>  
Contact us at [wanstead.parklands@goolemail.com](mailto:wanstead.parklands@goolemail.com)

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**Editor Diane Gardner Please send items for the newsletter to**  
[diane.ale@gmail.com](mailto:diane.ale@gmail.com)

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## FRIENDS OF WANSTEAD PARKLANDS:

In 2009 a group of local people reactivated the dormant Friends of Wanstead Parklands group to raise public awareness of the history and ecology of Wanstead Park and to campaign for its preservation and enhancement. Wanstead Park is where Epping Forest meets east London.

For an area so close to residential development, there is an abundant variety of plant, animal and other natural life, as well as more than a hundred bird species (around fifty breeding there). The varied habitats include lakes and ponds, woodlands, open rough grassland and mown playing fields. The Park's history is also extraordinary.

It was the site of Colen Campbell's great Wanstead House, built from 1715 for the Child family, and demolished in 1824. The grounds - of which important features remain - were one of the finest examples of English Landscape Movement of the 18th Century (the Park is now listed Grade 2\*). A previous house was occupied by Elizabeth's minister Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. Recent work has demonstrated that Wanstead Park has been occupied since pre-Roman times.

## **STOP PRESS:**

as always your committee remains seriously short of help – several key posts are vacant including;

Hon. Treasurer and  
Hon. Secretary

We would welcome volunteers willing to take on either portfolios or individual tasks. All are welcome to attend our monthly meetings to meet us and see how we work. You will not be pressed to do anything you don't wish to!