

Step out of lockdown & into

Spring

This walking trail is one big loop, you can start at any point and complete it at your own leisure. **PLEASE use only public footpaths and ensure road safety at all times.** We have tried to include information that may be new to yourself. Please use the informational plaques that are nearby to most of the elements of the trail for further information. If you would like to know more please visit Bexley Archives, or Crayford Town Archives websites. You may answer the questions and enter the prize draw, or just take pleasure in a nice stroll, while learning about your hometown.

As you enjoy your walk around Crayford and enjoy learning the new fun facts, please appreciate the Springtime crafts placed along the route. We invite you and your families to add to the craft displays along the way, or to decorate your own front garden/window. When adding crafts to the public displays, please only place them on the designated sites, listed overleaf. Please remember the Great British weather when making your crafts and secure tightly.

We have started outside the Crayford Social Club, at the entrance of Footpath 106...

River totem, Footpath 106 – This point is where the river used to spilt into in two. The Bakers pond was to the right-hand side, behind where the Social Club now stands. Further down the path used to be home the Rodney Hut, which was the social hall for Vickers.

The Princesses Theatre (stood where the flats now stand) built by Vickers. Opened March 1916 by Princess Christian; destroyed by fire December 1916. Rebuilt and opened 23rd July 1919 by Alcock & Brown. (The memorial stone tablet still in the wall by the self-service laundry.)

Question... What images are depicted on the carved wooden totem? _____

Cross over the road and enter the gardens, enjoy your walk through the garden and taking in all the unique features, as well as the beautiful Flora and Fauna.



Bridge House

Waterside Gardens – Originally the garden that belonged to Bridge house (left), located approximately where the crossing is between The City of God church (old Barclays building) and the gardens. Half of the gardens belonged to Bridge house and half to Vickers. The house was demolished in 1915 for access to Vickers houses in "New Crayford" (ie Crayford Way) and the garden was laid out in 1938.

The modern garden, designed by *Mor*, was officially opened 6th June 2009. Each part of the modern design is based around Crayford History. The Awning and the stone seats are designed around the David Evens famous Paisley pattern. Set into the ground are Maxim gun triggers, as well as Vickers Armstrong propellers. The "tusks" represent the pins on the printing block. Please look at the black single seat benches, they hold stories from Crayford's industrial past.

The 11/11 memorial (to the rear of the garden) is an ohmage to the original garden where residents would lay their poppy wreaths and crosses.

Question... Three of the paisley stone seats have buttons to work the seasonal fountains, each button represents a part of Crayfords industrial past. How many buttons are there? _____

Exit the gardens via the gate under the smaller awning on to Crayford Road. Using the crossing directly outside the gate cross to the left side, towards Aldi.

Tannery Garden – The garden honours "Rutters", the brick manufactures, although placed on the land where the Tannery once stood. The ornate bench is based around the brick moving device used within the factory. *Bowron Brothers* moved from Bermondsey to Crayford in the 1890's. They imported skins from New Zealand via their own operation there. The building was damaged by fire 1909 and went bankrupt in 1911. *Murgatroyd Brothers* ran it until 1951 when it closed. The business caused very unpleasant smells to waft through Crayford (as recalled by past residents).

Rutters operation was along Thames Road from Whitehall Lane towards the saw mills (Jolly Farmers area) and Stoneham's pit in Iron Mill Lane. Brick making was a major industry in the 19th century. The peak years were between 1890-1910 when they were making between four and eight million bricks a year. They also made barges on Crayford Creek to transport the bricks, mostly to London. For the return journey they loaded the barges with burnable rubbish for the kilns.

Question... The black fencing shows the brick making process. Using the images as reference, which image is depicted on the side of the red information plaque? _____

With the garden on your right-hand sidewalk towards the town. Safely cross to the other side of the road and continue until you reach Tower Retail Park (Nandos).

Tower Retail Park – Take a look at the design of the buildings, specifically the brick archways and the imitation air vents. These were made this way to echo the image of the original factories. Retail park redevelopment started in 1999, with the first retailers opened in 2001.

Question... What shape are the air vents at the top of the buildings? _____

Right: Vickers factory. c 1955



Stay on the main road foot path (not inside the car park), until you reach the seating area, before McDonalds.

Alcock and Brown bench – Alcock and Brown were the first people to successfully transverse the Atlantic non-stop. They did so, in a Vickers Vimy, designed and made on this site. Sir John Alcock and Sir Arthur Whitten-Brown came to Crayford 23rd July 1919, along with the Prince of Wales, to thank the Vickers staff for making their plane. The bench was unveiled by the Duke of Kent on 23rd July 2019, to commemorate the centenary of the men coming here. The memorial bench was part of a yearlong celebration initiated and led by the Mayor of Bexley (2019-2020) Cllr Geraldene Lucia-Hennis. It depicts the brave men moments before their flight. Mr Brown is holding a compass, to show he was the navigator, Mr Alcock was the pilot.

Question... Read the information plaque; Which famous fashion house made the flight suits, as worn by the airmen on the bench? _____

Walk to McDonalds.



McDonalds – The beautiful artwork sitting within the archways of McDonalds exterior were to commemorate Alcock and Brown and the Vickers Vimy. Designed within Bexley, by 4 primary schools, 4 secondary schools, 2 special schools and 1 mental health group. The tiles were produced by M@ke, a SEN group which uses art to assist career progression.

Question... A couple of the schools highlighted 2 soft toy cats, the lucky mascots carried by the airmen on their flight, given to them by their "lady loves". What were the names of the soft toys? _____

Left: Duke of Kent & Cllr Lucia-Hennis unveiling the artwork, 23/07/19

Continue to the end of the building, to the clock tower

Clock Tower and Pumping Station – The namesake of Tower Retail Park. The disused pumping station, used to lift sewage from the river Wansant, which runs underneath where you are standing. The clock tower was built in 1902 to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII. The beautiful plaques around the pumping station depict the towns industrial history.

Question... What item of armour is depicted on one of the plaques? _____

Cross the road, using the crossing outside McDonalds.

Town Hall/Crayford surgery – Was originally the canteen for Vickers staff, which became a social hotspot in the form of a music hall. Built during the first world war, it boasted a striking "bouncy floor", used for ballroom dancing. In 1929 it was purchased by Crayford Urban District Council. The building was very nearly destroyed but saved by campaigners. The crest above the main entrance to the surgery was the "Crayford Urban District Council" badge. The Latin wording, in English means "Boldly & Rightly", which is now featured on The Bexley Borough crest, along with the Kent Invicta (white horse) and the Crayford rivers (blue wiggly lines).

Question... What is the Latin wording written under the crest? _____

Walk either side of the building towards the rear.

Propella – Produced by Andy Scott, who has produced many other works, eg. cob horse in Belvedere and the Kelpies (giant horse heads) in Scotland. The idea of Propella uses the Vickers icon as a symbol of the aviation history of the site. She holds a propeller above her head and the spiralling form wraps down around the sculpture representing the vortex of air turbulence caused by a propeller in flight. She is made of Paisley pattern steel plates representing the David Evans silk printing works which existed in Crayford from 1843-2001.

Question... Using the information plaque, what does her platform, that she is standing on, represent? _____

Library – The new library and community centre were officially opened on 12th February 2013 by the Mayor of Bexley Cllr. Alan Downing. Commissioned as part of the regeneration of the Town Hall area.

Right: The old Library, built 1940, demolished 2013



Enter Sainsburys carpark using the stairs/ramp to the right of the library

Captain Crayford – Another of Andy Scott's works. This depicts a little boy holding a model of a Vimy aircraft.

Follow the path away from Sainsbury, past the Electric Pylon. Continue past the petrol station, sticking to the footpaths, until you reach Wolsley Close.



Scout Hall (Baker Trust) – Home of 1st Crayford Scout group. The original scout master was Dr Reversion, the group met in the "tin shack" on Crayford way. Unfortunately, it fell apart, So Mr Baker, a Crayford businessman, offered to build a new hall in Maxim road. The original hall stood in a forest, on the river cray. The scouts could take their canoes off the roof straight into the river. On Mr Bakers passing, the hall was given to the Children of Crayford, the scouts have been renting the hall from The Baker Trust since.

Left: 1st Crayford Scout Group, 1934

Continue down Wolsley Close to the very end. Take the path to the very right of Carr House. Turn left onto London Road and continue along the path to the end of the garden.

Question... Which initials are on the disused post box? _____

Continue to the opening in the wall

David Evans – David Evans were printers, who printed to order, mostly men's wear, but also beautiful squares and scarves for retailers such as Liberty, Harrod's, Turnbull & Asser, Elizabeth Emanuel. Colours mixed in-house according to customers' requirements. In 2001 just before closure, several lengths of Paisley print and a spot pattern were printed for Elton John to be made into suits and shirts. David Evans was not the first successful Textile entrepreneur in Crayford; The first was *Charles Swaisland*, followed by *GP & J Baker*.

The cow sheds that run along London Road turning towards Bourne Road are listed. Cow sheds were necessary as cows were kept for the colour mixing. Cow dung was used in the secret recipe for Real Ancient Madder for which David Evans had a very high reputation around the world.

Question... Who is missing? David Evans Prints Ltd, David Evens Menswear Ltd, Soieries Nouveautes and...? _____

Continue along London Road

Sense HQ – The house existing today was built within the David Evans site; it was commonly known as 'Print House'. Fun fact: At one time a Dr. Hayward lived in the house. One of the cul-de-sacs opposite the Mazda garage is called Hayward Close, named after him.

Question... Which 2 colours make the Sense logo? _____

Continue on to Bourne Road. Be sure to carefully cross the road.

Mazda – The lamp posts outside the garage in Bourne Road formerly stood outside The Princesses Theatre. When the theatre closed, they were to be discarded but were saved by Mr. Brandon, the owner of the garage. They were painted black, not the ornate colours now seen, and had lanterns on top. There is a plan to restore them, thanks to funds raised through the Alcock & Brown centenary celebration project.

Question... How many shells are there, in total on both lampposts?

Tun 180 and walk back on yourself to the round-a-bout. Cross the road on to London Road, walk towards the "cows".

Shenstone field – This field was part of the original grounds of Shenstone House. A herd of cows could be seen grazing, used for their milk, and the dung used for the colour mixing as previously stated (David Evens). The metal cows and info panel were installed to remind people of the industry that stood across the road.

Note that where Beech Haven apartments stand on the corner, was the site of the 'new side' additional printing works built by Augustus Applegarth, who lived in Shenstone House.

Question... The cows are giving a ride to some birds and which other animal? _____

Walk back toward Crayford, taking the first left up Orchard Hill.

Orchard Hill and Star Hill – One of the oldest parts of Crayford dated back to 1860, built for the textile workers, as were houses on London road. The whole area is a conservation area, designated in 1992.

Question... What year was "Yew Tree Cottage" built? _____

Walk all the way to the top of the hill, either via footpath 94 or Star Hill/Chapel Hill, turn left onto Old Road

St. Mary of the Crays Roman Catholic Church – The current church was opened 29th April 1972. The original church was built 1842 by Augustus Applegarth (textile printer and owner of neighboring Shenstone House) whose son Augustine was its first priest.

Question... What is sitting prominently inside the top of the tower? _____

St. Josephs Primary School – The original building was built by Father Augustine Applegarth in 1851, as a presbytery, a schoolhouse and a residence for the schoolmaster.

Continue to the next school...



Shenstone House, 1951

Shenstone school – Shenstone House was built by Augustus Applegarth in 1826 when he acquired the printing works (David Evans as it later became). It was built in the 'Swiss cottage' style and had about twenty rooms. It stood more or less where the school now stands. Later owned by the Evans family, the last resident being George Evans, son of David. In 1947 the house and parkland were acquired by the Council for £12,500, in the August of that year becoming an open space. In 1974 the house was demolished and a school for children with special needs was built in its place.

Question... Finish the motto: Together we engage, thrive and _____

Turn 180 and walk back the way you came, turn left onto Manor Road, follow the road all the way to the round-a-bout, turning left, you will find the Manor House and war memorial the other side of the road.

Manor House/War Memorial – War memorial, located to the left of the house, moved in 1954, from the wall of the church to its current location. The memorial records all the people of Crayford who lost their lives in both world wars. A manor house has stood on this land since the 14th century. The current manor house was built in 1818 by the Barne Family, namesake of Barnescray. The house now belongs to Bexley Council and is used by Bexley Voluntary Service Council.

Question... How many poppies are on the memorial bench? _____

Walk back to the round-a-bout and continue on to Mayplace road East, following to Perry Street. Turn right onto Perry Street, walk past the horses and take the opening in the wall in to the "extended churchyard"

Russel Stoneham Memorial Gardens – Added 2010, donated by Stonham Trust to the church, for the people of Crayford. While digging the new extension to the church yard, remnants of a Saxon farm were found, along with Saxon artifacts.

Question... How many benches surround the curved cross? _____

Enjoy your walk through the "Living church yard" of St.Paulinus.



St Paulinus – Featured in the Domesday book of 1086. The current church was largely built in the 14th century, made of ragstone and flint. The tower, south chapel, porch and most of the windows were added in the 15th century. The most extraordinary feature is the “twin nave” design, one of only 3 churches to have this characteristic. In 1877, the family of David Evens presented the parish with the present peal of eight bells, which were cast at Whitechapel.

Question... When was the clock face added to the bell tower? _____

Left: Rev. Canon Smith standing with the 8 bells, 1887

Exit the Church via one of the East facing gates (not the lynch gate), on to Perry Street. Walk to the end of Iron Mill Lane, before you enter the road, turn right to view the pub at the top of the High Street...

One Bell – A purpose built coaching inn, built 1770, is now grade II listed. The Gravesend stage would stop to change horses here, as Old Road was the main route to/from London. In 2013 it was discovered that the first meeting of the Chartist Movement was held in The One Bell. Chartism was a working-class movement, which demanded changes to the political system of Britain between 1839 and 1848.

The Limes (172-176 Old Road) next to the One Bell - Consisted of two dwellings, dating back to c1650, with a new one added to the west in 1895. At one time owned by the *Hudson's soap* family. The garden ran down the whole way down towards Duke's Head. The properties were vacated in 1989 and are now restored, with new flats behind.

Enter Iron Mill Lane

St Paulinus Parish Office – Built in 1865, used originally as the town “bath house”, where local residents would attend for both laundry cleaning and personal cleaning.

Opposite side of the road...

Pimm's Almshouses - 7/13 Iron Mill Lane - built 1910 by Theodore Pimm of Martens Grove in memory of late wife, Annie. See plaque on wall.

Stable's Almshouses – Numbers 12-15 built 1865, with number 16 added in 1909. Number 10, Clergy House was originally called “Cottage House”, built in 1865 for Mrs Stable, Charles Swailands niece. The Swaisland family started Crayfords textile industry.

Continue down Iron Mill Lane

St Paulinus School – The school was originally built the opposite side of the road. The playground was located where Claston Close now is. The new school was built 1983, features its unique triangular structure.

Question... How many panels does the beautiful stained glass window hold? _____

Continue down Iron Mill Lane over 2 side roads, to the small open green space

Millfield Open Space – A small park with a memorial to commemorate the boys and staff who lost their lives in the second world war. It sits on the site of the original Crayford Secondary, part of which was bombed in the war, unfortunately killing a teacher.

Continue down Iron Mill Lane

Haberdashers Aske's Crayford School – Originally Barnes Cray County Primary School, built in 1939 and Crayford Secondary School for girls/boys, built 1931. Crayford Secondary schools both closed down 1988. Haberdashers Aske's trust brought Barnes Cray CPS and built the current schools. The trust gives all local children the opportunity to stay in the same school from age 3 to 18.

Question... Which animal is present on the coat of arms? _____

Right: Crayford Secondary



Walk back on yourself up Iron Mill Lane to Barnes Cray Road, take the first right and follow around the top of the park, take the first right onto Green Walk, walk to number 106...

106 Green Walk – Edward Heath PM, lived as a child, 106 Green Walk, 1916-1923. His family moved to Crayford as his father worked for Vickers, building air frames, during the first world war.

Question... The current residents have which animal adorning their door number plaque? _____

From here you have 2 options:

-Either walk all the way to the end of Green Walk, where you will return back to the start point or

-take footpath 112 to Crayford Way, then byway 113 next to "Dog House Grooming", turn right at the end of the path and enjoy the riverside walk back to the start point

Fun Fact: Do you know why there are so many footpaths/byways around the East side of Crayford? Most of the houses in that area were built by "Vickers" for their staff and their families. They built the walkways between the houses so the staff could get home for lunch and back to work in the quickest amount of time.

Did you see a particularly beautiful craft along your trail?

Please post a photo of it on social media with #CrayfordSpringtimeTrail

For the chance to win our Grand prize, please send your answers to Crayford.events@gmail.com or return your completed printed sheet to St. Paulinus Church before Monday 21st June.

Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

E-mail address: _____

(optional – Please tell us where you heard about this event and where you collected your trail sheet?

Thank you: _____)