

Gidea Park Heritage Walk - People of Interest

B • Curtis Green (1875-1960)

Curtis Green was an established architect and had designed houses for the Letchworth Garden City and the Hampstead Garden Suburb. In the 1930s he was responsible for the interior and exterior design of the Dorchester Hotel in London.

D • Parker & Unwin

Raymond Unwin and Barry Parker were early pioneers in Town Planning and influential in the Garden City movement. Between 1903 and 1905 they developed plans for the Letchworth Garden City the Hampstead Garden Suburb. Unwin was one of the founders of the Town Planning Institute (1913) and President of the Royal Institute of British Architects (1931-3).

E • Clough Williams-Ellis

Opening his own architectural practice at the age of 22, Bertram Clough Williams-Ellis was renowned for his natural ability as a largely self-taught, natural architect. He is best known for Portmeirion, the holiday village he built on his private peninsula in Snowdonia, Wales, which opened in 1926.

F • Baillie Scott

A member of the established Arts & Crafts movement of the 19th century, Hugh Mackay Baillie Scott was influenced by both William Morris and John Ruskin, but went on to develop a distinctive style of his own. Baillie Scott designed the Red House, the Arts & Crafts home owned by William Morris.

G • Tecton Ltd

Founded by arguably the most important figure in the British modern Movement - Berthold Lubetkin - Tecton Ltd pioneered modernist design in Britain in the 1930s. As well as the villa in Gidea Park, renowned designs include Highpoint One apartments, the Finsbury Park Health Centre and the post war modernist housing estate Spa Green. In 1982 Lubetkin was awarded the RIBA's Royal Gold Medal.

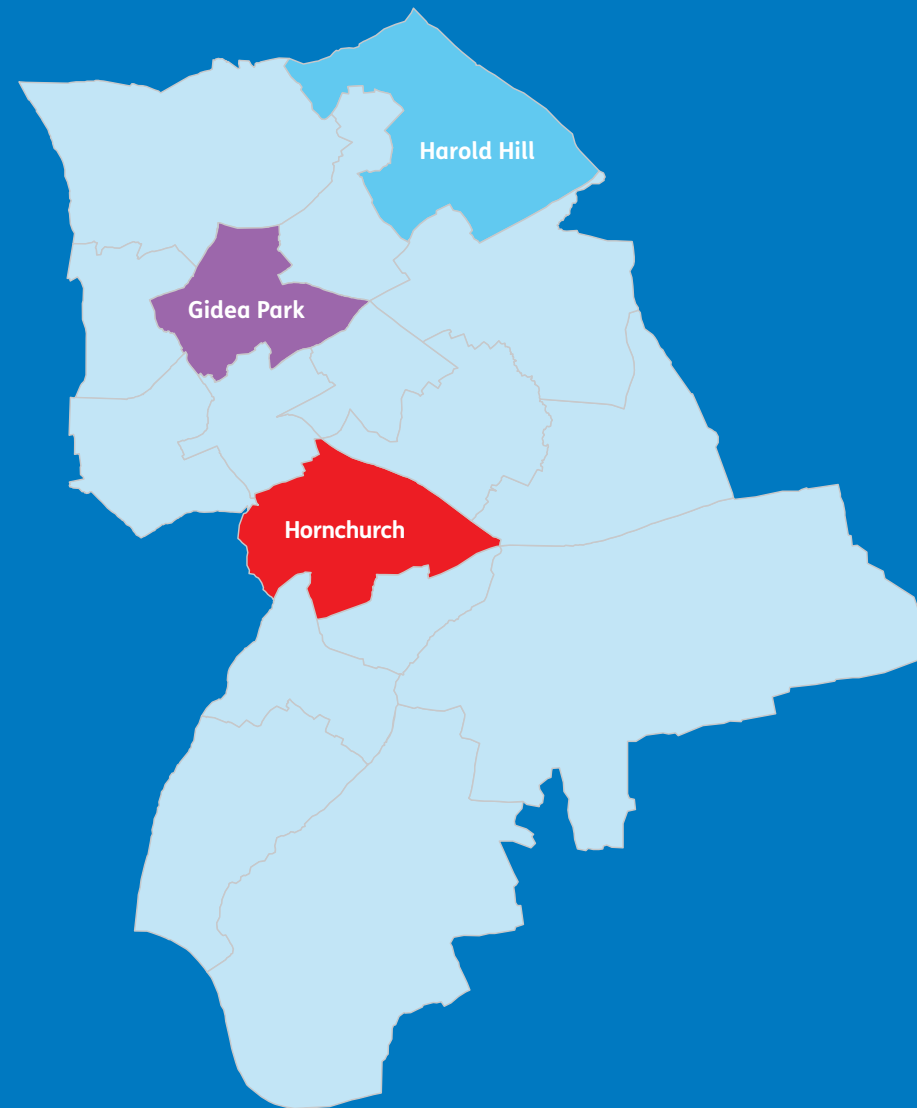
Did you know?

Gidea Park Station was originally called "Squirrels Heath & Gidea Park"

Berthold Lubetkin designed the Penguin Pool and the Gorilla House at London Zoo

Queen Elizabeth I visited Gidea Hall in 1568.

London Borough of Havering



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Design & Print by London Borough of Havering • Job no: 12265

'havering walks' Garden Suburb Gidea Park



Come to the Exhibition...



Influenced by the 'Garden Cities Movement' and the need for more and better

social housing, the early part of the 20th century saw the design of houses and suburbs closely linked to a more holistic approach of combining homes with gardens close to large, open public spaces. In 1910 a competition and exhibition of houses was launched and between July 1910 and June 1911, 121 architects designed the 159 houses and cottages that were built for the exhibition. In 1934 "The Modern Homes Exhibition" was launched and a further 35 houses were built in Heath Drive, Brook Road and Eastern Avenue.

This circular walk will take in many of the houses built for the Exhibition and will take approximately two hours at a leisurely pace.

Garden Suburb • Garden Suburb • Garden Suburb • Garden Suburb • Garden Suburb • Garden Suburb • Garden Suburb



4
Emerge into a small grassed area of Reed Pond Walk. Immediately opposite is the copse, an area protected by covenant from 1912. Bear right and go straight ahead, keeping the copse on your left until you reach No.23, designed by **Clough Williams-Ellis (E)**.

5
Turn back on yourself and turn left next to Gidea Park Lodge. No's 36 and 38 were designed by **Baillie Scott (F)**. At the end of the road turn left into Heath Drive and continue straight ahead. At the junction with Brook Road is No.64, first prize winner in the Gidea Park Modern Homes Exhibition 1934 and one of the first works by **Tecton Ltd (G)**.

6
Turn left into Brook Road. Continue straight ahead and then turn left in to Parkway. Parkway has many exhibition houses including the Class I first prize for Geoffrey Lucas for No.54. Continue straight ahead and enter Raphael Park at the gate at the end, past the tennis courts on your right. Explore and enjoy the park before following the path back to the entrance in Main Road. **FINISH**

3
The walls and gates are Grade II listed from the 18th century and formed part of the boundary to the Hall's walled garden. Continue along Heath Drive, No 41 was designed by **Parker & Unwin (D)**. Continue straight ahead and turn left into Meadway. All the houses except No.13 were built for the 1910/11 Exhibition. Take the footpath between No's 11 and 13.

2
Follow the road round to the right; on your left are the tall hedges that surround the Tennis Club, this was the original site of **Gidea Hall (C)**. Continue forward, bearing right into Broadway. Turn left into Heath Drive and continue round the bend in the road for until you see the fishponds on your left. These were part of the original Gidea Hall estate.

1
START at Raphael's Park (A) with the park on your left. Continue along Main Road for approximately 500 metres and turn left into Heath Drive. No's 3 to 7 are a row of oak-timbered cottages designed by Bunney & Makins for the 1910/11 Exhibition. Cross the road and turn left into Elm Walk. No's 3 to 7 were designed by **Curtis Green (B)**

A • Raphael Park



Named after its benefactor, Herbert Raphael, 15 acres of gardens and Black's Lake were given to the council in 1902 for use as a public park. The council later purchased the Spoon Pond and an additional 16 acres and Raphael gave a further 4.5 acres. The overall layout of the park has changed very little over the last century and it is likely that Raphael gifted the park to the council to protect the character of any future housing development; the park was indeed a key component of the character of the Garden Suburb and was used in the literature promoting the Exhibition Estate.

The park still retains many of its 18th century features including the pleasure grounds, Black's Canal, which retains its serpentine form and island, and the Spoon Pond which now houses the tennis courts.

C • Gidea Hall

The area where Gidea Hall stood is now a covenanted space used by a Tennis club but a house had been existence since the 13th



century and had been through many modifications before being rebuilt in the 18th century. In the 16th century it was home to Sir Anthony Cooke, scholar, Humanist and tutor and companion to King Henry VIII's children. In the 18th century the estate was owned by Richard Benyon, who rose through the ranks of the East India Company becoming Governor of Fort St George in Madras. During this period the bridge was added, now known as Black's bridge after Alexander Black, owner of the estate in the 19th century, which carries Main Road across the lake. In later years Gidea Hall was used as an Officers School for the Artists Rifles during the First World War and was eventually demolished in 1930.

Herbert Raphael

Little is known about the early life of Herbert Raphael but we do know that he was a practising barrister and a member of the Liberal party. He had unsuccessfully contested the Romford constituency in 1892 and 1897 before eventually becoming an MP for South Derbyshire in 1906. Raphael played a pivotal role in the development of the Romford Garden Suburb, forming the original Gidea Hall Development Company with John Tudor Walters, an architect and surveyor, and Charles Albert McCurdy, a director of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust. He had already purchased Gidea Hall and its estates in 1897 and in 1909 had negotiated the building of a new railway station to serve the planned Garden Suburb. In 1911 he was created a baronet and in 1915, at the age of 56, ranked a Major during his service in the First World War. The legacy of this remarkable man is retained through the Romford Garden Suburb and the park that bears his name.



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