

WALK YOUR BOROUGH



Greenford Historic Walk



WAR MEMORIAL



HOLY CROSS CHURCH



The walk takes about two hours at a leisurely pace.

Transport



Greenford Walk Guide

Early History of Greenford

1. The Early Period of Greenford

The Saxon origin of Greenford is indicated by the name Grenan forda, referring to a crossing of the River Brent, found in a charter of 845 CE. Greenford appears in the 1086 Domesday Book, with part of its lands held by the Abbey of St. Peter's, Westminster (today's Westminster Abbey), and another part by Saxon tenants of the Norman lord, Geoffrey de Mandeville. The manor settlement was centred around the church in Oldfield Lane, which was probably originally built in 1157, though the first known Rector of Greenford appears in 1265.

2. 16th-18th Century

The seventeenth century was a period of prosperity for Greenford, whose manor was purchased by the Millet family in 1566. Edward Terry, Rector of Greenford 1624-1660, wrote about his travels in India as chaplain to the East India Company. The wealthy mercantile Coston family moved to Greenford before 1637, where Simon Coston owned a mansion. The 18th Century saw the beginnings of schooling, and the building of the Grand Junction Canal (1792-1800) through Greenford.

3. 19th Century

The Grand Junction Canal soon became important in the local economy – for transporting passengers as well as crops, hay, coal, timber, and ashes, manure, and rubbish from London. There were several small farms, and hay dealers and salesmen living in the locality as well as large houses with wealthy residents. Greenford's small brickworks were used for the construction of the Perkin Dye Works from 1857, which produced synthetic mauve, thus providing local employment.

4. 20th Century

Greenford changed rapidly in the twentieth century. By 1921 there were seven factories and four offices in Greenford, with another four under construction. The Aladdin lamp and heater factory opened in 1931, with Glaxo opening in 1935 under the name J. Nathan & Co. Ltd. The 1901 census lists 672 residents for Greenford. In 1921 it was a rural village of just over 1,000, but in the next two decades, with large-scale house-building, it became a populous residential and industrial suburb, with a 1931 population just over 15,000. By 1951, it was 43,000. In 1926 Greenford was amalgamated into the Borough of Ealing. The railways came to Greenford in 1904, the Central Line station opening in 1947.



Greenford's Industrial Heritage

William Henry Perkin discovered the first reliable artificial purple dye in 1856. Greenford's small brickworks provided material for the construction from 1857 of the Perkin Dye Works in a 6.5 acre field adjoining Greenford Green. The factory produced synthetic mauve, providing local employment, and expanded considerably by 1873. The factory closed in 1880, after Perkin sold it to a competitor and retired, though the site continued to be used for industries such as fat rendering and bone boiling. Today there is a blue plaque marking the spot in Oldfield Lane North, just south of the Black Horse Public House.

The Grand Junction Canal, proposed in 1792 and constructed by 1800 to link Birmingham and London, ran through Greenford, and soon became important in the local economy. There was a coal wharf on the canal at Greenford from the early 19th Century. The canal's proximity to the Perkin Dye Works enabled William Perkin to import materials. The former Rockware Glassworks on the canal, which produced 2 million bottles a week by 1934, is commemorated by Rockware Avenue. Now Westway Shopping Centre.

The railways came to Greenford in 1904, the Central Line station opening in 1947. The Western Avenue was constructed in the 1930s to facilitate travel out of central London, an extension of the 1923 A40 route to Fishguard. By 1921 there were seven factories and four offices in Greenford, with another four under construction. The Aladdin lamp and heater factory opened in 1931, with Glaxo opening in 1935 under the name J. Nathan & Co. Ltd. In 1921, tea blender and food manufacturer J. Lyons and Co. opened their factory on the canal, which quickly became Greenford's biggest employer. The factory was sold off in the 1980s, and it is now known as Lyon Way Industrial Estate. Today, Greenford is home to numerous warehouses.

Ealing Council purchased Horsenden Hill in the 1930s, the largest open space in Greenford. In the Second World War the hill was the site of an anti-aircraft battery, which was used to protect the local factories from air attack.

1 GREENFORD BRIDGE

Address: on Ruislip Road East, near Costons Lane

Crosses the River Brent, dating from 1922. Previously there were two wooden bridges in the vicinity.



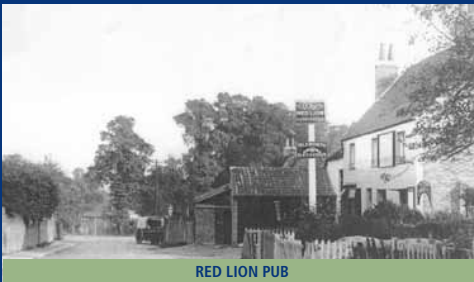
GREENFORD BRIDGE

Continue straight along Greenford Broadway

2 THE SITE OF THE RED LION PUB

Address: on corner of Ruislip Road and Greenford Road, Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 9BE

The original Red Lion was in the centre of Greenford next to the blacksmith and further up the hill from its final location. Owned by the Haskett family in the early nineteenth century, the pub was leased to the brewers Sich & Co, and possibly referred to in an 1826 directory as a 'respectable house affording good accommodation'. It was demolished in 2012, shops and housing are planned to be built on the site'



RED LION PUB

Continue straight on

3 FORMER CINEMA, NOW TESCO'S, ON THE JUNCTION WITH GREENFORD ROAD

(Address: 229 Greenford Road, Greenford, Greater London UB6 8QY)

6 LIBRARY

Address: 25 Oldfield Lane South, Town Centre, Greenford UB6 9LG

This was opened on 6 October 1934 and had been built by the Middlesex County Council. It had cost £7500 and initially there were 4,500 books, of which three quarters were fiction, and a staff of four. Hitherto people who wanted to borrow books in Greenford had to use temporary sites such as the school, village hall and health centre. It was refurbished in 2007.



GREENFORD LIBRARY

Cross the street, and just north of Stanhope Park Road is the former Stanhope Park

7 THE SITE OF STANHOPE PARK

Address: formerly to the left of Stanhope Park Road, close to 6-14 Oldfield Lane South

The ancient Stickleton Manor stood here. In the eighteenth century, the Rector of Hanwell, the Rev. Samuel Glasse, has a private school for boys here, but by the early nineteenth century this had been demolished to make way for the largest house in Greenford, Stanhope Park. This had thirteen bedrooms and stabling for eight horses. Charles Bentley Bingley, a successful draper with a business in Regent Street, lived here in the middle of the nineteenth century. Later residents included the Otter family, and they had the grounds landscaped. It was demolished in 1934.



STANTHORPE PARK

Go straight on, on the left hand side of the road is Ravenor Park

The 2000-seat Granada cinema building, with Wurlitzer organ, was opened in the town centre by Gracie Fields on 13th November 1937. It was Greenford's third cinema (after the Playhouse (1931) and the Odeon (1935)) on opening, but closed in 1966 and was converted into a Tesco supermarket.



OLDFIELD LANE 1930

At corner of Ruislip Road and Oldfield Lane see the War Memorial

4 WAR MEMORIAL †

Address: At corner of Ruislip Road and Oldfield Lane South

Eighteen Greenford men had been killed in the First World War. In early 1920 a Memorial Fund was instituted. By the autumn of 1920, Mr H.E. Choisso, the fund's treasurer, announced that almost enough money had been raised to pay for a stone cross. The latter idea was from Councillor Alfred Cooper. The memorial was unveiled on 12 June 1921, a Sunday afternoon.



GREENFORD WAR MEMORIAL

Turn right into Oldfield Lane South, to your left is the Police Station

5 POLICE STATION 🏠

Address: 21 Oldfield Lane South, Greenford, UB6 9LQ

There had been a police station here since the late nineteenth century, but was always quite small. A new station was built in 1896 with married quarters for two families. In 1918 there was a sergeant in charge.

Go straight on, and to your left is the Library

8 RAVENOR PARK 🌳

(Address: entrance to your left, as you pass the Library walking north along Oldfield Lane South)

This was once part of Coston's farm, but was bought by Ealing Council as a park in 1928 from Mrs Otter for £9,500. There is now a motorcycle museum and a heritage centre in two of the former farm buildings. The park probably takes its name from the former Ravenor House, which was on the opposite side of the road until the 1930s.



RAVENOR PARK

Past Ravenor Park on your left is the site of the former Coston House

9 SITE OF COSTON FARM 🏠

Address: Oldfield Lane South

Named after Simon Coston, a seventeenth century Greenford landowner, whose wife Bridget is commemorated in the church with a memorial. There is a road named after this family. George Bishop was farmer there for over 30 years until his death in 1898. He was married and had thirteen children.

Continue down Oldfield Lane South, passing the Motorcycle Museum. On your left is the Temple

10 HINDU TEMPLE "SHREE JALARAM MANDIR" 🏠 FORMER SYNAGOGUE

Address: 39/45 Oldfield Lane South Greenford, Middlesex - UB6 9LB

A synagogue stood on this site from 1959 – when Abraham Banks, lay minister for Greenford, laid the foundation stone, amidst 100 Jewish families and dignitaries attending. It was converted into a mandir in 2001.

Continue down Oldfield Lane South, on your right is the former Litten Tree pub

11 SITE OF THE LITTEN TREE PUB 🏠

Address: 118 Oldfield Lane South, Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 9JX

Occupying the site of the former 200-year-old Litten Hotel, which replaced some of the buildings of Ravenor Farm, this local pub was closed in 2004, demolished in 2010, and has been replaced by a care home.



LITTEN TREE PUB

Further down, on the right, is the Betham Clock School

12 BETHAM CLOCK SCHOOL 📖

Address: to north of junction of Oldfield Lane South and Costons Lane on right

In 1878, the Trustees of Edward Betham's legacy built a new school called Betham Elementary School, the school with a clock tower, now called the Edward Betham C of E Primary School's Infant Department.

On the left is the Edward Betham C of E Primary School

13 EDWARD BETHAM C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL 📖

Address: Oldfield Lane South

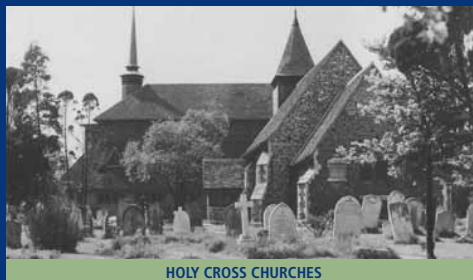
In 1974, the Betham Trustees sold the original school house and bought the Coston School for Boys and opened it as the Betham Middle School. That building is now called the Edward Betham Junior Department. In 1993, the two Betham schools were amalgamated as one school, The Edward Betham Church of England Primary School, with a Nursery class and about 450 children on the roll.

Further on, on the right is the former Old Betham School

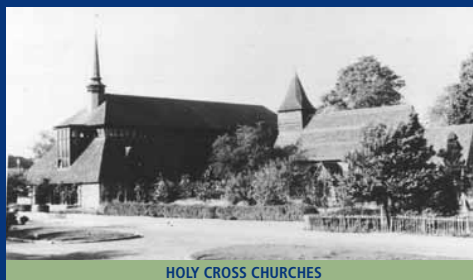
16 HOLY CROSS CHURCH – OLD AND NEW

Address: On corner of Ferrymead Gardens and Oldfield Lane South, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 9JS

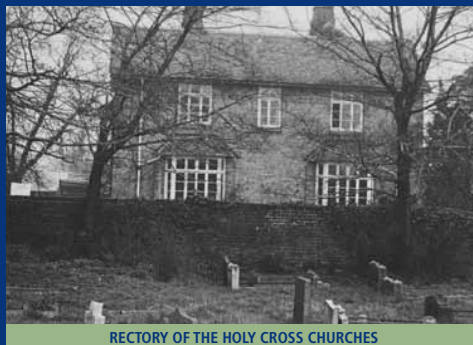
This church was known to exist in 1157, though it has been altered over the centuries. Some interesting memorials inside are the brass to Simon Hart, a fifteenth century rector, and to another rector, Michael Gardiner and his wife, dating from the early seventeenth century. By the 1930s it was far too small for the congregation. Instead of being demolished, a new church was built in 1939-1941, which now hosts most of the services.



HOLY CROSS CHURCHES



HOLY CROSS CHURCHES



RECTORY OF THE HOLY CROSS CHURCHES

14 FORMER BETHAM SCHOOL HOUSE 📖

Address: 162 Oldfield Lane South



BETHAM SCHOOL

Established in 1780 by the Rector, the Rev. Edward Betham, this is the oldest school in the parish. The master was paid £50 per year to instruct local poor children 'how to read and write, and cast accounts, and know the principles of the Christian religion, the girls to be taught to work, knit and sew'. Held Rev. Betham's school from 1780 to 1878, educating children from Greenford, Perivale, Northolt and Hanwell. Now divided into flats. Plaque on front.

Continue straight on, on the right is Greenford Community Centre

15 GREENFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE 🏠 (PREVIOUSLY GREENFORD HALL)

Address: 170 Oldfield Lane South, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 9JS

Parts of Greenford community centre date back to the seventeenth century. It had a number of distinguished residents, including Thomas Wakely - a surgeon and coroner, who founded the medical journal, The Lancet. James Roy extended the house, increased the size of the stables and had greenhouses built. It is the only one of Greenford's large houses to exist and this is because it has long ceased to be a private residence but has been used as a community centre since 1938, after Ealing Council acquired a grant from the county council for that purpose.

Cross the road. To your left are the Holy Cross Churches



MONUMENT OF RECTOR GARDINER 1584

A little further on is the Rectory

17 THE RECTORY ✝️

Address: Opposite nos. 192-194 Oldfield Lane South, Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 9JS

The rectory was built in 1875 by William White and is still in use today for the same purpose.



RECTOR SYMONS 1520

Further information about London on foot can be found at www.tfl.gov.uk

Further information on walking routes in Ealing can be found at www.ealing.gov.uk/walking



Credits: Thank you to Dr Jonathan Oates and Dr Piotr Stolarski of Ealing Local History Centre, and Greenford Historians Francis and Peter Hounsell for their input. For details on sources contact the Ealing Central Library.