Walworth Town Hall hoarding

Drawing out Walworth by Kerry Lemon

Are you wondering why there is a giraffe in the middle of Walworth Square? You have come to the right place to find out. The images on the Walworth Town Hall hoarding celebrate some of the plants, animals and architecture that have special meaning within the Walworth area. You can find a brief explanation below of everything that is represented and discover something new and interesting about Walworth.

The PLANTS

In 1086 the Domesday book described the village life in Waleorde (Walworth) with corn growing and cows grazing.

The peaches, apples and grapes grew locally in orchards and market gardens and reference the history of the area 'feeding London' from Roman times into the 1700s. They also link to the produce sold on East Street Market stalls today.

Tulips were grown by James Maddock (1718-1786) in Walworth and at one time he had more than 800 different varieties in his fields.

The poppy is a symbol of remembrance and hope and relates to those that signed up to join the armed forces during WW1 at the Walworth Town Hall.
Echinacea is a reference to London’s oldest herbalist, Baldwin’s of Walworth Road, which has been in business since 1844.

The dahlias date from 1797 when botanist Samuel Curtis issued the ‘Beauties of Flora’ a series of two floral engravings including two plates of dahlias from his own collection grown in Walworth.

The ANIMALS, birds and insects

An elephant, giraffe and lion were part of the attractions at the historical Royal Surrey Zoological Gardens, which rivalled the Regent’s Park Zoo. In 1843 Walworth became home to the first giraffes to be shown in public in Britain. [https://southwarkheritage.wordpress.com/2016/09/09/the-last-giraffe-of-walworth/](https://southwarkheritage.wordpress.com/2016/09/09/the-last-giraffe-of-walworth/)

Eurasian blue tits - *Cyanistes caeruleus* - with their bright blue, yellow, white and green colours, are very recognisable. They reside over most of the UK.

The robin redbreast *Erithacus rubeculaare* is the UK’s national bird and familiar to many. They sing all year round and are very territorial.
Stag beetles - *Lucanidae* - males are familiar due to their large antler jaws which they use against each other but do not harm people. While they are a globally threatened species they like living in London!

The ladybirds and butterflies (Peacock and English Swallowtail) are those commonly found in the area.

The bees reference Walworth Garden’s beautiful handmade gates and reflect Walworth’s history as an important centre for growing plants and food.

**The historic ARCHITECTURE**

The Temple Bar on the Walworth Road, was a pub from 1825 that closed in 2011 and now accommodates Poundland.

St Wilfred Church, Lorrimore Road, built in 1914, is an active Catholic church. The church was bombed during WWII and restored after the war.
The Spare St Arches opened to the public in July 2016. They are made up of five refurbished, glazed fronted railway arches and are home to creative entrepreneurs and the popular Sidecar Cafe.

The Walworth Town Hall and former Newington Library on Walworth Road is a Grade II listed complex of buildings that began with the construction of the Vestry Hall on the corner of the site in 1864. The Town Hall is currently unused following a fire in 2013 and the former Newington Library is temporarily home to the Art Academy. www.walworthtownhall.com

The Health Centre, Walworth Road, known as the Walworth Clinic was built in 1937 and is Grade II listed with Deco style detailing and bears the famous quote from Cicero “The health of the people is the highest law” as an inscription in stone at the top of the building. The concept of the health clinic predated the establishment of the National Health Service.

The Tankard, Walworth Road, was originally built in 1860. It was rebuilt in the Tudorbethan style in the 1920s and still in use as a public house today.

The Huntsman & Hounds Pub on Elsted Street originally dates from the 1830s and is now owned by United and St Saviour’s Charity.
St Peter’s Church, Liverpool Grove was built between 1823-25 and was designed by Sir John Soane. It is currently an active Anglican church.

The Pullens Buildings (also known as the Pullens Estate), are some of the last Victorian tenement buildings surviving in London. The Estate was built by James Pullen over 15 years from 1886. The residential buildings have distinctive decorative terracotta arches to the door and window openings and there are workshops attached to the rear of the residential blocks.

The East St Baptist Church was originally ‘Richmond Street Mission and Schools’ but eventually larger premises were needed and Richmond Street disappeared during the slum clearances. The current building was erected in 1896 and the church became known as the ‘East Street Baptist Mission’ and played a leading role in the area establishing a youth group called the 179 Club. The East Street Baptist Church was formally constituted on 18th October, 1969.