



Formed 1972

Hills Amenity Society

Working for the Conservation Areas of York Hill, Baldwins Hill and Staples Road

Online petition to save Sir Jacob Epstein's studio

An otherwise probably uncontentious application for an extension at the rear of 47-49 Baldwins Hill has served to revive interest in the studio where Sir Jacob Epstein created the (in)famous sculpture "Rima" (pictured). The statue was unveiled by

Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin in 1925. As you can see



on Page 5, the blue plaque commemorating Sir Jacob is on the opposite side of the road at No 50 Baldwins Hill, Deerhurst, where the great man lived from 1933 to 1950. If you use Twitter the hashtag to save the studio is #jacobepsteinstudio

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Page 6: Do you know this man?

Hills' 12 Blue Plaques: now that IS special

Hills Amenity Society invites all members and residents to

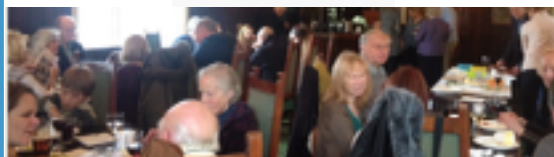
Autumn Lunch at The Gardeners Arms

on Sunday 29 October
12.30 - 2.30pm

Lunch and glass of wine £6

Contact Valerie 020 8502 3998 or email ian.locks@gmail.com

All welcome



An application to demolish a workshop used by the renowned sculptor Sir Jacob Epstein when he lived in Baldwins Hill has ignited renewed interest in the area's strong literary and artistic heritage.

A total of 12 Blue Plaques - the round discs on the walls of buildings commemorating famous former residents - adorn the walls of buildings in and around the three conservation areas of Staples Road, York Hill and Baldwins Hill.

Inside (Pages 4-5) we pinpoint where all 12 plaques can be found and invite residents to take an autumn stroll discovering former homes of mystery writer Ruth Rendell; Sir Jacob Epstein, said to have created his most controversial work 'Rima' in his Baldwins Hill workshop; the home of Royal Mistress Mary Anne Clark in the early 1800's; former head of Staples Road School George Pearson OBE, accredited as probably the most successful film producer pre-1939..and many more.

The Hills' Blue Plaque Trail deserves to be discovered.

Step forward for Kings Green?

We held our breath: 'No parking' notices were spray painted on what's left of the tarmac footpath in front of the Kings Green cottages: was this the long awaited resurfacing? Sadly not - just the introduction of metered parking, meaning pedestrians can now use the footpath previously obstructed by crazy motorists but the eyesore of the broken surface is brought into even sharper relief. According to the County Council map more than a dozen complaints have been recorded but no action is scheduled. See Page 3

244 High Road
Loughton IG10 1RB
Tel: 020 8508 2030
Email: sales@woodburyhomes.co.uk
<http://www.woodburyhomes.co.uk>





Hills Crime Report

Ten crimes were recorded in the Hills during August (the latest month currently reported) according to the

Essex Police crime map out of 182 for the Loughton area in the month.

Baldwins Hill area:

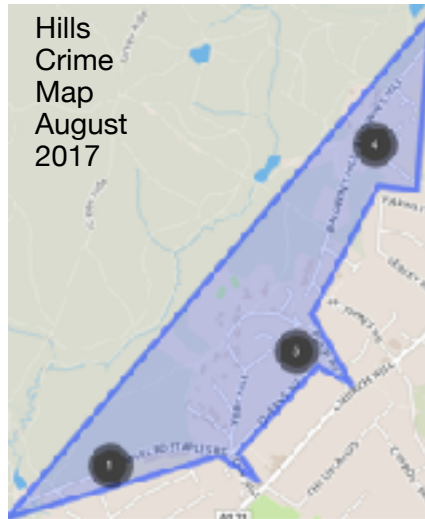
Two vehicle crimes were committed and there were two cases of anti-social behaviour

York Hill area

One case of criminal damage and arson in Pump Hill Three vehicle crimes were reported. One case of anti-social behaviour

Staples Road

One vehicle crime. In addition seven stop and searches were carried out in the area and could not be mapped to a specific location.



Meet the Police and Crime Commissioner

Monday 20 November 2017

Council Chamber, Epping Civic Offices 18.30

Meet the Police in Loughton

Tuesday 21 November St. Mary's Church, Loughton, 19.00



Always a warm welcome

LUNCHTIME MADNESS

12noon-3.00pm
£5 Meal Menu
Monday - Friday

-oOo-

Every Saturday

12noon to 4.00pm
Bottomless Prosecco
free with any two course meal

-oOo-

Saturday 4 November
HOG ROAST - 5.00pm

FREE sparklers on the Terrace plus Halloween themed fancy dress prizes for best boy and girl
Live music from James 8.00pm

-oOo-



Let us have your news, views and comments on the **HillsWatch** Facebook Page which links to **Epping Forest NHW** Notices.

HELP WANTED: are you comfortable with social media? We are looking for a volunteer to manage the Hills social media presence on Facebook, Twitter etc.
Contact hillsamenity@gmail.com

Who to contact

Noise: ring the District Council Environmental Health team (01992 564000, 24 hours), not the Police

- **Anti-social behaviour**, such as drunk and disorderly, intimidation etc, ring 101 and get a crime number or telephone 01245 491491

- **Criminal activity**, such as a threat to life/safety or property (an emergency situation) - ring 999 or 101 for everything else

essex.police.uk update

Following closure to the public of Loughton and Epping Police Stations our nearest is now Harlow, open between 9.00am and 5.00pm. Reporting crime online is encouraged. Our police contact is now Chief Inspector Denise Morrissey BrentwoodCPT@essex.pnn.police.uk Phone 999 in an emergency and 101 for everything else

Hills Awards for restoration

The Hills Amenity Society Committee at its meeting noted two properties which, in the members' views, have recently been completed sensitively and to good effect. Congratulations to the owners for showing the way.

1 Kings Green



117 Queens Road



More resident parking, 20mph speed limit - and attention to Kings Green 'disgrace'?

A mould has been broken with the introduction of the first shared resident and timed parking scheme in the Hills on King's Green. This - and the relentless rise in the scale of the problem - has led to an increasing numbers of requests from residents in and around Queens Road, York Hill, Staples Road and Shaftesbury for an extension of the scheme.

It is now nearly five years since the last detailed consultation with residents resulted in a rejection of the then proposals: the argument being that the problem is just shifted from one area (such as Kings Green) to the next around the corner: those previously blighted enjoying relief while those not "schemed" picking up the problem.

Local councillors are asking if it is time for another consultation on parking but residents are also asking for attention to speed limits as increased parking, - especially huge "urban tractors", blocking footpaths - is leading to increasing numbers of scares for pedestrians negotiating our narrow roads faced with speeding drivers.

One York Hill resident who is planning to start camera monitoring of speeds said: "It's just an accident waiting to happen. They rocket down here at 40 mph to a blind corner with vehicles parked everywhere and children walking and scooting to school. It's madness...we must have sensible speed limits." After 15 years of asking we do now have a pedestrian crossing of the main road at Kings Green and the parking people scrawled graffiti over the broken surface of Kings Green we thought its time had come. But no: their white lines...were painted over the broken surface. When oh when will Essex County Council attend to this disgrace?

What do you think? Let us have your views on Facebook at HillsWatch, or Email: hillsamenitysociety@gmail.com

Recent Hills planning applications

47-49 Baldwins Hill - Proposed demolition of ground floor bathroom to side and proposed first floor rear extension. New side door canopy.

1 Woodbury Hill - application for non-material amendment to permission granted for rear extension of patio and removal of hanging tiles.

April Cottage, 15a Pump Hill - application to erect vehicular and pedestrian gates and side boundary fence
40 York Hill - Loft conversion with side and rear dormer windows revised application

38a York Hill - application for single storey rear extension and first floor rear extension.

2 Wallers Hoppet - Permission granted for demolition of an existing conservatory and replacing this with an orangery style single storey rear extension. Create a new cross-over onto the existing front garden and to create a new car-parking space.

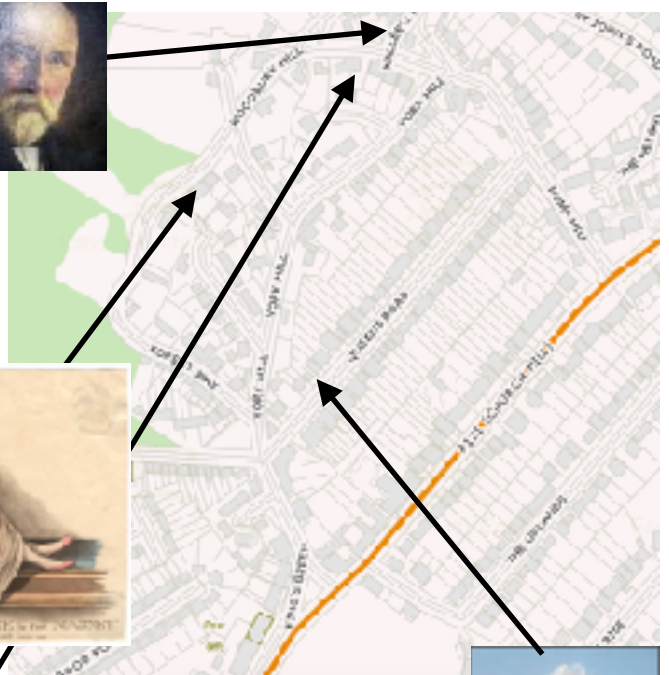
Deerhurst, 50 Baldwins Hill - Grade II listed building permission granted with conditions for proposed change of rear windows and doors. Removal of walls.

12 Stony Path - Permission granted with conditions for reduction of height of section of existing wall and fence at rear (point A to B) to 1.4m/1.2m in height, and reduction of remainder of wall on the side and front boundaries (point C to D) to 1.2m for the brick piers, 0.68m for the dwarf wall, together with removal of existing timber panels.
40 York Hill - An application for hip to gable loft conversion was refused.

7 Wroths Path - Certificate of Lawful Development granted for proposed conversion of existing loft space including formation of rear dormer.

The 12 Blue Plaques in the Hills: something very special

William Chapman Waller (1850-1917) lived at Ash Green House, Baldwins Hill, from 1874. Wallers Hoppet was part of Ash Green's garden before the development of 11 detached houses on the site in the early 1980's. Over a period of 30 years Waller compiled a unique record of Loughton's history with pen portraits of local folk, such as the lady who carried her bantam-cock around as a pet. William Waller and his wife Minnie had four children and their daughter Evelyn lived in the family home until her death in 1945. (*Loughton a Hundred Years Ago* by William Chapman Waller, edited by Richard Morris and Chris Pond) published by the Loughton and District Historical Society.)



Mary Anne Clarke (c1776 - 1852) accredited as 'Royal Mistress,' lived for a while at Loughton Lodge. She is described as having 'wealth of soft, dark, curly hair, the changeable eyes (probably hazel), tip-tilted nose, red lips, dimpled chin, the superb white neck and shoulders and a full bosom' but also 'a vulgar piece of work, this girl from the mean streets of London, often coarse in language and behaviour, impudent, provocative, feisty, tough...' Picture and quotes:



www.numberonelondon.net

Sarah Fuller Flower-Adams (1805-1848), a poetess, lived in an earlier house, demolished in 1888, on the site of 'Sunnybank', 9 Woodbury Hill with her husband William Bridges Adam, a "man of letters". Sarah composed the words for the hymn "Nearer my God, to Thee", famously sung on board the Titanic as it sank in the Atlantic. She died aged 43.



Ralph Russell (1918 - 2008) lived at 6 Queens Road. Born in 1918 and died in 2008, Russell is widely considered to have been the leading western scholar and translator of Urdu literature and best known for his work on works by the revered poet Ghalib. Roseley, Queens Road, was Mr Russell's home from 1925 until 1940, when he attended Staples Road School and later Chigwell School. Picture <http://www.marionmolteno.co.uk>, report *East London and Essex Guardian*



The blue plaque at Forest Villa, 7 Staples Road, commemorates the Rev **Dr Robert Hunter** (1823-1897) who was a lexicographer who compiled a massive 14 volume encyclopaedic dictionary before the creation of the Oxford English Dictionary. A Scot by birth, Hunter had been to India as a missionary. He was keenly interested in the study of ancient writing—palaeontology— as well as astronomy and geology. The steep roofed house in a classic Scottish style was designed by Hunter himself, including a "belvedere" - or conservatory to most of us. Besides being Robert Hunter's home, Forest Villa was also a refuge for sick children from the Victoria Docks. *Acknowledgement "The buildings of Loughton and Notable People of the Town" and "A Walk Round Loughton" by Chris Pond. Picture: www.hunterarchive.com*



George Pearson OBE (1875-1973). Staples Road Junior School honours George Pearson, head from 1908-1913, who went on to be probably the most successful film producer pre 1939. Born on 19 March 1875 in Kennington, London, his father a silk craftsman, a happy home and stimulating schooldays led George in 1893 to Culham College, Oxfordshire, for a teacher's certificate—and thence to Loughton. However, he disliked the rigid discipline and curriculum of school-board education. Around 1911, a travelling film show suggested to him the power of cinema as a medium for mass enlightenment through entertainment. By then married with four children and aged 37, and having impressed the managers of Pathé, Pearson abandoned his respectable career as headmaster in 1937 and entered the then disreputable film industry as Film Producer in charge of Pathé's tiny London studio. In 1948 the Royal Photographic Society made him an Honorary Fellow, as did the British Film Academy in 1951, when he also received the OBE for his services to the film industry. He retired, aged 80, published his autobiography in 1957 and died aged 98 in 1973.



Articles on these two pages draw on a series of six researched and written by Jane Bowen, former York Hill resident, and published in the Hills Newsletter in 2005-6.

How The Hills were dubbed 'Little Cornwall'

Did you know it was **Ruth Rendell**—she of the mysteries—who renamed 'The Hills' 'Little Cornwall' in her suspense novel 'The Face of Trespass', first published in 1974, and later adapted for television? Most of the action in this gripping tale takes place in a tumble-down cottage in Epping Forest between Waltham Abbey and Loughton, which keep their names.

Ruth Rendell (pictured), educated at Loughton County High School, lived at 45 Millsmead Way for several years before moving to the picturesque village of Polstead. It was here that Rendell created her famous Inspector Wexford Mysteries, located in the Stour Valley area of Suffolk.



Sir **Hugh William Bell Cairns** KBE FRCS (26 June 1896 – 18 July 1952) was an Australian neurosurgeon. For most of his life he lived in England, in Loughton during the 1920s. His concern about despatch rider injuries sparked research which led to increased use of motorcycle helmets. After one of his patients died, who happened to be Lawrence of Arabia, he studied the positive effect the use of motorbike helmets had on reducing the severity of head injuries.



Sir Jacob Epstein (1880-1959), the American-born sculptor and painter (pictured right), lived on Baldwins Hill for almost 30 years. While living at No 49 he created his controversial sculpture 'Rima' (pictured) - unveiled in Hyde Park by Stanley Baldwin in 1925. His studio still stands at the rear of 47-49 Baldwins Hill.



After 1916 he lived and worked in London for the rest of his life. He briefly visited New York in 1927, to attend his one-man show at the Ferragil Gallery. The Arts Council honoured him with a retrospective exhibition at the Tate Gallery. A blue plaque is sited on Deerhurst where he lived for many years. He was knighted in 1954 and died in August 1959.

Doris and Muriel Lester—great peace campaigners

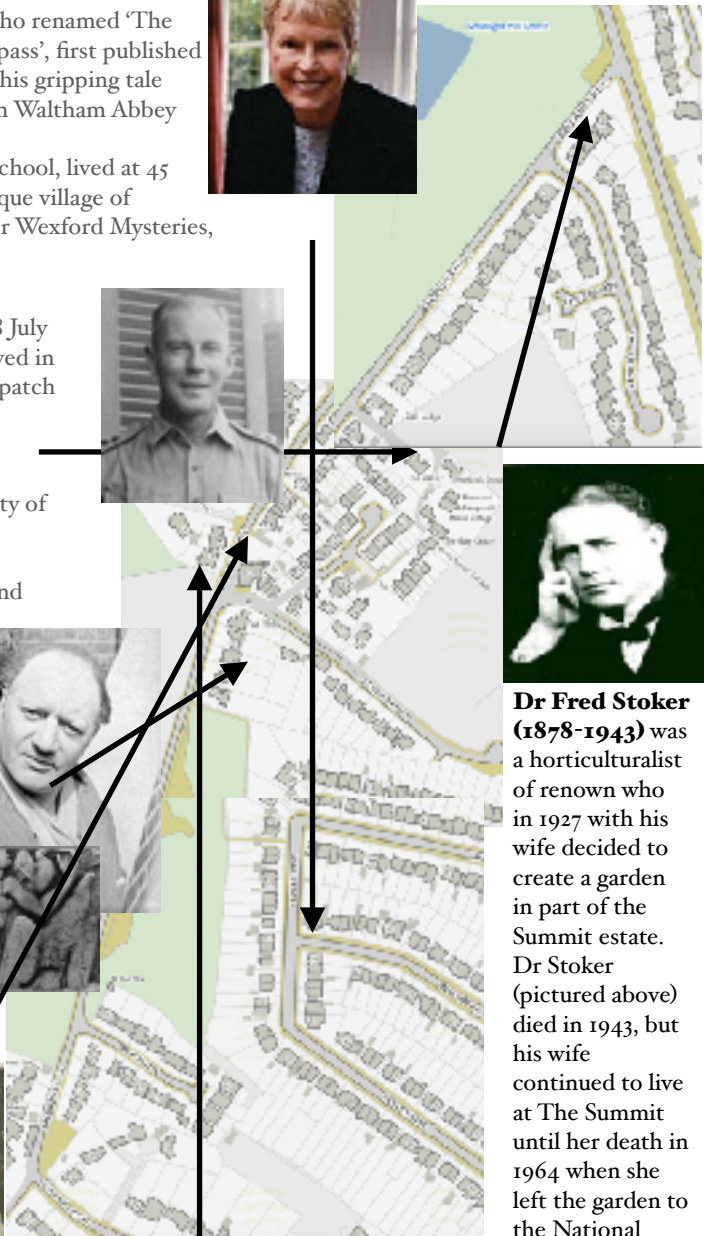
A blue plaque on the wall of 47 Baldwins Hill commemorates Muriel Lester (1882-1968) and her sister Doris (pictured right) who were peace campaigners and philanthropists. Daughters of a wealthy Loughton family, they worked among the poor of East London, campaigned for pacifist causes and travelled widely. Labour Prime Minister Clement Attlee, Mahatma Gandhi and the actress Dame Sybil Thorndike were among the notable visitors to their Baldwins Hill home. In 1934 Muriel Lester accompanied Mahatma Gandhi on his tour of earthquake- shaken regions in Bihar. *Picture: Kingsley Hall kingsleyall.freeuk.com/kingsleyball.htm The Muriel Lester Archive resides at the Bishopsgate Institute. See www.muriellester.org*



Ken Campbell (1941 - 2008) who lived at Swiss Cottage, 40 Baldwins Hill, was an actor, director and playwright. According to *The Guardian* he was "one of the most original and unclassifiable talents in the British theatre of the past half-century." He was "a genius at producing shows on a shoestring and honing the improvisational capabilities of the actors who were brave enough to work with him." Trained at Rada, his 1976 play *Illuminatus!* (co-written with Chris Langham) - an eight-hour epic - was the first production in the National Theatre's Cottesloe auditorium, with a prologue spoken by John Gielgud. Said *The Guardian*: "There have been few stranger people in Britain, let alone the theatre, than Campbell. Living in a Swiss chalet in Epping Forest, he trained his three black crossbreed dogs - Max, Gertie and Bear - to win prizes, made art work from the random droppings of a parrot called Doris and entertained his visitors with the films of Jackie Chan, the martial arts film star he regarded as the greatest living actor."



Dr Fred Stoker (1878-1943) was a horticulturalist of renown who in 1927 with his wife decided to create a garden in part of the Summit estate. Dr Stoker (pictured above) died in 1943, but his wife continued to live at The Summit until her death in 1964 when she left the garden to the National Trust. However the National Trust declined the offer and in 1971 the land was put up for sale and 41 houses were built on the plot. *The story is told in a book by Chris Pond and Richard Morris entitled 'The Lost Garden of Loughton', Loughton Historical Society.*



Comment

Meet the police...

The other evening there were six heavily armed and clad police at Loughton (tube) station. "Bit like buses..." someone commented. The autumn leaves piled outside the former entrance at Loughton police station say writ large 'don't come here' and apart from the occasional police vehicle coming or going (with or without flashing lights) for most parts a police officer is rare indeed. So we draw attention (on Page 2) to TWO opportunities to meet senior police representatives: one on Monday 20 November when the Police and Crime Commissioner will be at the Civic Offices in Epping at 6.30pm and on Tuesday 21 November at St. Mary's Church, Loughton when we can meet a senior police officer. We suggest that as many of us as possible should go along.

Find us on Facebook as HillsWatch

Following a spate of car thefts and an increase in anti-social behaviour we have created HillsWatch as a Facebook page following the fine example set by the Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch which now has 600 followers and to which we will link closely. This will be a way of highlighting current concerns and warning of specific dangers - if we have your participation. Please sign up.

Do you know this man?

Baldwins Hill resident Jennie Fox posted this picture of a tall slim man with the open door of her father's car at 7am on October 11 2017. A work case with cash was stolen from the vehicle. The webcam has been lodged with the police so if you can help, contact them on



BrentwoodCPT@essex.pnn.police.uk, phone 101, or contact Jennie Fox or HillsWatch on Facebook.

HILLS COMMITTEE

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Support our work for the Hills: Just £5 a year

Hills Amenity Society has been working since 1972 to preserve, protect, develop and improve features of both historic and public interest and to promote higher standards of planning and design in keeping with existing amenities and the rural character of the three Loughton conservation areas of York Hill, Staples Road and Baldwins Hill. The Society organises social events such as occasional picnics, autumn lunch and an open meeting and AGM in the Spring. It awards a prize for the best kept front garden, monitors planning and has carried out detailed appraisals of the area adapted and now adopted by the District Council. New members are always welcome. Membership of Hills Amenity Society costs just £5 per household a year payable to Hills Amenity Society and may be sent to The Treasurer,



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