

## William Morris Gallery, Lloyd & Aveling Parks

### William Morris Gallery



The building that we know today as the William Morris Gallery, was built in the 1760's and was once one of Walthamstow's grand houses. It has had a number of different names that include: 'The Winns', 'The Water House' and 'The Mansion'.



Between 1911 and 1943 the house was used as offices for children's medical and dental services and school attendance departments. In 1922 a memorial to those who had died in WWI was erected in front of William Morris house. This was later removed and re-erected at the Town Hall. In 1950 the William Morris Gallery was opened by the local MP and Prime Minister Clement Attlee.



The two most famous families that have lived in the house are William Morris and Edward Lloyd.

#### William Morris (1834-1896)

William Morris lived there from 1848, when he was fourteen years old, until 1856. He was a world famous writer, poet, designer and socialist and examples of his work can be seen in the Gallery. The motto of the Borough of Waltham Forest is 'Fellowship is life' and is taken from from his book called 'The Dream of John Ball'.

### **Edward Lloyd (1815-1890)**

Edward Lloyd was a newspaper owner and ran a weekly newspaper called Lloyd's Weekly. This publication was the most popular newspaper of its time and sold a million copies. He bought the house and its large grounds in 1857 and with his large family lived in the house until he died. In 1898, his son Frank gave the house and gardens to Walthamstow Urban District Council, to be used by the public as a recreation ground - providing the council bought some adjoining land to be used as playing fields.

### **Lloyd & Aveling Parks**

Lloyd Park was opened as by the Walthamstow Urban District Council in 1900. Following its grand opening Walthamstow Borough Council set to work sprucing up the land, adding new flowerbeds, a bandstand and a terrace. In 1912 the park was enlarged when the council purchased a further 16 acres of adjoining land, opening it up as the linked Aveling Park. In the lower field (Aveling Park) there was another bandstand as well as a sports pavilion that was used for the Walthamstow schools district sports day. From 1905 to 1910 The Walthamstow Avenue Football Club had their home pitch in the park. A children's playground was built in the Aveling Park section in the 1930s. After WWII the Council erected 'prefabs' (Prefabricated houses) to the area of Aveling Park adjacent to Aveling Park Road in to house families who had been made homeless by the war. and Aveling Park School (formerly William Fitt) was built in 1962, on the land previously occupied by prefabs.

### **Lloyd Park Theatre aka Waltham Forest Theatre**



Originally there was a bandstand on the island where local people enjoyed brass band music. Early park amenities included a grotto, shelters, toilets, refreshments kiosk, rockery, fish pool, drinking fountains, and an Park Attendants Office . The Bandstand replaced in 1937 by the Lloyd Park Theatre. This was a picturesque multi-purpose Council venue that was situated on the island. It was called the Lloyd Park Pavilion and later changed its name to the Waltham Forest Theatre. Amongst other things this was used for school concerts and dance competitions. In earlier years it staged the occasional repertory season under managers like Terence Fitzgerald, Barry Sinclair and the Jack Watling Frinton Rep Company and it was used by local amateur companies. In recent years it seems to have been used entirely for amateur or community purposes. By 2006 it seems to have ceased all theatrical use and has now been demolished.



## The Future

On the 11th January 2010 we learned that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) have announced that Walthamstow's Lloyd and Aveling Park had been awarded a grant of £3.48m to carry our work to the William Morris Gallery and Lloyd & Aveling Parks. On the 13th April 2011 Waltham Forest Cabinet for Leisure, Arts & Culture recommended awarding a contract in the sum of £4.624 million to carry out works. These are expected to complete in April 2012.





**Courtesy of Brenda Conway**

<http://www.walthamstowhistory.com/ym2004.htm>

*"Lloyds Park, the playground, the Umbrella swing, the rocking horse and the Slide.....I recall the Prefab houses down one end of the park .....I recall seeing Tommy Steele in Half a Sixpence at the Pavilion.."*

**Courtesy of Norma Grundy** [http://www.francisfrith.com/walthamstow/memories/a-fondly-remembered-childhood\\_109051/#utmcsr=google.co.uk&utmcmd=referral&utmccn=google.co.uk](http://www.francisfrith.com/walthamstow/memories/a-fondly-remembered-childhood_109051/#utmcsr=google.co.uk&utmcmd=referral&utmccn=google.co.uk)



*"I loved Lloyds Park too with all its amenities, we used to go there in the holidays and for 9p could hire a tennis court for an hour. I remember raiding the farthing jar for some of the money, lol. Rounders with coats for posts. Bottles of water with lemonade powder. Wonderful late summer*

*evenings, getting turned out by the Park Keeper. Getting a bag of chips opposite the park for 3p."*

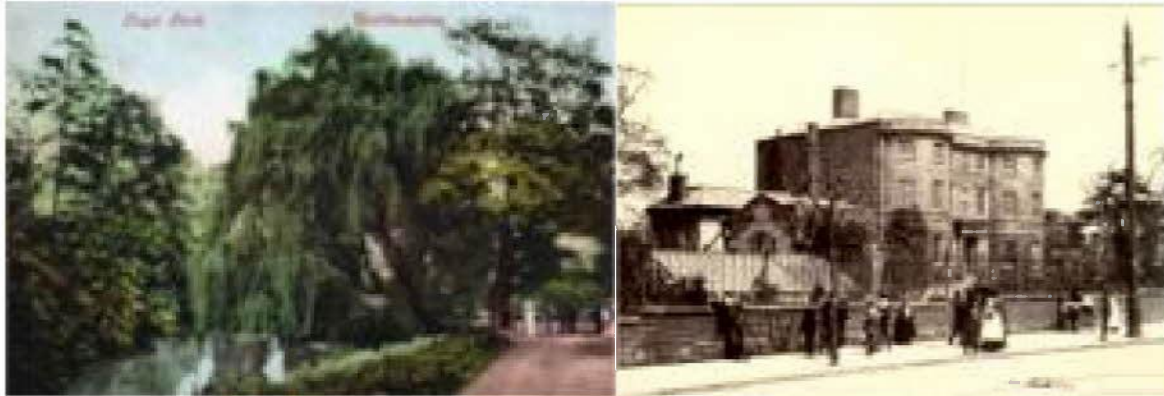


**Courtesy of Roy Beiley**

[http://www.francisfrith.com/walthamstow/memories/a-fondly-remembered-childhood\\_109051/#utmcsr=google.co.uk&utmcmd=referral&utmccn=google.co.uk](http://www.francisfrith.com/walthamstow/memories/a-fondly-remembered-childhood_109051/#utmcsr=google.co.uk&utmcmd=referral&utmccn=google.co.uk)

*"The third mecca for us kids was Lloyds Park. This was situated behind Walthamstow trolley-bus depot off Chingford Road. It was both a recreational park - ie swings, slides etc, and an ornamental park with flowers and shrubs and a large playing field area. In the 1950s, Park Attendants - Parkies -*

*patrolled the Park, constantly on the lookout for bad behaviour. The favourite wind-up was to cycle along the pathways until a Parkie saw you and told you to dismount. Instead of doing so, you would instead turn around and cycle away. This would inevitably lead to the Parkie giving chase whilst shouting at you. The knack was to know the layout of the paths by heart so that you were able to get away and leave the park without being caught. It was usual then to lie up for half an hour, if possible with a bottle of Tizer, before venturing back into the park for another go at the Parkie. Ahhh - happy days!"*



**Courtesy of Gillian Swanson**[http://www.francisfrith.com/walthamstow/photos/lloyd-park-1904\\_51426/](http://www.francisfrith.com/walthamstow/photos/lloyd-park-1904_51426/)

*"We used to have yearly concerts in Lloyds Park pavilion, where the dancing competitions for the Walthamstow Musical Festival were also held. On the way to rehearsals, or competitions, we used to run to look at the goldfish in the little round pond with railings near the entrance to the park"*



Bill Bayliss

February 2102

## Edward Lloyd (1815-1890)

Below is an extract from the 1871 Census. This shows Edward Lloyd, who was the owner of Lloyds Weekly, that was the most successful British newspaper of its time; with his family and servants living at 'The Winns', Clay Street. (The name of 'Winns' is remembered in the name of the adjacent Winns Road and Clay Street became Forest Road)

This house and its substantial grounds were donated by his family in 1898 to Walthamstow Urban District Council, who named it Lloyd Park. Earlier in the century, this had been the home of William Morris and today it is the William Morris Gallery with Lloyd and Aveling Park.

### 1871 Census Extract

Address: The Winns, Clay Street, Walthamstow

Name	Status	Age	Birth Year	Occupation	Birth Place
Edward Lloyd	Head	56	1815	Newspaper Proprietor	Surrey, Croydon
Maria Lloyd	Wife	41	1830		Norfolk,
Frederick G Lloyd	Son	26	1845	Paper Maker	Surrey, Forest Hill
Annie M Lloyd	Daughter	17	1854		Middlesex, Acton
Walter R Lloyd	Son	6	1865		Essex, Walthamstow
Clara Lloyd	Daughter	5	1866		Essex, Walthamstow
Florence Lloyd	Daughter	3	1868		Essex, Walthamstow
Percy R Lloyd	Son	2	1869		Essex, Walthamstow
Rosalie Lloyd	Daughter	1	1870		Essex, Walthamstow

William Bird	Servant	24	1847	Footman	Suffolk, Not Known
Mary A Clover	Servant	43	1828	Nurse	Suffolk, Not Known
Sarah Leighton	Servant	25	1846	Nursery Maid	Middlesex, Holloway
Anne Garden	Servant	38	1833	House Maid	Scotland
Eliza Parsons	Servant	38	1833	Cook	Dorset, Lyme Regis
Jane Larking	Servant	21	1850	Kitchen Maid	Middlesex, Whitechapel

Joshua Woods	Servant	28	1843	Coachman	Suffolk, Sudbury
Isabella Woods	Wife	30	1841		Norfolk, Swanton
Frederick Woods	Son	4	1867		Norfolk, Swanton
Margaret Woods	Daughter	<b>10mths</b>	1870		Essex, Walthamstow
Frederick Woods	Servant	24	1847	Groom	Suffolk, Sudbury
Harriett Woods	Wife	22	1849		Norfolk, Swanton
Louisa Woods	Daughter	<b>9mths</b>	1870		Essex, Walthamstow

Note: In the Census enumeration sheet these entries are all together. I have split them to show who were the family and who were servants. You will see that both the Coachman & the Groom (Who were brothers) had their families living with them.

Bill Bayliss, February 2012