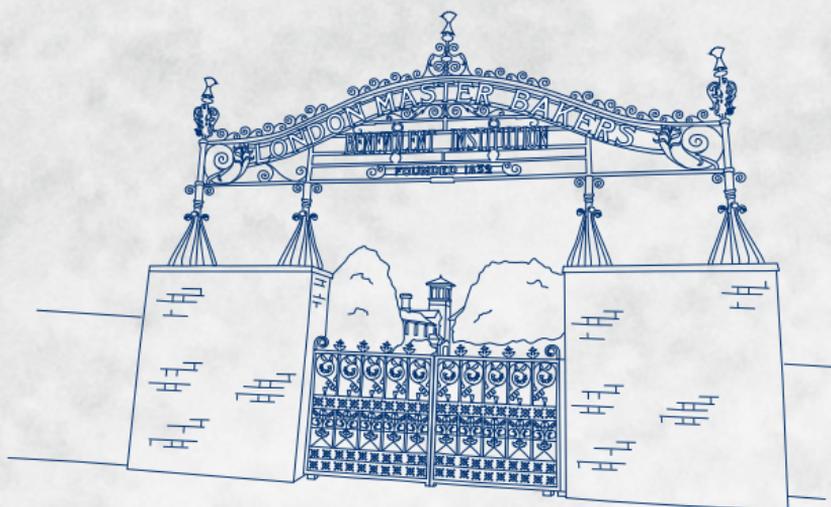


# Swimmers, Bakers and Olympic Games Makers



This route takes in the edge of Epping Forest then travels through the heart of the borough along Lea Bridge Road and its borders into Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. It can be combined with a trip into Lee Valley Park or Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Details of walking and cycling routes in both parks can be found in the introduction.

	Walking	Cycling
<b>Distance</b>	4 miles	
<b>Travel time</b>	1 hour 30 mins	20 mins
<b>Conditions</b>	On footways. Where main roads have to be crossed the route uses zebra or pedestrian crossings.	Mostly on quiet roads or segregated (protected) cycle tracks, although there is some cycling on main road.

	Walking	Cycling
<b>Special Information</b>	<p>The section along Lea Bridge Road after the Bakers Alms Houses is quite long (20 minutes) and served by a number of buses which can be used to shorten route.</p> <p>Whilst in the Lea Valley Park access to public transport is limited.</p>	<p>Lea Bridge Road is quite busy and can be intimidating for less confident cyclists where you have to mix with traffic.</p> <p>You can walk this section in about 20 mins.</p>
<b>Public transport</b>	<p>The start of this route can be easily accessed by public transport. The 257 from Stratford or Walthamstow Central serves the start (James Lane Stop) or you can get within 1 min walk of the start via the W15 (Hackney-Higham Hill) or W19 (Walthamstow-Ilford).</p> <p>The 308 (Clapton to Leytonstone) and W15 bus services can be caught from Ruckholt Road/ Eastway. Further public transport options are available in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and at Stratford Station including the new service to Lea Bridge Station.</p>	

This walking and cycling route begins on the border between the borough and Epping Forest at Hollow Pond. You can meet people here in the café or wait on a bench by the water.

### Hollow Pond

The pond was formed from gravel pits created when gravel was extracted out of the forest land to use for road building. This ceased in 1878 and what was left was a series of water filled pits on marshy land.

In 1905 an army of unemployed labourers were specially recruited by Leyton District Council and Epping Forest Committee to expand the lake.

- 1) Turn right out of Hollow Pond and walk or cycle along Whipps Cross Road along the shared path
- 2) Walk or cycle up Whipps Cross Road with Hollow Pond on your right. When you get to the zebra crossing use it to cross over and then cross over the Hospital Road junction.



Hollow Ponds, Leytonstone

## Whipps Cross Hospital

Whipps Cross Hospital was built on the site of the former Forest House with the original intention of building a workhouse. The infirmary on the site was completed in 1903 in the style of a northern renaissance Town Hall. During World War 1 the hospital was used to treat wounded troops.

**3)** Continue towards Whipps Cross junction.

## Whipps Cross

Whipps Cross got its name from a way(road)side cross erected by the family of 'John Phypps', becoming known as Phips, and later Whipps Cross due to the way local people pronounced it. Wayside crosses were introduced at important junctions and were used by people to navigate, they were also local religious icons.

## The War Memorial

The War Memorial found on your left commemorates those from the 7th Battalion Essex Regiment and other local regiments who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars. The memorial which was originally located in Church Hill and moved here in the 1950s bears the powerful message:

“We are the dead. To you with failing hands, we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high.”

## Whipps Cross Lido

On your right behind the trees is the site of the former Whipps Cross Lido, opened in 1905 and known locally as the Batho.

It became known for being muddy and unhygienic and was replaced in 1932 with a new open air swimming pool fed by an underground spring.

Further problems with water quality meant a decision was made to close it and in 1983 the site was returned to forest land.

- 4) Follow the road round the corner to the left and you are on Lea Bridge Road. In about 50 metres you will see a crossing you can use to get across the road. Cross the footway into Ragland Road.
- 5) Continue all the way along Raglan Road and over the mini-roundabout into Shernall Street then keep left continuing along Shernall Street until the end. Turn right into Grove Road.

### James Hilton

The first road on your left is College Road. Halfway down on your right is no.16, the home of James Hilton 1900 – 1954. The noted author and scriptwriter lived here from 1906 – 1921, and as a boy attended Sir George Monoux Grammar School. His most memorable works include Goodbye Mr Chips, Lost Horizon and Random Harvest.

- 6) Go back onto Grove Road and continue west. Two roads up on your left, on the corner of Fraser Road is Waltham Forest Register Office.

### Waltham Forest Register Office

The Waltham Forest Register Office or The Old Vicarage is a locally listed building. It was erected in 1883 to designs by Habershon & Fawckner as the original Vicarage to St Stephen's Church which stood nearby. It was converted to a Register Office in 1924.

- 7) Continue along Grove Road, past the shops and cafes and then turn left into Pembroke Road. Turn left at the end into Clarendon Road then right into Copeland Road.

- 8) Follow Copeland Road to the end and turn right into Lea Bridge Road. Less confident cyclists might want to walk the next section.
- 9) Continue along Lea Bridge Road until you get to Bakers Arms junction.
- 10) Cross the junction and on your right (in 100m) you will see the Bakers Arms Almshouses.

## Bakers Arms and the Almshouses

The Bakers Arms junction is named after a pub that stood on the corner for a century until replaced by a gambling shop. It is a bustling shopping area and an important public transport interchange.

The Almshouses were built in 1866 by the Master Bakers' Benevolent Institution for former bakers or their widows who had fallen into hard times. The 52 alms houses were built on three sides of a square, with turrets at the angles, in the Italianate style by the architect Thomas Edward Knightley.

The houses were damaged by a Zeppelin Bomber during the First World War and in the 60s they were almost compulsory purchased by the Greater London Council for a road widening scheme. The last baker left in the seventies and after the houses were saved from demolition, due to their architectural merit, the Council converted them to flats.

- 11) Continue down Lea Bridge Road towards Hackney. You will see a railway bridge in front of you with 'Bakers Arms' written on it. Take the first left, Bickley Road.
- 12) At the bottom of Bickley Road turn right into Capworth Street then your third left into Clyde Place.

### Jack Cornwall

John Travers or Jack Cornwall was born in Clyde Cottage which stood in Clyde Place on 8 January 1900. He was from a military family and with siblings abroad fighting enlisted in the Royal Navy at 15 without his father's knowledge. He trained as a 'gun sighter' and joined the HMS Chester.

In 1916 at the Battle of Jutland HMS Chester was scouting for the 3rd Battlecruiser Squadron when they came under attack from four German battleships. The gun Jack was on was hit several times and the entire gun crew were injured or fatally wounded. Jack continued his job whilst severely wounded. The ship retired to Immingham and Jack was sent to Grimsby Hospital for treatment. He sadly died on 2 June 1916 before his mother arrived at the hospital.

Jack was posthumously recommended for a Victoria Cross which was endorsed by King George V, making him the youngest naval officer to be awarded a Victoria Cross in WW1.

To commemorate Jack, Waltham Forest Council unveiled a permanent tribute in Coronation Gardens in May 2016, and renamed Skeltons Lane Park as Jack Cornwall Park in June 2016.

“It is not wealth or ancestry but honourable conduct and a noble disposition that maketh men great.”



■ Jack Cornwall

- 13)** Turn back towards Capworth Street, turning left into Capworth Street then right into Manor Road.
- 14)** At the end of Manor Road turn left into Lea Bridge Road and about 250m on your left you will find Lea Bridge Library.

## Lea Bridge Library

Formally known as Carnegie Library it is a Grade II listed building, designed by W Jacques and erected in 1905. It was funded by Andrew Carnegie, the Scottish born philanthropist and steel magnate from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

- 15)** Continue down Lea Bridge Road until you reach the junction with Church Road/ Markhouse Road.

## Savoy Cinema

The Savoy Cinema, on the corner of Lea Bridge Road/ Church Road was built for Hyman Cohen as a cine/ variety theatre. It was designed by noted cinema architect George Coles as a slightly smaller version of his Broadway Cinema in Stratford, East London. It was then used as a Bingo Hall and is now a church.

- 16)** Carry on down the hill towards Hackney – using the bus lane if you are cycling.

## Dagenham Brook

Just after the pedestrian crossing you will see a brick wall either side of the road. Dagenham Brook, one of London's lost rivers runs under the road here. The river is going to be opened back up to view as part of the Council's Enjoy Waltham Forest programme for Lea Bridge Road.

- 17)** Keep walking or cycling down Lea Bridge Road, behind the Hare and Hounds pub on your left you might be able to make out the former Leyton F.C. football ground.

## ROUTE 3

- 18)** Continue for 5 minutes walking/ 1 min cycling and you will come to the junction with Orient Way. On the approach you can use the shared cycle footway on the left.
- 19)** Go left at the junction onto Orient Way. There is a footway and segregated two-way cycle track along the whole road and when you get to Marsh Lane (the Entrance to Leyton Jubilee Park) you can take a path through the trees which runs parallel to Orient Way.
- 20)** When you get to the bottom of Orient Way and over the roundabout you will get to the junction with Ruckholt Road. If you're walking – cross to the right over Orient Way then cross Ruckholt Road. If you're cycling – continue just around the corner to the left and use the cycle only signalised crossing to turn right.
- 21)** Go over the walking/ cycling bridge then straight over Temple Mill Lane. The nearest entrance to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is on the corner.



**Bakers Alms House**

## Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

In 2012, our corner of east London was placed firmly on the world map with London Olympic Games. For three weeks the worlds sporting greats competed in athletics, swimming, cycling, basketball and hockey at venues built on the former industrial land between Leyton, Stratford and Hackney Wick. The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park world class sporting, leisure venues and parkland are now open to the public. There are also a number of cafes, shops and restaurants throughout the park meaning you can extend your walk or cycle and explore the park.

The gateway on the corner takes you towards the tennis and hockey centres. You can then cross the A12 link to the Velodrome and into the park to explore.

### What to do afterwards?

After you've visited the park you can make your way back to Waltham Forest going back the way you came, or head over the Temple Mills Bridge into Leyton, alternatively take the Lea Valley path or the River Lee towpath.

----- end of route -----