

# EALING OUTDOOR CLUB news

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE EOC OUT AND ABOUTERS / ISSUE 3 SUMMER 2021

Celebrating 1941  
2021 80 years...





**Welcome** to Issue 3 of the EOC Newsletter. Now that summer seems to have arrived we hope that you are all enjoying the good weather and getting out and about. Neil had 18 walkers on a recent Sunday outing! Let's hope that this was a sign of things to come. (It would have been more, but someone got lost on the way to the start.)

Once again, articles are always needed. Send them over!

There are some good photos of Water in this issue. The next subject is "Flowers". Happy snapping!

3 80th  
Invite



4 News  
Latest updates

7 Humanoid  
special  
Scarecrows galore  
around Ealing.

12  
Meet the  
committee

Photos  
of the  
month  
Water  
splash shots

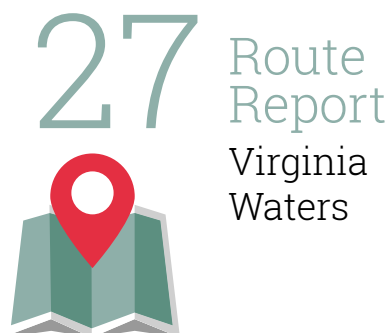


18  
Club History  
Part three of our journey.



25  
Competition  
time!

26/31  
Snack  
and  
wartime  
dish



27  
Route  
Report  
Virginia  
Waters

30  
My  
Life in  
Meccano







# Join our 80th Anniversary Picnic Party

**DATE  
FOR THE  
DIARY:  
24 JULY  
2021**



**It's time  
to celebrate in  
(40s) style !**

You are invited to the Ealing Outdoor Club's  
**80th Anniversary Picnic Party,**  
**to be held in Gunnersbury Park, 24 July, 2021, 12pm+**

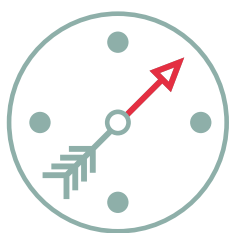
Don those conscription wide pants, floral print dresses, pin curls and victory roll hairstyles, for lashings of ginger beer, bully beef and Lord Woolton's (p36), outdoor fancy dress, bring your own picnic party.

Contact Guada for more details and updates.

**[guadaluperpina@gmail.com](mailto:guadaluperpina@gmail.com)**

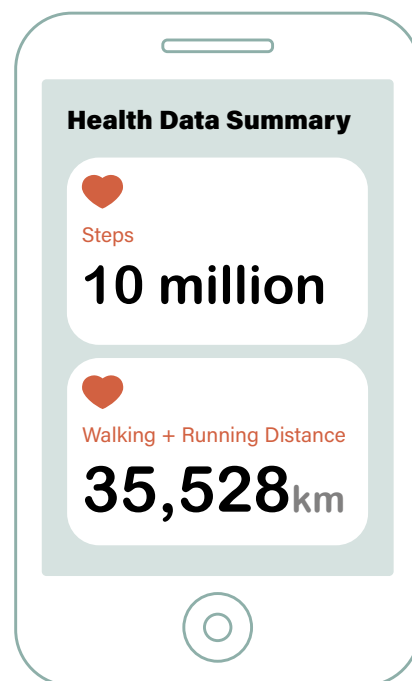
**[www.ealingoutdoorclub.org.uk](http://www.ealingoutdoorclub.org.uk)**



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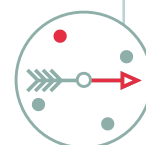
## 35,528km and still counting...

After five months we have walked/run/cycled/swum a staggering 35,528km. May was our best month yet, when we covered 7,713km. This equates to each of the 35 contributors travelling an average of 7.1km every day of the month! We are ahead of target, but can't afford to get complacent – especially in this lovely walking weather. The information can be sent to **[ealingoutdoorclub@hotmail.com](mailto:ealingoutdoorclub@hotmail.com)** or **[jm.crowther@outlook.com](mailto:jm.crowther@outlook.com)**. I look forward to being swamped with e-mails!



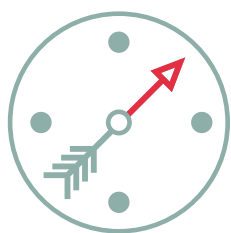
## Trips away.

Given the current situation, it is unlikely that there will be any club-organised youth hostel trips in 2021. Although some hostels have now re-opened, shared dormitory accommodation is not available and it is unclear if communal facilities, such as lounge areas and self-catering kitchens, will be open. There is nothing to stop a group of friends going away, though, and booking private rooms in hostels.



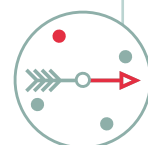
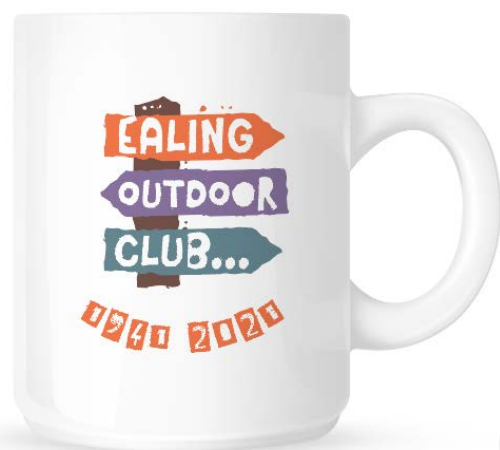


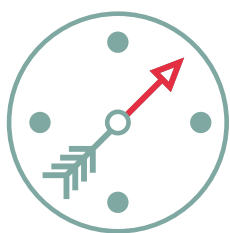
## NEWS



# Don't miss July 24th for our 40s fancy dress celebration picnic!

**Please keep the date of July 24th free.  
This is when we will meet for our picnic  
to commemorate 80 years of EOC. Bring  
some money along to buy your souvenir  
mug and t-shirt!**



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## Slow ways

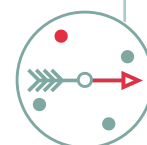
As mentioned in the January issue, a new web-site aims to offer walking routes between all major cities, towns and villages in the UK. The site is now available and contains thousands of routes.



You simply have to enter the name of a town and all the routes from that town will be shown. These routes can be downloaded as a .GPX file and followed on your phone. You can review the route on the web-site and suggest a better alternative if you know

one! Each route will tell you distance and change in elevation. I suspect that this site could become addictive. It was quite fun to look at routes from my home town (Morecambe), look at one of those routes in detail (e.g. to Lancaster) and then move to Lancaster to see the routes from there. Please check out this web-site and see if it could be useful for you.

[beta.slowways.org](https://beta.slowways.org)







## HUMANOID SPECIAL



Why did the  
scarecrows win  
an award?...





# ...because they were outstanding in their fields.

Our culture and lifestyle team ploughed the Queen of Suburbia's streets to track down the Countryfile calendar pin ups of W5 and to finally discover what is a scarecrow's favourite fruit? (\*see p11)

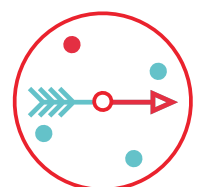


An Ealing scarecrow stroll, was supported by the 4th Ealing girl guides to provide a more interesting opportunity for families with children to go walking around the area.

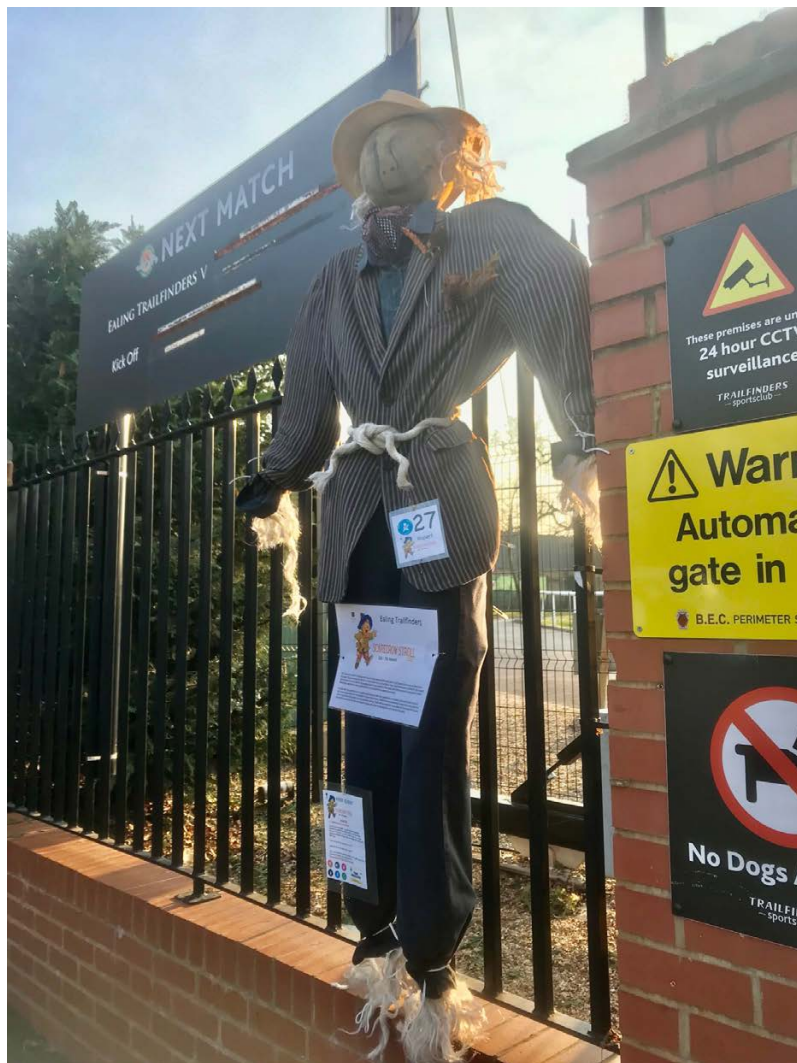
There were all together 30 scarecrows, all located at houses around the Ealing area, including Alperton, Greenford and South Ealing.

Armed with our google map indicating the locations of the scarecrows, we set of to find all 30 of them! However, because of the distances between them, we took it in two stages of

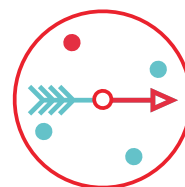
7+ miles each.



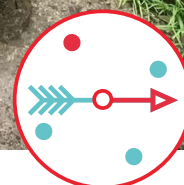




The scarecrows, some easier to spot than others, were all very imaginative and original. Hopefully some of EOC also tried to find at least some of them as well.











**\*Answer (Page 8): A straw-berry.**



# MEET THE COMMITTEE



## **I have been a member of Ealing Outdoor Club**

for many years. I was introduced to the club by my wife Jane, also a member of many years standing.

I joined the committee as a general member three years ago and am now in my second year in the role of outdoor secretary. The main task of this post is to put together the programme of weekly walks.

Jane and I are very fond of walking, particularly in the Chilterns. During lockdown, we have discovered the joy of walking the parks and green spaces near to where we live in Ealing, especially Horsenden Hill. We have also enjoyed walking holidays in this country and abroad, for example, the Northumberland Coast and the Lycian Way in Turkey.

I worked for many years in NHS finance and retired in 2015. Outside walking, my hobbies include gardening and I have taken numerous short courses in languages, history and art.

# MEET THE COMMITTEE

## Shameem

**Hello all,** I have been a member of Ealing Outdoor Club for over 7 years. I came across the club whilst living in Ealing. I prepared for my first walk by buying boots and appropriate clothing and then saw them grow their own layer of dust for 6 years, being ruled by the fear of joining a group and not being able to keep up the pace. One hot sunny day, I snapped out of the mode of procrastination, joined the club and went on my first walk in Henley on Thames. I realised that this was a walking group for people of all abilities, it was welcoming and supportive. Since then I have been more engaged and became the Chairperson for the committee last year.

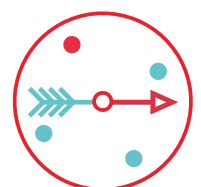
I work in the Telecoms industry and have a desk job, therefore 90% of my life involved sitting during the day, and when I'm not sitting, I am driving somewhere. This club has enabled me to focus on my lifestyle, health and also make friends. The most recent 80,000KM challenge to celebrate the 80th Anniversary has been a great initiative which has helped me focus on the number of steps I can do in a day.

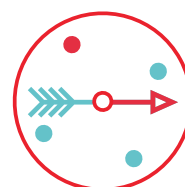
I enjoy circular walks and the best part of the walk for me is when I arrive back at the car, with aching feet and legs, knowing I have pushed myself to do the additional miles. I am looking forward to sharing stories of walks, past and present and meeting all the club members during the anniversary picnic, which should be great fun.



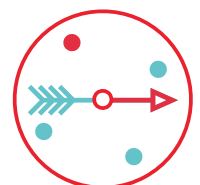
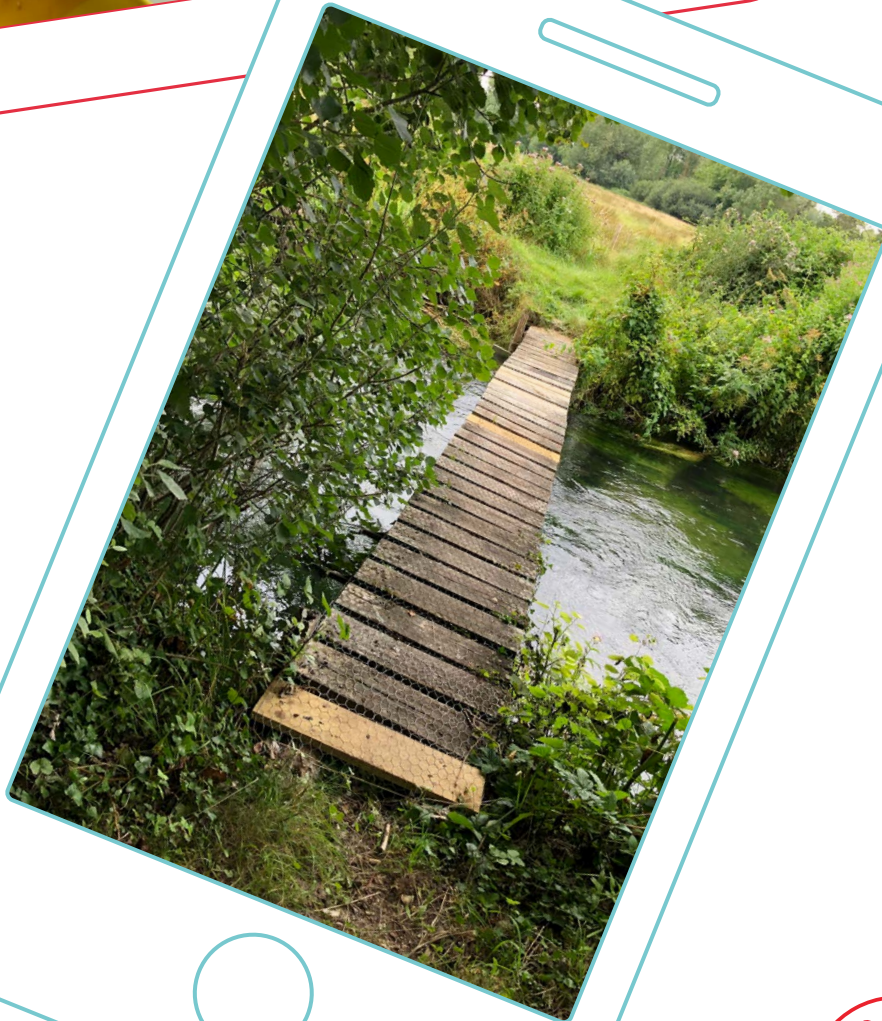
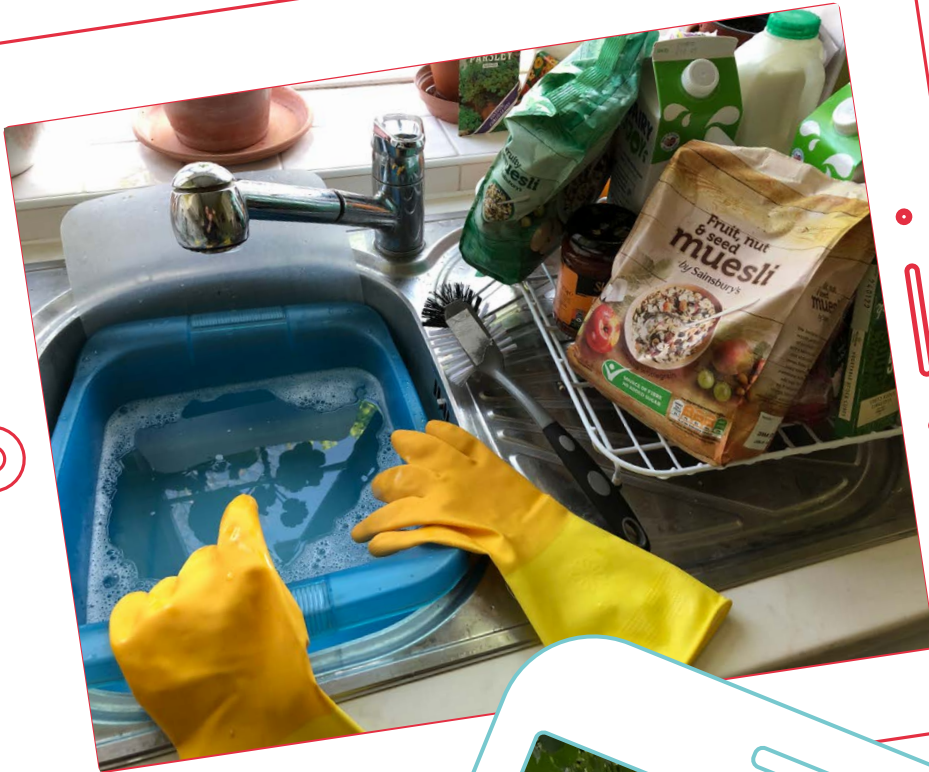
# **WATER**

**Members' photos  
of the month**

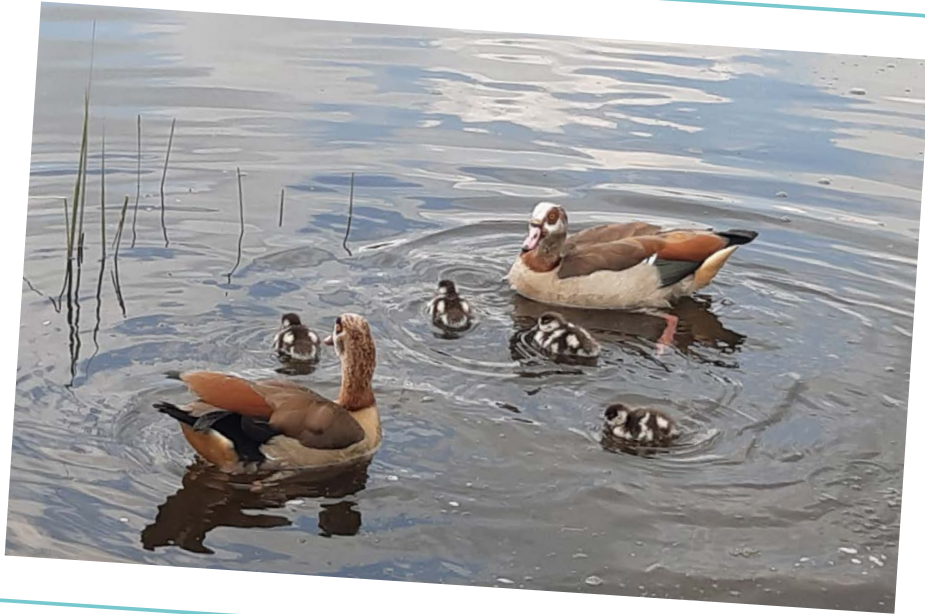












## THE ISSUE FOUR THEME IS 'Flowers'

Please e-mail your photos to [jm.crowther@outlook.com](mailto:jm.crowther@outlook.com)  
or [ealingoutdoorclub@hotmail.com](mailto:ealingoutdoorclub@hotmail.com)



**Club History:** Part three

# A RECORD OF OUR FORMATION

by **John Crowther**





## A RECORD OF OUR FORMATION

**Club History:** Part three

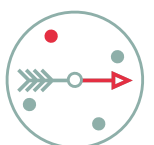
“

For 30 years from the 1950s the Club organised working parties at various youth hostels in the Home Counties.

The club was now established with a committee, a meeting place and a regular programme. For many years the Whitsun Bank Holiday weekend was spent on the River Thames on camping skiffs hired at Oxford. In the early 1960s these skiffs were taken onto the Oxford Canal. Later, canal boats were hired from Leighton Buzzard on the Grand Union Canal. Pony trekking and rock climbing were also popular activities at this time. Until now, public transport had been used to get to the start of local walks with coaches being hired for trips further afield. Gradually, Sunday public transport was cut back so members' cars were used to get to the start of walks.

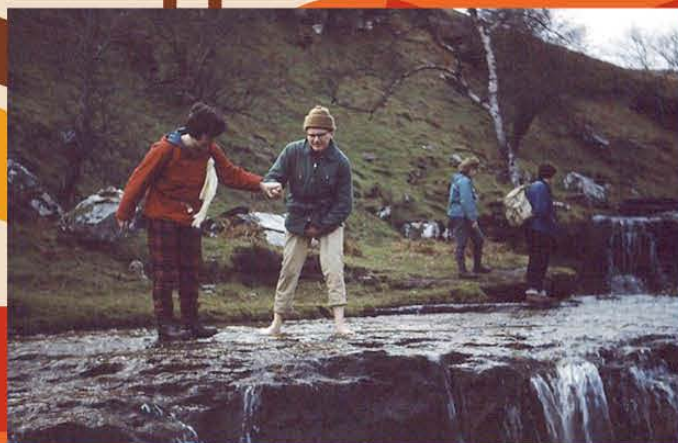
For 30 years, from the 1950s, the Club organised working parties at various youth hostels in the Home Counties.

This was done on a voluntary basis and the tasks were varied, ranging from gardening to decorating. It should be remembered that there were far more hostels than today and, in fact, most









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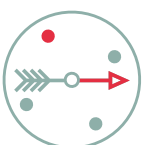
By the 1980s “Health and Safety” had come on the scene and the YHA could not afford the insurance.”

towns had one. By the 1980s “Health and Safety” had come on the scene and the YHA could not afford the insurance for the volunteer work, so the practice stopped. Many YHA Groups adopted a specific hostel and they were the first people to be called when work needed doing at that hostel. Ealing initially adopted Speen up until around 1960, followed by Ivinghoe, Henley and then Lee Gate near Wendover. The Ealing Group also provided committee members and volunteer wardens at

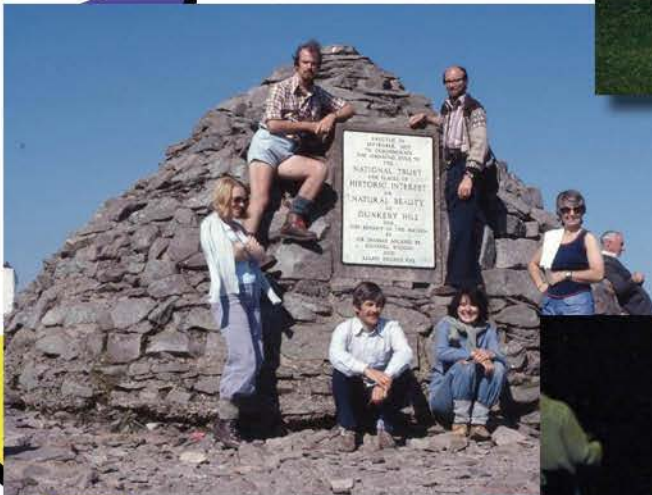
Bradenham YH until it was sold. Gradually the YHA became more commercial, so the unprofitable hostels were closed and many of the country properties were lost. This also meant that less volunteer help was required.

One of the Group’s members moved with his family to Somerset. For many years after the Group camped in

his orchard every summer and joined in the Saturday night dance at the village hall. They also enjoyed a walk across Sedgemoor on the Sunday.









## A RECORD OF OUR FORMATION



By 1998 Group membership had declined. It was thought that by calling ourselves the Ealing YHA Group we gave the impression of being a children's or youth club, rather than a club with predominantly adult members. As a result, a re-branding exercise went on and "Ealing Outdoor Club" was formed - and the membership increased!

In the 21st century the Club continued to evolve. The cycling section disbanded and what had been weekend trips away twice a month became four or five trips away each year. Social evenings stopped and the Sunday walk became the most popular activity, as it still is today.

“

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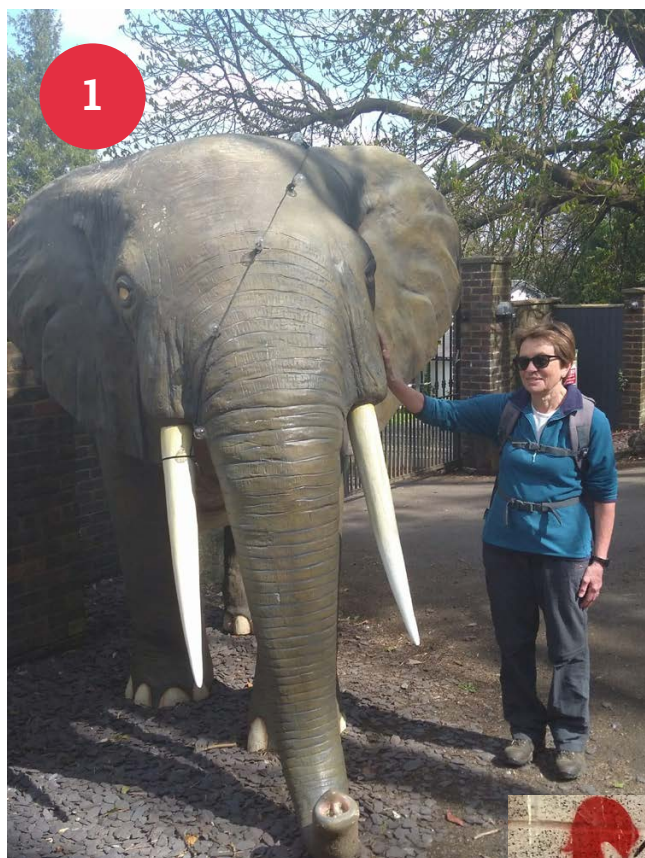


## Competition time!

# Where on earth?



Win a  
fab new  
EOC  
t-shirt!



Answers to  
[jm.crowther@outlook.com](mailto:jm.crowther@outlook.com)

Add OS Grid refs  
for a bonus mug!



# Lemon, Ginger and White Chocolate Cookies



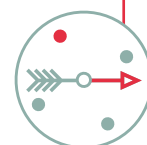
## INGREDIENTS

- 125g softened butter
- 75g caster sugar
- 1 egg yolk
- Grated zest of 1 lemon
- 150g plain flour
- 50g white chocolate chips (available in the cookery section of supermarkets)
- 50g crystallised ginger, chopped into small pieces (or another dried fruit if you prefer).

A 'quick and easy' that makes 12 cookies.

1. Preheat the oven to 180 degrees C (160 fan) gas mark 4. Grease a flat baking sheet.
2. Put the softened butter and sugar into a bowl and beat together until pale and creamy.
3. Beat in the lemon zest and egg yolk. Gradually add the flour followed by the chocolate chips and ginger, mixing to form a smooth dough.
4. Divide the dough into 12 pieces. Use your hands to roll each piece into a ball and then flatten it into a cookie shape, before placing on the baking sheet.
5. Bake for about 10 minutes until just golden. Allow to cool and firm slightly before handling..

**Jean Harper-Pryce's cookies.**







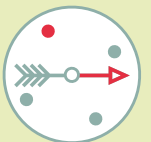
## ROUTE REPORT



# Virginia Waters Walk

Landscaped parks, ancient ruins, totem poles and delicious ice creams are all a part of this colourful Surrey circuit...

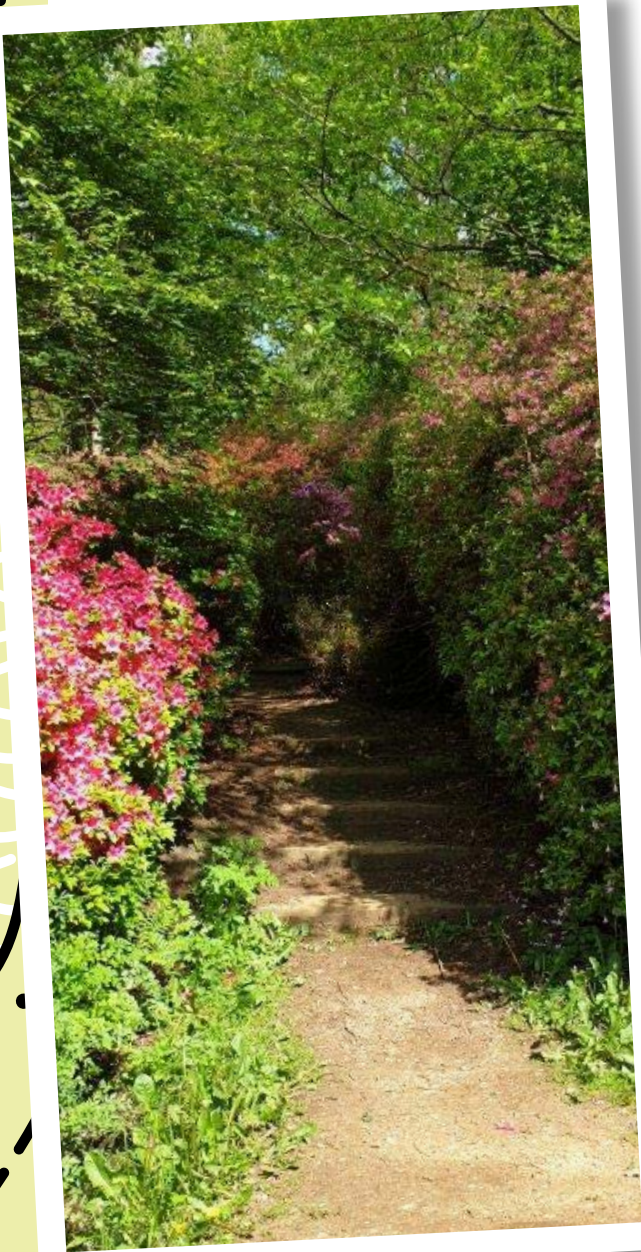
Writer: **Shameem**



**Start/Finish:** Egham

**Walk leader:** Shameem

**Weather:** Gloriously sunny



It was another gloriously sunny morning at Egham. I headed along footpaths through meadows and woods, to reach the ever-delightful grounds of Virginia Water. I strolled through the expanse of the landscaped park with avenue of Redwoods leading to the Totem Pole by the lake. As the day was getting even hotter, I took advantage of the very popular nearby ice cream van. I then did a circuit of the lake before entering the Valley Gardens. This is full of twisting paths giving dramatic views of the varied landscape. At this time of the season the vibrant colours of the Rhododendrons are the main feature. They did not disappoint today & I wandered along the paths each corner revealing more displays of colours. I





had a picnic in a clearing overlooking the valley, and then headed down to Virginia Waters and continued walking around the beautiful lake, passing the ruins known as Temple of Augustus, which originated in Libya. I passed the beautiful waterfall, before leaving the Park and heading back to the station – I arrived back at Egham after another colourful walk in Surrey.



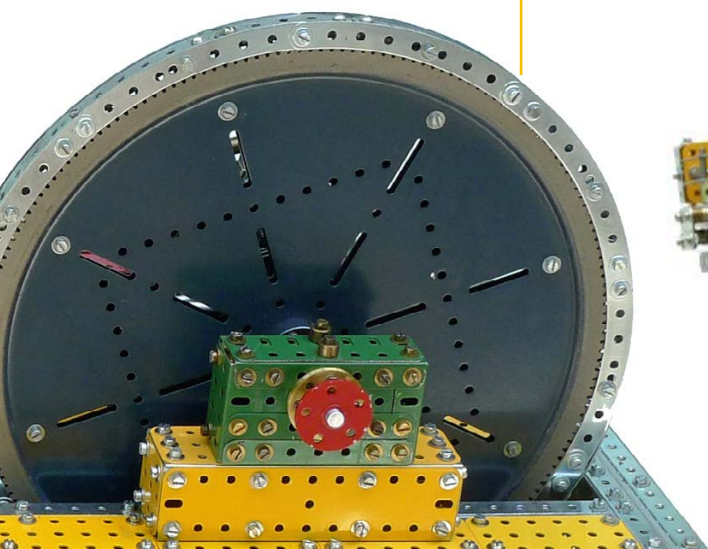
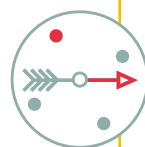
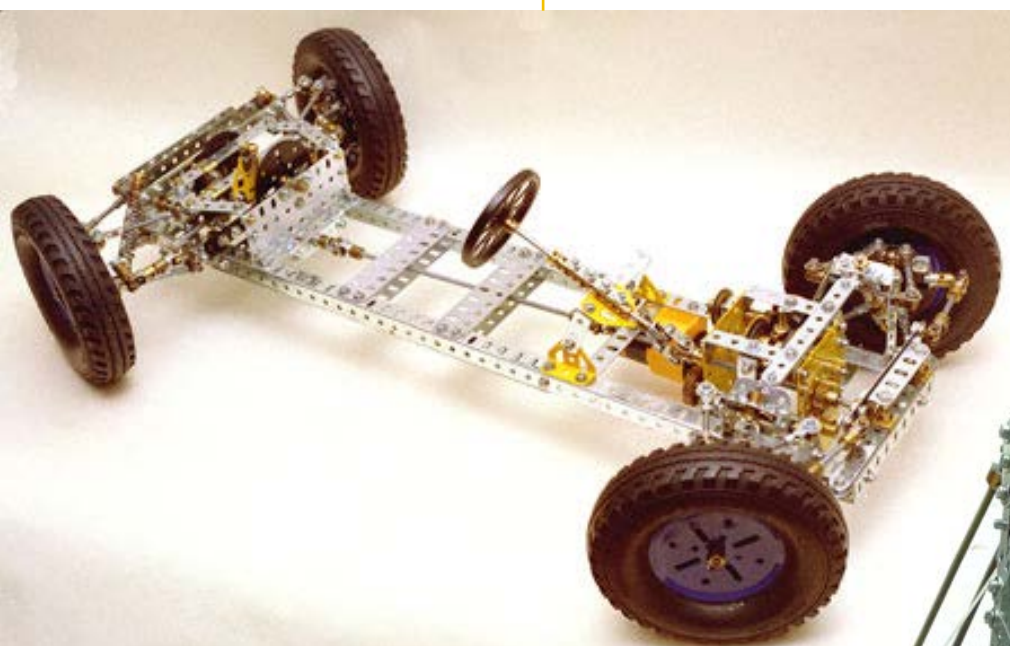


# My Life in Meccano



Tales of angle girders, wheels, axles and gears within the West London Meccano Society

By **Howard Somerville**, Chief Meccanoman







“  
Those  
cogs cost  
a shilling  
each now!”

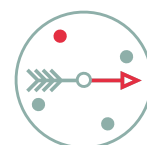
was introduced to Meccano at the age of eight with one of the smaller sets. I remember the magic moment of opening and unstringing it; the spell of Meccano was cast there and then.

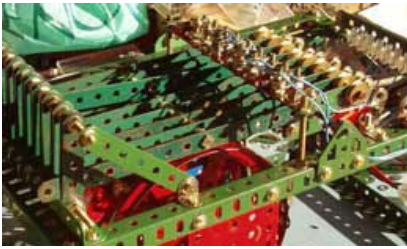
Showing some aptitude for mechanical engineering, I qualified for a larger set, and in time for my 10th birthday, my mother advertised in the Ealing Gazette for a second-hand one. A reply was received from an Ealing man who had a large collection in an elegant mahogany cabinet. It had belonged to his son, who was killed in the war. My eyes turned to saucers at the sight of it, but the owner, reluctant for sentimental reasons to part with it, wanted more than my parents had budgeted for. “Those cogs cost a shilling each now!” he protested. However, a deal was done and that day I became the happiest boy in the world.

Meccano could be addictive; with me it was an obsession. Every waking moment was devoted, if not actually to playing with Meccano, to talking or thinking about it. All my school essays mentioned Meccano. Fortunately the English master at Durston House liked me and tolerated it. For an end-of-term exam, he set “My Hobby” as a subject, no doubt for my benefit. Not wishing to be predictable, I wrote an essay on – Airfix submarines. Human nature can be strange! And it was not confined to my waking hours. My father told me that I had been talking in my sleep. “What did I say?”, I was anxious to know. “Oh, just something about your Meccano”.

On family Summer holidays in Italy, the forced separation from my Meccano intensified the feeling. In the recesses of my mind, foreign beaches and Meccano-longing became linked.

All my pocket money went on additional parts. I was the bane of the life of the elderly assistants at Confiserie Français, an old-fashioned toyshop in The Mall, Ealing, tying them up while I pored over the Meccano parts catalogue, inspected wrapped parts, calculated costs then changed my mind..... Many parts, resplendent in gloss enamel, had irresistible sales appeal, like the 6” Pulley. “Only if you need one for a model”, my father insisted, baulking at the 5/- price. I lied to him; for me that part was a “must have” whether I needed one or not. The spherical Crane Hook, which resembled a juicy red radish, was another. “You don’t want six, dear”, said the assistant,





“

And lo, the Meccanoless, wilderness years came along, during which life was focussed on other things.

extracting one from a dealer's box of six. Hamley's in Regent Street were less patient. At their dedicated Meccano parts counter, orders were accepted only by pre-filled form. Eventually the floor and every horizontal surface in my playroom became buried under Meccano. I once invited a school friend "home to tea" and his jaw dropped when he walked in.

But there were many parts in the catalogue which remained missing from my collection, their unaffordability enhancing their desirability. The largest post-war Meccano set, the Number 10, which every Meccano Boy dreamed of owning, retailed at over £40 – this in the days when the average wage was around £12 per week.

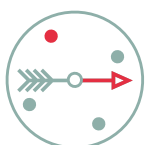
Then, at thirteen, a familiar story unfolded. I was expected by then to have "grown out" of Meccano, and was prevailed upon to let my collection be sold, for eight pounds – a fraction of its value, even then. I had acquiesced in the sale, but afterwards never quite forgave my mother.

And lo, the Meccanoless, wilderness years came along, during which life was focussed on other things.

Normally, when boy meets girl, his Meccano is forgotten. Yet soon after I met my future wife, Shirley, in 1983, the opposite was to happen. Our "honeymoon" was in Crete, and was my first seaside holiday abroad since childhood. And lying on the beach, I was to undergo a strange, impassioned, Damascene reversion. Suddenly the warm sun, sand and the state of relaxation reignited the old association with and yearning for Meccano, which had lain dormant for twenty years, but never really went away.

And it persisted after I returned home. There was no longer any Meccano to come home to, alas, but I was determined to become a "Meccano Boy" again. I would have paid eight hundred pounds to buy back my original collection, just to reopen the floodgate of nostalgia locked in that redolent box. But searches for traditional Meccano in antique shops and model engineering magazines proved fruitless, and I grew despondent.

Then I remembered the Ealing Gazette. A "Meccano Wanted" advertisement once again did the trick, and unearthed a collection in Greenford consisting of two





“

Receiving my first Certificate of Merit was a landmark moment. It was for a model of a windmill – the best, the experienced judge said, that he'd ever seen...

6-drawer Meccano dealers' cabinets, chock full of parts. Just seeing Meccano again after half a lifetime almost moved me to tears, and I became, albeit poorer, happy again.

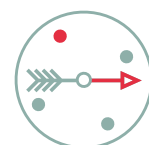
The seller was a member of the West London Meccano Society, which he recommended I try, and out of casual curiosity I went along to one of its meetings in Greenford. It was one of a dozen-odd UK Meccano clubs, and through it I was to discover the existence of a thriving, adult Meccano hobby with over 3,000 active enthusiasts around the world with its own publications, gatherings and public exhibitions at home and abroad.

In those days, like most Meccano clubs, the WLMS had a growing and vibrantly mixed membership – modellers and collectors of all ages, families, old members, new members and visitors – anyone would have felt at home there. With me, the WLMS made an instant “hit” and 37 years later I am still a member, and have for the last dozen years been Membership Secretary.

I joined with no intention of building models; I'd bought the collection only for the delayed gratification of having the Meccano I'd so wanted as a boy. But having always been interested in cars, I'd long thought about designing and building an automatic gearbox in Meccano. So out came the Meccano spanner and screwdriver...

And there was other business to finish. To atone for a road grader which at the age of 11, I began but never finished, I built another, and after that built a cable car which used two 6" Pulleys (could my conscience rest now, Father?) And I was even to build a model of Shirley.

The Meccano Company, founded in 1909 in Liverpool by Frank Hornby, the inventor of Meccano, ran the Meccano Guild, a rival in its way to the Scout movement, and published the famous Meccano Magazine. The magazine ran model competitions and awarded Certificates of Merit, replicas of which are awarded, to this day, by Meccano clubs. Receiving my first Certificate of Merit was a landmark moment. It was for a model of a windmill – the best, the experienced judge said, that he'd ever seen. Until then I had thought myself incapable ever of attaining the modelling standard of the club. But only years later, when I had run out of wall space to hang all my Certificates of Merit, did I feel that as a Meccano modeller, I'd “made it”.



“

A television company borrowed my Road Grader to use as a prop in a one-episode domestic drama.

And my collection kept growing until I at last had every part in the old catalogue, including an unopened box of red Crane Hooks – yes, I did want all six!

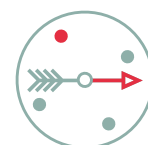
Maintaining a parts inventory by hand to record and value the thousands of parts I had was to prove laborious, and in 1995 I developed a PC-based application to automate the task, which I later decided to market. It is still sold and used today. And all my Meccano activities – meetings, gatherings, exhibitions, correspondence and weekends away furnished me with a full social life.

Cars played another part in it. Looking in Halfords for cellulose paint to respray some of my worn parts, I discovered that Ford Cardinal Red (in the 1950's, Meccano was red and green) was a perfect match for Meccano red, and had long been used by Meccano restorers. It just happened, by coincidence, to be the colour of my Ford Capri, which, upon this belated realisation, I then had professionally coachlined in matching Meccano green.

There were to be memorable events during my time with the WLMS, not all which ended happily. In 1991, the club was asked by a well-known company to build a 30' high model of the Eiffel Tower, to be the centrepiece of a French-style restaurant in a theme park. The estimated project cost was £100,000 and participating club members were to be paid for their work at commercial contract rates. But after several of us had arranged the necessary unpaid leave from our day jobs, and were ready and raring to go, the company changed its mind. It was not because of the cost, but the fact that the giant model would have occupied floor space needed for tables.

Over the years there were various encounters with the media. A television company borrowed my Road Grader to use as a prop in a one-episode domestic drama. The 3-foot-long model looked lonely in the full-sized pantechinon sent by Pinewood Studios to collect it. Another time, a reporter/photographer from the Ealing Gazette came to a club meeting and interviewed and photographed me with my model of a tower mill, and I thought I was going to become famous. But he also took a picture of another member and his rather scruffy model of a crane. Guess which picture was published!

All approaches from outside the hobby came via MW Models in Henley-on-Thames, by then the only dedicated





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You don't  
want six,  
dear",  
said the  
assistant

Meccano shop in the UK, which became the focal point of the Meccano world after the demise, in 1982, of the Liverpool Meccano Company.

One such approach was to lead to what would be the highlight of my Meccano career. It began in August 2004, when I received a surprise telephone call from the club Chairman. The WLMS had been invited to design and build a working Meccano window display for Alfred Dunhill's flagship store in Jermyn Street, using the vast private Meccano collection belonging to the company's patriarch, Richard Dunhill, at his home in Denham, and I was to join a team of four hand-picked members to undertake the task. We would have just over 2 months, working full-time, to finish it in time for the Christmas season. Another member of the team, a civil engineer, designed the superstructure of the mammoth construction, a 14' girder bridge standing on 8' high towers, each containing a working, 3-story elevator, the whole construction surmounting the centrepiece, a concentric, contra-rotating carousel carrying Dunhill merchandise. Inevitably, technical problems occurred and progress slipped, but it was completed and installed – just in time. The Dunhill project, with its challenges, stress, glamour, and ultimate triumph was for us in the team a bonding experience like that had by sailors who, in peril on the sea, had served together.

A pivotal moment in my Meccano life was in 2006 when the owner of MW Models in Henley was forced to retire. The famous Meccano shop had closed down in 2003, but, trading as MW Mail Order, he had carried on selling Meccano literature and software (including my PC application) from his home. This gave me the opportunity to buy the rump of the business from him lock, stock and barrel, which I did and still run from a back bedroom. The financial rewards are negligible, but through copyrights that it owns, the owner of MW Mail Order has the title "Chief Meccanoman" in succession to Frank Hornby – an honour which I shall never quite live up to.

Some of my models built in the last 37 years can be seen on: **[www.hsomerville.com/meccano/index.htm](http://www.hsomerville.com/meccano/index.htm)**<**<http://www.hsomerville.com/meccano/index.htm>**>.

...and finally

# What's a Lord Woolton?



- 1lb cauliflower
- 1lb parsnips
- 1lb carrots
- 1lb potatoes
- Bunch of spring onions chopped
- 2 teaspoons of Marmite (yeast extract – or you can use a stock cube)
- Tablespoon of rolled oats
- Salt and pepper to taste once cooked.
- Parsley (fresh or dried)

## For the pastry

- 8oz wholemeal/wholewheat flour
- 4oz mashed potato
- 3oz margarine or lard
- 2 tsp of baking powder
- Couple large pinches of salt
- Dash of water if needed.

<https://the1940sexperiment.com/2016/03/13/the-original-lord-woolton-pie-recipe-no-151/>

Woolton pie was a pastry dish of vegetables, widely served in Britain in the Second World War when rationing and shortages made other dishes hard to prepare and was one of a number of recipes commended to the British public by the Ministry of Food to enable a nutritious diet to be maintained despite shortages and rationing of food, especially meat. It was named after Frederick Marquis, 1st Earl of Woolton (1883–1964), who popularised the recipe after he became Minister of Food in 1940.

- 1) Chop up the vegetables into chunks with those that take longest to cook into smaller pieces.
- 2) Place in pot and bring to simmer with just enough water to reach 3/4 of the way up the veg in the pot.
- 3) Add in Marmite and rolled oats, salt and pepper and cook until tender and most of the water has been absorbed.
- 4) Place mixture in deep pie dish and sprinkle with fresh parsley (or add dry parsley to mixture and mix in)
- 5) Make the pastry by mixing the flour with the baking powder and salt and then rubbing in the margarine.
- 6) Mix the mashed potato in to form a dough and knead (add a little water to the mixture if too dry)
- 7) Roll out to form pie crust and place on top and decorate then brush with milk.
- 8) Place in oven at 200C for 30 minutes or so until top is firm and browned.

Enjoy!