

TIME TEAM EASTHAM

EASTHAM PLEASURE GARDENS RESEARCH PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT MAY 2018



In the 1890s Eastham Ferry was a very different place from what it is today. There was a water chute, a loop the loop, swing-boats, and a zoo with over 100 cages, a Pierott stage, a bandstand, fountains and a bear pit.

The research project aims to pin point the remaining archaeology and hopefully erect signs to identify the sites.

EASTHAM PLEASURE GARDENS

Our project has taken many twists and turns over the past few months. We are finding that each “new” piece of information raises more questions than provides answers. It almost seems that the more we search the more we need to discover. Despite this, our efforts are rewarding and provide plenty of fun.

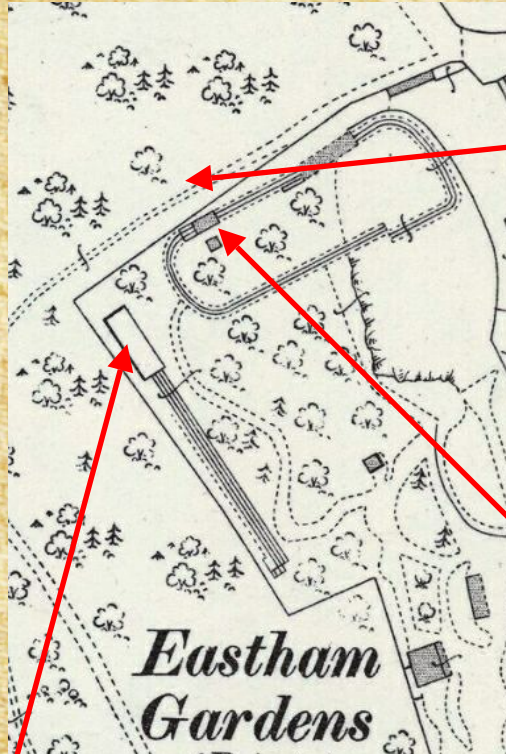
The Pleasure Gardens featured a Water Chute, a Loop the Loop, a Pierott Stage, a Bandstand, several fountains, and the famous Jubilee Arch. These have all been well documented. But research has unearthed the original plans for the Water Chute and we have found plans dated 1920 for a Cinema although we don't know if this was ever built! Interestingly, Charlie Chaplin's film *The Kid* was released in 1921.

There is so much more to discover. Newspaper reports of the time indicate that there were over 100 cages containing exotic animals – where were they? Where was the Transvaal Shooting Range and The Pheasantry. Then there was Wood Cottage and the Air Raid Shelter.

We, also, have the original plans for The Bungalow (now The Cattery) and some plans for Wooden Stalls that may have been built alongside The Vienna Café. We have traced out the original boundary wall almost completely intact but of course almost entirely overgrown with bramble and other undergrowth.

Our work is featured regularly in ‘The Eastham Archivist’ the quarterly journal of Eastham Archive Group.

Allan Corlett (Project Leader)



Above is the remains of the water splash where the 'boats' ended up after running down the chute.

Right are two artefacts of the Topsy Turvey Railway which incorporated the Loop the Loop.

RDENS RESEARCH PROJECT





*Above - Early season activity at Eastham Ferry as the crowds start to arrive to enjoy the Gardens
Below - Fred Brooks Vaudeville Troupe perform on the stage at Eastham Gardens*



If you would like to be involved in this exciting project then please get in touch with the Research Project leader, Allan Corlett. Contact details - Tel : 0151 327 1921 or Email - robert.corlett13@btinternet.com

Eastham Archive Group