

# The wonders of WANSTEAD

The Old English and Roman settlement of Wanstead appears in the Domesday Book as a manor previously owned by St Paul's Cathedral and with a manor house, large area of woodland and a mill. As late as 1670 there were still no more than 40 houses in Wanstead as it nestled between the London and Epping Forest. It has evolved and developed into a cosmopolitan suburb with a thriving community that is justifiably proud of its history and unique character. In fact they were so proud of its identity that the community pulled together to fight the M11 link road that the eco-warriors lived up the trees and had supportive post delivered there. The tree trunk remains and the road, now underground, keeps Wanstead more peaceful.

Around Wanstead are many reminders of its grand past. These include the site of Wanstead House, owned by Robert Dudley, and visited by Queen Elizabeth I and her sister Mary Tudor, and the tapestry portrays life there. The only remaining building is the Temple, actually a place for entertaining, in Wanstead Park where the picturesque ruin of the Grotto can also be seen.

The fountain used to sit at the junction as the focal point of the village and is above the railway tunnels where wireless production was carried out during World War II.

St Marys Church in Overton Drive was rebuilt in 1787 and paid for by Sir James Tilney, owner of Wanstead House.

Wanstead hospital now is the centrepiece of a modern housing development. The Crown Court is sited in a magnificent building that was once an orphanage. Have a closer look at Wanstead and you will be pleasantly surprised.

