

RED WALK Sunday 1st May, starting at Roebuck Heights, at 2pm.

An informal walk with the theme of May Day – the day traditionally associated with socialism - looking at the homes of a few people with socialist connections, with the intention of ending at the Anti-Air War Memorial (the Sylvia Pankhurst Bomb monument) at Woodford Green. Total distance estimated as 3km (2 miles)

1. Elizabeth Fox Howard (6 March 1873 – 1957) at Ardmore

Born in Walthamstow but lived at Ardmore for many years from 1897. Later moved to 7 Russell Road, Roemont. Did war work in WW1, became peace worker, spent much of the 1930s in Germany. Author of *Across Barriers* 1941 and *Barriers Down* 1950, and much poetry. Related to Richard Crossman. Hostess when Gandhi visited Buckhurst Hill in 1931.

2. Walter Spradbery (29 March 1889 – 31 December 1969) in the Wilderness

Studied at Walthamstow Art School. Married opera singer Dorothy D'Orsay 1929. Children John 1930 and Rima 1931.

Life-long pacifist, served in WW1 in Royal Army Medical Corps – awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal. Member of the British Peace Council, the Peace Pledge Union and the Woodford and District Peace Committee. Involved in the appeal to preserve the Vestry House Museum; the setting up of Buckhurst Hill Community Association at Bedford House.

Dorothy died 11 May 1952, Walter died in 1969.

3. Herbert Henry Elvin (1874 – 10 November 1949) of 2 Hills Road (around 1909 – 1911; Laurel Villa or Mersea)

Herbert Henry Elvin was a trade unionist. Born in Eckington, Derbyshire, Elvin left school at the age of 14, although he later studied with the People's Palace, Birkbeck College and the City of London College. He became a preacher at the age of fifteen, and spent seven years in India. He was a devout Baptist.

Elvin joined the National Union of Clerks in 1894, and became a prominent figure, holding the post of honorary secretary from 1906, then general secretary from 1909, serving until 1941. He was elected to the General Council of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) in 1925, and served as President of the TUC in 1938. He also worked as British labour advisor to the International Labour Organisation, and on the executive of the League of Nations Union. In his spare time, he organised Slum Children's Outings for the East End. He also stood unsuccessfully as a Labour Party candidate in Bath at the 1922 UK general election, then Watford in 1924, Spen Valley in 1929, and on one further occasion. He was elected to Middlesex County Council.

Two of Elvin's children became prominent figures: Lionel became Principal of Ruskin College, and George became General Secretary of the Association of Cinematograph Television and Allied Technicians.

4. Arnold Francis Hills (12 March 1857 – 7 March 1927) of Devon House (lived here 1886 – 1892)

Educated Harrow and Oxford, played football for England 1879. Joined Thames Ironworks 1880, concerned about workers' living conditions. Set up Thames Ironworks Football Club to provide exercise and entertainment for workers – became West Ham United. Vegetarian, temperance.

5. Richard Howard Stafford Crossman (15 December 1907 – 5 April 1974) of Buckhurst Hill House (family at Buckhurst Hill House from around 1909 to WW2)

Labour MP for East Coventry 1945 – 1974, Minister of Housing 1964 – 1966, leader of the House of Commons 1966 – 1968, editor of the *New Statesman* 1970 – 1972, author of the famous diaries.

6. **Edward North Buxton** (1 September 1840 – 9 January 1924) of Knighton. Educated Trinity College Cambridge. Partner in the brewing firm. Liberal MP for Walthamstow 1885. JP, DL, Chairman London School Board. Important in the fight for open spaces including Epping Forest, Hainault Forest. House and gardens open for good causes such as Buckhurst Hill Village Hospital.

7. **Elinor Pugh** (1879 – 1962) of Woodcroft 52 High Road 1879 - 1962 By 1909 and right through to 1923 the occupant of Woodcroft, 52 High Road, was shown as John H Pugh, BA, MRCS, who was still there in 1929, but retired, and still shown living there in a local directory as late as 1933.

John Hopkins Pugh was born in Walsall, the son of James Baldwin Pugh. He was a medical practitioner, and in 1881 he was living at 3 Knockholt Grove, Swanscombe, Kent, with his wife Agnes Helen (nee Mackmurdo, she was born in 1850, the sister of the architect Arthur Heygate Mackmurdo), and their children at that time Edward Llewellyn (1877-1951) and Charlotte Elinor Muriel born in 1879.

(Known as Elinor M Pugh, the following is an extract from the foreword to The Catalogue of AH Mackmurdo and the Century Guild Collection, published by the William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow, in 1967, and digitised by the National Archives at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk – ‘The collections at the William Morris Gallery fall into three main groups: material relating to all aspects of the work of William Morris and the firm of Morris and Company; the Brangwyn Gift of pictures and sculpture, mainly by nineteenth-century artists, including the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood; and the A. H. Mackmurdo Bequest, consisting principally of furniture, textiles and designs made by The Century Guild. The original Bequest has since been supplemented by items from his niece, the late Miss Elinor Pugh.’)

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They shared their home with a servant and a nurse. They went on to have another daughter Nesta Howard, and a son, Baldwyn de Fonmartin. Nesta died aged 55 in 1935 and Agnes died in 1940.

Elinor Pugh was a regular correspondent with the painter Walter Spradbery. She was described by Spradbery’s son John as ‘a spinster of evidently great charm and not unattractive. ..My father held her in the highest esteem. She very much handled her uncle’s diary and affairs later in life and was a figure greatly involved in the pursuance of the final establishment of the William Morris Gallery’. She died in 1962.

8. **Alice Maud Stacy** (1886 – 27 August 1938) of Woodthorpe Moved to Woodthorpe from Hackney 1901. Blind. Active in the Liberal movement, vice—president of the Buckhurst Hill branch of the League of Nations Union. Involved in peace work from WW1 when they had a Belgian maid. Represented the Woodford Union Church at the International Peace Conference, Brussels 1936. Fluent in Esperanto. Family donated Stacy Gardens to people of Buckhurst Hill.

9. **Sylvia Pankhurst** (5 May 1882 – 27 September 1960) at Red Cottage Lived in Woodford from 1924 with Italian lover, Silvio Corio, a socialist revolutionary. Suffragette, socialist, friend of Keir Hardie in formation of Labour Party. Against the bombing of Abyssinia, erected the anti-air war memorial 1936. Moved to Ethiopia in 1956 and buried there.

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