

Fairlop Waters Country Park

With the future of Fairlop Waters still in doubt, fate intervened and tried to spoil the party. However the Bomb Disposal team were successful with defusing the bomb.



1 November 2005. This 110kg C250 German incendiary bomb was dug up by workmen excavating stone at the Brett Lafarge Ltd. Fairlop Quarry, Aldborough Hatch.

Hundreds of families were evacuated while the 33rd Engineers Regiment conducted a controlled explosion.

110kg C250 incendiary bomb

(courtesy Redbridge Museum)

Making the bomb safe was a lengthy process that took the 33rd Engineers Regiment approximately 9 hours.

To digress further to 15 September 1990



15 September 1990. Battle of Britain 50th Anniversary Fly Past
Two Hawks from RAF Waddington fly a weather check as far as Fairlop.

(David Martin)



4 June 2002

Queens Golden Jubilee Flypast assemble over Fairlop.

In the curious way that these things happen, Fairlop again became the rendezvous point for the aircraft taking part in the flypast over Buckingham Palace. This occasion was to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

It was perhaps fitting that this should be so and that the site of this barely remembered airfield should once again, if only fleetingly, be an important marker for the RAF aircraft saluting that same Queen sixty years on, even if their pilots were probably not aware of its historical significance .

Compilation Photo:

(David Martin)

If only they could fly as close as this, the sight and sounds would be tremendous, although not as pleasurable if they all had Merlin engines! The spacing of elements given at

2nm at 280kts.

Minimum altitude for the flypast route to be 1500ft. The flypast was planned to be over Fairlop at 1753hrs, but because of delays with the procession, they did not fly overhead at Fairlop until 1823 hrs local time.

- Formation Leader** C-17 provided by 99 Squadron RAF Brize Norton
- Second Element** Tristar with 2 Tornados GR4s provided by 216 Squadron Brize Norton and 31 Squadron RAF Marham
- Third Element** Sentry AEW1.
- Fourth Element** VC10.
- Fifth Element** Nimrod MR2.
- Sixth Element** BAe 146.
- Seventh Element** Eurofighter.
- Final Element** Concorde GBOAD (210) and the Red Arrows from British Airways and RAF Scampton.

Lead up to creation of the Country Park.

In the 1980's LB Redbridge granted a developer a 125-year lease. In the late 1990's the developer holding the lease applied to LB Redbridge for planning permission to build an all weather racecourse.

This prompted ten year battle by local people and other interested parties to prevent development on Green Belt land. At the Public Inquiry held in 2001, the Planning Inspector allowed the developers appeal against the decision by the Council to reject the application. But in the summer of 2002 the Deputy Prime Minister overturned this decision. There followed threats of a Judicial Review, but in 2005 the developer went into administration.

The future of Fairlop Waters was finally resolved in 2006 when LB Redbridge bought back the lease from the administrator.

After a humble beginning, Fairlop Waters Country Park has gone from strength to strength.

The facilities now boast:

18 hole golf course
9 hole golf course
Angling
Bar
Bird watching
Boulder Park (largest in UK)
Car Parking
Club house
Fairlop Fair (July)
Fishing lake
Floodlit driving range

Hall/meeting rooms
Nature reserve
Nature Trail
Orienteering Course
Outdoor Activity Centre
Owls Indoor Play Centre
Radio controlled car circuit
Remembrance Ceremony (11 Nov)
Restaurants
Sailing lake
Windsurfing lake

When Big Als playhouse closed after many years service a mural was painted on the car park side by Hainault Youth Club and Fairlop Heritage Group under the supervision of artist Madhumita Bose.



above: **the completed Mural in 2010**
below: **(l-r) Dominic Black, David Martin and Madhumita Bose**

(David Martin)





A peaceful Fairlop Waters Country Park
(David Martin)

Fairlop Boulder Park



Fairlop Waters Boulder Park is the largest in the UK (Rockworks)

The project was conceived by LB Redbridge in 2009 and funded by the Mayor of London Priority Parks Programme, built by Rockworks and completed in 2010.

Nine individual boulders have been installed and constructed in sprayed and carved concrete. The boulder complex provides a unique outdoor recreational facility with an extensive range of features and challenges that appeals to climbers of all standards and abilities.

Nothing is set in Stone



This monolithic installation formed part of the London Festival 2012: 'Secret: Hidden London'

'Nothing Is Set In Stone', was an interactive stone and musical creation by the South-African born composer and artist Mira Calix.

The musical stone at Fairlop

(itype2.wordpress.com)

The objective was to make a physical experience of music, by pushing sound through a rock.

22 July 2012 The Olympic Flame is rowed across the Lake



Early Sunday morning and thousands greet the Olympic Flame, carried by Nicholas Moseley from Marlow Rowing Club as it is rowed across the lake to be handed over to torchbearer 008.



The Olympic Flame at Fairlop

(Barbara Martin)

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www.rebridge.org.uk/fairlopfair WATERS OF LONDON *Waters of London* *rebridge*

Poster for the return of the historic Fairlop Fair 2012

(LB Rebridge)

January 2014 Owls Play Centre opens



Images of the new Owls Play Centre

(Owls Play Centre)

A new and exciting new facility for children. Suitable for children aged 6 months to 12 years and their accompanying adults. Babies and toddlers will be safe and secure in our separate soft play area, whilst the older children can benefit from exploring the bigger play equipment.