

Gilbert Greenall inherited Walton Estate in 1894. Alongside his wife Frances, he transformed the park into a model of agricultural excellence with spectacular gardens.

Gilbert was a widely respected breeder of horses, pigs and cattle. He was given a peerage and the title Lord Daresbury for helping to alleviate the short supply of food and horses during the First World War.

In 1938 Lord Daresbury died and the estate was sold and later opened to the public.

1 Stables

Walton's stables have been home to generations of hunting, racing and show horses. Lord Daresbury was a national figure in the equestrian world and co-founded the International Horse Show at Olympia.

He employed 17 stable lads and a stud groom who worked at the stables. Lord Daresbury's most sought after horse was Love-In-Idleness who won several prestigious races and received a total of £12,561 in prize money (the equivalent of over £500,000 today!)

2 Shippon

A prize-winning herd of black Kerry cattle grazed in front of Walton Hall and were kept and milked in the shippon. A brick found in the shippon inscribed with the date Oct 11th 1883 suggests the date it was built.

3 Rubbing Post

The cattle rubbing stone gave the Black Kerry cattle somewhere to scratch, encouraging them not to rub up against nearby fences or trees.

4 Zoo

The Children's Zoo at Walton, built in the 1960s and expanded in the 1980s, has been home to hundreds of beloved animals. Originally the site would have been the exercise paddocks for Lord Daresbury's world-renowned large white pigs.

The building of the former piggeries can be seen behind the sheep pen. They housed up to 400 pedigree pigs which were exported to Russia, Germany, America, Africa and Australasia.

5 Ha-ha

Alongside the bowling green, running down towards the conservatory, there was a ha-ha. It was a steep slope designed to keep the cattle to the parkland, whilst maintaining an uninterrupted view of the grounds from the Hall.

6 Hall

Lord Daresbury's father, Sir Gilbert Greenall, spent his life establishing Walton Estate and in the 1870s extended the hall and added the iconic clock tower. Lord Daresbury lived in Walton throughout his life. He installed electricity in the 1920s and added stained glass depictions of his two sisters Susannah and Bertha.

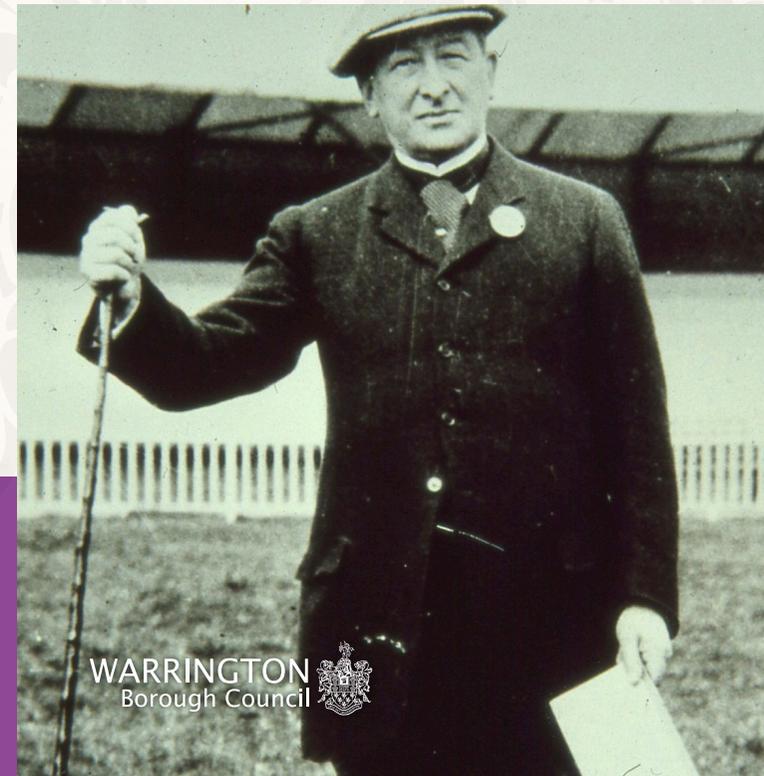
Lord Daresbury's horse Bubbles is buried outside Walton Hall alongside the family's pet cat and dog, Dinah and Bristles. Bobo the donkey, one of the zoo's most popular residents is also buried there.



WALTON
HALL AND GARDENS

Walton walks: Lord Daresbury

Follow the Lord Daresbury trail to explore the park and discover the legacy left by the Greenall family.



For more information visit:
www.waltonhallgardens.co.uk

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WARRINGTON
Borough Council



Accessibility



This route is accessible to all.
It is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Walk length approximately 955 meters
(1250 meters with with optional route).

Key



- Walk Route
- - - Optional Route
- 1** Stables
- 2** Shippon
- 3** Rubbing Post
- 4** Zoo
- 5** Ha-ha
- 6** Hall