WOKING PARK

After the death of Queen Victoria in 1901 it was muted by the council that a park should be contracted as a memorial to her. But instead the cottage hospital was endowed.

But then in 1904 a small garden situated in the triangle formed by the junction of Commercial Road and the High Street, it was planted with shrubs, flowers and flowers . It was never formally named , but through the generations was known as "Sparrow Park" it was possibly called this either because of the profusion of sparrow or because of its size. The war memorial was erected here in 1923, but was moved to the town square with the development of The Peacock Centre.

The development company who was responsible for the Hill View Estate in 1902 offered to sell 23 acres of its land to the council to the south of the development for use as a recreation ground.

The sale completed in December 1904 and by the summer of the following year a design was approved as the hillside was south facing the potential for a topographic layout, the How Stream on the southern side plus the accessibility of the town it was perfect.

Where the Bowling green was laid the farm buildings of Blackness Farm. derelict by 1908 it was demolished to make way for the park development of the bowling green. The lane that leads to the club house form Guildford Road is called " Blackness Lane"

It was nearing completion in 1914 complete with a formal rose garden, sports ground, bowling green tennis courts, children's playground and terrace walks.

There had been avenues of Horse Chestnuts and limes were planted between 1901 and 1911, obviously at the time the trees werent impressive but now after more than 100 years they are as impressive as envisaged .

More facilities were added, the first swimming pool in 1910, not the open lido we remember or the "Pools in the Park" but this one measuring 100 by 40 feet was fed with water directly from the How Stream.

With all of this development there were still parts being used for the towns refuse, but in 1921 this was closed and landscaped with rhododendrons, more trees and shrubs were planted complete with 2 ponds landscaped with water plants and the introduction of wild fowl.

The Park was officially named "Woking Park" in 1927 and had the second Lido open aired Swimming pools opened in 1935, laid on a concrete raft as this was where the town had dumped it's waste over the past 50 years.