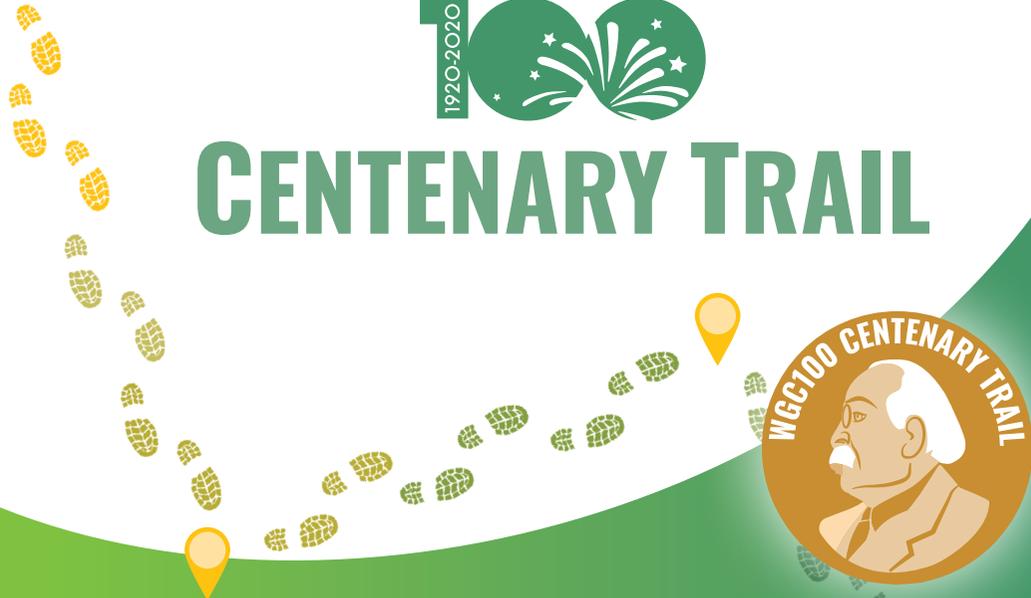




CENTENARY TRAIL



Follow our Centenary trail and find out more about Welwyn Garden City and its history

FOUNDERS TRAIL FILL IN THE MISSING INSCRIPTION

DID YOU KNOW? FASCINATING THINGS ABOUT WGC

Celebrating 100 years of Welwyn Garden City in 2020

follow us on social



Sign up for our newsletter: www.wgc100.org/newsletter-signup/



WELWYN GARDEN CITY IS 100!

The Welwyn Garden City Centenary Foundation planned a series of fantastic events to celebrate the town's history in 2020 and is committed to holding as many of these events as possible in 2021, if it is safe to do so.

We are delighted to have delivered some events and projects which will leave a lasting legacy for the town. The community has been able to enjoy the 20.20km Centenary walk and the four trails in the City of Trees.

Find out more about the history of the town and the men who built it with our Founders' trail. Ebenezer Howard will be honoured with a wonderful new sculpture which will be unveiled early in 2021.

All the celebrations have been funded by sponsors and donors with generous support.

Who was Sir Ebenezer Howard OBE?

Ebenezer Howard was a visionary and believed that nature was really important to healthy living. He founded the international garden city movement and believed that garden cities were a perfect blend of city and nature, marrying the town and the country.

There are now 140 garden cities across the world. Welwyn Garden City is considered to be the finest example. Many of his garden city principles are still used in modern town planning. Welwyn was an area of woodlands and open fields before the garden city was constructed.

On 30 May 1919 at an auction, Ebenezer Howard purchased the land with a deposit of £5100 borrowed from friends.

On 29 April 1920, the town was given its name as the Welwyn Garden City Limited company was formed.



Welwyn Garden City Centenary Foundation Ltd. Incorporated in England, Company No 9130381
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Patron: The Most Hon The Marquess of Salisbury KG KCVO PC DL

Supporters of the Founders' Trail



FOUNDERS' TRAIL

Three of Welwyn Garden City's Founders have memorials in the town. Follow the trail and fill in the missing word on the inscription.

1. Ebenezer Howard plaque in the Howard Centre beside the station entrance

Ebenezer Howard
1850 – 1928
Founder of Welwyn Garden City

"A town designed for _____ living"

2. Ebenezer Howard roundel

1850 – 1928
Sir Ebenezer Howard

Founder of Welwyn Garden City in 1920. His _____ and practical idealism profoundly affected town planning throughout the world.

3. Louis de Soissons – head in bronze above a door

Louis de Soissons (1890-1962)
Garden City _____

4. Sir Theodore Chambers Memorial - Parkway

Knight Commander of the most excellent Order of the British Empire

From 1920 to 1950 he was Chairman of _____ the company which planned and established Welwyn Garden City.

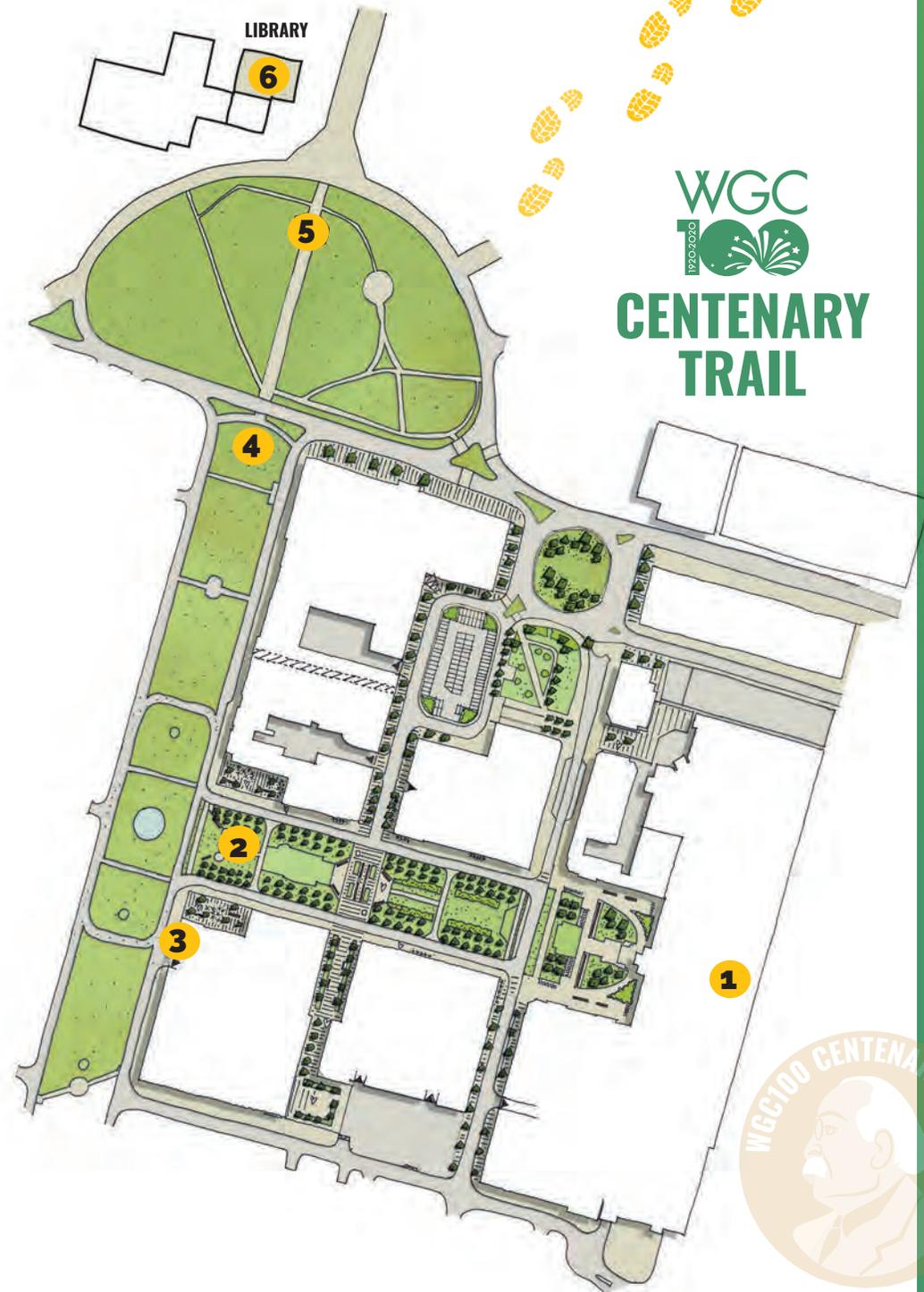
5. Louis de Soissons - The Campus

This garden is a memorial to Louis de Soissons 1890-1962 who _____ this town.

6. Ebenezer Howard - Library

Ebenezer Howard
1850 – 1928

Founder of the _____ Association.



Louis de Soissons

Louis de Soissons was the young architect responsible for interpreting Ebenezer Howard's vision of his second garden city and planning the town's layout.



The features he designed remain key to the town's identity today. These include the grandeur of the town centre as a park around Parkway and Howardsgate while residential areas are more intimate with roads following land contours and around the town's 19,000 trees. Cul de sacs offer safe spaces for children to play and build communities.

To quote Sir Frederic Osborn, another of the town's early pioneers:

'WGC is a town planning masterpiece. It represents some of the best residential planning in the world and is the subject of international admiration'.



Louis de Soissons' town plan can be seen at the bus station.

Sir Theodore Chambers



Sir Theodore steered the Company that created Welwyn Garden, from its start in 1920 to its takeover by the Government in 1948. He was Knighted in 1918 for raising huge sums in National Savings during the Great War.

A Qualified Surveyor he was recruited by Ebenezer Howard to turn his vision of a second Garden City into reality. Because of his War work he knew many influential businessmen and was blessed with drive, good judgement, and a winning personality.

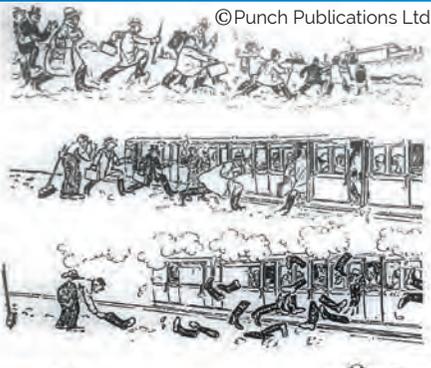
His first vital act was to persuade a Bank to lend the Company £100,000 (equivalent to £4.5 million today) to pay for the land and start building. He came to live in Welwyn Garden and overcame many problems to make it the success it is today.



Taken 1928, front row L to R is Purdom, De Soissons, Howard and Chambers. Howard died a month after this was taken.

Did you know?

In the early days of development of Welwyn Garden City there was a lot of building and gardening taking place and a lot of mud!



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Commuters to London would walk to the temporary station in their gumboots, get on the train and throw them out of the window! A helpful porter would collect and range the boots to be claimed by their owners on their way home from work.

Mud!



Welwyn Garden City Digital Heritage Trail

The trail starts from Waterstones bookshop in the square outside the Howard Centre.

Look for **THE TRAIL STARTS HERE** sign in the shop window and scan the QR code



WGC Library

There is an excellent Local Studies room which holds a wealth of information on our town and its history.

Looking for more things to do and places to visit to find out more about Welwyn Garden City's history?



Mill Green Museum is a working water-mill in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, England. The building is listed grade II* and dates from the 17th century.

The mill uses the power of the River Lea, and the site has been used for milling since the Domesday Book.