

1930s
 1570s
 338
 1916

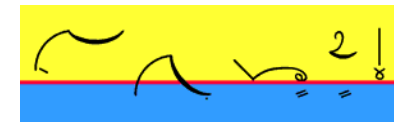
The woodland remains intact, covering 338 acres, and is managed by the National Trust. This is a valuable recreational asset, along with many other smaller parks and open green spaces. "The Sovereign of the Seas" pub is named after a ship that Phineas Pett built.

William Willett lived in nearby Chislehurst and is known for promoting the idea of daylight saving. While out riding his horse in Petts Wood, he noticed how many houses had their blinds drawn during the early morning sunlight, and this inspired him to start his campaign, with the aim of saving fuel costs.

The idea first originated with New Zealander George Hudson, but Willett's fame comes from his successful promotion of the idea, persuading the government of its benefits.

The adoption of the scheme in 1916 was mainly encouraged by the outbreak of the First World War and the need to save coal. Willett is commemorated by a sundial in the woodland, the road name of Willetts Way, and the pub "The Daylight Inn." (317 words)

KENT PLACES



Petts Wood

Petts Wood in the London Borough of Bromley was developed as a planned suburb in the 1930's. The railway station was built first and then the houses and community grew up around it, aimed at those working in Central London, providing high quality housing near to the City, but with one foot in the country.

Unfortunately, with the spread of the suburb, the open countryside is now a little further away! However, it is still a very pleasant and green area, and its spaciousness is very noticeable when one returns after driving through other areas closer to the City.

Petts Wood is named after Phineas Pett who was born in Deptford in 1570. He became a shipbuilder at Chatham, rising to the position of First Commissioner and promoted by King Charles to Principal Officer of the Navy. Timber from Petts Wood was sent to Chatham for the shipbuilding.

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