

Thank you to Eddie Hills and Cliff Goodyear for renovating the little **Elm Park Train**



The little Elm Park train stands with pride on the railway bridge to the left of Elm Park Station. It is a feature of our town centre and has been so for some time. It stands on a piece of land that was formerly neglected and was given to Elm Park Regeneration who landscaped it, fenced it off and added a much welcomed community noticeboard.

The little train was made by The Hobby Shop, one of the oldest established businesses in Elm Park. The train has an engine and four carriages. Each carriage has the name of a local school, Benhurst, Elm Park Primary, R J Mitchell and St Albans. Over the years we have been to each of the schools as they took a turn in planting up the carriages so the train could take pride of place in the London in Bloom entry.

Sadly over the years the train became weather worn and shabby and when The Hobby Shop shut there was no one to renovate it, or so I thought, until one day someone said to me "I would love to renovate that engine." How marvellous I thought and turned round to meet Eddie Hills (74). We dropped the train off to Eddie's house and met up with his neighbour and friend Cliff Goodyear (90) who would be assisting on the project.

Within a week I had a phone call that the engine was done. I couldn't believe the speed of the operation or the quality of the work when we arrived to pick it up. How lucky were we that these two enthusiastic volunteers were very skilled men, Eddie a French Polisher and Cliff a master carpenter. They had taken the engine to bits, rebuilt it, painted and varnished it and it looked splendid.

Being cheeky we asked if they would be able to do the same to the carriages and they very kindly said yes. The whole train has now been totally renovated thanks to these wonderfully talented gents who wouldn't take a penny for materials or their efforts. They did it for the people of Elm Park to enjoy and that they said is their payment. What a wonderful community Elm Park is with people like Eddie and Cliff.



We have now planted up all the carriages and tidied the area up.