

Lives of the dead

A self-guided walk around West Norwood Cemetery



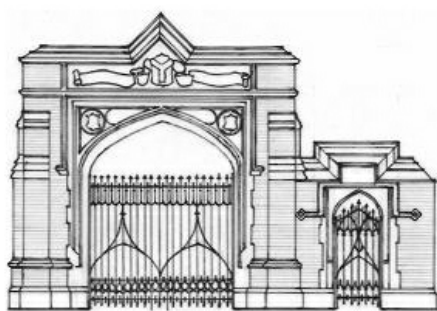
Explore one of London's 'Magnificent Seven' cemeteries
Discover why it was built and Victorian attitudes to death
Find out about about some of the famous people buried there

www.discoveringbritain.org

**the stories of our landscapes
discovered through walks**



Created in collaboration with



Friends of
West Norwood
CEMETERY



Contents

Introduction	4
Route map	5
Practical information	6
Directions	8
Further information	14
Credits	15

© The Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers, London, 2014

Discovering Britain is a project of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)
The digital and print maps used for Discovering Britain are licensed to the RGS-IBG from Ordnance Survey

Cover image: Memorials in the Greek necropolis © Rory Walsh

Lives of the dead

Discover how people from around the world found peace in south London

Welcome to this Discovering Britain walk in West Norwood Cemetery. West Norwood was one of seven private cemeteries founded on the outskirts of London in the nineteenth century, when life expectancy was short and burial space scarce.

This walk explores the cemetery to find out more about some of the notable people buried here.



View of the South Metropolitan Cemetery (1891)
© London Borough of Lambeth

From Victorian household names to post Second World War migrants, people from many walks of life and from many countries around the world have their final resting place in West Norwood. They include royals, inventors, artists, writers, soldiers and sports heroes. On this walk you can discover some of their incredible monuments and hear their fascinating stories.

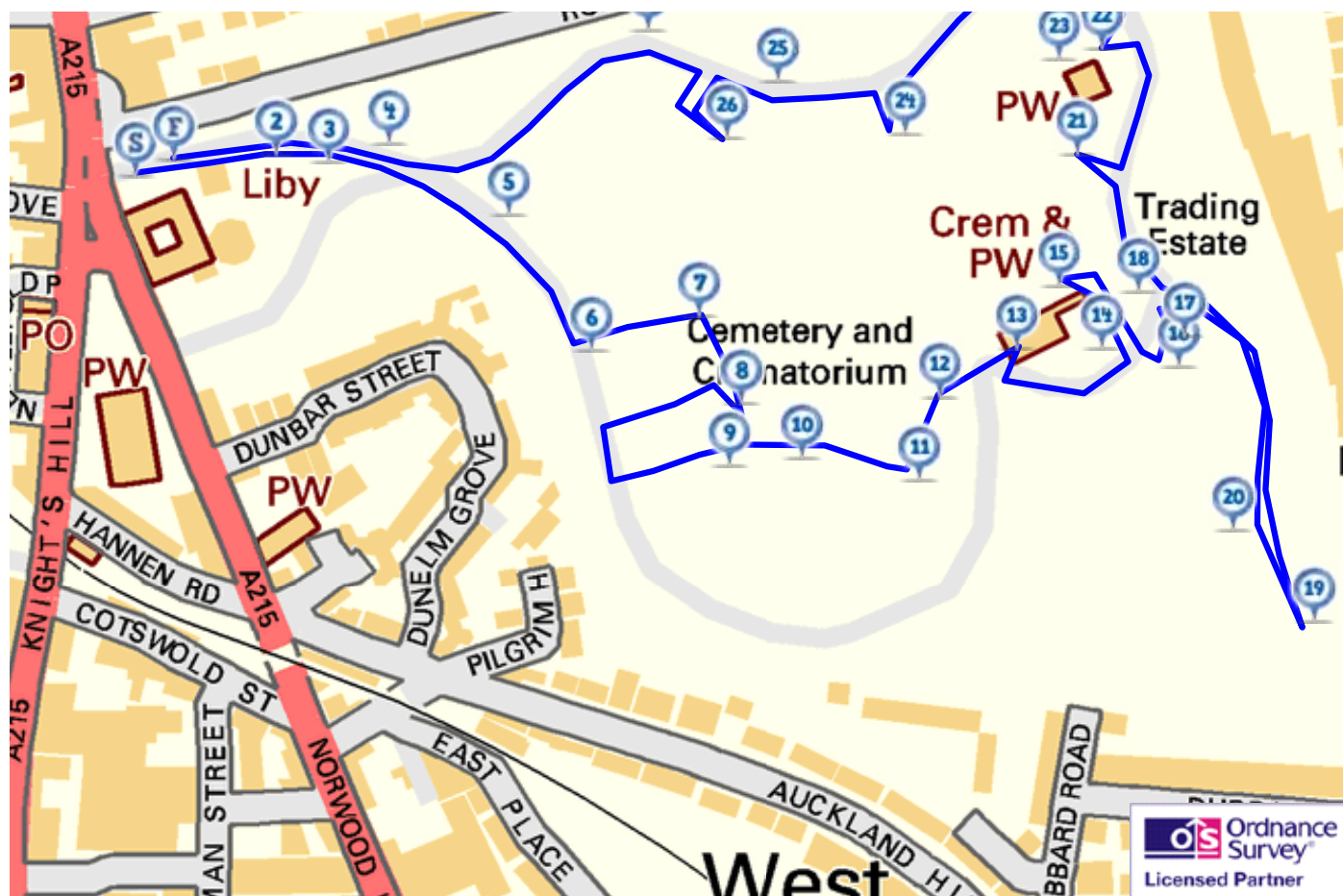


Sculpture on one of the elaborate tombs
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

The walk also explores the development of the cemetery as a reflection of developments in London, from attitudes towards death and mourning to changes in the capital's arts and economy.

This walk was created in collaboration with the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery, a group of volunteers who research the cemetery's history and help to maintain the grounds.

Route map



Stopping points

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. West Norwood Cemetery entrance arch, Norwood Road | 15. Sir Henry Tate |
| 2. Sir Hiram Stevens Maxim | 16. Lord Hawke |
| 3. Gyandeo Daby | 17. Baron Reuter |
| 4. John Burke and Tom King | 18. Augustus Siebe |
| 5. Joe Hunte | 19. Dr Normandy |
| 6. Oswald 'Columbus' Dennison | 20. Robert Fairlie |
| 7. John Hughes | 21. Katti Lanner |
| 8. Richard Brunton | 22. Entrance gate to the Greek Othodox enclave |
| 9. Christopher Pond | 23. Ralli family, Vagliano brothers, Princess Eugenie Paleologus, George Caridia |
| 10. John Wimble | 24. Robert Moffat, Samuel and Mary Annear |
| 11. Otto Berens | 25. Paul Cinquevalli |
| 12. Isabella Beeton | 26. Sir August Manns |
| 13. George Hackenschmidt | 27. Charles H Wilkinson |
| 14. David Roberts | F. West Norwood Cemetery entrance arch, Norwood Road |
| 15. Sir Henry Tate | |

Practical information

Location	West Norwood, Greater London
Getting there	<p>Train - The nearest mainline station is West Norwood. Direct services run from London Victoria and East Croydon.</p> <p>Bus - There are many local services to Knights Hill and Norwood Road. Most run via Brixton or West Croydon bus garages.</p> <p>Car - The cemetery is beside the A215 between Tulse Hill and Croydon. There is no car parking allowed at the cemetery grounds.</p>
Start and finish point	West Norwood Cemetery main entrance arch, Norwood Road, SE27 9JU
Directions from railway station to the start	From West Norwood station, turn right and continue down Knights Hill past a large church on the right. At the fork in the road, carefully cross over to the traffic island. Use the pedestrian crossing on the right and the cemetery main gate will be on the right.
Distance	1 ½ miles
Level	Gentle - a short cemetery walk with gentle ascents / descents

Suitable for

Families - Take care on uneven ground and watch for cars using the access roads

Conditions

The route largely follows main paths and tarmac roads but there are some diversions over grass. The ground is very uneven in places so take great care when leaving the main path. The route can be muddy after rain.

Important notes

In summer, grass and other vegetation can become very overgrown so access to some graves might not be possible.

Although the cemetery is now full for burials, cremations and memorial services still take place. On weekdays there may be funeral corteges passing through the grounds, so do look out for traffic.

Please be respectful of mourners and other visitors.

The cemetery closes at different times throughout the year so make sure to return to the main gate before the displayed time.

Refreshments

There are plenty of cafés and shops along Norwood High Street

Toilets

Toilets are available by West Norwood Library beside the cemetery and inside the crematorium (at Stop 13).

Directions

These directions are for use with the West Norwood Cemetery walk audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to West Norwood Cemetery

West Norwood Cemetery entrance arch, Norwood Road

Directions 1 - From the entrance arch, proceed along the main tarmac road. Look for a mausoleum on the left hand side with the initials DM on the doors. Directly opposite across the road is a square headstone with the name Maxim. Stop facing this gravestone. and listen to Track 2.

2. A prolific inventor

Sir Hiram Stevens Maxim (1840-1916)

Directions 2 - About 20 metres further on the right hand side are some low modern black and grey headstones. There is a grey one immediately behind a black one with the name Daby. Stop when you find this headstone and listen to Track 3.

3. An unusual journey

Gyandeo (Gyndeo) Daby (-1984)

Directions 3 - About 10 metres further on the left hand side of the road are two pink granite obelisks. The second one has the name Burke, although the lettering is rather difficult to read. Stop in front of this memorial. Listen to Track 4.

4. Heavyweight monuments

John (Jack) Burke (1861-1897), Tom King (1835-1888)

Directions 4 - A few metres further on the road splits. Take the right fork. Walk to the low Gothic chapel on the left hand side. Three graves after the chapel is a headstone with the name Hunte. Stop when you find this grave and listen to Track 5.

5. Community lessons

Joe Hunte (c.1918-1983)

Directions 5 - About 20 metres further on the left hand side is a tree growing at an angle. Beside this tree is a headstone with the name Dennison. Stop when you find this grave and listen to Track 6.

6. The pioneer Columbus

Oswald 'Columbus' Dennison (1913-2000)

Directions 6 - Just to the left of Dennison's grave is a grass path. Follow this path slightly uphill. Pass some trees on the left and immediately after these are two ornate arched mausoleums. In front of the right hand one is a large, pale, newly-restored headstone with the name Hughes. Stop when you find this grave. Listen to Track 7.

7. Russian revolutionary

John Hughes (1814-1889)

Directions 7 - With your back to Hughes' grave walk straight across the grass until you reach the tarmac road. Turn left up the road and after about 5 metres on the right hand side is a large tree. Walk uphill across the grass and look for a white marble headstone with the name Brunton. Stop when you have found this grave and listen to Track 8.

8. The father of Japanese lighthouses

Richard Brunton (1841-1901)

Directions 8 - Retrace your steps to the tarmac road and turn left down the hill. Turn left at the junction. After about 20 metres, turn left onto a grass path marked 'Ship Path'. Follow this path uphill. After a short distance there is a tall white mausoleum on the right through the trees. Make your way between the graves to the mausoleum, or stay on the path if you prefer. Listen to Track 9.

9. Well catered for

Christopher Pond (1826-1881)

Directions 9 - If you went right up to Pond's mausoleum, make your way back to Ship Path. Continue up Ship Path and look for a large tomb on the right hand side with the name Wimble and a ship on the top. Stop beside this tomb and listen to Track 10.

10. All at sea

John Wimble (1797-1851)

Directions 10 - Continue up Ship Path to a junction. To the right is an impressive and ornate mausoleum with the name Berens. Stop beside this tomb and listen to Track 11.

11. A fancy monument

Otto Berens (c.1797-1860)

Directions 11 - When you are ready, turn left and continue straight along the grass path. A short way beyond Berens is a headstone on the right hand side with the names Samuel and Isabella Beeton. Stop beside this grave and listen to Track 12.

12. A household name

Isabella Beeton (1836-1865)

Directions 12 - Continue along the grass path until you reach the tarmac road. Go straight across to the building signed Columbarium Recordia. Go inside the main door and then turn left through the doors marked Recordia. Immediately through the doors on the right hand side is a pale wood panel with the title "Willow". Look for the name Hackenschmidt. When you find it listen to Track 13.

13. The Russian bear

George Hackenschmidt (1877-1968)

Directions 13 - Leave the crematorium the way you came in. Turn left on the tarmac road around the back of the building. Where the road splits, keep left on the upper level. There are some stone steps into a small walled garden. Immediately before them on the left is a headstone with the name Roberts. Stop when you find this grave and listen to Track 14.

14. Eastern promise

David Roberts (1796-1864)

Directions 14 - Follow the path round to the left and round the back of the crematorium. Before the chapel doors is an orange mausoleum with the name Henry Tate. Stop by this mausoleum and listen to Track 15.

15. Mr Cube

Sir Henry Tate (1819-1899)

Directions 15 - Retrace your steps to the road junction and turn left downhill. On the right is a grass path called Doulton Path. Go along the path then at the Doulton mausoleum turn left and walk across the grass for about 3 rows. Find a cross decorated with palm fronds bearing the names of the Cross family. Listen to Track 16.

16. The Odysseus of cricket

Martin Bladen, Lord Hawke (1860-1938)

Directions 16 - About 10 metres downhill, in the same row of graves, is a polished pink pillar and urn with the name Reuter. Cross the grass to this grave and listen to Track 17.

17. News of the world

Paul Julius de Reuter, Baron de Reuter (1816-1899)

Directions 17 - Make your way back across the grass to the tarmac road. Go to the opposite side of the road and look for a gravestone with the name Siebe which is in the front row and next to a litter bin. Stop when you have found this grave and listen to Track 18.

18. The godfather of diving

(Christian) Augustus Siebe (1788-1872)

Directions 18 - With your back to Siebe's grave, go along St Mary-At-Hill path opposite. Follow this path for about one hundred metres until it starts to bend right and go uphill. Look for a headstone on the left with the name Dr Normandy and listen to Track 19.

19. Clean water and clear ground

Dr Alphonse de Normandy (1809-1864)

Directions 19 - Retrace your steps along the St Mary at Hill Path until you are in line with the end wall of the factory over the cemetery wall on the right hand side. From this point, turn left onto the grass and go to the tree. Four rows behind the tree is a tall headstone marked Fairlie. When you find this grave listen to Track 20.

20. On track

Robert Fairlie (1830/1-1885)

Directions 20 - Return to the path and turn left, retracing your earlier route. At the junction, turn right down the main tarmac road and continue down the hill for another 10 metres or so. On your left hand side is a litter bin. From the bin, go across the grass towards the trees for about 10 metres to a marble cross on a stepped base with the name Lanner. When you find this grave listen to Track 21.

21. Dancing across the world

Katti Lanner (1829-1908)

Directions 21 - Retrace your steps back to the litter bin and then turn left down the tarmac road. There is an enclosed section of elaborate mausoleums and tombs on the left hand side. Go through the gateway into this area and listen to Track 22.

22. Necropolis

Entrance gate to the Greek Orthodox enclave

Directions 22 - Go through the arch of the Greek enclosure and stop by the largest building at the back left corner of the plot. Listen here to Track 23.

23. Riches, royals and rackets

Ralli family, Vagliano brothers, Princess Eugenie Paleologus, George Caridia

Directions 23 - Take your time to explore the Necropolis. When you are ready, leave through the gates and turn left along the tarmac road. Follow the road up to the first wooden bench on the left. Beside this bench is a grass path leading diagonally upwards. Follow this path for about 20 metres. Immediately after a thick bush on the left is a headstone with the name Moffat. Stop by this grave and listen to Track 24.

24. On a mission

Robert Moffat (1795-1883), Reverend Samuel Annear (1819-1886) and Mary Annear (1823-1892)

Directions 24 - Retrace your steps down the grass path and turn left along the tarmac road. At the junction, bear right. Immediately on the right is a sign to the Rose Garden. About five metres beyond this sign, look for a large pink column topped by a cross, one row in from the road. The name on the memorial is Cinquevalli though the inscription is difficult to read. Stop by this monument and listen to Track 25.

25. The human billiard table

Paul Cinquevalli (1859-1918)

Directions 25 - Continue along the tarmac road for about 30 metres. Look for a path to the left with a post at the end. Go up this path and turn left at the top. After about 25 metres, look for a monument on the left with the name Manns. It is made of dark stone and modelled as rocks with a cross on top. Stop when you have found this grave and listen to Track 26.

26. Conducting taste

Sir August Manns (1825-1907)

Directions 26 - Retrace your steps back to the tarmac road. Turn left and after about 15 metres on the right find a small white headstone and larger grey headstone immediately behind, both with the name Wilkinson. Stop by this grave and listen to Track 27.

27. In Flanders fields

Charles H Wilkinson (1897-1918)

Directions 27 - Continue along the road. At the junction, bear right. This path will take you back to the cemetery's main entrance. When you get back to the cemetery arch listen to the final track, Track 28.

28. Full circle

West Norwood Cemetery entrance arch, Norwood Road

We hope that you have enjoyed the walk. You may like to explore the cemetery grounds further or visit the cemetery office if it is open. Here you can find out more about the cemetery and The Friends of West Norwood Cemetery charity who help to look after the site. there are also books about the cemetery for sale.

Further information

Friends of West Norwood Cemetery

www.fownc.org

West Norwood Cemetery

www.westnorwoodcemetery.com

Lambeth Council - West Norwood Cemetery database

www.lambeth.gov.uk/cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

www.cwgc.org

The Crystal Palace Museum

www.crystalpalacemuseum.org.uk

Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways

www.festrail.co.uk

The Historical Diving Society

www.thehds.com/index.php

Ralli Brothers

www.rallis.co.in

Tate Gallery

www.tate.org.uk

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Walk the World walk:

- **Jill Dudman, Colin Fenn and Paul Graham** from **The Friends of West Norwood Cemetery** for creating and researching the walk and providing the audio commentary
- **Jenny Lunn** for editing the walk materials
- **Rory Walsh** for editing the walk materials and providing photographs
- **Caroline Millar** for editing the audio files
- **The Lambeth Archive** and **Grace's Guide** for kind permission to use archive images from their collections
- **Alistair1978, Michael A W Griffin, Stephen Richards, Julian Stallabrass and Steve Swayne** for additional photographs reproduced under Creative Commons Licenses



An advert for J.B.Wilson, Undertaker, Lower Norwood, showing a horse-drawn funeral procession at the cemetery (c.1905)
© London Borough of Lambeth



Britain's landscapes are wonderful.

There is a tremendous variety within our shores – whether in the countryside, in towns and cities or at the seaside. And every landscape has a story to tell about our past and present.

Discovering Britain is an exciting series of geographically-themed walks that aim to bring these stories alive and inspire everyone to explore and learn more about Britain. Each walk looks at a particular landscape, finding out about how forces of nature, people, events and the economy have created what you see today.

The self-guided walks are fun, informative and inspiring. Prepare to discover something new, to be surprised and to find the unexpected.

Visit www.discoveringbritain.org to

Send your review of this walk

Search for other walks

Suggest a new walk