



BROMPTON CEMETERY

Four self-guided walks

THE TOP 100



THE
ROYAL
PARKS

Welcome to Brompton Cemetery

Want to sit beneath a spectacular tree, discover a remarkable story or remember a loved one? The cemetery is the perfect place to enjoy a moment of peace among magnificent monuments.

A breath of fresh air

It's much more than a well-loved last resting place for many thousands of people. The cemetery is a welcome green space in the city that's alive with wildlife. It's also stacked full of stories about amazing people and awesome monuments. And it's still working – you can be buried here if you want!

It's easy to explore

You're welcome to explore, and it's easy to find your way around. The cemetery is flat and all the cross-paths lead back to the Central Avenue. You can also see the chapel from most points. There's a map in this leaflet to help you. You can find lots more information on our website, by talking to our friendly volunteers or by taking a guided tour.

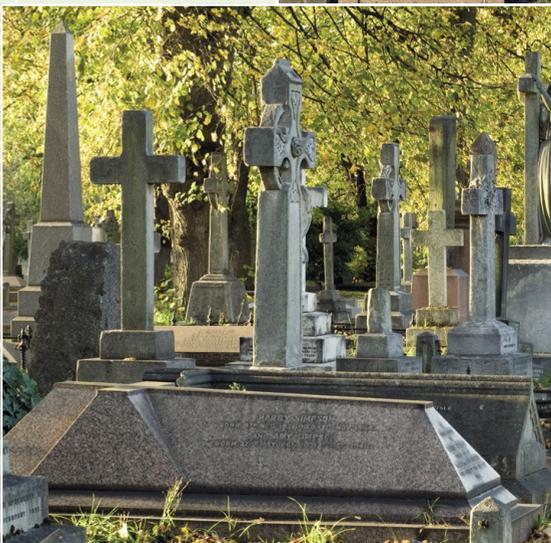


Stroll down the tree-lined Central Avenue to reach the chapel.



Look out for playwright Henry Pettitt's unusual memorial on the Central Avenue.

Over 200,000 people are buried in the cemetery, marked by around 35,000 monuments.



'A cemetery can, and should, be made as beautiful as possible.'

Henry Milner
landscape gardener, 1890

A tip for identifying trees is to look out for the shape of the leaves. These leaves belong to the Holm Oak.

You'll also see the Big Leaf Maple, whose leaves can grow up to 30cm wide and turn a golden yellow in autumn.



Plenty to discover - The Top 100

You could spend a lifetime exploring here!

With 39 acres of cemetery to explore, we've put together four self-led tours to get you started. Each tour is designed to take around an hour to complete, and we've put these into easy-to-follow themes. You'll see a range of memorials giving you an insight into who is buried here. You will also get to learn more about our wonderful buildings and our beautiful trees.

As you make your way around the tours, look out for our top 100 markers on the ground next to or near to the points of interest we've chosen. If at any point you see a number that isn't part of your tour, use our complete top 100 list on the next page to find out more.

For your own safety, we ask you to stay on the maintained footpaths and to avoid uneven ground.

The Top 100

The Top 25

1. Dr John Snow
2. Emmeline Pankhurst
3. Chelsea Pensioners Monument
4. Elizabeth le Blond
5. The Central Avenue
6. Yew Tree
7. Sir Henry Cole
8. Brigade of Guards Monument
9. Joseph Bonomi
10. Hannah Courtoy
11. Frederick Leyland
12. John 'Gentleman' Jackson
13. Reginald Warneford VC
14. The Catacombs
15. The Great Circle
16. Chief Long Wolf
17. Marchesa Luisa Casati
18. James Bohee
19. Metropolitan Anthony
20. Princess Victoria Gouramma
21. Emma Shaw
22. The Chapel
23. Percy Lambert
24. Robert Coombes
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Garden Cemetery

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41. Snake Bark Maple
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44. Weeping Silver Lime
45. Holm Oak
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47. Elias Huelin

Heroes & Pioneers

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49. Dr Benjamin Golding
50. Capt Hugh Burgoyne VC
51. Col Richard Wadeson VC
52. Iris Burnside
53. James McDonald
54. Cpl Joseph John Farmer VC
55. John Wisden
56. Herbert Fitch
57. Frederic Jardine
58. Percy Pilcher
59. Henry Augustus 'Gus' Mears
60. Sir William Crookes
61. Barbe Maria Theresa Sangiorgi
62. Pte Samuel Parkes VC
63. Thomas Hay Ritchie
64. Sir John Peake Knight
65. Sir James Kay-Shuttleworth
66. Sir Samuel Cunard
67. Sir Roderick Impey Murchison
68. Adm Sir Charles Howe Fremantle
69. James Hayes Raper
70. Lt Col Henry Le Blanc
71. Felicjan Sławoj Składkowski
72. Lt William Hulme Hooper
73. Samuel Leigh Sotheby
74. Sir John Fowler
75. Margaret McCurrey

Creative Characters

76. Sir Squire & Lady Effie Bancroft
77. Henry Pettitt
78. Richard Tauber
79. George Borrow
80. William Terriss
81. Bernard Levin
82. Brian Glover
83. Alfred Mellon
84. Frederic Sullivan
85. Henrietta Moraes
86. George Godwin
87. Valentine Prinsep
88. Adelaide Neilson
89. George Henty
90. Ernest Thesiger
91. Sir William Howard Russell
92. Fanny Brawne
93. Sir Augustus Henry Glossop Harris
94. Violet Brooke-Hunt
95. Eleanor Fortescue-Brickdale
96. Lionel Monckton
97. Catharina Pratten
98. Blanche Roosevelt Macchetta
99. George Salting
100. Lady Sydney Morgan

The Top 25

There's so much to discover about the cemetery's people, places and wildlife. With several miles of leafy paths, 600 trees and 35,000 monuments to explore, you're sure to find something new every time.

To give you a head start, we've picked our top twenty five fascinating people and places to visit. You should easily be able to stroll around these in an hour.

What else will you spot along the way?



A group of Chelsea Pensioners in the Hall at the Royal Hospital.

Long Wolf with his wife, Wants, and their children. When the Native Americans were sent back to their reservations at the end of each season of the Wild West Show, they were given civilian clothes. (See p.10)



1 Dr John Snow
1813-1858
Father of Modern Epidemiology.

A physician and pioneer of anaesthetics, who saved millions of lives by discovering that cholera was spread via infected drinking water. His monument was damaged by a bomb in World War II and replaced by fellow physicians.



2 Emmeline Pankhurst
1858-1928
'Deeds not words.'

The Suffragette leader who campaigned for women's right to vote, and was imprisoned for her beliefs. Some women were given the vote in 1918, but Emmeline died before equal voting rights were given to all. Her monument is a Celtic Cross.



3 Chelsea Pensioners Monument
1901

'Erected on behalf of an admiring nation.'

A poignant memorial to 2,625 retired British Army soldiers buried between 1854 and 1893. They lived at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, which has been housing veterans for over 300 years. It features flags, cannon balls and bronze lions' heads.

'I owe a supreme debt of gratitude to the mountains for knocking from me the shackles of conventionality...'

Elizabeth le Blond



4 Elizabeth le Blond
1860-1934

'The best-known woman mountain climber of her time.'

A soulful angel watches over the grave of thrice-married Lizzie, an Irish baronet's daughter. Despite her ill health, she became a pioneer of mountain climbing, photography and film-making, and founded the Ladies' Alpine Club.



5 The Central Avenue
1840

'A great ceremonial drive running along the central axis.'

The cemetery began as a private business in 1840 and needed to attract customers. The architect made the flat site more attractive with this elegant avenue, leading to a domed chapel. The row of original lime trees adds to the grandeur.



6 Yew Tree

'Loves to dwell amidst skulls and coffins, epitaphs and worms.'

This evergreen species lives so long that it's become a symbol of everlasting life. It's often found in burial grounds, and branches were once carried at funerals. The needles and seeds are poisonous, but birds feast on the seed caps' red flesh.



7 Sir Henry Cole 1808-1882

'King Cole', the most influential man in South Kensington.

A modest memorial for a man we have to thank for everything from the V&A Museum to Christmas cards. Cole was a journalist, writer, designer, reformer and campaigner, who turned South Kensington into a centre for arts and science.



11 Frederick Leyland 1831-1892

Patron of the avant-garde.

Leyland made his fortune as a ship owner, and then spent it on collecting artworks and supporting artists. His stunningly ornate stone and copper monument was designed by Edward Burne-Jones, the renowned Pre-Raphaelite artist.

Regency boxing 'brought together the King and the Commons, the wealthy and the poor, the nobles and the plebs.'

J.C. Reid



8 Brigade of Guards Monument 1889

The heart of the cemetery's infantry section.

This elegant cross guards a field of white headstones, marking some of the thousands of military burials here. The four brass field guns that once stood around it were removed in World War II – some believed they were sent to the front line.



9 Joseph Bonomi 1796-1878

Buried 'beneath a guardian Anubis', protector of graves.

The hieroglyphics on Bonomi's distinctive headstone reflect his life as an artist, drawing and illustrating Egyptian archaeology. It also records the terrible loss of all four of his young children in the same week to whooping cough.



12 John 'Gentleman' Jackson 1769-1845

Bodyguard at King George IV's coronation.

A brooding lion tops the striking memorial to Jackson, bare-knuckle prize fighter and self-defence teacher. He had a formidable reputation and was hugely popular; so much so that his monument was paid for by friends and admirers.



13 Reginald Warneford VC 1891-1915

One of the cemetery's 12 Victoria Cross holders.

This talented young pilot's monument illustrates the moment in 1915 when he became the first airman to shoot down a German airship. Tragically, he died just 10 days later while trying out a new plane. Some 50,000 people attended his burial.



10 Hannah Courtoy 1781-1849

Mausoleum that might be a time machine.

Hannah's story is intriguing. She had three daughters with an older man. They never married, but she controversially inherited his vast wealth. This paid for her huge Egyptian-style tomb, believed by some to be a time-travelling Tardis!

'We all have our time machines, don't we. Those that take us back are memories... And those that carry us forward, are dreams.'

H.G. Wells



14 The Catacombs 1842

Underground vaults built to hold thousands of coffins.

Fashion-conscious Victorians chose expensive coffins for their loved ones, displaying them on the open catacomb shelves. Feel free to peep through the gates (but watch out for the snakes!), or see inside on one of the occasional tours.



15 The Great Circle 1842

'Cemeteries were a place to see, and be seen in.'

The splendid arched colonnades, which form the Circle, helped make the cemetery irresistible to the wealthy in the 1840s. The centre was designed to be an open lawn, but is filled with a forest of monuments today.



16 Chief Long Wolf
1833-1892

'Medicine Men say the spirit doesn't rest until the body is home.'

A wolf marks the grave of this Sioux chief, who died while part of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. He lay here for over 100 years, until his descendants took his remains back to their ancestral burial ground at Wounded Knee, South Dakota.



17 Marchesa Luisa Casati
1881-1957

Unconventional and inspiring artists' muse and fashion icon.

An urn draped in flowers stands over the grave of this unconventional Italian noblewoman (and her favourite dog). Luisa was renowned for her flamboyant and eccentric outfits, and her signature style still inspires fashion designers today.



21 Emma Shaw
c1816-1840

The first person to be buried in Brompton Cemetery.

Emma's plain grave is easily missed among the monuments to the great and good. She was the first of thousands of ordinary Londoners to be buried here. We know little about her except that she died in childbirth, like so many Victorian women.



22 The Chapel
1842

Three chapels were planned, but only this one was built.

The domed chapel is the elegant focal point of the cemetery's architecture. It was built to hold Anglican funeral services. Two other chapels, designed to look like temples, were also planned but the cemetery company ran out of money.



18 James Bohee
1844-1897

'The best banjoist in the world'.

This incredibly talented musician lies in the Great Circle, but no stone marks his grave. James was a Canadian banjo player of Caribbean descent, who brought black American culture to Britain. He even taught King Edward VII to play.



23 Percy Lambert
1880-1913

The first person to drive 100 miles in an hour.

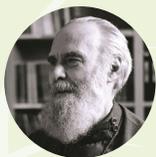
This monument's wheel and broken column represent a racing driver's life cut too short. Percy died trying to regain the world record he'd set and then lost. It's said he promised his fiancée he would give up racing after this final attempt.



24 Robert Coombes
1808-1860

The fastest man on the Thames and the Tyne.

Coombes was one of the greatest professional oarsmen of his time. Despite his very successful rowing and coaching career, he died in poverty. His impressive monument, topped with an upturned boat, was paid for by friends and fans.



19 Metropolitan Anthony
1914-2003

One of the most visited graves in the cemetery.

A distinctive white Orthodox cross marks the last resting place of Metropolitan Anthony of Surozh. He was head of the Russian Orthodox Patriarchal Church in Great Britain and Ireland, and a respected writer and broadcaster.



20 Princess Victoria Gouramma
1841-1864

Exiled Indian princess adopted by Queen Victoria.

Gouramma came here in 1852, after her Indian raja father was deposed. She became a favourite of Queen Victoria. She married a British army officer in preference to an Indian prince, and died aged just 23. The queen wrote her epitaph.



25 Constant Lambert
1905-1951

A gifted family moving in artistic and bohemian circles.

A monument to a remarkable creative family, including composer and conductor Constant and his son Kit (1935-1981), manager of The Who rock band. A smaller stone records Constant's first wife Flo (1913-1988), a strikingly beautiful actress.

'To be beautiful one must be unhurried. Personality is needed. There is too much sameness.'

Marchesa Luisa Casati

'Once embarked on a course of sensationalism, the composer is forced into a descending spiral spin from which only the most experienced pilot can flatten out in time.'

Constant Lambert

Garden Cemetery

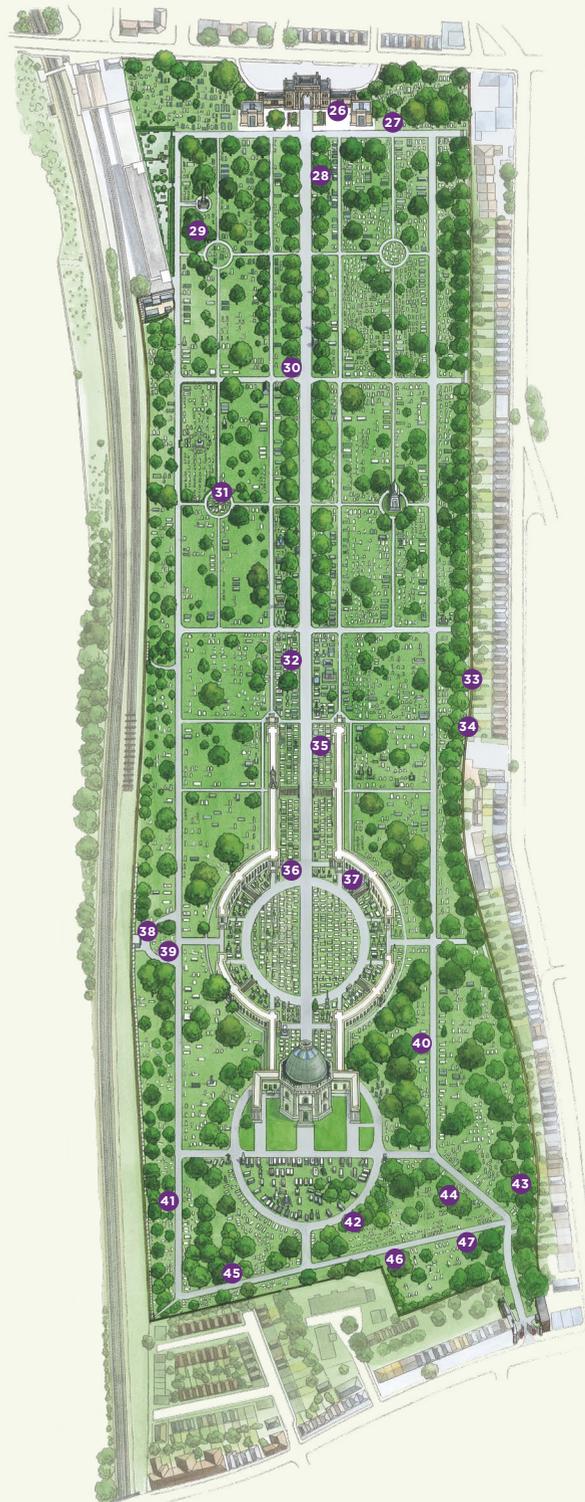
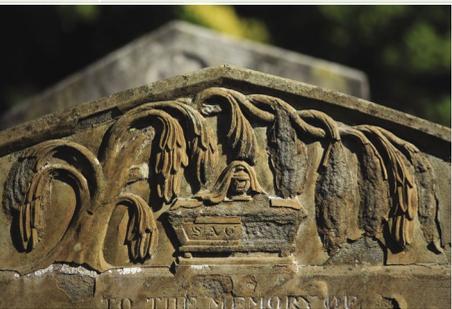
The cemetery is a green haven in the city, home to over 60 species of trees as well as colourful shrubs, wildflowers and plenty of wildlife.

Some famous gardeners are buried here too. Follow this leafy trail to see some tremendous trees, a green-fingered family and those with unique memorials.



Bees and other insects feed on the pollen and nectar of the rowan's white flowers.

This weeping willow, carved on one of the cemetery's headstones, is a symbol of mourning and loss.



26 The North Lodge 1840

The elegant gateway overlooking the Central Avenue.

When the cemetery opened in 1840, it was called The West of London and Westminster Cemetery. The cemetery staff were based here along with record books and other papers, with the east wing being used as a chapel.



28 Albert Emile Schloss d.1905 aged 58

A Central Avenue monument popular for its pair of winged cherubs.

Little is known about Albert, except that he was from Mayance, the French name for the city of Mainz on the Rhine in Germany. According to the cemetery's burial register, Albert died at the Hyde Park Hotel in London.



30 Asano Jugoi Nagayori 1865-1886

The tragic death of a Japanese nobleman's son.

A pink granite obelisk, inscribed in English and Japanese, marks the grave of this young man. Nagayori came to London to study law, perhaps at the behest of his father, an important political figure and moderniser. Far from home and suffering from "melancholia", Nagayori took his own life.



27 London Plane

London's most common tree is perfectly designed for city life.

The London plane is a popular tree for planting along streets and in parks, because it is hardy and long-lived. Rain easily cleans their shiny leaves and they regularly shed their dirty bark.



29 Big Leaf Maple

The tree that lives up to its name!

This tree is also known as the Oregon Maple and originally comes from Canada's Vancouver Island. Back home they can grow up to 50 metres tall; the ones at Brompton Cemetery aren't quite as big despite being over 100 years old.



31 Strawberry Tree

A colourful Mediterranean tree that's great for British wildlife.

The evergreen Strawberry tree, originally from the Mediterranean, thrives in the cemetery. The sweet-smelling bell shaped flowers provide nectar and pollen for bees and other insects, and birds feast on the fruit.



32 Holly Tree

A festive favourite that symbolises everlasting life.

The holly is one of the easiest trees in the cemetery to recognise due to its familiar shiny prickly leaves and red berries. Hollies are traditionally associated with everlasting life because they are evergreen (they keep their leaves all year). They can also live for up to 300 years.



33 Philip Nowell

1780-1853

The man who built most of the cemetery's handsome buildings.

Philip Nowell was a well-known London builder. His company was responsible for the main buildings at the cemetery. He loaned the cemetery company vast amounts of money to keep the cemetery project going when it hit financial difficulty.



35 Susannah Nutkins

c1816-1906

A memorial that may have inspired one of Britain's favourite children's authors.

The Nutkins memorial is a noticeable one, reminding us of the popular Tale of Squirrel Nutkin by Beatrix Potter. Beatrix lived locally as a child and may have wandered the cemetery, watching the wildlife to include in her stories.

'This is a Tale about a tail – a tail that belonged to a little red squirrel, and his name was Nutkin.'
Beatrix Potter



34 James Veitch Junior

1815-1869

Third in a long line of plantsmen celebrated for their exotic collections.

It's fitting James is buried here, as his Chelsea nursery provided the plants for the cemetery in 1840. The Veitch family sent plant hunters around the world to bring back new species for their nurseries, including 200 types of orchid.



36 Horace Lot Brass

c1880-1896

Striking art nouveau memorial to a 16-year-old boy.

The monument's distinctive green hue comes from the bronze relief sculpture at the top. It shows a grieving couple beside a death-bed. The artist was Arthur Stanley Young, who is best known for creating the soaring figure of Mercury.



37 Joseph Julius Kanné

1818-1888

One of Queen Victoria's most devoted servants.

Joseph, born in Austria, came to Britain after serving in the Crimean War. He entered the Royal Household in 1857 and became the queen's courier the following year.



39 Rowan Tree

This colourful tree is traditionally planted to ward off witches!

The rowan has clusters of white blossoms in spring and red berries in autumn. It's an important tree for wildlife in the cemetery. Moth caterpillars eat the leaves, bees and insects feast on the flowers, and birds love the berries.



41 Snake Bark Maple

A Chinese tree that dresses like a snake and wears vibrant autumn foliage.

Snake bark maples can be identified by their colourfully striped bark. The leaves turn shades of orange and yellow in the autumn. These deciduous trees originate in east Asia, growing between the eastern Himalayas and Japan.



38 The Western Catacombs

1842

A very expensive cemetery feature that seemed jinxed from the start.

Originally lining the west wall of the cemetery, the catacombs included a promenade, with views over the Kensington Canal. They suffered extensive bomb damage in WWII.



40 Robert Fortune

1812-1880

The plant hunter who smuggled tea plants out of China.

A significant horticulturalist. Working for the British East India Company, Fortune smuggled 20,000 tea plants and seedlings out of China. He took them to India, along with a group of Chinese tea masters who shared their expertise there.

'An admirable man, such power of organization, so obligingly civil & thoughtful, and so gentlemanlike in his dealings.'
Queen Victoria about Joseph Kanné



42 Cedar of Lebanon

An ancient evergreen symbolising purity and everlasting life.

The evergreen cedar, which comes originally from the Middle East, has long been associated with everlasting life. It can grow to a great age – some cedars are known to be over a thousand years old. Cedars can grow up to 40 metres tall!



43 Copper Beech

A spectacular tree that puts on a colourful show every year.

This beech tree has become an important feature in the cemetery landscape, so the tree team is looking after it carefully. The impact of the fungi that grow on the trunk is closely monitored as the decaying wood is an important habitat for wildlife.



Watch out for wildlife

A welcoming walled garden

We're not the only ones who like a quiet space in the city. A host of birds, animals and insects have made their home inside the cemetery's walls.

Butterflies and bees feed on flowers growing between the graves in spring and summer. Look out for robins, magpies, blackbirds, song thrushes and woodpeckers in our 600 trees. At dusk, spot tiny pipistrelle bats hunting for insects between the lime trees on the Central Avenue.



44 Weeping Silver Lime

The Victorians planted weeping trees to represent sorrow and mourning.

This tree lives up to its name, with branches that seem to droop sorrowfully, and leaves that are a silvery-grey. We think this handsome tree may have been planted in the cemetery to mark Queen Victoria's silver jubilee in 1862.



45 Holm Oak

A sacred tree that's one of the few evergreen oaks in Britain.

Holm Oaks are considered to be sacred and were planted to keep away evil spirits. The ancient Greeks used the leaves to tell the future. The trees also symbolise strength and long life, and the wood is certainly very hard and strong.

'Cemeteries cultivate the intellect by their botanical riches.'

Look carefully and you may be lucky enough to spot one of the cemetery's secretive foxes.

John Claudius Loudon
landscape designer, 1843

The cemetery's colourful wildflowers attract many butterflies, like the small but stunning common blue.

Creature features

If you look carefully, you can also find plants and animals carved onto some of the graves and monuments. Which of these will you spot as you explore?

Dove – which symbolises the Holy Spirit.

Butterfly – signifies rebirth, like a caterpillar turning into a butterfly.

Weeping willow – not surprisingly, this represents mourning.

Wheat – indicating someone who was 'gathered in' later in life.

Snake – a snake eating its own tail represents eternal life.



46 Henrietta Dredge d.1907

Henrietta's husband heard her calling from beyond the grave.

Albert Dredge, a 34 year old Boer War veteran decorated for his bravery, buried his wife 'Hettie' in August 1907. Struggling with grief, he became convinced that Hettie was calling to him. He took his own life on her grave the following spring.



47 Elias Huelin 1786-1870

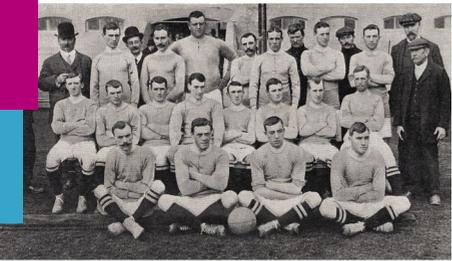
The terrible murder of the cemetery's assistant chaplain.

Many thousands of lives are remembered in Brompton, including those ended by violence. In 1870, the double murder of the Rev. Elias Huelin and his housekeeper, Ann Boss, gripped this prosperous area. Elias and Ann now lie peacefully beside each other.

Heroes & Pioneers

Brompton Cemetery is a surprisingly peaceful corner of busy West London. But there are echoes of war here too. Follow this trail to meet brave service people, intrepid war reporters, innocent victims and spirited pacifists.

It is also the last resting place of a surprising number of people who have changed the world, and whose legacy lives on. Take this trail to discover innovators, inventors, business people, politicians and orators.



Gus Mears (in the bowler hat) founded Chelsea Football Club in 1905, at a meeting in the Rising Sun pub opposite Stamford Bridge. (See p.21)

The 1870 Kirtland & Jardine pipe organ at the Church of St Thomas in Thurstonland, Huddersfield, which was restored in 1990. (See p.20)



48 Jack Whitley
1878-1955

The only Chelsea footballer known to be buried in the cemetery.

John 'Jack' Whitley was Chelsea's goalkeeper from 1907-14, playing 138 times. He helped Chelsea win promotion to the First Division in 1912. Jack served with the club for over 30 years, and was popular and well-respected.



49 Dr Benjamin Golding
1793-1863

A medical pioneer who founded Charing Cross Hospital.

Benjamin was dedicated to providing free medical treatment to the poor. He had the idea of integrating medical schools with hospitals, to ensure people would be treated effectively now and in the future. He founded Charing Cross Hospital.



50 Capt Hugh Burgoyne VC
1833-1870

Navy captain and Victoria Cross holder who was lost at sea.

As a 21 year-old naval lieutenant Hugh was awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry 'in the face of the enemy'. Though lost at sea, Hugh is remembered on the family memorial. He and his men are also honoured in St Paul's Cathedral and in Westminster Abbey.



51 Col Richard Wadson VC
1826-1885

Awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery in the Indian Rebellion.

Richard Wadson modestly said he was awarded the Victoria Cross for 'just standing in front of the wounded' during the Indian Rebellion. In fact, the newly promoted Lieutenant saved the lives of two soldiers during separate cavalry charges in 1857.



52 Iris Burnside
1894-1915

A young woman lost at sea when the Lusitania was torpedoed.

Iris Burnside had a first class ticket on the elegant passenger ship, travelling from New York to Liverpool in 1915. She and her brother Allan are remembered on the handsome family tomb, although only Allan is actually buried here.

When the British-built Lusitania was launched in 1906, she was the largest, fastest and most luxurious cruise liner in the world. She crossed the Atlantic over 200 times.



53 James McDonald
1843-1915

Scottish-American oil magnate whose mausoleum is watched over by angels.

James McDonald left Scotland for America aged just 15. He went on to make his fortune in the oil industry, and was hugely influential in the oil and petroleum trade around the world. By the time he died in 1915, James was worth four million dollars.



55 John Wisden
1826-1884

'The Little Wonder' and founder of Wisden's Almanack.

John Wisden, the first class cricketer, is buried in the cemetery. He is best remembered for founding the Wisden Cricketer's Almanack in 1864. This is probably the most famous, and the oldest continuously published, sports handbook in the world.



57 Frederic Jardine
1822-1907

Builder of church organs, whose company is still working today.

Frederic's company built and repaired organs from their factory, including instruments for cathedrals, hospitals and cinemas. Jardine's were the first British organ builders to design and build an organ for the cinema, to accompany silent films.



54 Cpl Joseph Farmer VC
1854-1930

Awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry during the First Boer War.

Joseph John Farmer was a Provisional Lance-Corporal in the Army Hospital Corps. He was awarded the Victoria Cross, after the Battle of Majuba Hills in 1881. This was the decisive final clash of the First Boer War in South Africa.



56 Herbert Fitch
c1849-1933

Deeds not words: From printing to security policing.

Herbert Fitch established a respected printing business in the City of London. One of their sons, also called Herbert, was a member of the Special Branch. This is the arm of the police responsible for matters of national security and intelligence.



58 Percy Pilcher
1867-1899

British inventor and pioneer aviator.

A pioneer of unpowered flight, Percy came close to beating the Wright brothers to inventing and flying the first aeroplane. Sadly, his powered triplane was never tested in public as he died from injuries sustained whilst wooing potential sponsors.



59 Augustus 'Gus' Mears
1873-1912

The founder of Chelsea Football Club, buried with his RAF pilot son.

Brompton Cemetery is a popular shortcut for Chelsea fans making their way to and from next-door Stamford Bridge. How many realise they are walking past the grave of Henry Augustus Mears, the club's founder, every time they use the Central Avenue?



61 Barbe Maria Theresa Sangiorgi
1834-1893

A monument of a boy endlessly strews flowers over Barbe's grave.

Barbe was born in Belgium, worked in Paris, and married a German chef called Auguste Kettner. They opened a restaurant in Soho in 1897 and Kettner's was one of the first restaurants in London to serve French food. And it's still going today.



63 Thomas Hay Ritchie
c1858-1894

A young Irishman who married into American society – and notoriety.

A basalt pillar, from the Giant's Causeway on Ireland's County Antrim coast, marks the grave of Thomas Hay Ritchie. He is descended from a family of industrialists and engineers, best known for building the Queen's Bridge in Belfast.



60 Sir William Crookes
1832-1919

Renowned chemist and science journalist, who was fascinated by psychics.

William created the revolutionary anti-polarising lenses used in sunglasses. He discovered a new magnetic element, thallium and his work in this area was so important that it formed the foundation of nuclear physics, enabling the discovery of X-rays.



62 Pte Samuel Parkes VC
1815-1864

Awarded during The Charge of the Light Brigade.

Private Samuel Parkes was awarded the Victoria Cross after the British cavalry charge against Russian forces, during the Crimean War in 1854. Samuel tackled two Russians attacking a trumpet major. He then fought off six more men so they could escape.



64 John Peake Knight
1828-1886

The railway engineer whose idea for traffic lights proved explosive.

John Peake Knight made train travel safer and more comfortable. He introduced lounge cars to trains, emergency brake cords, and safe carriages with alarms for women travellers. He is also credited with inventing the first traffic lights.



65 Sir James Kay-Shuttleworth
1804-1877

Public health pioneer who also shaped today's national education system.

James was convinced that education was the best way to lift the poorest children out of poverty. He founded Battersea College in 1840, the first teacher training college, and shaped the national school education system we use today.



67 Sir Roderick Impey Murchison
1792-1871

Pioneering geologist and founder member of the Royal Geographical Society.

Roderick was a founder member of the Royal Geographical Society. Knighted for his work in 1846, he was awarded a host of prizes and accolades for a lifetime of geological research. There are towns, rivers and islands around the world named after him.



69 James Hayes Raper
1820-1897

'One of the most popular orators of the temperance movement'.

James devoted his life to speaking out about the problems of alcohol. He was clearly a man of strong principles and convictions and was also involved with many other causes, including anti-slavery, anti-smoking and vegetarianism.



66 Sir Samuel Cunard
1787-1865

Canadian shipping magnate who founded the famous Cunard Line.

Samuel Cunard was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the oldest son of a master carpenter and merchant. Cunard came to the UK in 1837, and set up the famous Cunard Line. The company was later famous for its superliners, Mauretania and Lusitania.



68 Adm Sir Charles Howe Fremantle
1800-1868

The city of Fremantle in Western Australia is named after this British naval officer.

Charles joined the Royal Navy aged 12 and spent the rest of his life in service. His first command as Captain was to sail HMS Challenger to western Australia and claim it for Britain. He refused to retire, so stayed on the active list until his death.



70 Lt Col Henry Le Blanc
1776-1855

The soldier who lost a leg in battle and went on to fight at Waterloo.

Henry had a premonition, before he fought the Spanish in South America in 1806, that he would lose his leg in the battle. He learned to tie a tourniquet and found a stick to use as a crutch; his vision came true and he lost his leg to a cannonball.



71 Felicjan Składkowski
1885-1962

One of two Polish Prime Ministers remembered in the cemetery.

Felicjan was the last Prime Minister of Poland before WWII. Committed to improving sanitation, particularly in rural areas, he ordered that every household should have a working toilet. In 1990, his body was repatriated to Poland.



73 Samuel Leigh Sotheby
1805-1861

The third and final generation of the Sotheby family to be involved with the famous auction house.

Samuel was the grandson of bookseller and auctioneer John Sotheby, who helped establish the celebrated auction house that still bears the family's name. Samuel died suddenly in June 1861, when he fell into the River Dart and drowned.



75 Margaret McCurrey
1815-1886

'A total abstainer from all intoxicating liquors'.

Margaret abstained from alcohol for 29 years, and her husband James for over 40. The temperance movement took hold in Britain in the early 19th century and was closely linked to the movement to give working class people the vote.



72 Lt William Hulme Hooper
1827-1854

Naval officer, Arctic explorer and writer who lies in an unmarked grave.

William lived a short but remarkable life. By the time he was 20, he was mate of the ship The Plover, under Commander Thomas E. L. Moore. It was one of the first vessels sent to look for Sir John Franklin's lost expedition to the North West Passage.



74 Sir John Fowler
1817-1898

Designer of the world's first underground railway and the Forth Bridge.

John was the chief engineer of world's first underground, the Metropolitan Railway. He is also celebrated for his innovative bridges, including Grosvenor Bridge, and the Forth Bridge. He also designed stations, including London's Victoria Station.

The image on Sotheby's monument of the angel leading the blind figures appeared on the first edition cover of his book, *Ramblings in the Elucidation of the Autograph of Milton* (1861).

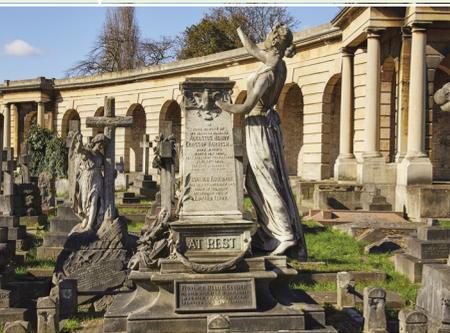
Creative Characters

It's not surprising that Brompton Cemetery, in the heart of creative Kensington, is full of influential figures from the world of art and culture. Take inspiration along this trail as you discover composers, musicians, actors, artists and their muses.



Valentine's beautifully intricate tomb is listed with Historic England for its historic significance. (See p.27)

The carved masks and violin on Gus's monument celebrate his theatrical and musical skills, while the evergreen wreath and palm fronds represent eternal life. (See p.28)



76 Sir Squire & Lady Effie Bancroft
1841-1926 /
1839-1921

A formidable theatrical husband and wife team.

The Bancrofts pioneered a naturalistic style of comedy drama and introduced innovative management ideas. They put on a single play each night, rather than a mix of entertainments, and replaced cheap 'pit seats' with more costly 'orchestra stalls'.



78 Richard Tauber
1891-1948

One of the world's finest tenor singers.

Tauber was popular in Europe and America for his operetta performances. He made his singing debut in Freiburg on the day after his 21st birthday, then went on to sing with the Dresden Opera and the Vienna and Berlin State Opera companies.

There was a gypsy encampment at Latymer (now Latimer) Road in Hammersmith. Pauper burials were paid for by the parish at Brompton Cemetery in 1861 for a two-day-old baby girl, Ocean Smith, and William Boswell, aged 11 months.



77 Henry Pettitt
1848-1893

Popular Victorian dramatist, famous for his melodramas.

Henry's plays were popular in London and the provinces, and many were staged as far afield as America and Australia. It's said that his pantomime, Harlequin King Frolic, had the longest run of any pantomime ever.



79 George Borrow
1803-1881

The greatest of English writers about gypsy life.

George immersed himself in gypsy culture, visiting camps across Britain, Europe and Russia. He learnt the language and produced an English-Romany dictionary. To mark the anniversary of his death, a festival was held in Brompton every year until 1939.



80 William Terriss
1847-1897

The matinee idol whose ghost still haunts the Adelphi Theatre.

Terriss led a colourful and adventurous life and was one of the most popular actors of his time. Sadly, the achievements of his life have become overshadowed by the manner of his death - a brutal stabbing at the stage door of the Adelphi Theatre.



81 Bernard Levin
1928-2004

Influential journalist 'inquisitive, to the point of impertinence, about almost everything'.

Bernard is described as 'one of the most brilliant and controversial polemical journalists of his generation'. He joined the panel of the satirical programme, *That Was the Week That Was*, making him a household name.



83 Alfred Mellon
1820-1867

An unusual monument to a renowned conductor and composer.

Alfred began his career as a violinist and went on to become leader of the Covent Garden Ballet Orchestra, a musical director at various theatres and finally conductor of the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. He also wrote a popular opera, *Victorine*.



84 Frederic Sullivan
1837-1877

This architect-turned-actor was the brother of Sir Arthur Sullivan.

He began as an amateur, then started appearing on the London stage, often in works by his brother. He set up his own provincial touring company, Sullivan's Operetta Company, in 1871. Fred was a popular and sought-after comic actor and singer.



82 Brian Glover
1934-1997

Much-loved character actor and teacher who started out as an all-in wrestler.

Brian gave up teaching to act full time in 1970, and joined the Royal Shakespeare Company three years later. He appeared in *Doctor Who* in 1985, and featured in many films, including *American Werewolf in London*.



85 Henrietta Moraes
1931-1999

Paintings of this artists' model and memoirist are worth millions.

Henrietta worked as an artists' model and became an inspirational muse to many notable artists during the 1950s and 1960s. Her beauty, charm and volatile personality captivated Francis Bacon in particular, who painted her at least 16 times.



86 George Godwin
1815-1888

Architect and social reformer who edited *The Builder* magazine for 40 years.

George transformed *The Builder* into a successful professional paper. It became renowned for its campaigns for social and health improvement through architecture. In 1884 he was appointed to the royal commission on the housing of the working classes.



87 Valentine Prinsep
1838-1904

Artist & writer; part of the Pre-Raphaelite movement.

It was assumed that Valentine would follow his father into the Indian Civil Service but, surrounded by influences such as Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Alfred Lord Tennyson, he aspired to be an artist and writer.



89 George Henty
1832-1902

The most prolific writer of children's books ever published.

Journalist and war reporter George is remembered for writing over 120 books, many of which were historical action-adventure stories for young readers. His stories were set in troubled times in history, from ancient Rome to the American Civil War.



88 Adelaide Neilson
1848-1880

The poor Yorkshire mill girl who made it to the New York stage.

Yorkshire-born Neilson spent her early years in poverty but her beauty and talent saw her become a widely feted and wealthy actress in London and New York. Dying at just 32, she left a large estate which was used to create a theatrical charity.



90 Ernest Thesiger
1879-1961

Renowned character actor famed for his role in *The Bride of Frankenstein*.

For an actor renowned for playing some dark and ghoulish characters, Ernest was also an expert embroiderer! He wrote *Adventures in Embroidery* in 1941, and could often be found at Buckingham Palace, quietly embroidering alongside Queen Mary.

'To the surprise of many and the horror of some, I have also found great pleasure in needlework, which, after all, is only another way of making pictures.'

Ernest Thesiger

'The job of the artist is always to deepen the mystery.'

Francis Bacon

'You dazzled me.
There is nothing in
the world so bright
and delicate.'

John Keats



92 Fanny Brawne
1800-1865

The fiancée and muse of Romantic poet John Keats.

Keats wrote many of his most famous poems after meeting 18-year-old Fanny, London-born daughter of a middle-class businessman. She was his 'one passion', and he was inspired by her 'elegant, graceful, silly, fashionable and strange' personality.



94 Violet Brooke-Hunt
1870-1910

Writer, social worker and political activist.

Violet was just 17 when she decided to get involved in educating working-class boys and young men. Violet also championed women's involvement in politics, setting up women's political groups and talking passionately about current issues.



91 Sir William Howard Russell
1820-1907

'The first and greatest of War Correspondents'.

William's vivid Crimean War dispatches – particularly about the appalling conditions the troops suffered – brought the bitter reality of conflict home for the first time. His reports inspired many people, including Florence Nightingale.



93 Sir Augustus Henry Glossop Harris
1852-1896

The actor and impresario who was 'the father of modern pantomime'.

In 1879, Gus took over the vacant Drury Lane theatre and was soon filling seats with his hugely popular pantomimes and melodramas. He turned his attention to opera, transforming the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden into a great success as well.



95 Eleanor Fortescue-Brickdale
1872-1945

The last Pre-Raphaelite.

Eleanor was a successful artist, illustrator and designer who worked in the Pre-Raphaelite style. She painted in oils, illustrated books of poetry, designed First World War government posters, and created stained glass windows for over 20 churches.



96 Lionel Monckton
1862-1924

Popular melody writer of the Victorian era.

Lionel Monckton began his career as a lawyer, while working part-time as a songwriter and music critic. After placing his first song in a professional production in 1891, he concentrated on composing and went on to achieve great success.



97 Catharina Pratten
1821-1895

'A gifted musician, unrivalled teacher and true friend'.

Catharina was considered London's most prominent guitar teacher, and taught Queen Victoria's daughter Louise, Princess of Wales, to play. She founded a guitar school, and wrote music designed to appeal to her pupils and other amateur players.



98 Blanche Roosevelt Macchetta
1853-1898

Blanche herself stands guard over her Great Circle grave.

Blanche was the first American woman to sing Italian opera at the Royal Opera House. She trained as a soprano in France and Italy, sang in concerts at Covent Garden and around Europe, and later joined the famous D'Oyly Carte opera company.

'The influence of
woman will ever be
exercised directly in all
good or evil. Give her,
then, such light as she
is capable of receiving.'

Lady Sydney Morgan



99 George Salting
1835-1909

The hugely wealthy art collector renowned for his thrifty lifestyle.

For a man worth millions, art collector George Salting lived a very frugal life. When he died in 1909, George left large amounts of money to relatives and two hospitals. He also bequeathed his entire and priceless art collection to London museums.



100 Lady Sydney Morgan
1783-1859

Much-discussed literary figure.

Sydney's literary work was highly regarded by some, including Lord Byron, but she also attracted some unusually fierce criticism. Undaunted, she went on to become the first woman to receive a government pension for services to the world of letters.

A place in the country

The Magnificent Seven

Brompton is one of seven grand garden cemeteries that opened around London between 1833 and 1841. The city was growing so quickly that there was barely enough room for the living, let alone the dead. Its churchyards were overflowing, so the government decided the dead should be buried in the countryside. The market gardens in the hamlet of Brompton were ideal.

Better by design

The cemetery was a private business when it opened in 1840. To make money for the shareholders, it had to be a desirable place to be buried. The architect used classical buildings and a formal layout to make this long, level site more interesting.

Find out much more about our [wildlife](#), [monuments](#) and [memorials](#) on the website, or join a [guided walk](#).

Great gardens of sleep

Respectable relaxation

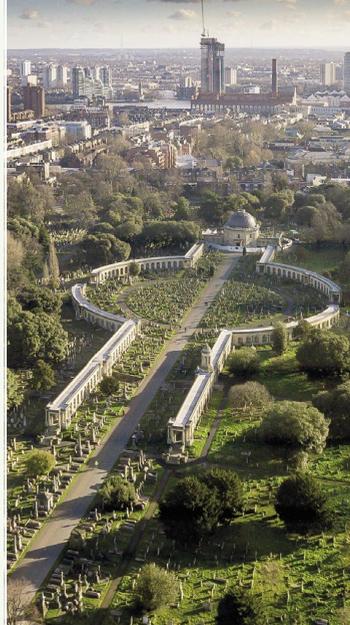
The new garden cemeteries offered peaceful repose for London's dead. They also became popular with the living, who came here to escape the overcrowded city.

Cemeteries were respectable places to visit in Victorian times. Even single ladies were allowed to enjoy a stroll here!

A long tradition

Local people and visitors continue to be welcomed here at Brompton, and it remains a working cemetery.

But burial practices have changed since it opened in 1840. The Victorians favoured flamboyant funerals, and observed long periods of mourning. Burials tend to be much simpler today, but sometimes you may glimpse elegant plumed horses drawing a gleaming hearse through the cemetery. It's an unforgettable sight.



The cemetery stood amongst fields when it opened in 1840.

Original notices at both entrances state that 'The public are permitted to walk in the cemetery daily'.



Facilities

Café

Buy delicious food and drink from the Café at North Lodge. Open daily.

Information Centre

Visitor information, displays and an opportunity to chat with local people at North Lodge. Open regularly.

Toilets

In the Café at North Lodge.

Chapel

Available for funerary services, community events and exhibitions, and occasionally open to the public.

Publications

Get thought-provoking leaflets and books to take home at the Information Centre at North Lodge.

Information panels

Find fascinating facts on the information panels dotted around the cemetery (see map for locations).

Highlights trails

Discover intriguing people and places on any one of the tours in this booklet.

Guided tours, talks, events, exhibitions

Be inspired by a cemetery enthusiast at a guided tour or talk, have fun at an exciting event, and uncover more of our history and wildlife at temporary exhibitions.

Check the noticeboards or website to find upcoming talks, tours, exhibitions and events.

Information

Opening hours

We're open at 7am every day, but check the noticeboards or website for today's closing time.

Access

You're welcome to walk in the cemetery although, for your own safety, we ask you to stay on the maintained footpaths to avoid uneven ground. You can also ride your bike here, although you must stay on the cycle route and give priority to pedestrians. And please do walk your dog here, although you must stay on the dog-walking route, keep your dog on a lead, and clean up after it.

Eating and drinking

You're welcome to picnic here, although you mustn't light barbecues, and we ask you not to drink alcohol.

Wildlife

We hope you enjoy the planting and wildlife here. Please do not feed the birds or remove any plants as this can disrupt the cemetery's delicate ecosystems. We ask that you leave nothing and take nothing.

Photography

You're welcome to take photos here, but you mustn't fly drones.

Penalties

Police officers can issue £60 on-the-spot fines, known as Penalty Notices, for littering, cycling off the designated cycle route, and failing to clear up after dogs.

Check the Park Regulations at North Lodge to find out exactly what you can and can't do in the cemetery.



THE ROYAL PARKS

Brompton Cemetery

Contacts

Brompton Cemetery is cared for by **The Royal Parks** charity with the help of **The Friends of Brompton Cemetery**.

Contact the Cemetery Manager to talk about maintenance or management issues, or to discuss funerary arrangements:

0300 061 2172

bromptoncemetery@royalparks.org.uk

royalparks.org.uk/parks/brompton-cemetery

Contact **The Friends of Brompton Cemetery** to learn more about the cemetery's history:

020 3876 4278

info@brompton-cemetery.org.uk

brompton-cemetery.org.uk

Contact the police to report crime:

In an emergency, always call **999**

For all non-emergency police matters, call **101**
met.police.uk/report/how-to-report-a-crime



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[BromptonCemetery](https://www.facebook.com/BromptonCemetery)

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