DJK Nunhead Cemetery Walk

Derek enjoyed walking around Nunhead Cemetery and it became his daily walk during the last year of his life. Here is a route around just a handful of his favourite memorials and of course, the tremendous view of St Paul's. Derek's ashes will be interred at West Norwood, one of the Magnificent Seven London cemeteries, Nunhead being full!



Note: it's easier to read the map upside down!

A. (nr catacombs) **Memorial** to the bodies exhumed at <u>St Christoper le Stocks</u> to make way for an extension of the Bank of England.

B. **Peter Marsh** - one of the <u>600</u> from the <u>Charge of the Light Brigade</u>. Peter Marsh was a veteran of the Crimea and survivor of the Charge of the Light Brigade. He "Came thro' the jaws of Death/ Back from the mouth of Hell", to die at his home in Bermondsey in 1909, aged 81. A reunion of survivors was held in October 1890 and a photograph taken which includes PH Marsh (see below).



C. The Row of wives

D. **Vincent Figgins (1767 - 1844)** - Funerary monument. c1844. To Vincent Figgins, d.1844. By William Pettit Griffith. Portland stone. Plain square stele (originally surmounted by an urn; missing at time of inspection) set within a canopy carried on 4 columns with lotus-leaf capitals, surmounted with triangular pediments and acroteria. Small pedimented aedicules (based on Roman cinerary urns) at corners on lower stage of base. Figgins was an eminent type-founder in the City. The tomb was sculpted by John Mallcott.

E. John Allan (1790 - 1865) The design of the mausoleum is based on that of the tomb of Payava at Xanthos in Turkey (which also had lion's heads projecting from its curved roof). It is built of granite and stands on a substantial Portland stone base beneath which lies the family vault. The stone carving on the front shows John Allan's body being borne up to heaven; the bronze bas-relief on the back is a portrait of the man; and, between the columns at the sides are plaques commemorating members of the family buried in the vault. The artist responsible for the sculpture was Matthew Noble.

The mausoleum was built by Colonel John Harrison Allan (1820-1882) following the deaths of his father, John, in 1865, and mother, Judith, in 1866. John Allan (1790-1865) who was born in Whitby, owned ships both there and in London. The son was also a ship owner and, probably as a result of the opportunities this offered for travel, developed an interest in antiquities. He published A Pictorial Tour in the Mediterranean in 1845, dedicated to Prince William of Prussia, and was a long standing member of both the Athenian Archaeological Society and the Egyptian Society of Cairo. Also buried in the mausoleum are his two sisters, Mary (1824-74), Elizabeth Ann (1831-1914) and, it is assumed, the Colonel himself.

F. **Stearns Mausoleum** - A small terracotta mausoleum built in the Romanesque style with crow-stepped gables and a ridged roof. What gives the building its charm, however, is the quality of the decorative detail; the arcaded parapets, moulded gargoyles, and intricate patterns round the arched openings of the windows and doorway and the capitals and shafts of the colonettes. This is the third mausoleum designed by the architectural firm of George and Peto (the other two, the Doulton and Tate mausolea are in West Norwood Cemetery) using moulded decorative detail made by the firm of Doulton in Lambeth. The interior was not completed to the original design, the glazed tiles being added by a builder some 20 years later. The coffin shelves to either side of the building may be seen through the wrought iron gates. This mausoleum was built for Mrs Laura Stearns of Twickenham (d.1900). In 1931 she was reburied somewhere else in the cemetery so the building is now empty.

G. View of St Paul's

H. <u>Schroeter and Oppenheim</u> - Funerary monument. c1876. To John Moritz Oppenheim (d.1864) and Frederick Schroeter (d.1876). By H Daniel, monumental mason. Portland stone with Carrara marble reliefs. A square plinth on a 2-stage base, with marble bas-reliefs on 3 sides and an inscription on the 4th, surmounted by a projecting entablature and a pedimented cover. The reliefs depict an angel beside a death-bed, an angel beside a female bust on a plinth which is touched by a seated and blind mourning man, and a relief showing a woman with brushes and a palette. Unusual depictions of decease and lamentation: Oppenheim had been blind for the last twenty years of his life.