

MILES BETTER

A TOUR OF TEDDINGTON



Put your best foot forward and learn more about the history of Richmond upon Thames with our fascinating walks.



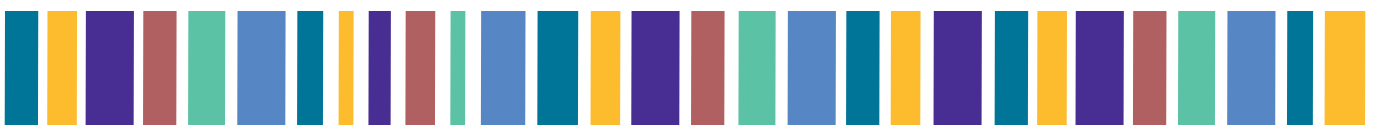
6 Mile walk around Teddington



Put your best foot forward and learn more about the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames with our fascinating walks. This series of 4 to 6 mile walks will introduce you to new facts about the area and keep you fit as well.

All walks start and finish at one of the Borough Libraries where you can obtain copies of the walks free of charge. Please visit www.richmond.gov.uk/libraries for details of our opening hours.

Alternatively you can print directions or find the mobile friendly version of this walk on our website www.richmond.gov.uk/milesbetter.



A TEDDINGTON LIBRARY

The building is Grade II listed. It was built in 1906 from a design by architect H.A. Cheer and funded by the industrialist and philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919). He funded a number of libraries which became known as Carnegie Libraries, as inscribed on this building.

Inside there is a bronze wall plaque to the writer R.D. Blackmore (1825-1900) who wrote *Lorna Doone* and lived in Teddington. There is also a bronze bust of Noel Coward who was born in Teddington and lived in Waldegrave Road.



Start at Teddington Library, Waldegrave Road, TW11 8NY. Leaving the library, turn left onto Waldegrave Road. Take the next left onto the High Street, passing Elmfield House on your left, which is Grade II listed and one of the oldest surviving buildings in Teddington. Proceed along the High Street with its mixture of shops towards Teddington Lock.

As you approach the traffic lights at the end of the High Street you will see St Mary's church on your left.

The former St Albans church (now the Landmark Arts Centre) is on your right.

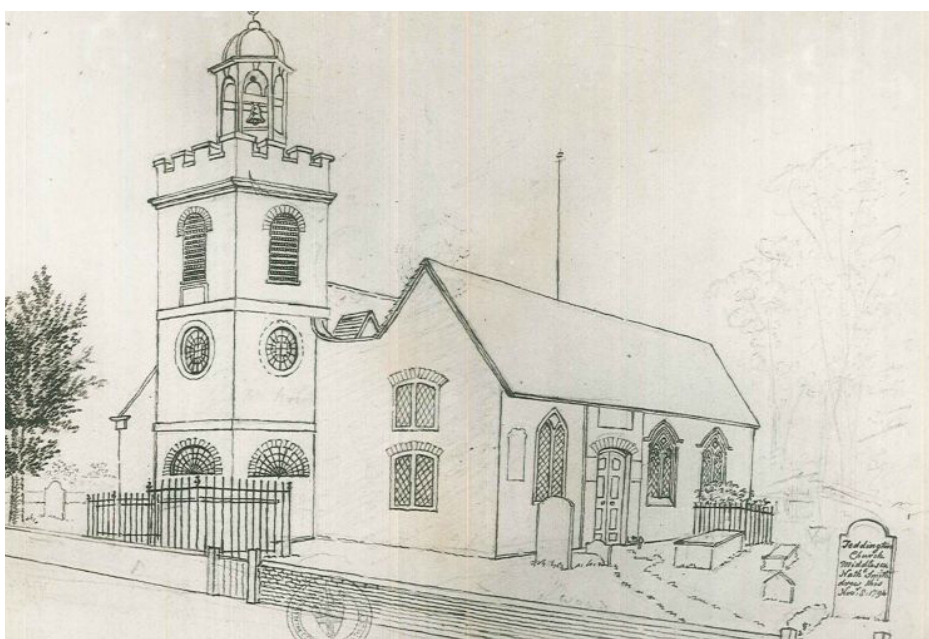
B ST MARY'S CHURCH

It is believed there has been a place of worship on this site since the early 13th century, although parish records only go back to 1558. Of the present building the south aisle was built in the sixteenth century.

Additions were built in subsequent years with the construction of the north aisle in 1753 at a cost of £383. In 1754 the wooden tower, only built in 1748 was replaced with the current tower. Further works of restoration and enlargement were undertaken in 1833 at a cost of £1,153 including the construction of the chancel. This involved the destruction of the late 14th century east end of the church.

St Mary's all but closed in 1889 and fell into disrepair. An appeal for funds to repair the church was made and the church was rededicated in 1938. The church contains a number of memorials and graves, the oldest of which is a memorial to John Goodyere and his wife in 1506. Others include:

Sir Orlando Bridgeman (1608-1674) Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to Charles II.



- Thomas Traherne (1637-74) poet, mystic and clergyman.
- Stephen Hales (1677-1761) who was "Perpetual Curate" at the church from 1709 to 1761. He was also a renowned scientist, biologist and philanthropist.
- Margaret "Peg" Woffington (1720-1760), a famous actress and friend of David Garrick, the actor and theatre owner who lived in nearby Hampton in the house by the river known as Garrick Villa.



C ST ALBAN'S CHURCH

The church of St Mary over the road from St Alban's was the parish church until the late nineteenth century but the coming of the railways to the village of Teddington in 1863 saw a significant growth in the population and of worshippers at the church. As a result, the vicar of St Mary's, the Reverend Francis Leith Boyd campaigned for a new larger church to be built.

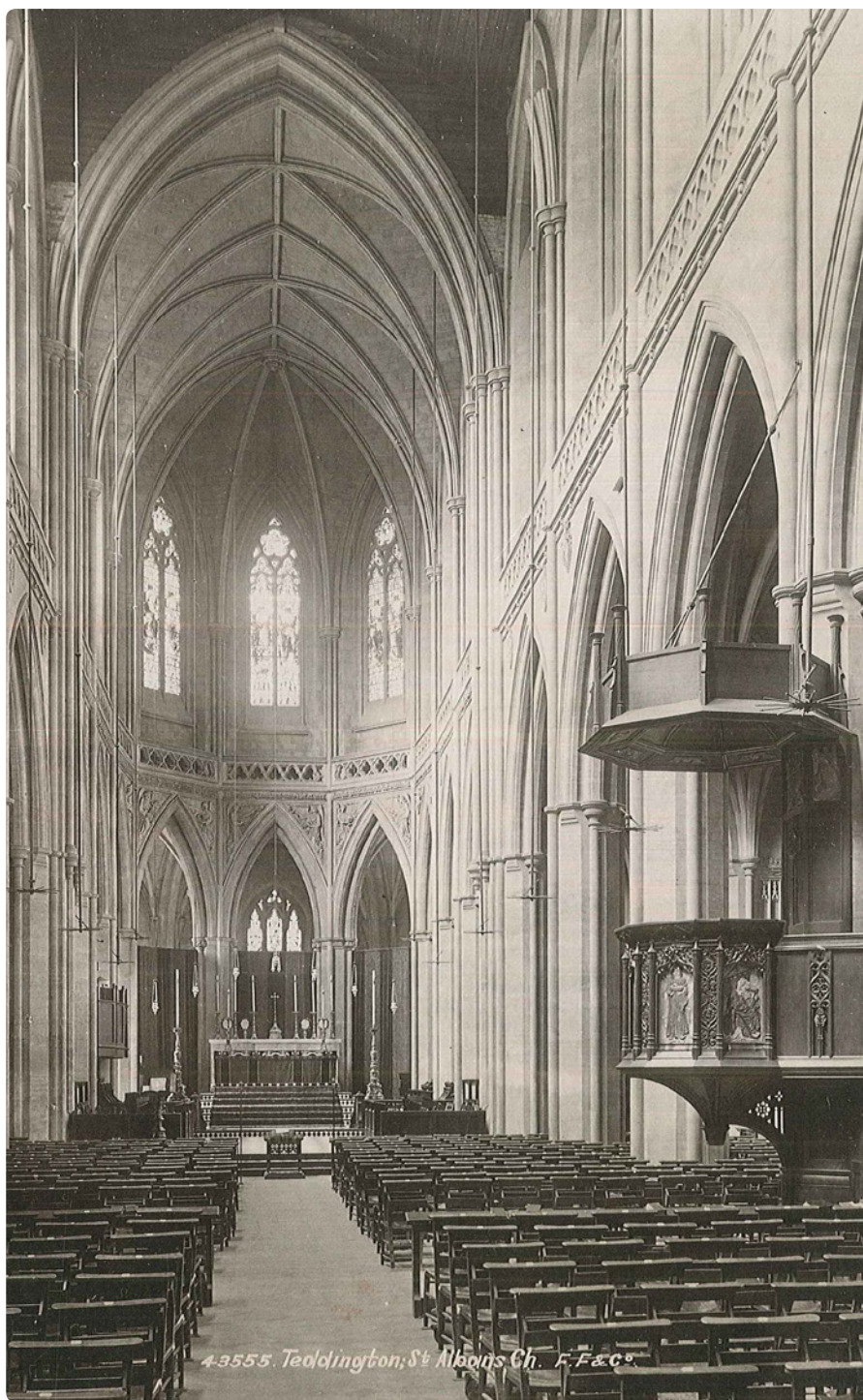
Land forming part of the grounds of Teddington Place (later known as Udney Hall) was acquired for this purpose. The new church was built between 1887-9. It was named St Alban, after the first English Christian martyr.

W. Niven, a local architect, designed the new, grander church. He was mainly a domestic architect and it is thought this was the only church he designed.

The site was consecrated in 1896. The foundation stone was laid in 1887 and the work completed in 1889. The first vicar of St Alban's was the vicar of St Mary's, Francis Leith Boyd.

By the mid-1970s the congregation had declined and the church was declared redundant in 1977. In 1979 the old parish church of St Mary opposite St Alban's was renamed St Mary with St Alban.

In the 1980s a scheme was proposed to demolish the building. There was considerable opposition to this and the plan was dropped although part of the site was later developed for residential use. There followed several years of neglect. Finally funding (with a large grant from English Heritage) was found to renovate the building and it reopened as an arts centre for community use run by Landmark Arts Centre, an independent charity.



Turn right at the lights onto Kingston Road. Continue for approximately 1 mile until you come to Normansfield Avenue on your left. Go down Normansfield Avenue. The former Normansfield Hospital is on your left. At the end of the road turn right onto Lower Teddington Road. This leads onto the High Street at Hampton Wick by The Swan pub.



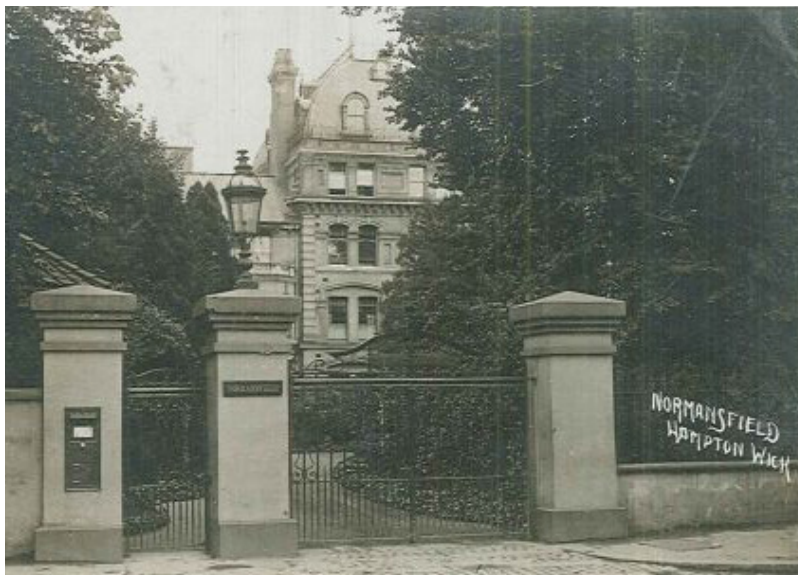
D NORMANSFIELD HOSPITAL

John Haydon Langdon-Down was born in 1828 at Torpoint in Cornwall. He had strong religious beliefs, and came from a Congregationalist background. He became a doctor in 1858.

He first worked at The Earlswood Asylum, Redhill, Surrey, where he introduced a new, more humane regime, banning punishments for inmates, improving the quality of staff and introducing behavioural management training for children. In 1866 he identified a specific group of patients, who had what is now known as Down's syndrome.

He opened Normansfield Hospital with his wife Mary, in 1868, to provide residential training and care for people with learning disabilities. It started with 19 residents, and by his death in 1896 it had over 160. It was cutting edge for its time, with workshops teaching crafts, sports facilities and a theatre. There was a huge playroom for the younger children. Staff were required to be able to sing, act or play musical instruments, and foreign visitors came to inspect the new techniques he introduced.

In 1951, after 100 years of the family running the hospital in the role of Physician Superintendents, the hospital was passed to the control of the Ministry of Health. It was closed in 1997, as a result of the Care in the Community policy, and the site was sold as residential development. However the theatre, which is Grade II listed, has been preserved, and is now part of the Langdon Down Centre, which is the headquarters of the Down's Syndrome Association and the Langdon Down Museum of Learning Disability.



At The Swan turn right and then first left by The Foresters Arms onto Park Road. Follow Park Road, which bears to the right, and continue until you reach the pedestrian crossing by the gated entrance to Bushy Park. On the right of this entrance you will see a memorial to Timothy Bennett who campaigned for the reopening of a right of way across the park.



E TIMOTHY BENNETT

There is a memorial plaque by the park entrance in Sandy Lane to Timothy Bennett erected in 1900. He was a shoe maker and cordwainer (a maker of new shoes from new leather) based in Hampton Wick.

The building of a wall around the parklands in 1734-7 by the 2nd Earl of Halifax (of the second creation) and Ranger for the park meant the rights of way across Bushy Park had effectively been closed. People

had to follow the sandy lane that went round the wall instead. Some twenty years later in 1754 Timothy Bennett began to campaign for the reopening of rights of way across the park between Hampton Wick and Hampton Town's End even threatening legal action. This did not prove necessary. He was successful and the right of way now named Cobbler's Way was reopened.





Enter the park and take the path directly ahead, which is known as Cobbler's Walk. Continue on this path. The Leg of Mutton pond will be on your left. Pass over the small bridge and after 250 metres you will see a bench with a path to the left. Take this path towards Heron Pond/Boating Pool. When you reach the pond take the bridge to your left and follow the path, keeping the pond on your right as you head towards the car park.

When you reach the end of the path, close to the car park, take the path to the left, leading towards the children's playground. When you reach the playground take the path to the right and walk all the way along until you are almost at the road. This road is known as Chestnut Avenue. You will be able to see the Diana Fountain in the centre of the roundabout.

F CHESTNUT AVENUE AND THE DIANA FOUNTAIN

Designs for a grand approach to Hampton Court Palace from the Teddington Gate were drawn up by Christopher Wren (1632-1723). In 1699 a scheme for this was presented to William III. It was to be nearly one mile long with the planting of 1,000 mature trees at a cost of £3,300. A large round basin or pond was constructed at the point where the driveway crossed the Longford river.

In the last years of Queen Anne's reign (1702-1714) work was carried out for the erection of the statue of "Diana" on the pond. The statue had been acquired by Charles I and was originally installed in the grounds of Somerset House in London. In 1656 on the orders of Cromwell it was moved to Hampton Court Palace and stood in the Privy Garden.

It cost over £1,300 to move and install the statue in its current



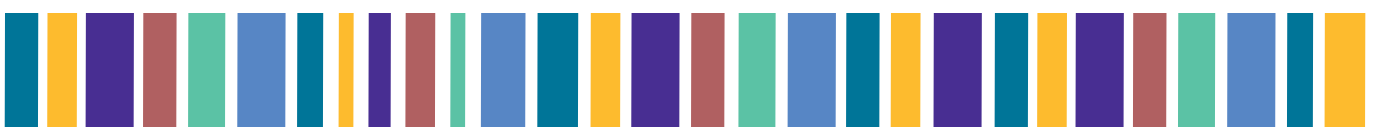
position. It was originally known and described as Arethusa and then Diana (the goddess of the hunt). Although more recent opinions are that it is a figure of Venus. George

I later had embellishments added to the fountain base including two large seahorses and two tritons cast in metal.



From the path leading to the roundabout and road, turn right and walk on the grassy path parallel to the roundabout (anticlockwise) and along Chestnut Avenue. Continue forward alongside Chestnut Avenue for about half a mile until you see a sign pointing left towards Upper Lodge Road and the Pheasantry Café. Following the sign, cross Chestnut Avenue to the road opposite.

Follow this road until it branches in two. The left hand branch of the road leads to the Café. Take the right hand fork, through the white set of gates towards the car park on Upper Lodge Road. Along this road set back on your right you will see Bushy House.



G BUSHY HOUSE

With the post of Ranger for the park came the use of a house. Early Rangers had been Richard Graham and John Bradshaw who lived in the park. In the early 1660s a new large house (known as Bushy Lodge) was built on the present site by order of Charles II at a cost of £4,000 as a reward to Edward Proger for his loyalty to the King during his exile. On his death the building remained unoccupied for 20 years.

In 1708 Charles Montague (1st Earl of Halifax) was made Ranger by Queen Anne. He repaired and largely rebuilt the house. He was succeeded by his nephew and then his son. It became known as Bushy House during this time. In 1771 the post of Ranger reverted back to the monarch.

George III wanted to appoint his Prime Minister, Lord North as Ranger but could not, as North was an officer of the Crown. Instead he conferred the title on to Lord North's wife. She died in 1797. George III then passed the role onto his son, the Duke of



Clarence, the future King William IV. He lived there with his mistress Dorothea Jordan, an actress, and their many children. In 1811 she left as it was considered inappropriate for the relationship to continue. She later died in poverty in Paris. The children remained at the Lodge.

In 1818 the Duke married Queen Adelaide. She was made Ranger in her own right on the Duke's

accession to the throne. Free admission to the park by the public was also granted. She remained Ranger until her death in 1848. Bushy House remained empty until 1865 when it was occupied by various Royal exiles. In 1900 the Government, with the approval of Queen Victoria, gave the site to the Royal Society for the founding of the National Physical Laboratory.



After passing Bushy House take the second pathway on the right. You will pass between Teddington Cricket Club on your right (whose members drew up the first written rules of hockey) and Teddington Town Sports Club on your left. Follow the path to the Coleshill Road Gate leading out of the park.

This will take you through the site of the National Physical Laboratory. Follow the road straight ahead, known as Coleshill Passage, keeping the white building on your left. Continue along the road as it bends sharply to the right and reaches a white barrier ahead.

Turn left at the white barrier. At the end of Coleshill Road turn right onto Hampton Road. On your right you will pass Teddington Hospital.

At the traffic lights turn right onto Queens Road (crossing to the other side of the road at the lights). Take the second road on the left, Park Lane.

At the junction at the end of Park Lane, the Park Restaurant and Bar will be directly in front of you. Turn left at the junction and proceed up the hill to the railway bridge.

Turn right at the top of the bridge and then first left by the mini roundabout onto Waldegrave Road. You will find you are back at the start with the Library on your right.

