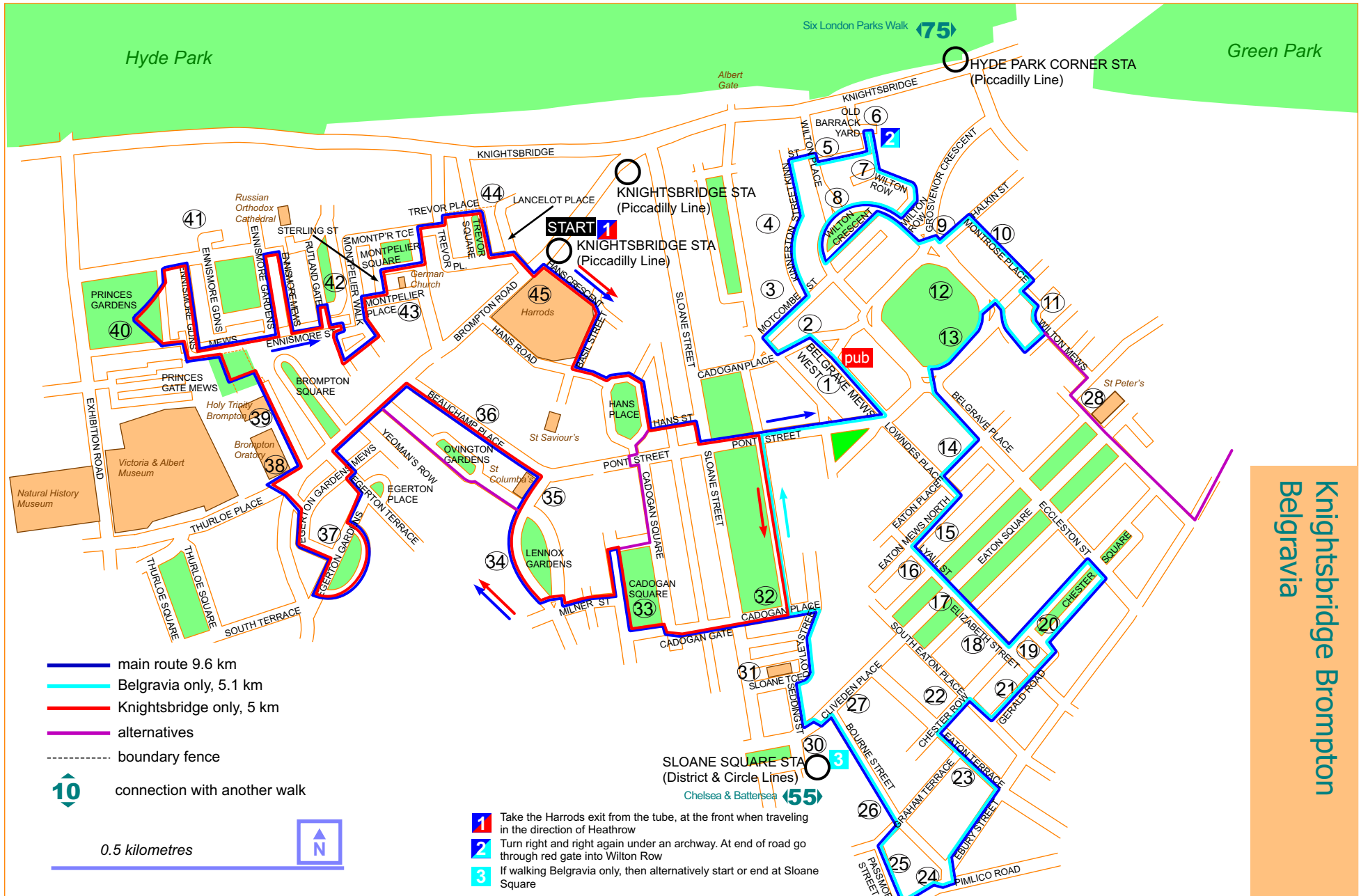


Hyde Park

Six London Parks Walk **75**

Green Park



Knightsbridge Brompton
Belgravia

This walk meanders through two large estates, the Grosvenor estate (Belgravia) and the Cadogan Estate (Knightsbridge).

Knightsbridge

In the time of Edward I, the manor of Knightsbridge belonged to the abbey of Westminster. It was named after a crossing of the River Westbourne which stood below where Albert Gate is now, and probably portions of it are still embedded in the high road a few yards south. It wasn't until the late 18th century under the Cadogan dynasty that Knightsbridge's development began to take off and the area began to turn into what we know today.

There have been two significant bursts of development in the history of the Cadogan Estate. The first of these began in 1777. Land for building in the surrounding areas was becoming scarce so development moved to Knightsbridge. Charles Sloane, Earl Cadogan, granted a lease to the architect Henry Holland for the development of 'Hans Town', the area of fields between Knightsbridge and the King's Road. He was granted in 1790 a Knightsbridge Paving Act to improve the quality of the streets 'to prevent ladies 'from being lamed and crippled by the excessive pickledness and asperity of the stones and pebbles between Hyde Park Corner and Sloane Street'. Prior to this the main focus of settlement was by the river and Chelsea Old Church. Holland created Sloane Street, Hans Place and later Sloane Square as well as designing the street layout, building houses and selling speculative building

rights on the development. For himself, Holland took 3 acres to build 'The Pavilion' a grand Palladian-style house on the west side of Sloane Street with 16 acres of meadow and grounds landscaped by his father-in-law Capability Brown.

The second great burst of development happened during the era of the 5th Earl Cadogan between 1877 and 1900. This is when much of the modern Estate was formed. By this time Chelsea had been incorporated into the growing metropolis of London. Sloane Square Station opened in 1868 and many long leases were expiring on sites ripe for redevelopment, including The Pavilion. In 1874 the Cadogan and Hans Place Improvements Act was passed, which enabled the newly-formed Cadogan and Hans Place Estate Ltd, to carry out the development, extending Pont Street through the unbuilt area west of Sloane Street to Walton Street and to build other new streets. It pioneered building in the new 'Queen Anne' style of 'honest' red brick and stucco with an accent on the vertical that has since become so synonymous with the area it is termed 'Pont Street Dutch'. Over 4,000 workmen's homes were displaced by Cadogan's demolitions of cottage property, while the new model artisans' dwellings, separated from the better class by a mews, would only house 400. Notable buildings include Walter Emden's Royal Court Theatre and the Willett Building on Sloane Square. On Sloane Street, Holy Trinity Church was designed by J.D. Sedding and built with

financial assistance from the 5th Earl, and more recently the Danish Embassy was created by Arne Jacobsen.

Hans Sloane

Hans Sloane was born in Killyleagh in 1660. He became a successful physician in London with the Royal Family and others, but still found time to treat the poor for nothing. He accumulated a large fortune and was able to pursue his lifelong interest in natural history, amassing a vast, important collection that was the foundation of the British Museum. During the 15 months that he was in Jamaica, Sloane made extensive notes on the local fauna and flora, the customs of the local inhabitants and natural phenomena such as earthquakes. He compiled a substantial collection of Jamaican plants, in addition to molluscs, insects, fish and many other specimens. While there he was introduced to cocoa as a drink favoured by the local people. He found it 'nauseous' but by mixing it with milk made it more palatable. He brought this chocolate recipe back to England where it was manufactured and at first sold as a medicine. Eventually it was taken up by Messrs Cadbury who manufactured chocolate using Sloane's recipe. Sloane became President of the Royal Society, succeeding Sir Isaac Newton, and President of the Royal College of Physicians. He eventually bought a large manor house in Chelsea with surrounding farmland to house the collection containing 117,000 items of which about 50,000 were books and manuscripts. The Chelsea Physic

Garden was founded and bequeathed by Sir Hans Sloane to the Apothecaries' Company for the cultivation of medicinal plants for the benefit of medical students. His property and fortune passed to his two daughters but on the death of Sarah all passed to Elizabeth, married to General Charles Cadogan. The lands remain with the Cadogan family.

Grosvenor Estate

A large area of land to the west of the City of London, comprising swamp, pasture and orchards, came into the Grosvenor family in 1677, following the marriage of Mary Davies and Sir Thomas Grosvenor. Today, part of this land, renowned as Mayfair and Belgravia, remain and form part of Grosvenor's London estate.

The first part to be developed was Mayfair. Belgravia, which lies south-west of Mayfair, was originally part of the 'Five Fields' - open land between Hyde Park and the River Thames. The end of the Napoleonic Wars and the conversion of nearby Buckingham House into a palace for George IV prompted the Grosvenors to develop it. In the 1820s, the family's surveyor, together with master builder Thomas Cubitt, oversaw the creation of an estate in the classic Regency style of squares, including Belgrave Square, streets and crescents overlooking private gardens. Most of the London estates which now belong to the Grosvenor family once formed part of the manor called Eia in the Domesday survey but later known as Eye, from which Eybury or

Ebury derives.

Smiths Charity Estate

To the west of the Cadogan estate was the Smiths Charity estate. Henry Smith, a City merchant and alderman of a highly charitable disposition, was born at Wandsworth in 1548, acquired a considerable amount of property during his lifetime, and from 1620 onwards set up a succession of trusts to dispose of the rents and profits of his lands for charitable uses, making gifts to several towns in Surrey for the relief of the poor. He died in 1628 and by his will decreed that £1,000 should be used to purchase land producing at least £60 per annum, which was to be applied for the relief and ransom of 'the poore Captives being slaves under the Turkish pirates', and that a further £1,000 was to be spent in purchasing more land of equivalent value, the income from which was to be used for the relief of the poorest of his kindred who were unable to work for their living.

Today, The Henry Smith Charity is amongst the largest independent grant makers in the UK, distributing £39.7 million in 2021. However, I understand that these properties may have been sold to Wellcome in 1995?

BELGRAVIA

The inspiration for this part of the walk comes from information published by the Grosvenor Estate. See walk sources.

1. At the north end of Belgrave Mews West is the Star Tavern, several times winner of the Pubs in Bloom competition and also former

rendezvous of the great train robbers.

2. At the end of the mews is West Halkin Street, a late edition and named after Halkyn Castle, originally a Grosvenor family property in Flintshire. The Belfry was built in 1830 as a Presbyterian church but is now Mosimann's private club and restaurant.

3. Around the corner, Motcomb Street has a range of antique shops, designer fashion boutiques, galleries, beauty and hair salons. Notice the ironwork balconies above the shops. Like Elizabeth Street in south Belgravia, this is 'the high street' for north Belgravia.

Part way along Motcomb Street is the Pantehnicon, built in 1830 as a storage warehouse and rebuilt, complete with doric columns in 1870, after a fire. The Pantehnicon now serves as the imposing entrance to the Halkin Arcade. Through the arch at the end of Halkin Arcade is the sculpture 'Fountainhead' by Geoffrey Wickham (1971). The Pantehnicon public house is on the corner.

4. Kinnerton Street is a small winding street and was originally the service road for Wilton Place and Wilton Crescent. In 1854 the street was occupied by a cow-keeper, a saddler, two tailors, a plumber, a wheelwright, a grocer and two sellers of asses' milk (thought to be beneficial to health and used in nearby hospitals). Today, it is home to a number of shops and small businesses as well as private residents.

5. Wilton Place was built in 1825 to connect Belgravia with Knightsbridge. Opposite is St Paul's church, Knightsbridge, built in 1843, architect Thomas Cundy the younger. The elaborate and highly decorated building was the first church in London to manifest the principles and ideals of the Oxford Movement. The chancel with its rood screen and striking reredos was added in 1892 by the noted church architect George Frederick Bodley.

6. On gaining access to Old Barrack Yard turn right and right again under an arch to a narrow street of terraced cottages. This was originally the entrance to a cow pasture until a barracks for a regiment of Foot Guards was built in 1758. In 1826 the area was leased by Thomas Phillips, a corn merchant and publican who, in 1830, built a maze of narrow streets, cottages and stables. At the end is a red gate in a latticed fence next to the Grenadier pub (complete with sentry box outside and which used to be frequented by officers from the local barracks) giving access to Wilton Row.

7. Wilton Row has painted cottages and window boxes. The courtyard mews on the left is one of Belgravia's delightful 'hidden' places.

8. Wilton Crescent is named after the 1st Earl of Wilton, father-in-law to the 1st Marquess Of Westminster. Notice the curving Cubitt terraces which were refaced with stone early this century.

9. Grosvenor Crescent was built in the 1860s – as an afterthought – to be a formal entrance to Belgravia. To the left, at the junction of

Grosvenor Crescent and Wilton Crescent, you will see a statue of the 1st Marquess Of Westminster. This statue was commissioned by the present Duke of Westminster to commemorate his ancestor, the man originally responsible for planning and developing the Five Fields into the Belgravia we know today. The statue was sculpted by Jonathan Wylder, a local sculptor with a gallery in Motcomb Street.

10. At No 10 Montrose Place is the Slate Wall by internationally renowned artist Andy Goldsworthy.

11. We take a little detour into a mews area, complete with quiet pub, virtually unspoilt by development. This Horse and Groom is not to be confused with a previous pub of that name on Kinnerton Street.

12. Belgrave Square was planned as the centrepiece of the Belgravia Estate. This area was the scene of very early attempts at ballooning. Later, the grand houses in Belgrave Square were built of bricks made from clay dug from the site. The streets were raised up with spoil excavated from St. Katherine's Dock next to the Tower of London. From the beginning, the magnificent terraces, speculatively built, were a magnet for the aristocracy. Queen Victoria gave Belgrave Square the royal seal of approval when she rented a house (No 36) for her mother, the Duchess Of Kent, for £2,000 a year. By 1860, 3 dukes, 13 other peers and 13 Members of Parliament had lived in the Square. Today, the houses are occupied mainly by embassies, institutions and offices, with only 10

remaining as private homes.

13. At the south east corner of the square you can see a bronze of Simon Bolivar, the Liberator of South America, erected in 1974 to commemorate Bolivar's links with England. Close by in the garden is a statue 'Homage To Leonardo' The Vitruvian Man, conceived by Enzo Plazotta and completed by his assistant in 1982. There is also a statue to General José de San Martín, the Liberator of Argentina, Chile and Peru, opposite No 49, the residence of the Argentine Ambassador. At the south-west corner of the square's gardens is a statue of Christopher Columbus. The statue was a gift from Spain 'dedicated to the people of the Americas on the 500th anniversary of the encounter of the two worlds'.

14. No 93 Eaton Place was Thomas Cubitt's office. In 1848 Chopin gave his first concert at No 99 Eaton Place. Lord Kelvin, scientist, lived at No 15 and Lord Avebury, scientist, politician and author was born at No 29.

15. Eaton Mews North was originally the home of the horses and servants for the houses in Eaton Square. Now the quiet seclusion of the cottages gives the mews a village feel in sharp contrast to the grandeur of Eaton Square. Notice the archway decorated with Grosvenor's traditional symbol of a wheat sheaf, and the cobbled road with guttering – a reminder of when horses were stabled there.

16. Thomas Cubitt lived at No 3 Lyall Street. Born in Norfolk in 1788, he was a ship's carpenter before setting up as a speculative

builder in 1811.

17. Eaton Square is considered one of the jewels in Belgravia's crown. Designed by Thomas Cubitt in the Palazzo style, construction began in 1826 and wasn't completed until 1855. The grand façades with their Corinthian style column capitals overlook private gardens, part of the 6 hectares (16 acres) of gardens within Grosvenor's Belgravia and Mayfair Estates. Eaton Square was originally the beginning of the royal route (the King's Road) from St James's Palace to Hampton Court.

Past occupiers of the Square include Neville Chamberlain, Lord John Russell and Stanley Baldwin – all ex Prime Ministers – together with Vivien Leigh and Lord Boothby.

18. Elizabeth Street has chic, independent shops and boutiques, south Belgravia's High Street.

19. St Michael's church at the south western end of Chester Square was designed by Thomas Cundy II and built at the same time as the square. Inside, the screen behind the altar is of Italian alabaster; the painting of St Martin is said to be from the studio of Van Dyck. Walk into Elizabeth Street again and turn right, passing Eaton Mews West and Boscobel Place on your left and right.

20. Chester Square is an enclave of magnolia stucco six storey houses with pillared porches around a private garden was recently voted London's second best house address, outshone only by neighbouring Eaton Square.

Named after the town of Chester, near the original home of the Grosvenor family. Chester Square was one of the three original squares conceived by Thomas Cundy when he originally planned the Belgravia Estate in response to the grand vision of the 1st Marquess of Westminster in the 1820s. (The others were Eaton and Belgrave). Look up to see the forests of chimney pots, characteristic of a time when the only form of heating was coal. Coal was delivered to cellars through round holes set into the pavement; many of the cellar covers are still visible.

Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands lived at No 77 Chester Square from 1940 to 1945. Matthew Arnold, poet and critic lived at No 2 Chester Square. In 1851 he was appointed Inspector of Schools and is credited with greatly improving the education system. His father, Thomas Arnold, was Headmaster of Rugby School and became as famous for his portrayal in 'Tom Brown's School Days' as for his efforts to reform public school education in England. The author of 'Frankenstein', Mary Shelley, lived at No 24 Chester Square after the death of her husband, Percy Bysshe Shelley until her own death in 1851. Guy Burgess, a Foreign Office official and secret member of the Communist Party, lived for a time in Chester Square. Burgess and Donald Maclean, another spy, defected to the USSR in 1951.

21. Gerald Road No 17, the home of actor and singer Noel Coward from 1930 to 1956.

Here, as in the neighbouring streets, note the well maintained houses, the careful preservation of details of 18th century streetscape in iron railings and lamp brackets. Grosvenor takes an active role in managing its Estate and residents are also expected to play their part in conserving this historical area of London.

22. Turn right into South Eaton Place and left into Chester Row with its tall stucco houses, passing the DUKE OF WELLINGTON PUB on the corner. Notice on the right cobbled Minera Mews, built originally to house the servants, carriages and horses of the rich in South Eaton Place but now converted into sought after homes.

23. Eaton Terrace is a street of elegant five and six storey terraced houses.

24. The small triangular paved area is ORANGE SQUARE. Under its mature London plane trees is a statue of WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART, who lived at No 180 Ebury Street from April 1764 to July 1765 while on a grand tour of Europe with his father. There, the eight year old prodigy composed his first two symphonies. Restaurants and shops surround Orange Square, including the ORANGE PUBLIC HOUSE which started as the Orange Coffee House and Tavern in 1776, serving beers brewed on the premises.

25. Passmore Street reveals one of the area's intriguing contrasts, with many expensive modern private homes on the right, cheek by jowl with social housing on the left which is still

owned and managed by Grosvenor. Here, small artisans' cottages give way to Lumley Flats built in 1875 at the instigation of the 1st Duke of Westminster. Lumley Flats was one of a large number of 'model dwellings' built by philanthropists to house the poor in the 19th century. The archways, open stairwells, brickwork and contrasting tiling round the entrance are all characteristic of such dwellings.

26. Bourne Street is lined with what were once artisans' dwellings. Note the church of St Mary, built in 1874 with the addition of an unusual asymmetrical nonagon porch in 1928.

27. Cliveden Place with its Regency terraces of houses, many with original fanlights above the front doors.

OPTION

28. St Peter's Church was the first building in Eaton Square, designed by HENRY HAKEWELL in 1824. St Peter's was badly damaged by fire in 1987, but is now fully restored. From the front steps of the church, you can enjoy one of the best views of the terraces of Eaton Square.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

30. Sloane Square - The Willett Building

This imposing landmark structure forms almost the entire south side of Sloane Square. The Portland Stone building was designed as an Anglicised version of the Beaux Arts classical Style by Edwardian architect E.W. Mountford in 1904. The building is named after William Willett and his family firm of builders who constructed

the building. They created a name for themselves in the luxury house market with designs influenced by Norman Shaw. Willett is also famed for creating 'daylight saving' and British Summer Time was introduced in 1916.

30. - Sloane Square - Royal Court Theatre

The present building on the east side of Sloane Square replaced an earlier building, and opened in 1888 as the New Court Theatre. Designed by Walter Emden and Bertie Crewe, it is constructed of red brick, moulded brick, and a stone facade in free Italianate style. Originally the theatre had a capacity of 841 in the stalls, dress circle, amphitheatre, and a gallery.

31. Cadogan Hall first opened in 1907 as a New Christian Science Church designed by Robert Fellowes Chisholm; the hall hosted congregations of 1400 in its heyday. However, like most other churches there was a decline in attendances and in 1996 the congregation moved elsewhere. Cadogan Estate purchased the hall in 2000 to safeguard its future and the hall reopened as a concert hall in June 2004. The acoustic of the building was a big issue. The ceiling and the roof had to be re-detailed to provide acoustic insulation. Tuned resonator tubes were installed on the main ceiling and the walls under the gallery and the undersides of the tip-up seats in the stalls also have a pattern of absorption holes to retain the hall's acoustic character.

The organ installed in 1911 was relocated to the Midlands. When the organ screen was re-

assembled and nearly a century of dirt was removed it was found that each of the column capitals and each of the carvings around the arching balustrade are unique – a surprise discovery that added to the richness of the building.

The stained glass was designed by Danish nobleman Baron Arild Rosenkrantz, who had learnt the art of stained glass whilst working with Tiffany in New York. The designs bear no allegorical images and only one window has text. The Celtic knot motifs are simple and the use of colour restrained.

32. Cadogan Place Gardens North Garden was designed by Humphry Repton but the remains of his design was lost when an underground car park was built in the 1970s. The South Garden used to be called the London Botanic Garden. It has some very old mulberry trees. The centre of the South Garden is now a Hans Sloane Garden.

33. The development of **Cadogan Square** has been described as 'a rarity, as seldom has such a diversity of architects contributed to a single speculative housing scheme in London including R. Norman Shaw, J J Stevenson, George Devey, A J Adams, G T Robinson, Ernest George and H A Peto.

The east side was designed by a single architect, G T Robinson, and has a homogenous character while the west side shows great variety of façade individuality having been developed incrementally by a variety of different architects. The south side

was designed by J J Stevenson. In the south-west corner are three houses by Norman Shaw. To the north is a terrace with an impressive portico.

The garden has a circular planted feature with a figurative statue in its centre by David Wynne, 'Dancer with Bird', 1975 and a collection of David Austen roses. John Betjeman referred to the square in a poem praying for protection from WWII bombing: 'Lord, put beneath Thy special care, One-eighty-nine Cadogan Square'. Nos 4, 52, 68 and 72 are II* listed.

34. Lennox Gardens was laid out on land belonging to the Smith's Charity and was formerly the site of the Prince's Cricket Club established in 1870. The cricket ground was laid out on former nursery gardens. The cricket club had a skating rink and racket courts as well as the cricket field and in 1870 had 700 members of the 'nobility and gentry', with exclusive membership and high charges. The Cadogan and Hans Place Improvement led to the redevelopment of the area. Lennox Gardens approximates the shape of the former cricket ground. The surrounding houses are a mixture of gothic and baroque detail, but are not as ornate or individual as the houses in Cadogan Square. The central gardens were owned by the Trustees of the Smith's Charity Estate and managed by a garden committee with lessees paying a proportion of the cost of maintenance and railings repair.

35. St Columba's The presence of Scottish Presbyterianism in London dates back to the

Union of the Crowns in 1603. A congregation was established near what is now Trafalgar Square, with a permanent church later being built near Covent Garden. This church is still in use, although rebuilt. The growth in the Scottish community in London resulted in the building of this additional church in 1884. It was destroyed by wartime bombing during the night of 10 May 1941 and rebuilt on the same site in 1955 to a striking contemporary design by the architect Sir Edward Maufe, who also designed Guildford Cathedral. The church is named after the Ulster Saint Columba.

36. Beauchamp Place

We finally leave the red brick at Beauchamp Place, a fashionable shopping street. It was known as Grove Place until 1885. It was once better known for its brothels and lodging houses, but since the Edwardian era, antique shops and high end fashion boutiques have dominated the street.

37. The land of **Egerton Gardens** and **Egerton Crescent** was also part of the Smith's Charity Estate since c.1630. Following the Napoleonic Wars the rapid development of areas of London began in earnest, and the Trustees of Henry Smith's Charity began development in 1823, appointing George Basevi as architect in 1828. Egerton Gardens has a narrow strip of garden between two five storey red brick terraces that rather overwhelm it. The crescent by contrast is of stucco and a far grander affair. Notice Mortimer House opposite in its own large garden as you turn right at the end of the

tcrescent. Built 1888, an amalgam of Tudor and Jacobean in red brickwork diapered with blue, with stone mullioned-and-transomed windows, a multiplicity of gables of various shapes, some of them stepped, crested with statuary of griffins or bears supporting shields, and clusters of tall, decorated brick chimneystacks.

38. Brompton Oratory

This Roman Catholic church of the Congregation of the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri was built between 1880 and 1884. Popularly known as Brompton Oratory it is the second-largest Catholic church in London, with a nave exceeding in width even that of St Paul's Anglican Cathedral.

Father Frederick William Faber, founded the London Oratory. By March 1876 a design in the Italian renaissance style by Herbert Gribble, a twenty-nine year old recent convert from Devon, was chosen. The foundation stone was laid in June 1880 and the present neo-baroque building was privately consecrated in 1884. The façade at the South end was added in 1893 and the outer dome was completed in 1895-96 to a design of George Sherrin.

39. Holy Trinity Brompton

Prior to the construction of Holy Trinity Brompton, the area fell within the parish of Kensington, served by the nearby St Mary Abbots church. In the early 1820s the area was in the midst of a substantial population increase so a decision was taken to purchase land and construct a new church which was opened in 1829.

The church was a Commissioners' church, receiving a grant from the Church Building Commission towards its cost. The architect of the original grade II listed building was Thomas Leverton Donaldson.

Look across to the backs of Brompton Square (right) for an interesting mishmash of architectural styles. The square is a cul de sac so the walk does not pass through it.

40. Princes Square

A really large nursery was founded in 1681 at Brompton Park by four distinguished gardeners. Capable of stocking 10 million plants, the nursery passed to partner George London and apprentice Henry Wise, partners on gardens at Hampton Court, Chelsea Hospital, Longleat, Chatsworth, Castle Howard and Kensington Gardens.

The boost given to this whole area by the success of the Great Exhibition had set developers vying for possession, including the 1851 Exhibition Commissioners, with their scheme for a permanent centre of cultural and scientific institutions. C J Freake bought 2 acres of the old nursery in 1851 and the Commissioners had hoped that he would sell at a modest profit, but no. Out of this land he built an extension to Princes Gate, and Princes Gardens. Recently built around the east of the latter are sympathetically understated halls of residence for London University.

41. Ennismore Square

In 1813 the Kingston House estate fronting Hyde Park was bought by William Hare, Baron

Ennismore.

Development began in the 1840s with the construction of houses on Princes Gate and the east side of Ennismore Gardens, as well as a public house, the Ennismore Arms at the southern end of Ennismore Mews. The pub suffered bomb damage during World War II, was rebuilt and subsequently demolished. All Saints' Church behind Ennismore Mews was built in 1848–9 in Italianate style. The church is now the Russian Orthodox Patriarchal Church of The Assumption of All Saints. The tower overlooks Ennismore Mews. Note the recent building in the corner of the mews.

In the 1860s the 3rd Earl released more land; the rest of Ennismore Gardens, including the private garden square at its centre, was laid out in the 1870s. The five-storey houses have porticos with Corinthian columns, and a continuous railing creating a first floor balcony.

42. Rutland Gate

The walk sneaks a look at the tall buildings of lower Rutland Gate. Rutland Gate, fronting Hyde Park, was developed over a period of more than twenty years following the demolition in 1836 of Rutland House, a mansion built in 1752 for John Manners, 3rd Duke of Rutland, as a residence for himself. The first of several agreements was made with Elizabeth Manners, as de facto freeholder, for developing the estate, and much of the northern half of the ground was let as building plots. Building was sporadic but in 1851 an agreement was drafted between Elizabeth Manners and John Elger,

who had been developing the adjoining Kingston House estate since the mid-1840s, for completing the southern part. However, it was not until 1853 that work got under way. Several houses were started in the autumn, and soon afterwards Elger bought the freehold of all the remaining vacant ground from the Manners family. During the next six years the whole of southern Rutland Gate was built up by Elger, together with Rutland Mews East and West and a roadway linking Rutland Gate with his development on the Kingston House estate. It was presumably at this time that the high brick wall along the south side of Ennismore Street was built, shutting off Brompton Road and its northern hinterland from the exclusive Rutland Gate fronting Hyde Park. The wall was destroyed by a bomb in 1940 and at the request of local residents a right of way was established when the council rebuilt the wall in 1948, now known as the hole in the wall, through which the walk passes.

43. The Montpeliers

The square and adjacent streets known collectively as 'the Montpeliers' were laid out in the mid-1820s, but not fully developed until the 1850s and the corresponding range of stylistic treatments of the buildings is a particular feature of the area. Phases of social change, as fashionable newcomers took over run-down or unmodernized properties, are reflected in later alterations – late Victorian and Edwardian in Montpelier Square, 1920s and '30s in the small houses and cottages of the side streets.

The most notable building erected here since the nineteenth century is the German Christuskirche of 1904, a distinguished example of late Gothic Revival architecture.

44. Trevor Square Area

Trevor Square and Trevor Street were laid out on the site of Powis House, a late-seventeenth-century mansion belonging to the Trevor family of Brynkinalt in Denbighshire, but named after an eighteenth-century occupant, the 1st Earl of Powis.

The well-preserved architecture of Trevor Street and Trevor Square is characteristic of the late Georgian to Regency period. Subtly different in character are the early-Victorian houses of Trevor Place.

In 1911 the estate was sold to a syndicate that leased the south side to Harrods for the construction of a warehouse and depot.

The original buildings were pulled down and replaced by a building of palatial proportions faced with red brick and terracotta, designed for a range of activities including warehousing, packing, despatch, manufacturing, processing and repair work. The production of own-brand goods, including baking, chocolate-making and tea-blending, continued there until the 1970s, since when it has been used largely for storage and garaging.

45. Harrods In 1834 Charles Henry Harrod established a wholesale grocery in Cable Street Stepney, with a special interest in tea. In 1849, to capitalise on trade to the Great Exhibition of 1851 in nearby Hyde Park, he took over a small

shop in the district of Brompton, on the site of the current store. Beginning in a single room employing two assistants and a messenger boy, Harrod's son Charles Digby Harrod built the business into a thriving retail operation selling medicines, perfumes, stationery, fruits and vegetables. Harrods rapidly expanded, acquired the adjoining buildings, and employed one hundred people by 1880. Charles Harrod sold his interest in the store for £120,000 via a stock market flotation in 1889.

Plaques

Matthew Arnold poet, critic and educationalist, 12 Chester Square (1858-1868)

Walter Bagehot writer, banker and economist, 12 Upper Belgrave Street (1861-1870)

Stanley Baldwin (1st Earl of Bewdley) prime minister, 93 Eaton Square (1913-1924)

George Bentham botanist, 25 Wilton Place

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman prime minister, 6 Grosvenor place

Viscount Cecil of Chelwood creator of the league of nations, 16 South Eaton Place

Neville Chamberlain prime minister, Eaton Square

Dame Edith Evans actress, 109 Ebury Street

William Ewart reformer responsible for the foundation of free public libraries, 16 Eaton Place (1830-1838)

Ian Fleming novelist and creator of James Bond, 22 Ebury Street

Henry Gray anatomist, 8 Wilton Street

Lord Kelvin immunologist, 15 Eaton Place

Vivien Leigh actress, 154 Eaton Square

Sir John Lubbock MP and architect of the bank holidays act 29 Eaton Place

Prince Mettemich Austrian statesman and chancellor, 44 Eaton Square

George Moore novelist, 121 Ebury Street

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) composer, wrote his first symphony at 180 Ebury Street in 1764

Harold Nicholson and Vita Sackville-West writers and gardeners, 182 Ebury Street

Philip Noel-Baker olympic sportsman and peace campaigner 16 South Eaton Place

George Peabody American philanthropist and housing reformer, 80 Eaton Square

Lt General Augustus Pitt-Rivers anthropologist and archaeologist, 4 Grosvenor Gardens

Frederick Edwin Smith (Earl of Birkenhead) lawyer and statesman 32 Grosvenor Gardens

Alfred, Lord Tennyson poet, 9 Upper Belgrave Street

Edward Wood (1st Earl of Halifax) statesman, viceroy of india and foreign secretary 86 Eaton Square

Mrs Dorothy Jordan, actress, Pont Street

Lillie Langtry, actress, Pont Street

William Wilberforce, anti-slave trade campaigner and philanthropist, Cadogan Square

Count Raczinsky, Polish diplomat & politician, Lennox Gardens

Stephane Mallarme, French poetic & critic, Brompton Sq

Francis Place, social reformer, Brompton Square

EF Benson, writer, Brompton Square

George Godwin, Garchitect, Alexander Square

Dr Margery Blackie, homeopathic physician, Alexander Place

Ava Gardner, actress, Ennismore Gardens

Bruce Bairnsfather, humorist, Sterling Street

Arnold Bennett, writer, Cadogan Square

Jane Austin, writer, Hans Place