

The almshouses now comprise of sheltered housing for older residents, as per the wishes of Archbishops Whitgift 400 years ago.

Continue up George Street, using the lights to cross the junction. If you look through the gap between the buildings to your left after you pass Watrose, you will see Southern House was done by Malcolm McLaren in October 1964.

McLaren attended Croydon College (then Croydon College of Art) which stands to the other side of George Street, opposite Southern House. He described:

"spending hours looking out of Croydon's art school windows, observing and then struggling to come to terms with these giant triflids of buildings that rise up and spread themselves all along East Croydon's path"

Other famous alumni include Lucienne Day, David Bowie and Ray Davies.

Continue along George Street until you arrive back at East Croydon Station, to complete your tour of famous Croydon!

FAMOUS CROYDON WALK

Taking in archbishops and artists, punks parks and palaces, this walk takes you on a leisurely tour of some of Croydon's famous people and places.

The walk was put together for Croydon Heritage Festival 2015 by Wandle Park Heritage Project volunteers.

The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and supported by Croydon Council.



Length: 5.5km or 3.4 miles.

Time: 1.5 – 2 hours.

Terrain: Pavements and paths.

Difficulty: Easy.

Suitability: All ages.

Turn right onto Church Road, and then take the first right onto Old Palace Road. You will now pass the Old Palace of John Whitgift (7) on your right.

The Palace was the home of the Archbishops of Canterbury until they sold it due to damp in 1758.

Fast the Old Palace, turn left onto Howley Road, left onto Church Road, and then right onto Charles Street. Here you will pass statues of famous Croydon residents, Ronnie Corbett, Samuel Coleridge Taylor and Peggy Ashcroft (8).

Continue straight up Charles Street and cross Street (9). Surrey Street Market was in part the inspiration for Ralph McTell's famous song about the London dispossessed, the Streets of London.

Turn left along Surrey Street and continue through up Church Street, and you will arrive at Whitgift Almshouses (10) on the junction with the High Street and North End, where Church Street becomes George Street. These Tudor Almshouses were built by John Whitgift in 1596 and are the most historic building in the Central Croydon Conservation Area.

Once you are inside Wandle Park, take the path round to the right and continue on past the café, to exit through the carpark onto Westfield Road.

Continue along Westfield road and, taking care to cross Factory Lane, pass through the car park and underneath the flyover.

Use the steps at the end of the car park to walk up to the flyover.

Follow the pavement alongside the flyover down-hill in the direction of the traffic, using the lights to cross the side roads until you are in front of the Parish Church (6).

Six Archbishops of Canterbury are buried in Croydon Parish Church, and it has played host to royalty many times. Such visitors have included Henry VIII, who is reported to have described Croydon as: *"rheumatic... where I could never be without sickness."*

Take the path through the grounds, so that you pass the church immediately on your right hand side and then follow the path on as it turns 90 degrees to the left and joins Church Road.

Exit East Croydon Station onto George Street. Use the pedestrian crossing to cross George Street and, turning to your left, take the first right-hand turn past the AIG building onto Altyre Road.

Continue straight down Altyre Road until you reach the Croydon Law Courts (1). This is where Eric Cantona is rumoured to have dreamt up his well quoted statement about seagulls and trawlers following his infamous kung-fu kick on a Crystal Palace fan. The incident followed Cantona's sending off in the Crystal Palace vs Manchester United match on 25th January, 1995.

"When the seagulls follow the trawler, it's because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea."

Continue along Altyre Road, and use the pedestrian crossing to cross Barclay Road. Turn right down Barclay Road, taking care to cross Fairfield Path, and enter Park Hill Park.

Follow the path through the centre of Park Hill Park, passing the tennis courts on your left-hand side, until you reach a walled garden. Within the garden there is an interpretation board in memory of local artist Cicely Mary Barker (2), author of the Flower Fairies series of children's books.

Take the right hand turn before the roundabout onto Church Road, take the underpass to your left hand side to your right, take the underpass to your left hand side to walk under the Croydon flyover. Exit onto Duppas Hill lane and turn right past Croydon Fire Station onto Roman Way.

You are now walking down the original route of the River Wandle which you can see flowing past Croydon Parish Church in the painting by Ramsey Reinagle from 1839. We will stop off at the Parish Church later in the walk.

Turn left onto Waddon Road, and continue on as it becomes Sycamore Road. At the end of Sycamore road, take the cut through on your left hand side to pass through Ridges' Yard.

Carefully cross Waddon New Road, and take the steps and footbridge in front of you to access Wandle Park (5).

Wandle Park was redeveloped in 2010 to reflect its Victorian Heritage and the River Wandle was brought to the surface once more, having previously run through the park in an underground culvert.

Later in the walk, we will pass a church that holds a large painting by Cicely Mary Barker.

Follow the path straight on, ignoring the fork to the left hand side. You should now be passing Coombe Cliff House (3) on your right. The house was built by John Horniman, the founder of the famous tea merchandising firm of the same name. In 1892 the house had an impressive glass conservatory attached, but this fell into disrepair and was damaged by fire in 1977.

In 1985, the conservatory was transferred to the Horniman Museum in Forest Hill, where it now stands in the museum gardens.

Continue on the path downhill as it snakes past the house, until you reach the junction with Coombe Road. Turn right onto Coombe Road and continue for 10-15 minutes until you reach the junction where St Andrew's Church (4) stands.

St Andrew's Church is home to one of Cicely Mary Barker's artworks, Out of Great Tribulation. The church also features a font on which Cicely Mary Barker has painted frescos of local people attending church.



(5). Wandle Park around 1905



(11). Croydon Skyscraper by Malcolm McLaren
Image courtesy of the Museum of Croydon



New Station East Croydon by Rosa Petherick, 1896.
Image Courtesy of the Museum of Croydon



(10). Whitgift Almshouses by E.A. Phipson, 1923
Image courtesy of the Museum of Croydon



(6). Croydon Parish Church by Ramsey Reinagle, 1839. Image courtesy of the Museum of Croydon



(8). Ronnie Corbet, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Peggy Ashcroft statues on Charles Street



(4). Out of Great Tribulation by Cicely Mary Barker, 1948



(2). © The Estate of Cicely Mary Barker
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