

Next 10 for GEN* walk Saturday 22 July 2017

*Grassroots Empowerment Network working with End Poverty, an Indian ngo, in remote isolated villages in Rajasthan

A Summer London Walk – Victorian Bourgeois Holland Park & Royal Playgrounds

The Start: We shall meet at Holland Park Tube station (Central Line). This is one stop away from Notting Hill Gate on the District and Circle and one stop away from Shepherd's Bush which connects with the Overground.

Meet at 10.30 for an **11.00 start**.

Duration: Around 6 miles, perhaps 2.5 hours before lunch and 1 after.

Where? We shall start by walking past some formidable mansions built in the 19thC for people in 'trade' and a number of second rate artists. We will go round Holland Park and then back to mansion spotting as we make our way to Kensington Gardens entering by the side of Kensington Palace, the scene of Princess Diana worship. Then it's all off-road, as we meander round the Gardens and into Hyde Park taking in the various features. After lunch we will cross Hyde Park Corner into Green Park, ending up at Green Park Tube station (Victoria, Jubilee and Piccadilly lines). If you want to stop after lunch, it a very short walk to Hyde Park Corner Tube (Piccadilly line).



Formidable Mansion



Birds by Serpentine



Japanese Garden in Holland Park

Points of interest:

We will see many mansions described by Lady Holland as 'dreadful houses' designed by leading architects of the time. Particularly prominent is one built for the shopkeeper Sir Ernest Debenham. Another large one is Leighton House, the home of Lord Leighton, president of the Royal Academy. In Holland Park we will see the ruins of the house, gutted by the Luftwaffe in 1941, a Japanese garden and a surprising statue. Walking to Kensington Gardens we will be overshadowed by a massive Gilbert Scott church. We can take a diversion along Kensington Palace Gardens to see some of the grandest of mansions, including one where the owner wants to put in a massive basement.

Once in the Gardens and Hyde Park we will take in all the features from Peter Pan to Albert, Queen Victoria's consort. The Long Water and The Serpentine are excellent for bird watching. After lunch we will walk through the rose garden to Hyde Park Corner, past the triumphal Wellington Arch and into Green Park. We will pass at least five war memorials, including the Indian one. We can take a glimpse at Buckingham Palace (and the tourists) before walking up to Green Park Underground station – and a handy refreshment stall!

Lunch:

A light lunch can be obtained at the cafe by The Serpentine; alternatively, bring a picnic – there are lots of benches and grassy banks nearby.

Contact: - If at all possible please tell Sue Burke or Tony Charlwood by Monday 17 July if you want to come – 020 7794 6059 or spburke@aol.com . On the day, Sue 07787 500 057 or Tony Charlwood 0930 758 466.

Suggested Contribution to GEN: £10 / head, more if you can afford it, in aid of the GEN's work in India – see www.gen-initiative.org

N.B. Contributions from the walks support GEN's work in India. Currently we fund the core costs of our partner, End Poverty, which enables it to run a range of projects, some also funded by us, including basic literacy and general education classes for unmarried adolescent girls, an income generation handicrafts project for women and girls, a night school for illiterate adults, development of a responsible tourism project for income generation and the work of 5 village development groups that are lobbying for better services to the villages in the Tijara Block, Alwar District, Rajasthan.

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