



Barmouth Kitchen

Cindy's Swim School, Wandsworth

Wandsworth B & B

Neal's Nurseries

Gernigan House

Wandsworth Common

The Skylark Café

HMP Wandsworth

County Arms Temporarily closed

ubitricty Charging Station

South London Bowling & Social Club

13

12

14

Rushbrook Catering Solutions

Magdalen Park Lawn Tennis Club

10

11

Wandsworth Cemetery

Beatrix Potter Allotments

Everyday Healthy Cooking

The Althorp Temporarily closed

Flotsam & Jetsam Temporarily closed

Brinkley's Kitch

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The Wandle of Earlsfield Temporarily closed

Earlsfield

Graffiti Cocktail Bar

Bean & Hop Temporarily closed

Pedicure Plus

Leather Bottle Temporarily closed

Electrical Lighting & Electrical Store

Figli Del Vesuvio

The Spencer Lawn Tennis Club

Battersea Ironside Sports Club Temporarily closed

Burntwood School

Brendon Gil... Use

Springfield University Hospital Roman...

Share Garden, Gillian Webb Memorial Garden

Mayfield Nursery

Ernest Bevin College

Springfield Law Centre

Summerstown82
GREAT ESCAPES

'IN SEARCH OF THE SCOPE'

3.5 miles, (50-60 minutes)
Start at **EARLSFIELD STATION, GARRATT LANE, SW18**

IN SEARCH OF THE SCOPE (3.5 miles, 50-60 minutes)

Thanks to these downloadable maps you can select your own short local history walk taking in significant features of interest in the **Tooting/Earlsfield/Wandsworth** area. Summerstown182 'Great Escapes' are just the job for your daily exercise allowance! Even at a slow pace you can do each one in less than an hour. Ten flavours to choose from, every one a winner! **Perfect for mind, body and spirit.**



Very briefly in the mid-Victorian age, an enormous telescope was built on the edge of Wandsworth Common, not far from Burntwood Lane. This walk takes you in search of its location through the less-explored Magdalen estate and the southern portion of Earlsfield which sprang up in the early decades of the twentieth century. Step into a world of landed aristocrats, eccentric clerics and gypsy fortune-tellers. If you seek adventure and discovery, this is the walk for you.

1 START EARLSFIELD STATION - The railway line to Southampton first cut through here in the 1830s. Part of the All Farthing Estate, the lands were sold to the railway company by [Robert Davis](#). Earlsfield Road, authorised in 1878 was the first main artery. A new station 'Earlsfield and Summerstown' opened on 1 April 1884 following a campaign by the Vicar of St Mary's Church, Summerstown.

2 Turn left up [Magdalen Road](#), an echo of another major landowner in the area, Magdalen College at the University of Oxford. Just past Sainsburys is Earlsfield Library dating from the mid-1920s. Here Louis de Bernières famously wrote Captain Corelli's Mandolin'. In a previous era it was briefly the site of Summerstown Football Club.

3 Earlsfield Baptist Church opposite dates from about 1900 and stands alone in a famous photo looking up Magdalen Road surrounded by fields and farmland. Look for the foundation stones laid by the great and the good of the Baptist world.

4 Turn into Tranmere Road and go past much-loved Earlsfield Primary School, formerly Tranmere Road School. Note the stylish curves of the decorative red brick and terracotta boundary wall allowing a clear view of this striking building. Turn left into Waynflete Street. Spare a moment to reflect on 'William of Waynflete' who founded [Magdalen College](#) way back in 1458. Turn right onto Swaby Road and with the gardens and playground to your left, enter Lidiard Road which branches off this diagonally.

5 The Edwardian housing designed in 1911 by builders, the Holloway Brothers, visible here on the west side of Swaby Road, Magdalen Road and Burntwood Lane was the start of an ambitious project. The First World War and subsequent economic hardships in the 1920s meant it was never completed as originally intended. The [Magdalen Park Estate](#) was to be a middle-class garden suburb stretching from Lyford Road in the east to Garratt Lane in the west and from Magdalen Road in the north to Burntwood Lane in the south. Some of the names proposed for streets never built were Bulteel, Nowell, Sibthorp, Bedal, Broome, Rowney and Wightwick Roads. A plan from 1911 shows the original Holloway Brothers' layout of what are now Fieldview and Openview estates. Space was allowed for two chapels and a school, none of which were actually built. Godley Gardens off Tilehurst Road is where one of the churches should have been. The council took over and built the Openview estate in the 1920s and Fieldview in the 1930s.

6 Take a right into Openview and then left onto Burntwood Lane. The vast space to your left, in the middle of the estate was on the original plan and is now a collection of playing fields, sports clubs and allotments. To your immediate left is the HQ of Battersea Ironsides, primarily a rugby club, founded in 1943 with military connections. The [Spencer Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club](#) was originally formed in 1872 when the Spencer family permitted the founders to drain and use part of Wandsworth Common. The club moved down the hill to Fieldview in 1903.

7 As you go up Burntwood Lane, look out for the Springfield Hospital entrance on your right - you can still get a glimpse of some of the old buildings dating from the 1840s when 'The Surrey County Asylum' was established. This site is currently undergoing a huge development but is still well worth a good look around, so consider taking the [Blooming Tooting](#) Walk on another occasion. For now, take the third left into Ellerton Road and admire the 'arts and crafts' housing of the Fieldview Estate.

8 Take the first right into Burntwood Grange Road. About half way down here on the left was a sizeable mansion after which the road takes its name. Other similar large houses nearby were Burntwood Lodge and Collamore. Built in 1832 [Burntwood Grange](#) was here for over a century and noted for its magnificent gardens and conservatory. Edward Kemp a prominent landscape architect of the mid-Victorian age mentions it in his book 'The Parks, Gardens, etc. of London and its Suburbs'. Then the home of a young stockbroker, Harmon Grisewood, he describes it as 'recently redesigned and replanted by the established Tooting nursery of Messrs Rollisson'. Among the 19 engravings in the book, which includes Buckingham Palace and Hampton Court, are 4 showing features of Burntwood Grange: the interior, the exterior and the ground plan of its conservatory and an engraving of a 'pretty dairy'. A later resident was one of the [Holloway Brothers](#). Sir Henry Holloway, a prominent Liberal was knighted in 1917 for his advice to the Government on the First World War housing crisis. Henry and his brother founded their building company in Battersea in 1882. They built the Admiralty Buildings on Horse Guards Parade, the Old Bailey and the fountains in Trafalgar Square. They also constructed several bridges across the Thames; Hampton Court, Wandsworth and Chelsea. The Holloway Brothers also helped construct the 'Mulberry harbours', the floating docks used in the D-Day landings in 1944. When building the estate they had

a large joinery yard on Magdalen Road. As 'Holloway White Allom', the company went into administration in 2011. Sir Henry's third son, [Bernard Henry Holloway](#) was a first-class cricketer and rugby international. He was killed at Loos and his name is on the First World War memorial in St Mary Magdalene Church on Wandsworth Common.

9 At the end of this bear right and follow a path alongside an old wall taking you past Heathfield Bowling Club. There is a sign up saying its been there since 1875. From looking at an old map it appears that the 'Heathfield Club' with facilities for cricket, lawn tennis and football was on the other side of Burntwood Lane on the Trinity Fields site. Take a sharp left past the bowling club and follow the path along the edge of the common into Lyford Road. Home to some spectacular properties including No68, the Charles Voysey designed '[White Cottage](#)', built in 1908 and on the market in 2015 for £4.1 million.

10 We are now on [Wandsworth Common](#), almost at the point of discovery! Before that, consider this great space in the mid-19th century. This was the age of 'enclosure', no less than 53 of them between 1794 and 1866. It had been carved up by two railway lines and great institutions like The Asylum, Wandsworth Prison and The [Royal Victoria Patriotic Building](#). Gypsies had long been present on Wandsworth Common. George Borrow wrote about [Charlotte Cooper](#), wife of Jack Cooper the fighting gypsy. She told fortunes, lived in a tent and was famed for having 'knocked West Country Dick to pieces'. She was the subject of a Romany song and a portrait by Charles Leslie. The Wandsworth Common Act of 1871 secured its future but before that, to add to the excitement, in 1852 Earl Spencer was persuaded to let a vicar from Leamington Spa, Reverend John Craig build the largest refracting telescope in the World.

11 An outstanding 'online museum' to [The Craig Telescope](#) has been lovingly created by Greg Smye-Rumsby. It tells you all you need to know about this extraordinary construction which was here for less than 20 years. It was then carefully dismantled and removed almost without trace. A 65 foot high brick tower with an attached lens in an 85 foot long iron tube swaying precariously like some giant eccentric windmill, it must have made for an extraordinary sight. The only map it appears on is one dating from 1862 when it is indicated as an 'observatory'. It burned brightly very briefly. Despite originally involving some of the great engineering brains of the time, a combination of the lens not working properly, lack of funds and Reverend Craig's personal tragedies lead to its demise. The second road on the left Frewin Road is a key location and another Magdalen connection, a Dr Richard Frewin. Opposite this is a bench and a path onto the Common. The 'Scope' was in here and if you want to get up close and venture into the bushes, a series of footpaths and tracks radiate around the base and a depression in one of them supposedly indicates where the tower once stood. There is now nothing to see so let your imagination take over! Much of the remains were recycled and is believed that some of the bricks removed were used in the building of The Surrey Tavern, now a restaurant, on the corner of Bellevue and Trinity Road.

12 Follow the tarmac pathway to your right behind Routh Road. Cross Trinity Road and although its fairly busy, imagine what it might have been like if the 1960s '[Wandsworth Interchange](#)' had been granted permission. The roundabout and underpass at York Road was only the beginning of a super highway cutting through Wandsworth and Tooting Common all the way to Streatham. Follow this path straight across on the other side of the road, then round the back of the houses, bearing left and taking the first passageway on your left which leads into Routh Road.

13 David Lloyd George, Prime Minister, between 1916 and 1922 and widely regarded a one of this country's greatest leaders lived here at No3 between 1904 and 1908 when he was President of the Board of Trade. He introduced state pensions, declared a war on poverty and planned a land tax for landowners and aristocrats. Sadly his 17 year old daughter Mair died at this address. She is commemorated with a stain-glass window in the [Welsh Chapel](#) near Clapham Junction. From here he went to Downing Street when he became Chancellor. Previously he lived ten minutes walk away on Trinity Road. Take a right at the end of the road and go along Trinity Road until the next crossing and you are back in Magdalen Road. Just past Heathfield Road and the tennis club on your right, you may see glimpses of Wandsworth Prison through the trees. A more detailed walk around this area can be done on the '[Earlsfield Manor](#)' tour.

14 You could choose to walk back straight down Magdalen Road but its much more pleasant to enter Wandsworth Cemetery just after Ellerton Road and follow a path through that back to Earlsfield Station. Look out for the graves of notable gypsy/traveller families in the area. Many soldiers from overseas serving in the First World War died at the Royal Victoria Patriotic Building hospital on Wandsworth Common. The plot for the [Newfoundlanders](#) is particularly moving, nurtured for many years by children from Beatrix Potter School. Other notable burials here include [Robert 'Mr Summerstown' Sadler](#) and laundry boss, [Alice Creeke](#).

FOR INFORMATION AND MORE WALKS: summerstown182.wordpress.com  @summerstown182

If you enjoy your walk, please consider making a donation to CriticalNHS, sustaining local business by keeping the St George's frontline staff fed www.criticalnhs.org