

international women's day

walk guide

Tuesday 8 March 2022

Start at The Bridge cafe at 2.00 pm

Join us to visit the following sites of important women and historical figures:

1. Waterloo Bridge - The Ladies Bridge

In 2015 Historian Christine Wall discovered around 350 women helped build Waterloo Bridge during WWII when there were labour shortages. Yet, before 2015, the idea that women had largely been involved in the building process wasn't included in any of the bridges historical records.

2. Millicent Garrett Fawcett (1847 - 1929) Statue

Millicent campaigned for women's right to vote during the early 20th Century and is seen as one of the most influential feminists of the past 100 years. Fawcett is the first and only women featured in Parliament Square.

3. The Mary Seacole (1805 - 1881) Statue

Mary Seacole was a Jamaican-born nurse who cared for wounded British soldiers during the Crimean War in the 19th Century. The unveiling of this statue was a seminal moment for Londoners as it's the UK's first memorial of a black women.

4. Emma Cons (1838 -1912) Gardens

Emma Cons was a British social reformer, strongly committed to women's suffrage. Determined to make a good life accessible to all, she campaigned for the educational opportunities of women and the working class. She founded Morley College (still open today) and re-opened the Old Vic in 1880, a place where political debates and topics such as London's air quality and women's rights characterised the discussion.

5. Red Cross Gardens – Octavia Hill (1838 – 1912)

Octavia Hill was a social reformer and one of the three founders of the National Trust. She strongly believed in the importance of access to nature for human wellbeing as well as the need to stop the destruction of the natural landscape. She designed the Red Cross Gardens to serve as an 'open air sitting room for the tired inhabitants of Southwark'.

6. Crossbones Graveyard

Crossbones Graveyard is a former post-medieval burial ground located in the area that was formerly known as The Mint, one of London's poorest slums. The graveyard pays tribute to the capital's historic working classes and those who were forgotten, considered 'outcasts' or unworthy of a Christian burial. According to local lore it was once the final resting place for the Winchester Geese, medieval sex workers licensed by the Bishop of Winchester to work in the brothels of The Liberty of the Clink.