

Pathways to the Past

The newsletter of Connelly Contours Limited

Number 6: September - December 2025



On your Marks...

Hello! Welcome to the new newsletter. I've been very busy over the summer launching the new walks. It's been great fun meeting different people and finding out about their interests as we wandered among the alleys and narrow streets of Spitalfields and Whitechapel together. Of course, despite the fact that it has been a summer of remarkable dryness, on one of the days it conspired to pour with (un-forecast) rain, which left me cursing the fact that I had very deliberately decided to remove the umbrella from my pack believing it to be an entirely unnecessary encumbrance. Lesson well and truly learned there!

And now we enter the 'season of mists of mellow fruitfulness' and begin the march towards two of the great markers in the year's final quarter, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas. In the twenties, the intensity of Armistice Day, and the preparations for it, were such that a new term was coined, *Armisticetide*. The implications of a season in the Christian calendar, like Lententide and Adventtide, periods in the year with distinctive observations, rituals and reflections, has always fascinated me. Exploring the importance of *Armisticetide* will certainly infuse my war memorials walks in November.

After this, I am going to get into the festive spirit with the return of the hugely popular *Bah! Humbug!* walk around the City of London in the footsteps of Ebenezer Scrooge. And there'll also be a new Christmas walk: *Upstairs, Downstairs at Christmas* exploring the rich and their servants in the West End prepared for and marked the festivities. Other walks will have a distinctly Christmas flavour.

Come on a walk and let's explore these seasons together.

Mark



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Reginald Blomfield and
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Paris in London? The
Quadrant, Regent Street

25 September 1915

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Western Front



Reginald Blomfield and the ubiquity of the Menin Gate



The Menin Gate is perhaps the most famous of the CWGC's memorials. Hundreds of thousands of people have visited it, and huge numbers take part in the moving Last Post ceremony held there every evening. For many, it is the essential must-see memorial on the former battlefields of the Western Front. And it's easy to understand why people keep coming back, as I do, to stand in what its architect, Reginald Blomfield called "that great Hall of Memory". Set in the heart of the beautifully restored and wonderfully welcoming city of Ieper, the memorial is a place where almost the entire Commonwealth can be remembered at one spot...

[Click here to read the full article on my website.](#)

25 September 1915



... For the two places where I have spent the vast majority of my life, London and Kent, the Battle of Loos, 25 September - 13 October 1915, brought about the greatest concentration of death in the entire war...

[Click here to read the full article on my website.](#)

Forthcoming London walks

Sunday 19 October

2pm Writers, printers and protestors: the City's courtyards and alleys

Friday 24 October

10.30am Refugees and Reformers. Huguenot Spitalfields and Jewish Whitechapel

2.30pm Spires and towers: the churches of the City of London

Wednesday 29 October

2.00pm Writers, printers and protestors: the City's courtyards and alleys

Friday 7 November

10.30am Introduction to London's war memorials

2.30pm London's First World War memorials

Friday 14 November

10.30am London's First World War memorials

2.30pm Introduction to London's war memorials

Saturday 15 November

10.30am Railways stations and passengers: from King's Cross to Paddington

2.30pm Refugees and Reformers. Huguenot Spitalfields and Jewish Whitechapel

Friday 21 November

10.30am Upstairs, Downstairs: The squares, shops and spooks of London's West End

2.30pm Bah! Humbug! A Christmas Carol

Saturday 22 November

10.30am Bah! Humbug! A Christmas Carol

2.30pm: Upstairs, Downstairs: The squares, shops and spooks of London's West End (with holly and ivy!)

Continued over.../

London



Is this Paris? The Quadrant, Regent Street



To walk the length of Regent Street from park (St. James's) to park (Regent's) is a huge treat which allows many layers of London history to be peeled away and examined. At its top end, Regency architect John Nash's great vision commences with the wonder of Park Crescent – originally planned as a circus, but the financial troubles of the developer led to revisions. The immense grace of the crescent leads to Portland Place, which impresses with its great width, and provides our first hint of the avenues and boulevards of Paris.

Inspired by what the Adam brothers had already achieved in Portland Place, Nash was determined that his new Regent Street would replicate its sense of scale and grandeur. Needing to follow the line of Crown Estate-holdings, this meant the dogleg at Langham Place, a challenge Nash rose to with sublime skill in his glorious All Soul's church. From here it's across Oxford Circus and into what most of us would probably regard as Regent Street proper. Progressing downwards, we meet a gradual curve as it comes round to Piccadilly Circus. This is the Quadrant, and what an amazing feature it is, what a remarkable detail in the great wonder that is the architecture of London. The history of this series of buildings is by no means a simple one...

[Click here to read the full article on my website.](#)

Friday 28 November

10.30am Railways stations and passengers: from King's Cross to Paddington

2.30pm: Upstairs, Downstairs: The squares, shops and spooks of London's West End

Sunday 7 December

2.00pm: Upstairs, Downstairs: The squares, shops and spooks of London's West End

Saturday 12 December

10.30am Spires and towers: the churches of the City of London

2.30pm Bah! Humbug! A Christmas Carol

Sunday 21 December

2.00pm Bah! Humbug! A Christmas Carol

Monday 22 December

10.30am Railways stations and passengers: from King's Cross to Paddington

2.30pm Spires and towers: the churches of the City of London

Thursday 30 December

2.00pm: Upstairs, Downstairs: The squares, shops and spooks of London's West End

Saturday 3 January 2026

2.00pm Bah! Humbug! A Christmas Carol

All walks are 2.5 hours and cost
£25 per person

[Click here to find out more and
book](#)



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