

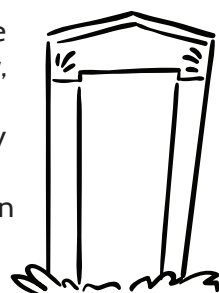
The City of London and Tower Hamlets Cemetery was created by an Act of Parliament and opened in 1841. It was one of seven cemeteries, now known as the Magnificent Seven, opened in response to London's rapid population growth and overcrowded urban burial grounds. Known locally as Bow Cemetery, around 350,000 people were buried here between 1841 and 1966, mainly working class people from the local area.

*Stand at post 1, with your back to the Soanes Centre, and look left off towards the boundary railings.*

Near the original entrance to the Cemetery, off towards the wall, are some of the oldest graves in the Cemetery, six of which are listed as Grade 2 by English Heritage. Arranged in a loose oval, they were expensive graves reflecting their location, they are handsome monuments, with tall pedestals, elaborate cast-iron railings and carved stone, that reflect the decorative enthusiasms of their time.

In the 1830s there was a Gothic revival, leading to increasingly elaborate tombs and monuments. The stone used was traditionally Portland, Bath or York, later replaced by granite and marble. By the 1860s there was a dramatic increase in the size of the tombs. In some cemeteries entire temples were built over graves, and obelisks began to appear alongside Egyptian, Corinthian, Byzantine and other styles. The First World War put an end to all this, and tombstones became increasingly plain and simple, as they had been before the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Also near the entrance is the grave of Walter Gray of Bow, the first person to be buried in the cemetery on Saturday 4th September 1841. The cemetery was consecrated in the morning and Gray was buried in the afternoon.

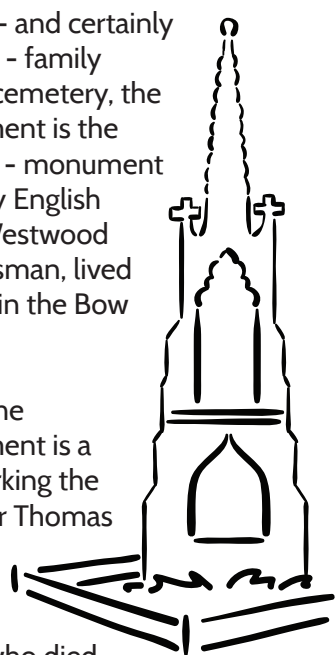


*Return to post 1 and follow the map.*

As you walk between posts 1 and 2, on your right you pass the grave of rope merchant Samuel Soanes (d.1845), owner of part of the land on which the cemetery was built, for whom the Soanes Centre, home of the Friends, is named.

*Turn left at post 2, into the area Linden Groves, so named for the grove's lime trees. The graves on the right tend to be from the 1960s. The larger monuments are much older. Continue along the path.*

One of the largest - and certainly the most imposing - family monument in the cemetery, the Westwood Monument is the seventh - and final - monument listed as Grade 2 by English Heritage. Joseph Westwood (d.1883), a businessman, lived at Tredegar House in the Bow Road.



A few steps from the Westwood Monument is a new memorial marking the grave of three of Dr Thomas Barnado's own children, and more than five hundred children who died whilst in his care who are buried elsewhere in the Cemetery. Dr Barnado, who started his work with poor children in Stepney in 1868, set up The Ragged School in Stepney Causeway and children's homes across the East End. He shares a large memorial at Barkingside with his wife Syrie.

*Continue over the crossroads on the same path, past post 3.*

Note a number of Masonic graves to your right, featuring the Masonic compass. Through the trees you may also see the grave of Alexander Hurley, famous music hall artist and pugilist.

*At post 4, look right across the junction for post 5. Follow the path up past post 5 and round to the left. Carry on past post 6.*

This leads you towards the large family vault erected for Ann Francis (d. 1859), wife of Charles Francis (d.1861), a corn merchant and one of the founding Directors of the Cemetery. This is the highest point in the Cemetery Park. At the time the vault was built it was possible to see the Thames. The monument was designed with a curious secret: a brick was removed from a wall so that the sun would shine through a wrought iron cross in a door on the western side of the vault at dawn on midsummer's day.

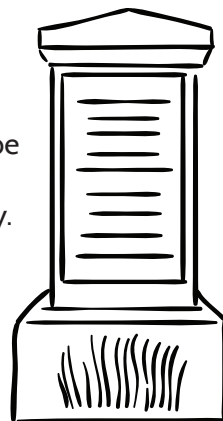
*Continue along the path and past post 7. It stands near the edge of the unconsecrated part of the Cemetery, which was used for Dissenter burials.*

At post 8, look right to see the original site of the Dissenters Chapel. The Anglican Chapel (marked on the map) was consecrated by the Bishop of London in 1849. Both chapels were extensively damaged in the Second World

War. Though repaired, they were demolished by the Greater London Council in 1972.

*At post 8, turn left and follow the path around the Round Glade to post 9.*

Take a moment at the large vault of the stone mason Druiitt, whose moniker can be found on many of the gravestones in the cemetery. Also note the very tall Bear Monument (a little further on the right) with its unusual mural of wheat, signifying everlasting life. The Bears, who were of German Jewish origin, converted to Methodism and anglicised their names. Those buried here include Henry Bear, a wealthy tobacco and sugar merchant who lived on Cable Street.

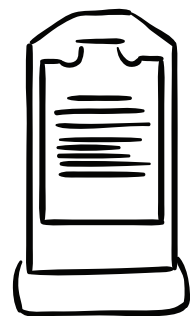


*Continue round the path, past post 10, and stay on the left hand fork at post 11.*

Just here is the grave of Reverend David Roe and his wife, Annie Maria Roe. They were the founders of the Methodist Seaman's Mission which helped connect seamen with their families: the men were often away so long that their families might move and they would lose contact. A little further along the path note a memorial in memory of Captain Chrystal. Buried at sea, the memorial records the co-ordinates of his final resting place.

*Continue along the path to post 12.*

Opposite post 12 is the grave of Will Crooks (d. 1921) and his second wife Elizabeth. A casual labourer in the docks he became politically active and was one of the leaders of the historic 1889 Dock Strike, in which dockworkers successfully demonstrated for increased wages. He campaigned for fair wages, open spaces, technical education, and the opening of the Blackwall Tunnel. He became London's first Labour mayor in 1901 when he was named Mayor of Poplar. He was elected to Parliament in 1903 winning in Woolwich, a traditionally Tory constituency. The grave was rediscovered and the Labour Party and local council paid for its restoration.



Further on the left a brick memorial commemorates 190 Poplar residents killed in the Blitz during the Second World War. In 1952 a Garden of Remembrance was laid out to mark their burial site. The Friends are working

to name all those buried here and hope in future to restore the area and commemorate their lives.

*Continue to walk along the path past post 13.*

You will pass a number of French graves to your right, a legacy of the Australian Gold Rush, when the Rothschilds, a banking family, brought a number of French workers to London to help refine the gold.

*At post 14 turn right back into the wood.*

A couple of the trees here, an oak and a plane tree, are as old as the cemetery itself.

*Take the first turning to the left at post 15 passing a number of graves from the First World War. Walk along the path to post 16, bearing left again. Continue following the path round to the left.*

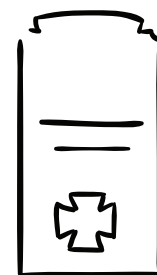
A number of graves on the right remember the Bethnal Green tube station disaster. On 3rd March 1943, 173 people, including sixty-two children, were crushed while attempting to enter the station which was being used as an air raid shelter. This was the biggest civilian casualty of the War, and kept quiet after the War ended.

*When you reach the crossroads at post 17 go straight over. When you reach the fence go through the gate to the other side, past post 18 into Sanctuary Wood.*

Look for the elaborate emblem of the Worshipful Company of Watermen and Lightermen on the Looker's graves. They were lightermen who worked cargo vessels on the Thames, watermen who carried people and ropemakers working on Ropery Street.

*Take the next right turn at post 19.*

Look out for a small path on the right which leads to Major John Buckley (d. 1876). He was one of the first recipients of the Victoria Cross, awarded for bravery during the Indian Mutiny of 1857.



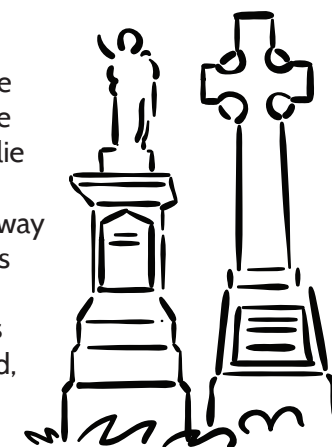
Note the distinctive headstones on your left which inspired the logo of the Friends. These are the graves of the Charterhouse Brothers, founded in 1379 in Smithfield. After the dissolution of the monasteries, the land was later sold in 1611 to Thomas Sutton of Hackney. He founded the almshouses for eighty elderly gentlemen in distress. The foundation is still in

existence today, as well as Charterhouse school. His house in Hackney is the borough's oldest surviving domestic building and now owned by the National Trust. Sutton was reportedly one of England's richest commoners during his lifetime.

*Continue to the end of the path, go through the gate, turn left past post 20 and then follow the main path to the left again.*

Straight ahead is the monument to Ann Elizabeth Duffell and Hannah Maria Purcell, widow of William Purcell, Ship's Carpenter on the HMS Bounty. Known locally as 'The Bounty Grave' the inscription on the left face of this grave tells the story of the Mutiny. The wording of the inscription has been recorded but is now illegible.

Further down on the right look out for the monument to Charlie Brown (d. 1932), publican of the Railway Tavern, Poplar. In his lifetime it was one of the most famous pubs in the East End, universally known as Charlie Brown's. The pub was close to the gates of the West India Docks, and Charlie was renowned for his collection of antiques and curiosities gathered from around the world. On the day of his funeral, the pavements were lined six people deep.



Set back from the path and not easily seen is the grave of Clara Grant. A primary school teacher and settlement worker in the East End she became Head Teacher at an Infant School in 1900. She revised the school's techniques of structure and punishment and provided the children with hot breakfasts, clothes and shoes. She also created and distributed Farthing Bundles, tiny toys made of scraps of other things such as wood, tin, beads, marbles and cigarette cards. These proved so popular that children began queuing up an hour before they went on sale and could not meet the demand. In 1913 a wooden arch was erected bearing the legend 'Enter Now Ye Children Small, None Can Come Who Are Too Tall. This limited the famous bundles to the youngest children. Shortly before her death in 1949 Clara Grant received an OBE for her work. The bundles were sold until 1984 and the Infant School was renamed in Clara Grant's honour in 1993.

*At post 21 turn left and follow the trail back to the entrance to Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park.*