

Liskeard Unlocked 2020 Open Spaces Self-Guided Walk

On this walk you will visit Westbourne Gardens, Thorn Park, Lanchard Cemetery, Rapson's Field, St Martin's Churchyard and Castle Park.

Please ensure you take care crossing any roads and navigating the footpaths as they may be slippery when wet.

- 1) From the town centre mini roundabout outside the King Doniert Public House walk about 140 metres west along Dean Street until you reach the gate to Westbourne Gardens. Follow the perimeter footpath anticlockwise until you reach a locked gate. Lean over the gate and look to your left and you will see an imposing granite monument.**

Under the Grade II listed monument are the ashes of Richard and Sarah Hawke who lived in Westbourne House from 1858 until their deaths in 1887 and 1904.

The Hawke story is truly remarkable. In 1841 the 15 year old Richard was an apprentice barber in Helston living with his widowed mother, a domestic servant. By 1851 he had his own barbershop in Fore Street, Liskeard, employing a man and an apprentice, he has married Sarah and he has brought his 61 year old mother with him, away from domestic service. By this time he has been appointed mine barber at South Caradon Mine and been given the opportunity to become their share dealer in London. Hawke purchased Westbourne in 1858 from the executors of Peter Glubb. He is advertising in the Mining Journal as a Mine Share Broker and his mother, formerly a servant, is now in the census as a Gentlewoman. He also has the only Butler in Liskeard, Thomas Mundy (57) from Mullion.

Hawke died in 1887, the wealthiest man in Liskeard, leaving in current values, £16 million to his wife Sarah. Instructions were left for his body to be taken to Woking in Surrey for cremation, one of the few establishments licensed to do so, as cremation had only become legal 4 years earlier. Hawke's ashes were interred in a small brick vault on 22nd November 1887 and 100 invitations on gilt edged cards were sent to the great and good of Liskeard.

Being childless the estate was left to William Sargent, grandson of a Cordwainer, who became a Bank Manager. He was regarded by the Hawkes as their adopted son. Sargent moved into Westbourne in 1904 and remained there until his death in 1943. His daughter and son-in-law, Geraldine and Frederick T. Roberts sold Westbourne to the County Council for use as offices and the outer gardens became the car park.

- 2) On leaving Westbourne Gardens turn right and after about 35 metres cross the road when it is safe to do so. Turn left into Limes Lane and follow this for about 75 metres until you reach the gate on your left which is Thorn Park. Take the path to your left and stop at the first bench to view the row of terraced houses called Thorn Terrace.**

Thorn Terrace is named after the man who owned the land and built the Terrace. In 1881 there were 81 people living in the 14 houses in Thorn Terrace which is an average of nearly 6 people per house.



Richard Hawke (1858-1887)

The end house had 9 in the household which included Jane Nickels, an 18 year old domestic servant from Duloe. The 4 adults in the family were British Subjects born in Baden, Germany and the 4 children, ranging in age from 11 months to 6 years old, were all born in Liskeard. Head of the household was 44 year old Crispin Volk, a Jeweller, who employed both his brother-in-law and nephew, both of whom were living with him. Crispin's 28 year old wife Mary ran the house with the help of young Jane, their servant.

- 3) Leave Thorn Park by the far gate and turn left. When you reach Varley Lane turn right. After about 200 metres the road bends to the left and you turn right into Lanchard Lane. In about 90 metres on your left you will see the metal gates of Lanchard Cemetery. Go through the gates, up the steps and follow the path until you reach the centre burial area in front of you.**

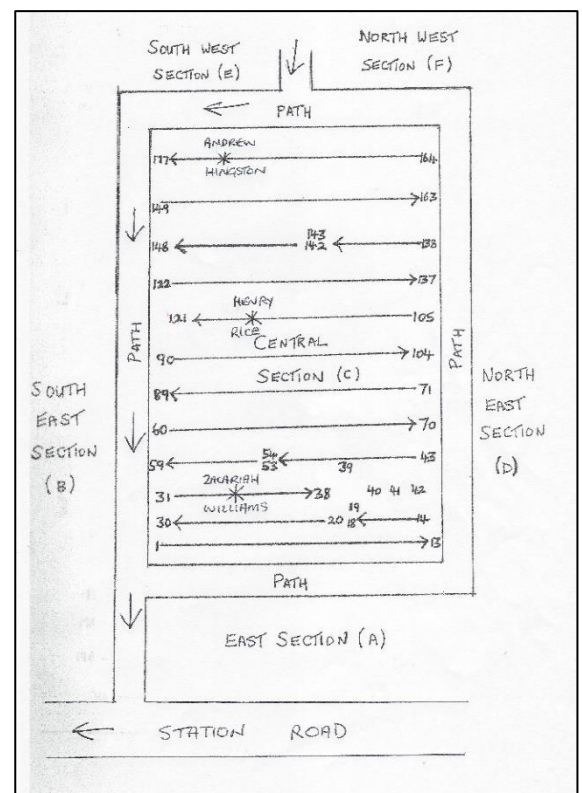
As you walk through any churchyard or cemetery it is interesting to note the names of the stonemasons who carved out the inscription on the headstone. These are on the bottom right hand corner but not every one has a name. Sweet & Sons, whose yard was just 50 metres from this cemetery (behind the Elnor Guest House) is the name most often found. Some give an address as well, perhaps as an advertisement, such as 'J. Bate, Looe Mills, Liskeard'.

In 1847 the overcrowded state of the parish churchyard and the desire of many dissenters to conduct burials in their own manner led to the opening of the Lanchard General Cemetery. £150 was raised to purchase the acre of land and 15 trustees were appointed. Interment in the centre cost 1 guinea or in the border grounds 6 shillings.

Look out for the splendid headstone of Mr Andrew Hingston, who was the Hawkes' (of Westbourne House) family Surgeon, and the tomb of the prolific local architect Henry Rice. Pause alongside the horizontal headstone of Zachariah Williams and read more about the founder of Liskeard Iron Works.

In 1877 Zachariah Williams's family could well afford the 1 guinea. The Iron Works was at Moorswater, just outside Liskeard, and sold an impressive range of products. An advertisement in the Liskeard Gazette on 21st December 1861 shows Williams is selling cooking stoves of every size, grates of all descriptions, all kinds of castings and smithery made to order, ploughshires, drags and carriage wheels and all kinds of ironmongery. It is worth noting that his grave would have looked even more impressive before the railings were removed in World War 2. You can find evidence of his work in Liskeard today: In Doctors Lane there are drain covers made at the foundry. Outside the old Barley Sheaf Public House there are kerb protectors and in Church Street and Higher Lux Street rainwater gulleys by Williams can still be seen.

- 4) Leave Lanchard Cemetery by the metal gates just ahead of you and turn right onto Station Road. After about 50 metres cross the road and enter Rapson's car park by way of the bush lined footpath. Pause when you can see the back walls of Brisbane Terrace on your left.**



You are now standing in what used to be green fields and where the travelling Circus would perform their show to local people. Terry Frisby, who wrote the play and film script for 'There's a Girl in my soup' was evacuated from London to Doublebois during World War 2 and his memories of those years are contained in his book 'Kisses on a Postcard'. On one occasion he missed the bus for a school outing to the circus in Liskeard and ran all the way from Doublebois to catch up with his classmates.

'Four miles I covered and arrived at the circus, pitched in a field between Liskeard station and the town, to find that the show had started and, anyway, the marquee was full. I stood there with no breath, gasping with exhaustion and frustration, only just holding down my sobs. Just as I was about to give up, a baby elephant came out of the marquee, having done its stuff for the moment. This creature with its huge ears and searching active trunk, seemed like a miracle. I swear it glowed. It stood shorter than I did and must have been very young.'



5) Continue to walk through the car park leaving it at the far narrow end. You are now in Heathlands Road. After about 150 metres the road bends to the left and on the other side of the road you will see 2 paths leading through woodland into Lower Sun Girt car park. Slightly hidden by bushes, take the left hand path (which can be slippery in wet weather). It soon bears left and continues until you reach Lower Sun Girt car park.

Leaving the car park walk straight ahead until you reach a cross roads beside Poundland. Turn right up Cannon Hill, climb the stone steps at the top and turn right into Church Street. Proceed past the old Barley Sheaf Public House, the Smile Centre and bear left at the Gymnasium. On your left is the Grade II listed Southern entrance to St Martin's Churchyard.

Use the plan to locate the tombs of William Rawle and Joseph Fitz.

The tomb of William Rawle, Liskeard attorney is Grade II listed. Rawle had a reputation of standing up for the rights of Liskeard's townspeople and on occasions without charging a fee. Rawle was responsible for the end of the offence of having corn ground at a mill other than the town mill at Bodgara. He defended a case in the early 1800's which he won and the obligation was removed by the Borough. In 1802 Rawle appeared before the Kings Bench for his part in the Bull Stone riots when townspeople removed the stone from a Burgess house and returned it to its original position on the Parade.

The Fitze tomb is also Grade II listed. Joseph Fitze died in 1809 aged only 41. Susanna his wife lived for another 37 years as a widow until her death in 1846. Joseph's will is held at Kresen



Kernow in Redruth and his occupation is given as a Tanner. Members of the Fitze family were Mayors of Liskeard on four occasions in the 1700's. The family Tannery was in Pondbridge Hill which was known as Tanners Hill in the early 1800s. The business was carried on by Joseph's son who, on the 1841 census is married to May and has 5 daughters and 3 sons aged between 1 and 15 years old. Even a Tanner had 2 domestic servants, Mary Harvey aged 25 and Mary Henwood aged only 15.

Tanners Hill (Now known as Pondbridge Hill)



6) Leave the Churchyard by the Lych Gate at the North side of the Church and walk along Castle Street past the Eliot House Hotel. Cross the road at the second set of traffic lights and take the sloping footpath up to Castle Park, passing the War Memorial.

The castle was thought to have been built in the 13th Century by Richard Earl of Cornwall, but the first specific mention of it is in a survey of the Duchy in 1320 when it was termed a manor house, and was probably fortified. By 1528 it was recorded by a traveller as being all in ruins. At some stage a school was built on the site, in the Mayors accounts of 1574 the sum of £4 was paid to the school master.

John Allen wrote 'The greatest assemblage ever collected there was probably in 1852 to hear the address of T.J Agar Robartes (of Lanhydrock) on the great question of Free Trade versus Protection. No less than 8000 persons must have been present on the occasion, standing close together in one dense mass. They all conducted themselves well and dispersed in an orderly manner.'

Probably the most famous pupil at the school was the Reverend Stephen Hawker. In 2007 the BBC broadcast a programme about Hawker being the creator of the Harvest Festival. Hawker is also credited with publishing the words to the unofficial Cornish anthem 'Trelawny'. By 1856 the school had been converted into a prison and policeman's house and an annual rent of £3 was paid to the Duchy.



The Old Police House

You have now completed the Liskeard Unlocked Open Spaces walk. Return down the hill past the War Memorial to get back to the town centre and enjoy refreshments at one of the town's cafes or restaurants.