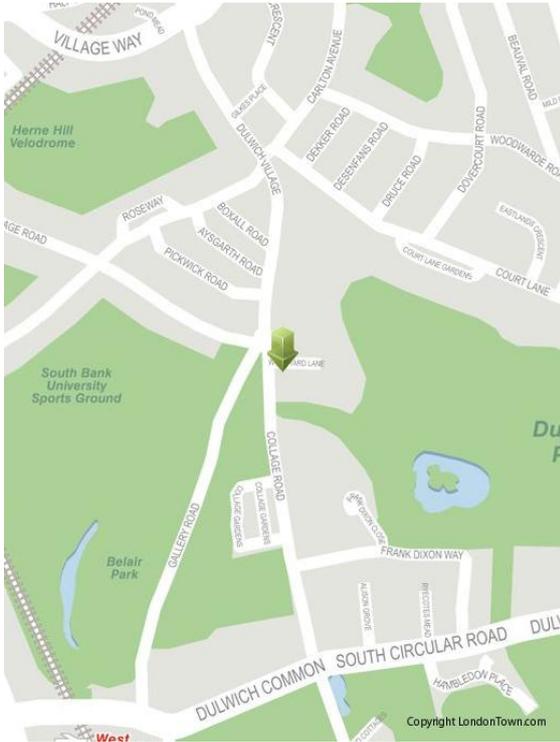


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Explore London Group 6

Dulwich



Edward Alleyn, an actor and contemporary of Shakespeare, made a fortune as a theatrical entrepreneur which enabled him to buy the Manor of Dulwich. He had built a chapel, school and almshouses and dying childless in 1626 bequeathed the manor to these establishments. The control held by the Estates Governors has enabled the village to remain largely unspoilt.

This 2½ mile walk is circular from West Dulwich Station. The route passes the cafe in Dulwich Park, Dulwich Picture Gallery.

From the station cross the road and enter Belair Park by the tennis courts. Head to the right towards the children's playground then continue across to the house.

This was built in 1785 and remained a private house until 1938.

Go to the front of the house, exit onto Gallery Road and go left along this for a short distance. Take the signposted footpath on the right to College Road.
Opposite is Pickwick Cottage. According to Dickens, Mr Pickwick retired to Dulwich.

Go left along College Road.

On the right hand side is Bell House of 1767 which could raise the alarm in case of fire.

Enter Dulwich Picture Gallery by the main gates on the left.

Dulwich Picture Gallery houses one of the world's most important collections of European old master paintings of the 1600s and 1700s. The collection is also one of the oldest in Great Britain, substantially put together in the years 1790 to 1795. The paintings are housed in the first purpose-built art gallery in England, designed by Sir John Soane in 1811.

Walk around the building to the left

From the rear is a view of the mausoleum. The roof of this inspired Gilbert Scott when he designed the telephone kiosk. An example of a K2 with original fittings is displayed in the grounds.

Exit into Gallery Road. Go to the right and into the grounds of Dulwich College to the right.

This was founded by the actor Edward Alleyn in 1616. A statue of Alleyn was erected in 2005. The chapel is in the centre with the almshouses to the left and the former school, now offices for Dulwich College Estates, to the right.

Take the path to the main entrance gates.

Ahead is a traffic island with a milestone, fingerpost & fountain. The fountain is a memorial to Dr George Webster, founder of the first BMA, who worked in Dulwich from 1815 until his death in 1875. To the left is the Old Grammar School built by Sir Charles Barry in 1842 for sixty boys.

Continue ahead along Dulwich Village.

There are attractive 18th century houses on the right hand side. The grassed areas with posts and rails are remnants of common land. The Crown & Greyhound is a Heritage Inn, replacing two older establishments and opposite are small shops. Further along the burial ground was a gift of Edward Alleyn and was the burial place of Dulwich's 35 plague victims.

Go right up Calton Avenue.

The Gallery Bookshop is on the site of a forge. Note the stone in the adjacent railed area which came from a small prison located nearby. Further up is St Barnabas Church built in 1996 to replace a Victorian church which was burnt down in 1992. Beyond the church is a view of Alleyn's School which replaced the Old Grammar School.

Return down Calton Avenue going right into Gilkes Crescent and left along Gilkes Place. Cross the road by the Parish Hall.

Dulwich Hamlet School has attractive brick and tile work.

Turn right at Turney Road and first left into Boxall Road.

Park Motors premises would have been coachworks/wheelwrights in the past. The post office was formerly a butchers with a slaughterhouse behind.

Go to the right back along Dulwich Village. Opposite the Picture Gallery go into Dulwich Park.

Dulwich College Estates gave the 'Five Fields' to be laid out as a public park, opened in 1890.

Walk towards the lake and go anti-clockwise around this to the cafe.

Adjacent is a Dry Garden.

From the cafe take the path going south to exit into Dulwich Common and go right along this road. At the lights go left into College Road. Detour to the left to view Pond Cottages.

The pond was dug to provide clay and the cottages had kilns producing tiles, bricks & chimney pots. A windmill stood opposite until 1815.

Return to College Road.

Opposite is the main frontage of Dulwich College. This was built in 1870 by Charles Barry jnr and financed from the sale of land to the railway companies.

Return to the lights and go left along Dulwich Common.

The buildings of Dulwich College (School) are on the left. On the right is the Blew House which Alleyn owned and left to benefit the poor (rebuilt in 1776).

Continue along Thurlow Park Road back to West Dulwich Station.

DULWICH COLLEGE

Edward Alleyn was a great actor of Elizabethan times and a contemporary of Shakespeare.

He was born in 1566, the son of an innkeeper in Bishopsgate. He joined a company of actors at 17 and achieved fame at the Rose Theatre owned by Philip Henslowe, whose step-daughter he married. Alleyn went on to part-own the Fortune Theatre in Finsbury and to become Master of the King's Bulls, Bears and Mastiffs. By 1605 he was a wealthy man and purchased the Manor of Dulwich for £5000 from the Calton family, who had owned it since the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII. A statue of Alleyn was erected in the college grounds in 2005 to commemorate his purchase of the estate.

DULWICH PICTURE GALLERY

Edward Alleyn bequeathed his collection of paintings to Dulwich College in 1626 as did fellow actor William Cartwright in 1686. These were housed in a gallery in the west wing of the college. However in 1811 Sir Peter Francis Bourgeois RA died leaving a collection of 360 paintings that he and Noel Desenfans had assembled for the King of Poland, whose abdication had ended the commission. Bourgeois also left £2000 for the gallery and £1000 for a mausoleum for himself and Mr & Mrs Desenfans, recommending John Soane as architect. Also in the grounds is an original K2 telephone box, designed by Giles Gilbert Scott and based on Soane's mausoleum design.

CAMILLE PISSARRO

Pissarro lived at Westow Hill, Upper Norwood lived here in 1870-1 (blue plaque.) He painted local views including the new Dulwich College, Lordship Lane Station and St Stephen's Church

DULWICH PARK

Is in the care of Southwark Council. It has a popular cafe, toilets, a lake with a boardwalk, cycle hire, tennis & bowls, a horse riding track, children's playground, rhododendrons (in May/June), Dry Garden and Tree Trails.

.The house was built in 1785 for John Willes, a cornfactor of Whitechapel and was known as College Place. It was renamed Belair by a later resident Charles Ranken, a solicitor. It was enlarged to provide 47 rooms when Charles Hutton, a wool merchant and sheriff lived there with his wife, 11 children and ten servants. Southwark leased Belair in 1946 for recreation purposes but the house was in a poor state after the war and had to be largely rebuilt. The Victorian extensions were removed at this time. The buildings were deteriorating again in the council's ownership but have now been made into an elegant restaurant with function rooms. The former coachhouse by Gallery Road has also been renovated. The grounds remain a public park.

KINGSWOOD

Kingswood Lodge, later House, was built in a clearing within King's Wood in 1811 for William Vizard who also leased neighbouring fields. Vizard was solicitor to Queen Caroline in her divorce from George IV.