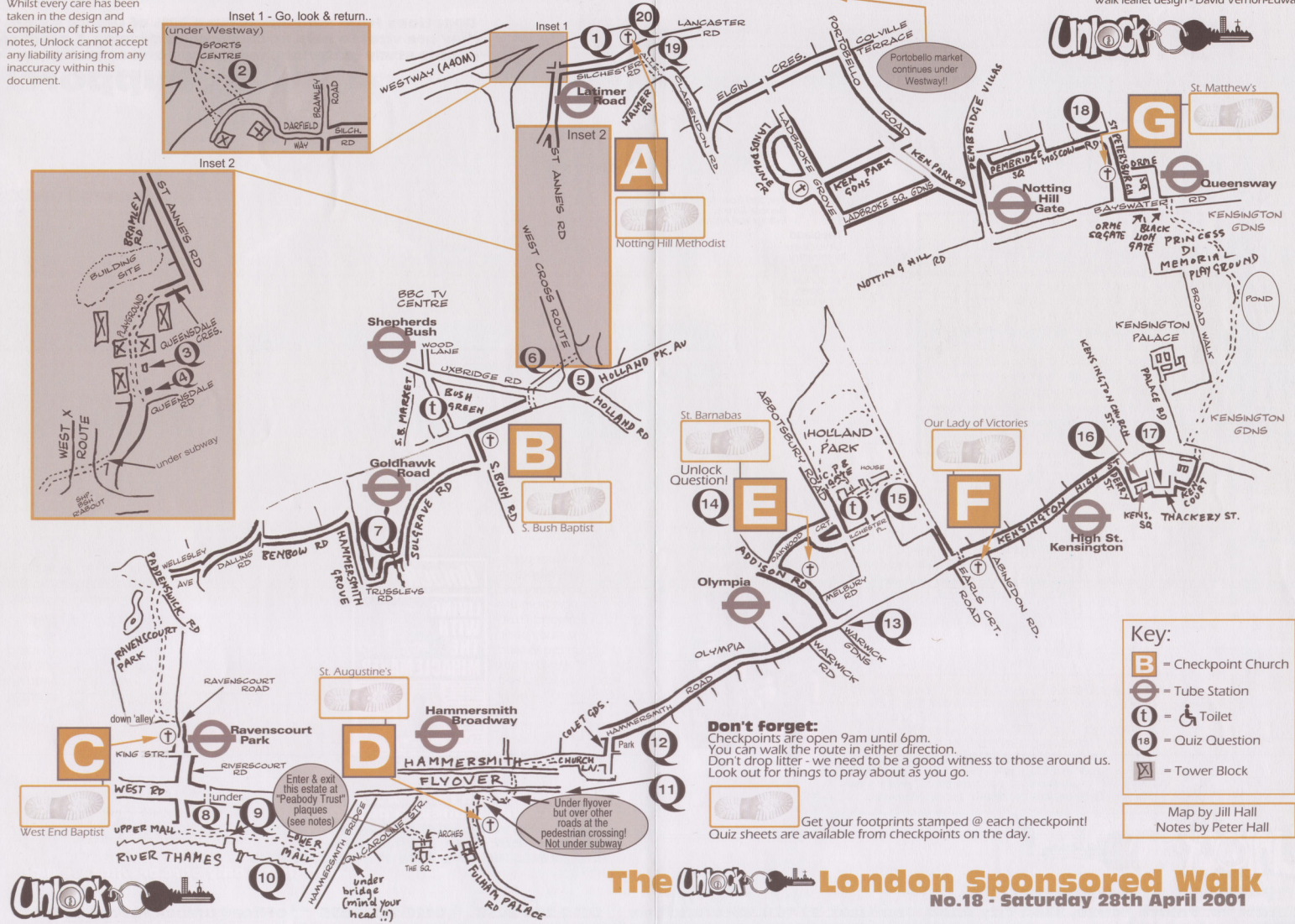


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Walk leaflet design - David Vernon-Edwards



**Riots, Riches & Roadways**  
The Unlock London Sponsored Walk - No.18

### Notting Dale (West of the hill)

First came Gypsies, camping every year for the summer fairs; then the bricklayers and pottery workers, a kiln in Walmer Rd. still stands (it can be seen by walkers from the north end of Clarendon Road near Notting Hill Methodist Church); then the pig keepers - by 1840 keeping 3000 pigs! The combination of clay-pits and pig slurry was appalling. The clay seams ran out and the land was used for building cheap rented property, attracting many poor people then and since.

"The inhabitants are poor...a serious mass of a kind...greater probably than any now remaining in central London". (Life and Labour of the People of London - C. Booth, 1902).

### Housing in Hammersmith

A testimony to early attempts by voluntary trusts to provide cheap, well cared for, rented property, particularly the Peabody Trust estate. Octavia Hill a great 19th century Christian social reformer - already noted as active in the Dale - was a founder of this trust, with estates in many parts of London. She fought all her life for cheap housing and open spaces for poor people.



### More riots,

The Westway was ruthlessly driven through North Kensington in the late 60s, destroying many homes and making others uninhabitable. Michael Heseltine came to open it in 1970, and local residents confronted his cavalcade, causing confusion and hitting the national headlines with a huge poster "Get us out of this hell ...". North Kensington has a long history of community action from the early days of Octavia Hill's housing projects to modern play spaces, law centre, carnival, and race relation initiatives. Using this experience, the North Kensington Amenity Trust was founded in 1971, to wrest back control of the land under Westway for local people. In a long and intense struggle, both within and outside the Trust, it succeeded to the extent of becoming a model for creating local development trusts. Some of its work can be seen where the walk goes under Westway (see Inset 1).

These notes will fold behind the side of the map that they relate to.

### The Famous...

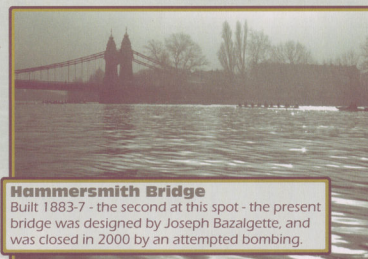
Well-known names in the Dale: Steptoe and Son was based on a Latimer Road scrap-yard. The notorious murderer Christie of 10 Rillington Place (now gone). The footballer Les Ferdinand learnt his early skills in the play spaces.



The Seagram Building

### Riots...

In 1948 the Empire Windrush brought people from the Caribbean. Some came in via Olympia and all needed cheap housing. By 1958, the Vale was a focus of racial tension. An ageing Oswald Mosley came to try to stoke up hatred in the name of patriotism. The black community tried to defend itself against recurrent mob violence. The riots led to committed efforts to build community, involving churches such as Notting Hill Methodist - on our route. From a small children's street parade in the late 60s, the Notting Hill Carnival has grown to be the biggest street festival in Europe.



**Hammersmith Bridge**  
Built 1883-7 - the second at this spot - the present bridge was designed by Joseph Bazalgette, and was closed in 2000 by an attempted bombing.

### Shepherd's Bush

The roundabout and the Green are on the old coach road west, and the area is long associated with the BBC - first at Lime Grove and now at Wood Lane.

### Ravenscourt Park

Originally the grounds of a manor given by Edward II to a court lady of ill fame.

### Portobello Road

The famous street market and focus of the Carnival, at first just a track across farmland, was named after a port in the Gulf of Mexico captured by Admiral Vernon in 1739. In commercial terms, it was created to serve the wealthy homes built in the Victorian era on Notting Hill.



### Canal, Rail & Road

Cities grow along the transport arteries. The first through transport to influence the area of our walk was the Grand Union Canal - Paddington Branch - built in 1801. This is off our map, north of today's Westway. It led to the brick and pottery industry in Notting Dale, supplying central London's expanding needs.

The walk circle itself touches two major trunk routes - the A40(M) and A4(M). Railways include British Rail to Olympia, and the old Hammersmith and City Line, now Metropolitan. All these deeply influenced the history of the area, bringing both riches and riots!



Kensington Palace



Kensington Square

ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA  
**KENSINGTON SQUARE**  
ONE OF THE OLDEST SQUARES IN LONDON. IT DATES FROM 1665 AND BECAME POPULAR AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF WILLIAM III AND MARY II AT KENSINGTON PALACE IN 1689. THE BUILDINGS DATE FROM C. 1700 TO 1900, WITH MOST BEING BUILT DURING THE 18TH CENTURY. NOS. 11 AND 12, BUILT BETWEEN 1693 AND 1702, ARE THE OLDEST UNALTERED HOUSES.

### Kensington Gardens

Linked with the Royal Family since William III bought it and asked Wren to re-design it. During the alterations, a fire broke out and the King and Queen narrowly escaped. Queen Anne, George II and III lived it in. Queen Victoria was born there and lived there until her accession. It is now very much associated with the memory of Princess Diana.



Sculpture - Holland Park

### Holland Park

An oasis in crowded Kensington. The house was built in 1607 and lived in by General Fairfax under Cromwell; by political essayist Addison in 1716-19 and by Charles Fox the great Parliamentary orator and slave trade abolitionist from 1762 onwards.

It has been partially rebuilt after bombing in the Second World War.

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**The Unlock London Sponsored Walk**  
No.18 - Saturday 28th April 2001

**Riots, Riches & Roadways**  
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