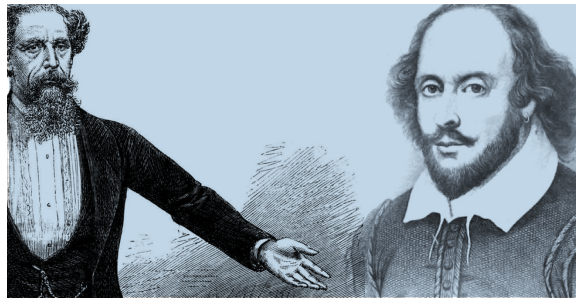


THE DICKENS & SHAKESPEARE CYCLE ROUTE



CYCLING
IN SOUTHWARK

A gentle five-mile ride around the Thames area of Southwark, exploring the links Shakespeare, Dickens, Keats and Chaucer had with this area.



A START The ride starts at the junction of London Bridge and Duke Street Hill by the stone Southwark Needle.

B THE WHITE HART, WHITE HART YARD Written when Dickens was 24, *The Pickwick Papers* became his first major success as readers took to Sam Weller, the astute cockney taken by the unworldly Pickwick as his personal servant on his travels. Pickwick found Weller at the White Hart coaching inn ‘*burnishing a pair of painted tops (boots), the personal property of a farmer who was refreshing himself with a slight lunch of two or three pounds of beef and a pot or two of porter, after the fatigues of the Borough Market*’.

Looking from the yard you can see Borough Market which features in *Pickwick Papers*, when, following a riotous party, Ben Allen ‘*knocked double knocks at the door of the Borough Market Office and took short naps on the step alternately, until daybreak, under the firm impression that he lived there and had forgotten his key*’. Just by this, now 16 Borough High Street, was the site of St Thomas’ Hospital, where the first complete English Bible was printed in 1537.

C GUY’S HOSPITAL Bob Sawyer was a medical student (*Pickwick Papers*) and Mrs Gamp’s husband died (Martin Chuzzlewit) at this teaching hospital, which was endowed by wealthy printer and publisher Thomas Guy (1645-1724) and built in 1721-24. The poet, John Keats (1795-1821) trained as a surgeon-apothecary at Guy’s from 1815 – 16 and the bronze statue, by Stuart Williamson, celebrates his life.

D BLUE PLAQUE commemorating Keats on St Thomas’ Street.

E THE GEORGE INN The National Trust owned, Grade 1 listed building is the last of the coaching inns that peppered this area. The George is mentioned by Dickens in *Little Dorrit*.

F TABARD INN, TALBOT YARD Geoffrey Chaucer (1343 – 1400) set *The Canterbury Tales* as the starting point for ‘*The Canterbury Tales*’. The pilgrims first meet here on their journey to Canterbury

G MARSHALSEA PRISON WALL

Dating from the 14th century to its closure in 1842, Marshalsea was, like other prisons, privately run for profit. Until the Bankruptcy Act of 1869 abolished debtors’ prisons, men and women in England were routinely imprisoned for debt. Their families were left to depend on charity, so the prisoners would often have their families with them, though they could come and go during the day.. Dickens’ father was imprisoned here in 1824 for his bad debts, and joined by his wife and three younger children, while twelve-year-old Charles left school and lodged nearby, taking a job in a factory. *Little Dorrit*, in Dickens’ book of the same name, was born in Marshalsea.

H ST GEORGE THE MARTYR CHURCH

This is where *Little Dorrit* was christened. One night she returned to the prison too late and was locked out for the night so she slept in the vestry of the church with the register for a pillow. It was here she was married to Arthur Clennam. The bottom right-hand corner of the modern stained glass window at the east-end of the church has a representation of *Little Dorrit* wearing a poke hat.

I After *Little Dorrit* Park is **QUILP STREET**, named after Daniel Quilp, the grotesque villain from ‘*The Old Curiosity Shop*’ with a ‘*ghastly smile which, appearing to be the mere result of habit and to have no connection with any mirthful or complacent feeling... gave him the aspect of a panting dog*’. Around the corner, Mint Street had a workhouse from 1729, which held up to 300 inmates when Dickens lived nearby, and the area was a notorious slum. Weller Street is named after Sam Weller in the *Pickwick Papers*.

J LANT STREET Twelve-year-old Charles Dickens took lodgings in Lant Street during 1824 to be near his family in prison, and worked in a nearby factory. The street is also one of main locations of the plot of Sarah Waters’ *Fingersmith*

The ride continues to Pickwick Street, Copperfield Street and past the Charles Dickens Pub to

K DOG AND POT SCULPTURE

‘*My usual way home was over Blackfriars Bridge and down that turning in the Blackfriars Road which has Rowland Hill’s chapel on one side, and the likeness of a golden dog licking a golden pot over a shop door on the other.*’

The current sign, made from Elm, was created by carpenter and artist Michael Painter for the bicentenary of Dickens’ birth in 2012. The original sign is in the borough’s Cuming Museum

PICKWICK STREET
LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK



Keat's statue

London Borough of Southwark
Geoffrey Chaucer
1342 to 1400
England's greatest medieval poet
and author of the "Canterbury Tales"
The Tabard Inn
Site from which Chaucer's
pilgrims set off in
April 1386
Voted by the People

*Bifel that in that season on a day,
In Southwerk at the Tabard as I lay
Redy to wenden on my pilgrimage
To Caunterbury with ful devout corage,
At nyght was come into that hostelrye
Wel nyne and twenty in a compaignye
Of sondry folk, by aventure yfalle
In felawshipe, and pilgrimes were they alle,
That toward Caunterbury wolden ryde;
The chambres and the stables weren wyde,
And well we weren esed atte beste;*
from *The Canterbury Tales*

1

The Dog and Pot



L CHRIST CHURCH Christ Church Garden is the remains of the much larger medieval Paris Garden mentioned in William Shakespeare's play Henry VIII.

M SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE **N THE ROSE** **O THE GLOBE** The actor-manager James Burbage built London's first purpose-built theatre, The Theatre, in Shoreditch in 1576. In the 1580s Shakespeare joined the resident company. Following a dispute about renewal of the land lease, the company dismantled the timbers of the Theatre and rebuilt it in Southwark, as the Globe, opening in 1599.

The new theatre was near the first theatre on Bankside, the Rose, which was built in 1587. Plays included Marlowe's Doctor Faustus, Jew of Malta and Tamburlaine the Great, Kyd's Spanish Tragedy and Shakespeare's Henry VI part I and Titus Andronicus. Following the arrival of the Globe, the Rose fell out of use and by 1606 had been abandoned as a theatre.

Shakespeare lived in Southwark for around five years and was a shareholder in the Globe, where many of his plays were presented.

In 1613, during a performance of Henry VIII, the thatched roof caught fire and the theatre rapidly burned to the ground, luckily without loss of life. The theatre was quickly rebuilt, this time with a tiled roof. Along with all other theatres, the Globe was closed by the Puritan administration in 1642 and demolished in 1644.

American actor, director and producer Sam Wanamaker had the idea to recreate the Globe after visiting London in 1949. Although he died in 1993, construction of the new theatre had started, a short distance from the original site, and in 1997 it was completed. Other than concessions to comply with modern day fire regulations such as additional exits, illuminated signage, fire retardant materials and some modern backstage machinery, the Globe is as accurate a reconstruction of the 1599 Globe as was possible.

P SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL William Shakespeare is commemorated by a window and statue in the South Aisle. The window was designed by Christopher Webb, replacing one destroyed during the war, and was unveiled on the anniversary of Shakespeare's death in April 1954.

Beneath it is a recumbent alabaster figure of Shakespeare, carved by Henry McCarthy in 1912, set against a background of seventeenth-century Southwark in relief, showing the Globe Theatre, Winchester Palace and the tower of St Saviour's. Shakespeare's brother Edmund was buried in St Saviour's in 1607, and although the position of Edmund's grave is unknown, he is commemorated by an inscribed stone in the paving of the Choir.

Opposite the Shakespeare window is a window commemorating Chaucer.

Q BOATS ON THE RIVER Dickens opened 'Our Mutual Friend', with Gaffer Hexham and Daughter Lizzie making a living from finding corpses floating in the river

R NANCY'S STEPS

It was on the steps of the previous London Bridge to this one that, in Dicken's Oliver Twist, Noah Claypole was able to hide and overhear the conversation that eventually led to the death of Nancy at the hands of Bill Sikes. Claypole had been following Nancy, who meets Rose Maylie and Mr Brownlow on the bridge but won't speak there. "Not here," said Nancy hurriedly; "I am afraid to speak to you here. Come away - out of the public road - down the steps yonder!"

S JACOB'S ISLAND AND FOLLY DITCH

Sikes meets his bitter end at Jacob's Island, which is very different now to how it was in Dickens' era:

"rooms so small, so filthy, so confined, that the air would seem too tainted even for the dirt and squalor which they shelter; wooden chambers thrusting themselves out above the mud, and threatening to fall into it- as some have done; dirt-besmeared walls and decaying foundations; every repulsive lineament of poverty, every loathsome indication of filth, rot, and garbage; all these ornament the banks of Folly Ditch.

In Jacob's Island, the warehouses are roofless and empty; the walls are crumbling down; the windows are windows no more; the doors are falling into the streets; the chimneys are blackened, but they yield no smoke. Thirty or forty years ago, before losses and chancery suits came upon it, it was a thriving place; but now it is a desolate island indeed. The houses have no owners; they are broken open, and entered upon by those who have the courage; and there they live, and there they die. They must have powerful motives for a secret residence, or be reduced to a desitute condition indeed, who seek a refuge in Jacob's Island."

T Many blocks of flats around here are named after **DICKENS' CHARACTERS**, including Dombey, Copperfield, Nickleby, Tapley, Wade, Pickwick, Weller, Haredale, Tupman, Rudge, Micawber, and Wrayburn.



London Borough of Southwark

Sam Wanamaker
1919 - 1993

Visionary who recreated
Shakespeare's Globe

Voted by the People



London Borough of Southwark
The
Rose Theatre
Built here in 1587

First
Elizabethan theatre
of Bankside

Voted by the People

"..a boat of dirty and disreputable appearance, with two figures in it, floated on the Thames, between Southwark bridge which is of iron, and London Bridge which is of stone, as an autumn evening was closing in.

The figures in this boat were those of a strong man with ragged grizzled hair and a sun-browned face, and a dark girl of nineteen or twenty, sufficiently like him to be recognizable as his daughter. The girl rowed, pulling a pair of sculls very easily; the man, with the rudder-lines slack in his hands, and his hands loose in his waistband, kept an eager look out."

from *Our Mutual Friend*, Charles Dickens



Boats on the river



L Left **SO** Straight on **X** Cross Roads **LHS** Left Hand Side
R Right **T** T Junction **TL** Traffic Lights **RHS** Right Hand Side

A START Junction of London Bridge and Duke Street Hill by the stone Southwark Needle.

Cycle away from London Bridge under the railway bridge **SO** into Borough High Street, past St Thomas' Street on **LHS**
L into 2nd narrow alley - White Hart Yard

B THE WHITE HART Continue to back of White Hart Yard, through pedestrian gap in barrier and follow road to **right**, then to **left**. Stop on **LHS** by steps to archway of old building and take bikes up steps (mobility option to leave bikes there and return to Borough High Street as you came) to see

C GUY'S HOSPITAL - Keat's statue in cove on lawn on **RHS** of path. **Continue** on path out of the quadrangle on the other side and **L** onto St Thomas' Street. Stop on **LHS**

D BLUE PLAQUE commemorating Keats.

L at TL into Borough High Street
L at 3rd narrow alley way into

E THE GEORGE INN

L out of yard and immediately **L** into Talbot Yard. Look on **LHS** for plaque and posters

F TABARD INN, TALBOT YARD **L** out of yard onto Borough High Street.

L just before church onto pavement
L up slope into garden and see plaque by gates on far wall

G MARSHALSEA PRISON WALL Return to the church

H ST GEORGE THE MARTYR CHURCH

Walk back down Borough High Street, past John Hopkins Library and **cross road**.

Cycle along path adjacent to Little Dorrit Park
L into Redcross Way, past

I QUILP STREET

SO at **X** into Mint Street,
L into Weller Street

L into

J LANT STREET plaque in Charles Dickens School by gate

R up Toulmin Street to see Pickwick Street on **LHS**, then return and **L** into Lant Street

SO at **X** into Sawyer Street
L at T into Copperfield Street

R into Risborough Street

L into Union Street (noting Charles Dickens pub)

SO at Cross Roads (still Union Street)

STOP on **LHS** at **TL** (by Blackfriars Road)

K DOG AND POT SCULPTURE

R onto Blackfriars Road

Stop on **LHS** by

L CHRIST CHURCH

Cross Blackfriars Road into Burrell Street

L into Bear Lane

L then immediate **R** into Hopton Street

R following Hopton Street

R into Holland Street

L into Sumner Street

L into Park Street

L into New Globe Walk

M SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

Back up New Globe Walk

L into Park Street

STOP before railway bridge on **LHS** for:

N THE ROSE blue plaque

Continue under railway bridge, **stop** on **RHS**:

O THE GLOBE

Continue along Park Street

L at T into Bank end

R under railway into Clink Street

R into Winchester Square

L into Winchester Walk

L into Montague Close

P SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

Continue down to river

Q BOATS ON THE RIVER

Continue along Montague Close to steps leading up to London Bridge

R NANCY'S STEPS

Continue under bridge into Tooley Street and **L at T**, still Tooley St.

SO at **TL** (junction with Tower Bridge Road)

Continue SO into Jamaica Road

Look on **LHS** for pavement cycle path, NCN 4 (don't use)

L into Mill Street (SEE INSET MAP)

STOP on **LHS** by New Concordia Wharf - plaque

S JACOB'S ISLAND AND FOLLY DITCH

R onto Bermondsey Wall. Admire river view

R onto George Row

R onto Wolseley Street

T Many **BLOCKS OF FLATS** around here are named after Dickens' characters, inc. Dombey, Copperfield, Nickleby, Tapley, Wade, Pickwick, Weller, Haredale, Tupman, Rudge, Micawber, Wrayburn.

L onto Dockhead

R onto Jamaica Road

Bear R at TL into Tooley Street Bus Lane

Continue along Tooley Street becomes Duke Street Hill to London Bridge

END