

WESTMINSTER HEROINES OF LITERATURE



This 8 mile (approx) ride around Westminster introduces us to women that have made their name in the world of words. We'll be meeting big names like Agatha Christie and Nancy Mitford as well as lesser known writers and institutions like Rose Macaulay and the Silver Moon Bookshop.

The circular route takes us down back streets and on quiet roads so that you can relax and enjoy the ride. This is a great way to build confidence cycling in the city.

START & FINISH: tokyobike Fitzrovia, 14 Eastcastle St, London W1T

A MARGOT TENNANT (1865 - 1945) 20 Cavendish Square
Margot was a huntswoman, a society queen and an autobiographer. She belonged to a group of intellectuals called "The Souls" which advocated greater freedom for women. She was married to the Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith.



MARGOT TENNANT

B QUEEN'S COLLEGE 43-49 Harley Street
Founded in 1848, Queen's College is the oldest institution for the higher education of women in England. It played a crucial role in the development of other educational institutions through the training of pioneers. The alumnae includes several prominent writers including Gertrude Bell and Katherine Mansfield.



QUEEN'S COLLEGE

C ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING (1806-1861) Saint Marylebone Parish Church
Elizabeth is to Marylebone as Virginia Woolf is to Bloomsbury. Elizabeth was one of the most prominent British poets of the Victorian era. She married her husband in secret at the St Marylebone Parish Church. Her mother's collection of her poetry forms one of the largest collections extant of juvenilia by any English writer.



ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING

D ROSE MACAULAY (1881-1958) 11-14 Hinde Street
Rose was an English writer, most noted for her award-winning novel *The Towers of Trebizond*, about a small Anglo-Catholic group crossing Turkey by camel. During World War I Macaulay worked in the British Propaganda Department, after some time as a nurse and later as a civil servant in the War Office.



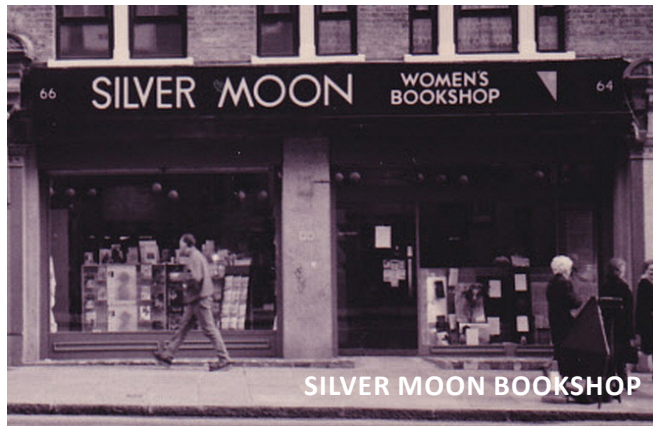
ROSE MACAULAY

E VITA SACKVILLE-WEST (1892-1962) The Wallace Collection
Vita was an English poet, novelist and garden designer. She inherited part of the Wallace Collection from her mother. She was twice awarded the Hawthornden Prize for Imaginative Literature. She is also remembered as the inspiration for the androgynous protagonist of *Orlando: A Biography* by Virginia Woolf, with whom she had a brief affair.



OLIVE SCHREINER

F OLIVE SCHREINER (1855-1920) 16 Portsea Place
Olive was a South African author, anti-war campaigner and intellectual. She is best remembered today for her novel *The Story of an African Farm* which has been highly acclaimed since its first publication in 1883.



G VIOLET BONHAM-CARTER (1887-1969) 43 Gloucester Sq

A British politician and diarist, Violet was also the daughter of Prime Minister Herbert Asquith and grandmother to the actress Helena Bonham-Carter. Her diaries cover her father's premiership before and during WW1.



VIOLET BONHAM-CARTER

H FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE (1820-1910) 10 South Street

Florence was known as the founder of modern nursing. She founded the first secular nursing school at St Thomas' Hospital in 1860. She also wrote *Notes on Nursing*, a guide on nursing for those entrusted with the health of others. Despite the passage of time, the guide remains relevant to modern attitudes and skills in nursing.



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

I NANCY MITFORD (1904-1973) 10 Curzon Street

Nancy Mitford was a novelist, biographer and journalist. Her semi-autobiographical works *Pursuit of Love* and *Love in a Cold Climate* launched her literary career. One of the renowned Mitford sisters and one of the "Bright Young People" on the London social scene in the inter-war years, she is best remembered for her novels about upper-class life in England and France and for her sharp and often provocative wit.



NANCY MITFORD

J THE LONDON LIBRARY 14 St James Square

Founded in 1844 by Thomas Carlyle, the library had quite an illustrious members list including women such as Virginia Woolf, Jane Morris and George Eliot. The library received criticism that the 'Women' section in the library was labelled 'Miscellaneous'.



THE LONDON LIBRARY

K SILVER MOON BOOKSHOP Charing Cross Road (*actual location further up the road*)

What is now a Chinese medicine shop used to be the Silver Moon Bookshop, a feminist bookshop founded in 1984 by Sue Butterworth and Joe Cholmeley. They won the Pandora award in 1989 for "contributing most to promoting the status of women in publishing and related trades".

L AGATHA CHRISTIE (1890-1976) Great Newport Street/Cranbourn Street

Agatha Christie has a Guinness World Record and was made a Dame to recognise her contribution to literature. After unsuccessful initial attempts, her first book published was *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* in 1920 which introduced Hercule Poirot to the world and launched her literary career.



M. RADCLYFFE-HALL

M MARGUERITE RADCLYFFE-HALL (1880-1943) Bow Magistrates Court

Marguerite's book *The Well of Loneliness* created quite a stir. It pleaded tolerance of lesbianism but was found obscene by the magistrates in 1928 and banned from being published. The obscenity trial was held at Bow Magistrates Court.



THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY

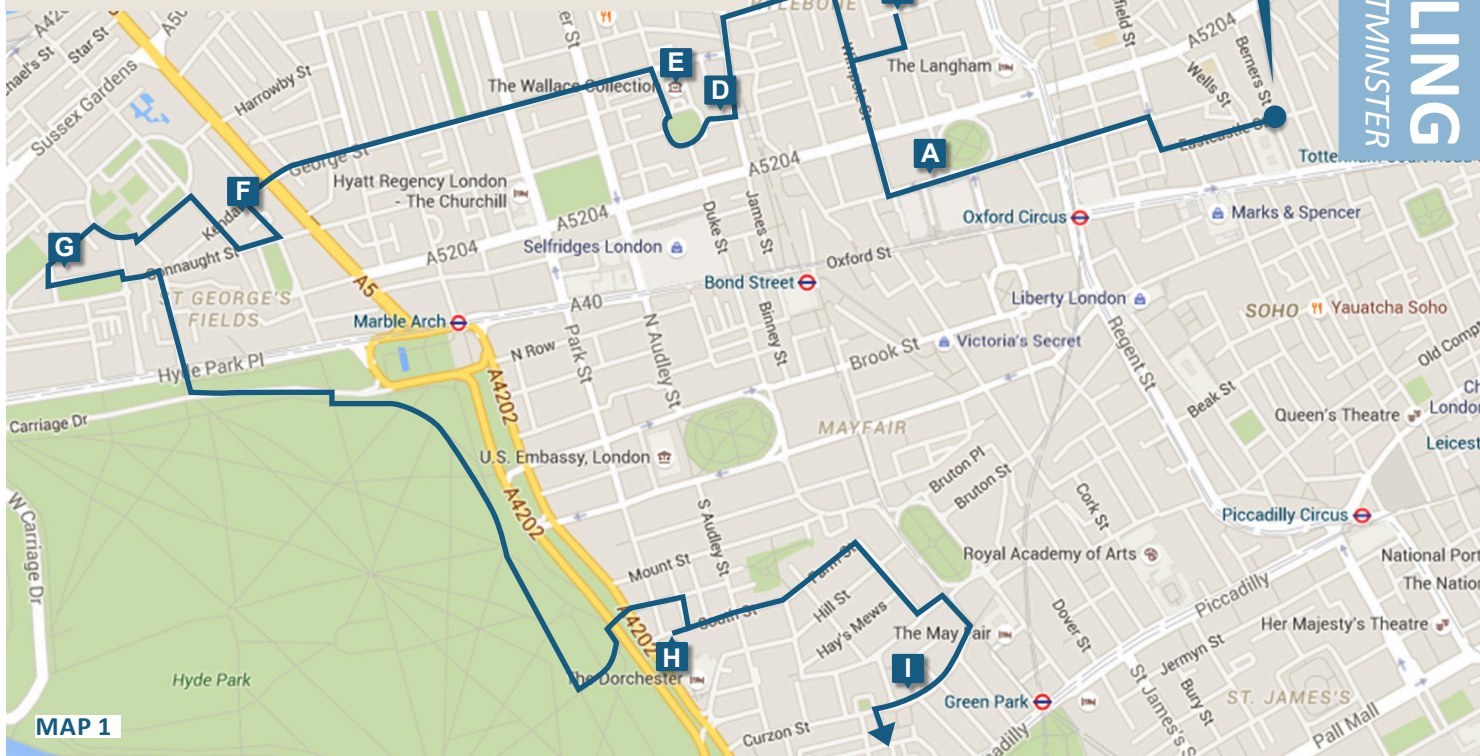
N THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY 10 Portugal Street

Since being established in 1867 by the London Society for Women's Suffrage, The Women's Library has transformed from a small but interesting society library into a major resource with an international reputation. It remains the main library and museum resource on women's history and the women's movement.

ROUTE DIRECTIONS

I As London is constantly changing, check road signs and adapt route as necessary.

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



START: head west from **tokyobike** Fitzrovia 14 Eastcastle Street, along Eastcastle Street
 Follow road round to the **R** onto Great Titchfield Street
L onto Margaret Street
 At Cavendish Square pull over for

A MARGOT TENNANT 20 Cavendish Square

Continue west on Henrietta Place
 Bear **R** onto Wimpole Street
 Turn **R** onto Queen Anne Street
1st L pull over, walk up Harley Street to

B QUEENS COLLEGE 43-49 Harley Street

Retrace journey back onto Queen Anne Street towards Wimpole Street
 Turn **R** onto Wimpole Street
 Turn **L** onto Devonshire St
1st R Devonshire Place Mews
 Cross over Marylebone High Street to

C ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING St Marylebone Parish Church

Rejoin Marylebone High St head south
1st L Beaumont St
 @ **T junction** turn **R** onto New Cavendish Street
 Bear **L** onto B524 Thayer Street
 @ **TL** turn **R** onto Hinde Street
 Pullover, on the right

D ROSE MACAULAY 11-14 Hinde Street

Continue on Hinde Street
 Turn **L** into Manchester Square
 Follow round until corner of Wallace Collection

E VITA SACKVILLE-WEST Wallace Collection, Manchester Sq

Come off Manchester Square on Manchester St
 Turn **L** onto George St
 Continue over Edgware Rd onto Kendal St
1st L Portsea Pl

F OLIVE SCHREINER 16, Portsea Place

Continue on Portsea Pl
 Turn **R** onto Connaught St
1st R Porchester Pl
2nd L Oxford Gardens
 Turn **R** into Hyde Park Crescent
 Turn **L** onto Southwick Pl
 Corner of Gloucester Sq and Hyde Park Sq is

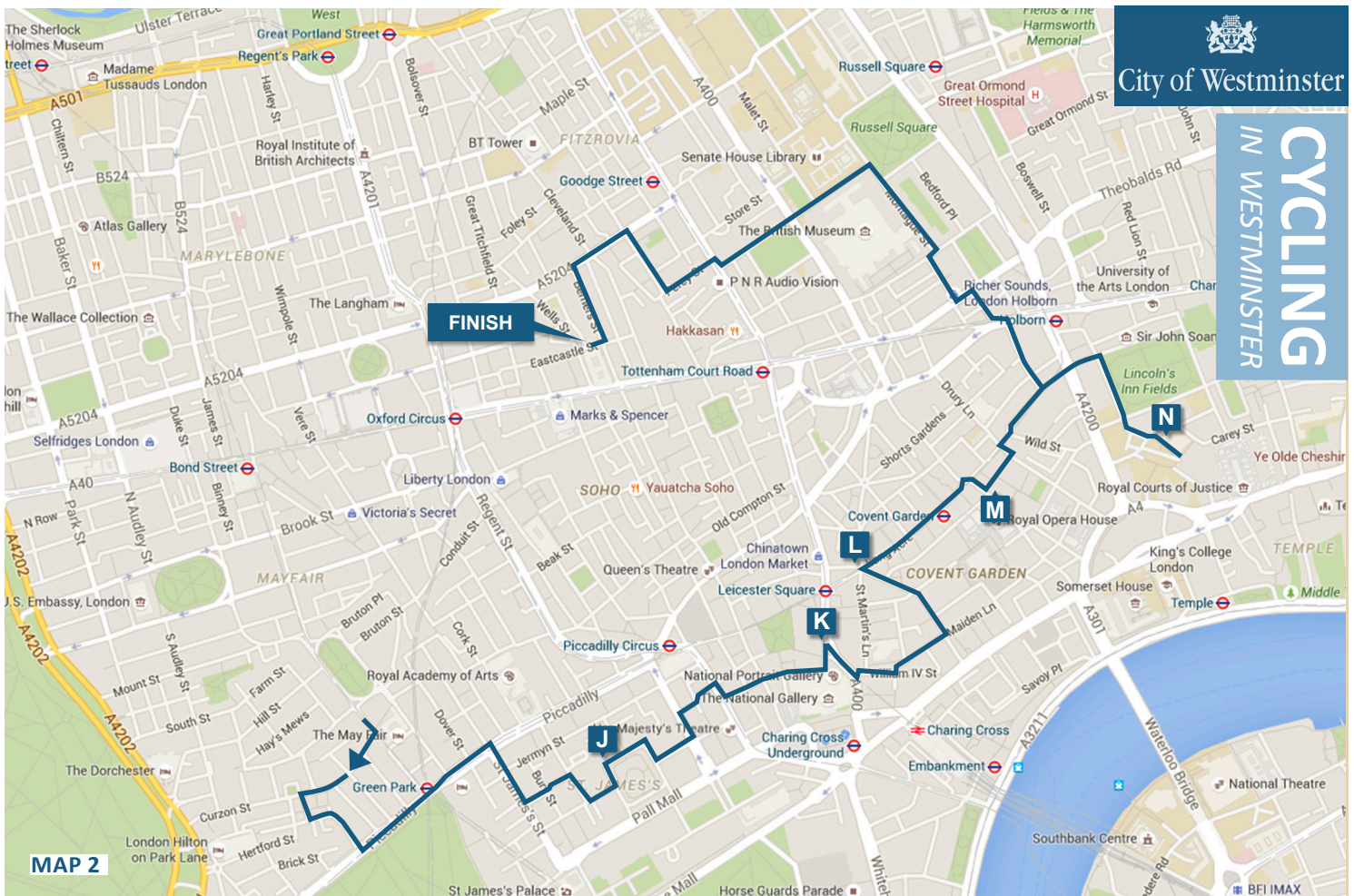
G VIOLET BONHAM CARTER 43 Gloucester Sq

Continue on Hyde Park Sq, take **1st L**
 Turn **R** onto Hyde Park St
1st L onto Connaught Ct
R onto Albion Street
 Cross over Hyde Park Place using cyclist crossing
 Turn **L** onto N Carriage Drive
 Turn **R** onto cycle path in Hyde Park and follow past Speakers Corner
 Dismount by Joy of Life Fountain, exit park and use pedestrian subway to cross Park Ln
 Continue on Aldford St, turn **R** into Rex Pl
 @ **T junction** turn **R** onto South St

H FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE 10 South Street

Go back on South St, continue on Farm St
 Continue straight over Hill St
 Turn **L** @ Charles St, bear right and follow round into Fitzmaurice Pl
 Bear **L** on Curzon St until

I NANCY MITFORD 10 Curzon Street



Continue on Curzon St
 Turn **L** onto Trebeck St
 Turn **L** onto Shepherd Street, bear **R** onto White Horse Ln
 @ end of White Horse Ln, dismount and walk **L** along Piccadilly
 Use pedestrian crossing at Albemarle Street to cross over Piccadilly
 Rejoin carriageway on St James' St
2nd L onto Ryder St
 Cross over Bury St and continue on Ryder St
 Turn **R** onto Duke Street St James'
 Bear **L** and turn **L** onto King St
 @ St James' Sq turn **L** and stop at

J THE LONDON LIBRARY 14 St James' Sq

Continue around St James' Sq and exit **L** at Charles II St
 Turn **L** onto Waterloo Pl and bear **R**
 Turn **R** onto Carlton St
 Dismount and turn **L** St Alban's St, **1st R** Norris St
 Rejoin carriageway and turn **R** on Haymarket
 Turn **L** onto Orange St, follow round onto Charing Cross Rd,

K SILVER MOON BOOKSHOP Charing Cross Road (*actual location further up the road*)

Turn **R** onto Charing Cross Road towards Trafalgar Sq
1st L onto St Martins Pl
 Continue onto William VI St and turn **L** onto Chandos Pl
2nd L onto Bedford St
 Continue onto Garrick St
 @ Seven Dials **TL**, dismount and use pedestrian crossing to

L AGATHA CHRISTIE STATUE between Cranbourn St and Great Newport St

Rejoin carriageway on Great Newport St and cross over **TL** onto Long Acre
 Turn **R** on Endell St
 Continue on Bow St and pullover next to

M BOW MAGISTRATES COURT in Bow Ct

Continue along Bow Ct
 Turn **L** onto Drury Lane
1st R onto Great Queen St
 @ **TL** continue straight over Kingsway onto Remnant St
 Turn **R** into Lincoln's Inn Field
 Continue onto Portsmouth St
 Follow round to Portugal Street for the

N WOMEN'S LIBRARY 10 Portugal Street

Retrace route back over Kingsway onto Great Queen St
1st R onto Newton St
L @ High Holborn
 Bear **R** onto New Oxford St
 After **TL** **1st R** Bury Lane
 Continue straight onto Bury Lane @ **TL** using cycle contraflow
R @ Great Russell St, **1st L** Montague St
L @ Montague Pl, cycle contraflow
 Continue straight @ **TL** onto Bedford Sq, use cycle contraflow, rejoin and continue on Bayley St
 Turn **R** onto Tottenham Court Rd
 After **TL** turn **L** Windmill St, continue through barriers
R @ Charlotte St
 At **TL** turn **L** onto Goodge St
3rd L onto Berners St
 Dismount at Eastcastle St and walk right to 14 Eastcastle Street, **tokyobike** Fitzrovia

END