

## Economists' Walk No. 1: Bloomsbury

### Practicalities

#### British Museum

Access to the British Museum is free of charge. The Galleries, Great Court and Reading Room are all open daily from 10:00-17:30.

[www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

#### Main UCL Library

Delegates are entitled to access to the library: you will need to show your conference pass. Opening hours over the summer vacation are 9:30-19:00, Monday to Friday. The library is closed at weekends.

[www.ucl.ac.uk/Library/main.shtml](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/Library/main.shtml)

#### Refreshments

Two pubs are mentioned on this walk:

The Jeremy Bentham,  
31 University Street

The Fitzroy Tavern,  
16 Charlotte Street

The walk ends on Charlotte Street: this is one of the best places near the conference for eating, with a large number of restaurants of different types and in different price ranges.



## Directions

The walk starts in Great Russell Street, outside the British Museum. **Thomas Robert Malthus**, staying in London 'at a garret in Town' while working on the *Essay*, corresponded from an address in this street. Enter the British Museum (1) from the front, continue through to the main atrium from where it is possible to enter the Great Reading Room. This room was used by many famous figures. **Karl Marx** wrote his most important economic tracts here, seated in G7 to your right as you enter. A list of eminent ticket holders is either side of the entrance and includes, for example, **John Maynard Keynes** and **Francis Galton**.

Leave the Reading Room by the same door through which you entered. You will be leaving the British Museum from an exit on the opposite side of the building. You need to walk around the outside of the Reading Room and leave the atrium at the opposite side. Follow signs through a gallery and down a staircase to the Montague Place exit.

Turn left into Montague Place and take the second right on to Gower Street (2) where John Maynard Keynes lived at No.3. Lodgings in the street were occupied by students in the nineteenth century and it is known, for example, that **William Stanley Jevons** lived in the street for a time during his student days. Proceed north along Gower Street, passing blue plaques for a number of distinguished artists and scientists until you reach the bookshop on the right.

Turn right here into Torrington Place and continue to Gordon Square (3), which will be on your left. Cross the garden in the square, and on the far side at No.46 a blue plaque marks the residence there of **John Maynard Keynes**. Several doors down at No.50 a brown plaque commemorates the association of the area with the Bloomsbury Group, a club of aesthetes and scholars with whom Keynes associated. Yet another plaque at

No.51 shows where Lytton Strachey, a well-known member of the group, lived in the same row of houses.

Follow the square around anti-clockwise and turn right into Gordon Street. **William Guy**, nineteenth century medical statistician, died at No.12, now demolished but presumably at around the location of UCL's current chemistry block, which you will see on the right (4).

Enter UCL just to the south of the Bloomsbury Theatre. Follow the road around to the left, then take the path to your right alongside the Bernard Katz building until you reach a double door labelled South Junction. Go in this door, through further double doors to your left and up the first flight of stairs. Continue straight ahead then round to the right and you will find the entrance to South Cloisters (5). Just before you enter the Cloisters you will find **Jeremy Bentham's** "auto-icon", his preserved and dressed skeleton, besides a display on Bentham's life.

A mural representing Bentham's role in the foundation of the college can be observed in the Main Library (6) below the college dome. The main steps to the library (situated between South and North Cloisters) have a statue to **John Locke**, but due to building work this statue is mostly boarded up. To get to the library during the building work follow the signs through North Cloisters and around to the right at the end. Go through a set of doors and up one flight of stairs. The entrance is to your right.

When you return to North Cloisters, if you cross to the side opposite the stairs you just returned down, there is a door out into the front Quad. Exit UCL by the main entrance on the opposite side of the Quad from the Cloisters. Turn left onto Gower Street, then take the first right onto University Street. As you follow this road, you will pass the Jeremy

Bentham pub (7), where a reproduction of his bust is displayed upstairs. Continue to Tottenham Court Road, turn right, then left onto Grafton Street, where you should continue until you reach Fitzroy Square (8). **William Farr**, early epidemiologist, practised medicine at No.7 Grafton Street (then the name for Grafton Way), Fitzroy Square, but it is not possible to identify where his house would have been.

**John Ramsey McCulloch**, first professor of political economy at UCL and developer and exponent of the classical Ricardian system, lived at No.4 Southampton Street, Fitzroy Square, somewhere on the location of what is now Conway Street running to the west side of the square. The area was fashionable, the residence is said to have been expensive and McCulloch was said never to have been satisfied with the capacity of his professorial salary to cover the expense. Virginia Woolf lived for a time in Fitzroy Square at No.29.

Leave the square at the south-west corner along Grafton Way, cross Cleveland Street and proceed along Carburton Street. Turn right into Great Portland Street, then left into Devonshire Street. **Charles Babbage**, early computer

designer and also author on production economics, lived for a time at No 5 (9). Continue along Devonshire Street and turn left at the end into Portland Place. Proceed south for five minutes past BBC Broadcasting House and All Souls Church until you reach Little Portland Street on the left. **Philip Wicksteed**, economist, was a Unitarian minister in the chapel here from 1874-97, which was situated on the left half-way down the remainder of the street (at about the location of the current Alexandra House) (10).

Continue along Little Portland Street, turn right at the end onto Great Titchfield Street then left onto Eastcastle Street. At the end of this street, turn left onto Newman Street, then take a right turn into Newman Passage, a small alleyway, which runs along the side of a pub, the Newman Arms. Continue straight ahead, across the road and through a further alley, Percy Passage (which has two sections divided by Rathbone Street), and you will see the Fitzroy Tavern (11) ahead of you, where the tour ends. This pub was a favourite haunt of a number of writers and artists including Dylan Thomas, George Orwell and Augustus John, who between 1894 and 1898 studied at the Slade School of Art, now part of UCL.