Montefiore Heritage Trail via Winterstoke Crescent

The Trail should take a leisurely one-and-a-half to two hours.

Your starting point is Montefiore Avenue (at the junction with Davenport Park Drive). Proceed along Montefiore Avenue, past the Montefiore Games Centre and tennis courts on the left, until you reach the gated entrance to King George VI Park.

Gate House
Here the Gate Keeper and his family lived

Turn left outside the gate and follow the path around to the Stable Block. Follow signs for the Montefiore Design Studios. CT11 8BD
6. The Mausoleum
This is a replica of Rachel's tomb near Bethlehem which was restored by Lady Montefiore in 1839. Lady Montefiore was buried here in 1862. Sir Moses was buried by her side in 1885. The inscription is from the Hebrew hymn Adon Moa: ‘Within Thy Hand I lay my Soul; Bath when I sleep and when I wake! And with my soul my body too! My Lord is with me I shall not fear.’ The pillar behind the mausoleum, brought back from the Holy Land by Sir Moses, alludes perhaps to the tombstone erected over Rachel’s tomb by the patriarch Jacob.

On the footpath by the synagogue and with the synagogue clock on your left, continue towards the ‘Honesuckle Inn’ passing the site of Temple Cottage.

7. Temple Cottage
Situated halfway between the Synagogue and the Honesuckle Inn, it was built around 1837. Two brothers, the Revs. Isaac and Emanuel Myers, who were readers and chaplains to Sir Moses, lived here. Isaac Myers ran a school for both Jewish and Christian students. The cottage was demolished in the 1960s. This was probably the site of the so-called ‘Rabbi’s Orchard’, where local folklore tells of young lads and lasses scrumping or being allowed to pick apples for a farthing.

Note that you need to turn left at the first set of semi-detached houses to get to the Honesuckle Inn and perhaps a refreshment stop.

Exit past the Honesuckle Inn, to the right into Hereon Road and opposite the Tesco Extra store.

9. The ‘Florry’ cottages (95-97 Hereon Road)
These cottages, to the right, were built in memory of Floretta, youngest daughter of Sir Joseph Sebag-Montefiore. There are six almns houses: three for Jews and three for Christians.

With the Florry Cottages on your left, continue along Hereon Road to:

10. Arklow Square and Holy Trinity Church
Baron Arklow is the Irish title of the Duke of Sussex (1773-1843) sixth son of George III. Holy Trinity is built on land given by the Duke’s daughter Augusta Emma, Lady Trafalgar (1801-1866), the daughter of the Duke of Sussex and hismorganatic wife, Lady Augusta Murray (1768-1830). The Duke was a close friend of Sir Moses; they shared the services of the Orientalist and scholar Dr Louis Loew. The Duke helped Montefiore in the fight for full Jewish Emancipation, and was patron of several Jewish charities, notably the Jews’ Hospital and Orphanage at Norwood, still in existence. He became the Hospital’s patron in 1815, and royal patronage has continued since that time; Her Majesty the Queen is the current patron.

At the church turn to the right alongside Arklow Square into Belgrave Road and walk to Augusta Road, which is the next road on the left:

11. Augusta Road
This was the western border of Lady Augusta’s estate, and was developed around 1845. With the opening of the synagogue, Jewish visitors increased and with them the need for boarding houses serving kosher food. Augusta Road was one of the streets where several of these existed until the early 20th Century.

12. Granville Hotel
A famous hotel (now apartments) built by Edward Pugin. This is where members of the Montefiore family attended the opening ball in August 1869. Sir Moses was listed as a patron. A bust of Edward Pugin facing the sea is situated opposite.

Retracing your steps along Victoria Parade, passing Augusta Road, the continuation of this road takes you along Wellington Crescent. (Note the three Blue Plaques as you walk along the Crescent):

13. Wellington Crescent
In December 1859 Sir Moses, as Sheriff of Kent, records going with two military officers to select land for a battery to protect the harbour. They selected a plot in the front of the Crescent, site of the present bandstand. A site nearby was later used as a battery emplacement during the two World Wars.

Take a look up Plains of Waterloo (next road on the right) where, in 1857, in a house on the left the contract to build the Jerusalem almshouses with the famous windmill was signed.

Continue the full length of Wellington Crescent to Albion Place:

14. Albion House
Built around 1789, it was where the Princess Victoria holidayed in 1835, and where Montefiore gave the Princess the gold key to his estate. In August, after receiving her uncle, Leopold, King of the Belgians, she fell ill with typhoid fever and stayed until she recovered in January of the following year. She was 16 at the time.

15. Royal Harbour
Distinguished visitors, such as the King and Queen of the Belgians, disembarked here on their way to London or to holiday in this fashionable resort.

On the corner, facing the harbour, the building now home to Pizza Express and formerly the National Westminster Bank is.

16. Albion Hotel (site of)
This is where the Montefiores stayed before moving into East Cliff Lodge, and where they often went to receive the many distinguished visitors who stayed there. The hotel stood in what was formerly called Goldsmith Place. The Goldsmiths were friends of Montefiore as well as of Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton.

Walk along the harbour (with the sea to your right and the many restaurants and cafes on your left) and you come to:

17. The Custom House
Built in 1839 for Customs and Excise, and now the Mayor’s Parlour. The Mayoral gold chain made up of the Hebrew letter ‘mem’, presented by Sir Moses at the incorporation of the town in 1884, is kept here.
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