

*“For there is good news yet to hear and fine things to be seen;
Before we go to Paradise by way of Kensal Green.”*

G. K. Chesterton's poem "The Rolling English Road" from his book *The Flying Inn*



Edmund Molyneux Mausoleum

Kensal Green Cemetery is one of the magnificent seven cemeteries in Greater London. The cemetery was founded by a barrister, George Frederick Carden (1798 - 1874). He had seen *La Cimetiere du Pere-Lachaise* on a visit to Paris and was so impressed that he wanted to produce an English version.

The 72 acre site has an eclectic mix of architectural styles, separate chapels for Anglicans and Dissenters and more mausoleums than any other English Cemetery.

Over 700 notable personalities are buried at Kensal Green Cemetery. The famous buried in Kensal Green include writers Anthony Trollope, William Makepeace Thackeray and Wilkie Collins; Oscar Wilde's Mother, engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Charles Babbage and Niagara Falls tightrope-walker Charles Blondin.

William Thackeray became famous after writing *Vanity Fair*. Other books are: *Pendennis*, *The Newcomers* and *The History of Henry Esmond*. He ate and drank too much and did little exercise and died of a heart attack on *Christmas Eve 1863 aged 52*.

Anthony Trollope (d. 1882) was a successful English novelist of the Victorian era, whose popularity continues into the present day. He worked for the Post Office after his father died and is credited with having introduced the famous red pillar boxes we still see today.

William Wilkie Collins (8 January 1824 – 23 September 1889) was an English novelist, playwright and short story writer best known for *The Woman in White* (1859) and *The Moonstone* (1868). The last has been called the first modern English detective novel.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel (d.1859) was a British engineer. He changed the face of the English landscape with his groundbreaking designs and ingenious constructions." Brunel built dockyards, the Great Western Railway (GWR), a series of steamships including the first and numerous important bridges and tunnels. His designs revolutionised public transport and modern engineering. *His father, Sir Marc Isambard Brunel is also buried in KGC.*

Charles Babbage (d. 1871) was an English mathematician and computer scientist who was the first person to come up with the idea of a computer.

Charles Blondin, originally named Jean Francois Gravelet (d. 1897), is remembered all round the world for achieving, in 1859, the first crossing of the Niagara Falls on a rope (he amazed onlookers when he stopped half way to cook and eat an omelette, he also crossed with a wheelbarrow, blindfolded and carrying a brave passenger).

Blondin attracted large audiences in many countries. He settled in England, where he found a wife, Charlotte who is buried with him in a large memorial with both their busts engraved.

Further information if you are interested:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIJFWW83wGO>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qrtdGL_0MU

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42WRsrDoq9k>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fb2GPO9sF6A>



Tomb of Major General Sir William Casement

Keeping fingers crossed for no rain on Sunday.

Ant x