

The Photography Group (Kevin Lucas)

This month the Photography Group visited Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park – just five minutes' walk from Mile End tube station.

The Cemetery opened in 1841, set up for the purpose of profit-making as well as the sanitation and health of the City. The site design was inspired by the garden cemeteries movement and both the landscape, and the original buildings were designed by architects Thomas Wyatt and David Brandon.

During the Second World War the cemetery suffered severely from enemy air attacks directed at the City of London and the docks. Two chapels and many of the memorials were damaged or destroyed.

The site contains over 350,000 burials and around 47,000 monuments and headstones including 7 that are designated as Grade II listed by Historic England as are the cemetery walls.

The cemetery closed in 1966, overgrown, and in financial difficulties. Following a compulsory purchase order, The Greater London Authority were given permission to turn it into a grassed public park by a further an Act of Parliament. However due to intense local opposition to the clearance of gravestones the plan was dropped, and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets took over ownership in 1986.

The site became a designated local nature reserve in 2001 and is also a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation. With its dark brooding and gothic atmosphere, the park is frequently used for filming, so much so we had to get permission for our visit which was a first for the group.



The Group

The weather was overcast with light drizzle which seemed wholly appropriate for the location which was very atmospheric.

Here is a selection of photos taken by the Group.



Vivienne Danzy



Anne Harriman



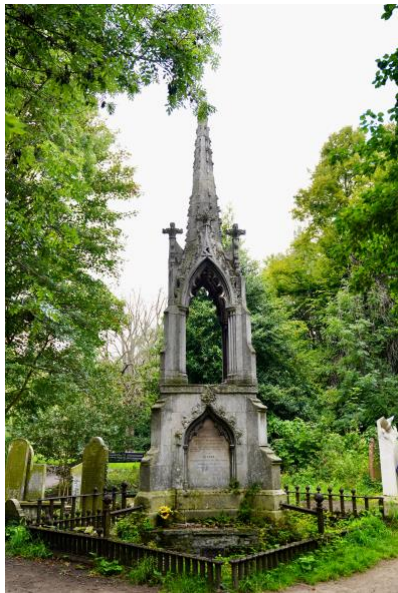
Rose Eckhard



Sam Blitz



Fiona Lucas



Kevin Lucas

Our next outing is planned for Thursday 28th September and will be riverside walk from the O2 to Woolwich via the Thames Barrier. Precise details will be available nearer the date.

To join the Photography Group, no special expertise or equipment is normally required and members with no interest in photography are welcome to join us purely for the outings. We have visited some very interesting locations in London.