

Murder and the Orient



This walking and cycling route takes you through the backstreets of Leytonstone and Leyton taking you on a trip back through time to learn about the borough's links with Hollywood Horror, Jack the Ripper and the Footballers Regiment of the First World War.

	Walking	Cycling
Distance	2.5 miles	
Time	50 minutes to 1 hour	20 to 40 minutes
Conditions	Mostly on footway	Mostly on quiet roads or segregated cycle tracks
Special Information		Brompton fold-up bike hire is available at Leyton and Leytonstone Station.
Public Transport	The start of this route can be easily accessed by public transport. The start is Leytonstone Underground Station which is on the Central Line and served by numerous local bus services.	

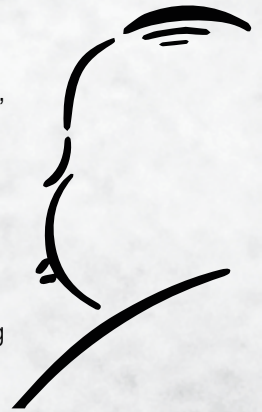
This route begins in the subway at Leytonstone Station. If you have arrived on the tube follow signs for the Leytonstone High Road, Church Lane exit. If you're walking or cycling you might want to pop into the station to start. One of our themes is immediately obvious on the walls of the station subway with mosaics of local hero Alfred Hitchcock's famous films.

- 1) As you walk out of the station turn right and walk along until the end row of shops. Turn left then right into Vernon Road. At the end of Vernon Road turn right into High Road Leytonstone.
- 2) Head down High Road Leytonstone – for 10 minutes walking or three minutes cycling – past High Road Leytonstone Overground Station on to Lynn Road.

Sir Alfred Hitchcock

The building on the corner has a large mural of 'The Birds', one of the famous films of our more famous sons, Sir Alfred Hitchcock. Sir Alfred Hitchcock was born in 1899 in Leytonstone. Hitchcock is considered the greatest British filmmaker and 'the master of suspense'.

He was a pioneer of many techniques still used in film today, particularly using cameras to mimic characters' views of scenes and framing scenes to ensure the scariest effect on the viewer. His career lasted over 50 years and his films such as Psycho and The Birds are now considered classics of the big screen the world over.



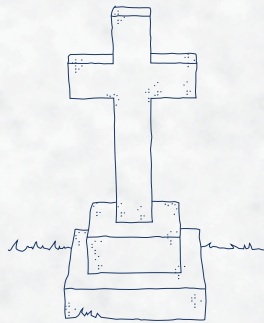
He was overlooked for many years while other British actors, actresses and filmmakers received recognition until he received a knighthood in 1988, the year of his death.

He is hidden in the mural somewhere. Can you see him? The house he was born in (517 High Road Leytonstone) was on the site of the petrol station opposite. A blue plaque marks the location.

- 3) Continue down High Road Leytonstone until you come to Cathall Road. The route turns right here at a signalised junction so less confident cyclists might want to get off before the junction and cross the road using the pedestrian crossing.
- 4) Continue straight along Cathall Road until you get to the junction with Hollydown Road which is a small roundabout. Turn left and in about 200m you will see the entrance to St Patrick's RC Cemetery on the right.

St Patrick's RC Cemetery

St Patrick's RC Cemetery is a large Roman Catholic Cemetery located between Leyton and Leytonstone. Among those buried here is Mary Jane Kelly, one of Jack the Ripper's victims. Little is known of the Ripper's fifth victim except that she was about 25 years old and came from Ireland via Wales where she may have married. She was murdered in Spitalfields and buried here in Leytonstone. Timothy Evans, convicted and hanged for the first of the famous murders at 10 Rillington Place (but subsequently pardoned) is also buried here.



- 5) Continue along Hollydown Road and at the mini-roundabout continue straight into North Birbeck Road.
- 6) Turn right into Langthorne Road (the Birbeck Tavern is on the corner). Travel along Langthorne Road (the entrance to the cemetery is on your right half way down) until you get to the junction with Elmore Road. If you're cycling you might want to get off here and cross as it's technically a no entry. At the right of Elmore Road is a bit of the old Langthorne Road that is walking and cycling only. Head up Langthorne Road and over the Central Line and the A12. There's a good view into central London from the bridge with the Olympic Velodrome in the foreground.
- 7) Once over the bridge those walking can take the first left into Trelawn Road. People on cycles take the second left (Grove Green Road) and left at the lights onto High Road Leyton. At the end of Trelawn Road/ Maud Road is a zebra crossing and the location of the 'hit and run' death of Cornelius Cardew.



View from Langthorne Road bridge

Cornelius Cardew

Cornelius Cardew was a music composer and political activist born in 1936 who lived in Leyton. He was a highly respected musician training at the Royal Academy of Music, working with composers such as Pierre Boulez and Karlheinz Stockhausen and producing his own pieces. Cardew then began experimenting with music including accompanying graphic scores and left wing politics becoming a central member of the Communist Party of Great Britain. He became more and more interested in socialist politics and moved to Leyton to be nearer to Ford's factories at Dagenham.

He was killed in a 'hit and run' after walking back from Stratford Station on 13 December 1981. Neither the driver or vehicle were ever identified. Conspiracy theorists think his political beliefs and activism were potentially the motive behind his death.

- 8) We now cross High Road Leyton into Maud Road. Follow Maud Road round the corner to the right and onto Ruckholt Road onto the footpath/ cycle track on the left.
- 9) Cross the road at the two zebra crossings and head up York Road by the side of the Bike Shack.
- 10) Continue straight until you get to Coronation Gardens (contraflow/ two-way cycling is possible on the last section of York Road). If the gardens are open you can walk or cycle through to Windsor Road. If not turn right into Lytton Road (contraflow cycling permitted) and into Buckingham Road. You can't miss the football stadium, Brisbane Road, the home of Leyton Orient Football Club.

Leyton Orient Football Club

The O's, our only football league club are currently in League Two. They were the first football club to sign up on mass for the First World War with 41 staff joining the 17th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (the Football Battalion). Three of the players gave their lives for their country during the Battle of the Somme with many more injured.

Coronation Gardens and the High Road

The park is a great place to go, play on the swings or relax near the bandstand. A new addition to the park is a statue of Laurie Cunningham, a former Leyton Orient striker and one of the first black footballers to play for England.



■ Laurie Cunningham

What to do afterwards?

If you're hungry or thirsty head back onto the bright and vibrant High Road Leyton and visit one of the shops or cafes or the Leyton Technical.

----- end of route -----

Route length: 2.5 miles

Murder and the Orient

Start point of route

Leyton Midland Road

Leytonstone Station

End point of route

Leyton Orient Football Club

Leytonstone High Road London Overground

Sir Alfred Hitchcock



Coronation Gardens

St Patrick's RC Cemetery

Cornelius Cardew

Leyton

Key

-  Cycling
-  Walking

