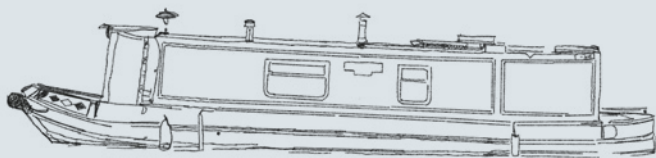




Paddington Arm of the Grand Union Canal

The Paddington Arm is a branch of the Grand Union Canal, which connects London with Birmingham over a distance of 147 miles. The Paddington Arm opened on July 10th 1801 with a crowd of 20,000 people. The narrowboats that used the canal transported goods like coal, wood, steel and iron between London and Birmingham, as well as to other places along the route. The Paddington Arm is a fascinating historical landmark that played an important role in the development of London and the surrounding area.



About the Towpath: Did you know...?

A towpath is a path along the side of a canal or river that is used for walking or cycling, but was originally used by horses to pull boats. Horses were used to pull boats on canals because they were strong and could pull heavy loads. They were also relatively inexpensive to maintain. Horses were still used to pull boats on canals even after powered boats became common in the late 19th century. This is because horses could compete with steam or even later diesel engines on shorter journeys.

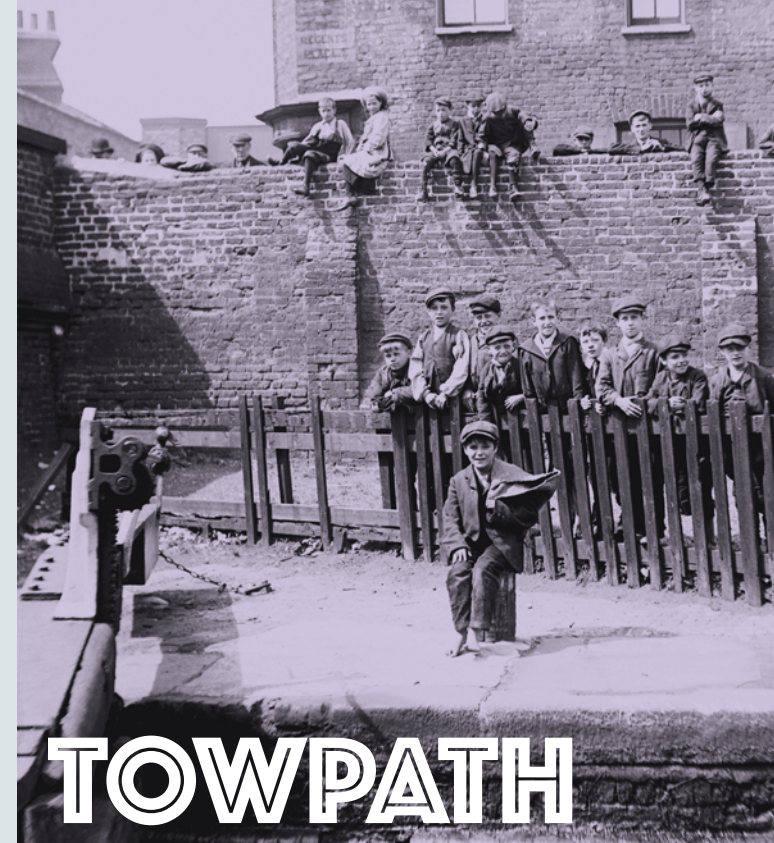
The Canal Today

After the development of the railway system in the mid 1800s the use of the canals gradually declined over the following years. In Paddington, much of the main line station dates from 1854 and was designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Today, towpaths are still used for walking and cycling, and they offer a great way to enjoy the beauty of the canal and canalside environment.



About the Towpath Tales

The Towpath Tales project is a community-led initiative aiming to uncover the untold stories of the Grand Union Canal in North Kensington and Westminster. The project engaged local residents, school children and community groups. We worked with partners; London Sports Trust, Westbourne and Church Street Community Champions, Queen's Park and Church Street English speaking groups and Grand Junction Centre. The project uncovered some fascinating stories, including those of the navvies who built the canal in the 1800s, the barge people who lived and worked on them, and the working-class communities who migrated to London.



TOWPATH TALES

Follow this guide to discover some lesser known stories about people and places along the Paddington Arm of the Grand Union Canal, between Ladbroke Grove and Little Venice.

The route along the towpath takes approximately one hour.



For more information about the Towpath Tales project, scan the QR code or visit the website at www.urbanwise.london/towpathtales

This project is supported by *Untold Stories*, part of the Mayor of London's Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm.

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TOWPATH TALES



Mary Seacole



Kelso Cochrane

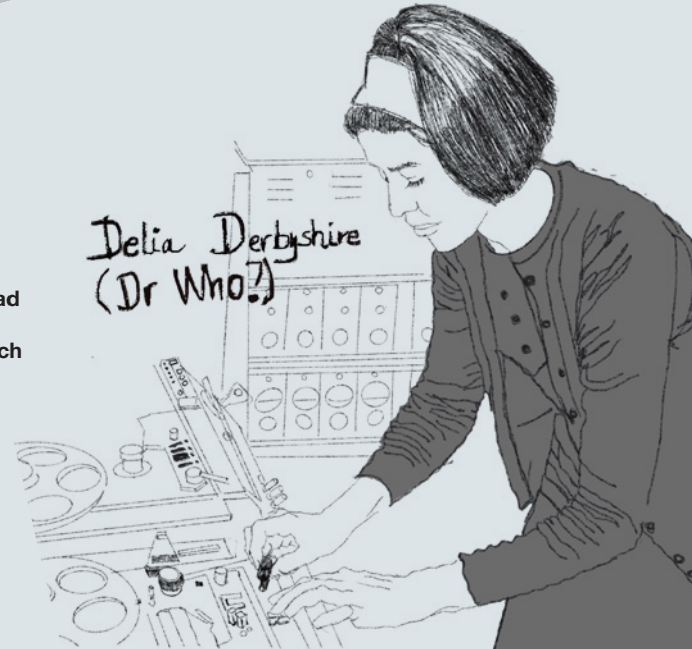


Alan Turing



Dr. James Barry
(Margaret Bulchey)

Delia Derbyshire
(Dr Who?)



Brentford 17 Miles
Birmingham 147 Miles

- A Mary Seacole (1805-1881)**, Victorian-era nurse and entrepreneur who cared for wounded soldiers during the Crimean War. She rests at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, leaving a lasting legacy of courage and compassion.
- B Dr James Miranda Barry (1789-1865)**, British military surgeon who lived a remarkable life while disguised as a man, challenging gender norms of the time. Now resting at Kensal Green Cemetery.
- C Lady Byron (1792-1860)**, wife of Lord Byron and mother of Ada Lovelace (first computer programmer), was an educational reformer and philanthropist who established the first industrial school in England.
- D Kelso Cochrane (1927-1959)** was a carpenter, originally from Antigua, who was murdered in a racist attack in Notting Hill in 1959. He is buried at Kensal Green Cemetery.
- E William Austin (1806-1893)** was a drain laying contractor and philanthropist who founded the Artizans, Labourers & General Dwellings Company in 1867 to provide affordable housing for working people such as the Queen's Park Estate.
- F Jamie McCullough**, artist and visionary behind Meanwhile Gardens in North Kensington, transforming urban space into a vibrant community oasis.
- G Delia Derbyshire (1937-2001)** was a British electronic music pioneer and composer who created the iconic theme music for the BBC television series Doctor Who.
- H Dr. John Alcindor (1873-1924)** was a physician and activist from Trinidad who settled in London and worked tirelessly to help others, particularly during First World War.
- I Alan Turing (1912-1954)** was a British mathematician and computer scientist who made significant contributions to code breaking during World War II and helped to lay the foundations for modern computing.
- J Sarah Siddons (1755-1831)** was a British actress and socialite who was considered to be one of the greatest tragedians of her time. Best known for her roles in plays by Shakespeare.

- 1 St Mary's Catholic Cemetery**
- 2 Kensal Green Cemetery**
- 3 Canalside Activity Centre**
- 4 The Gramophone Works**
- 5 Emslie Horniman's Pleasance Park**
- 6 Queen's Park Estate**
- 7 Half Penny Steps**
- 8 Meanwhile Gardens**
- 9 Trellick Tower**
- 10 Westway/Great Western Road**
- 11 Saint Mary Magdalene Church**
- 12 Grand Junction**
- 13 Little Venice**
- 14 St Mary's Hospital**
- 15 Paddington Basin**

