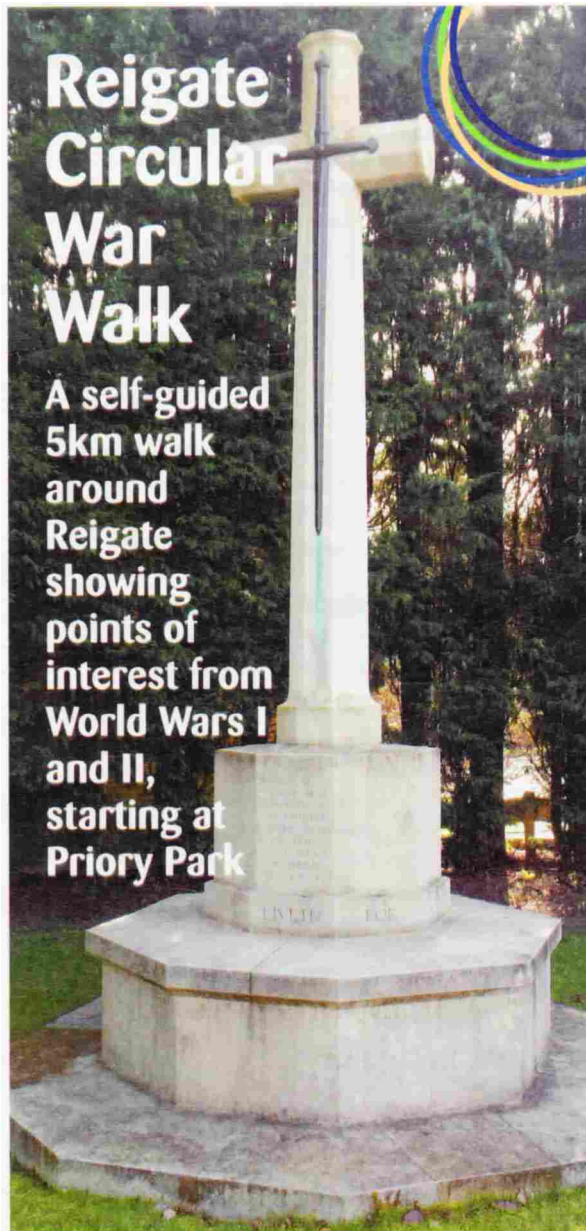


Reigate Circular War Walk

A self-guided
5km walk
around
Reigate
showing
points of
interest from
World Wars I
and II,
starting at
Priory Park



Reigate & Banstead
BOROUGH COUNCIL
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As a town, Reigate has strong associations with both World Wars. This leaflet guides you on a one-and-a-half hour walk around various locations linked to either World War I (WWI) or World War II (WWII).

① Reigate Priory Park:

during WWI, this was briefly used as a hiding place for the future Kings, Edward VIII and George VI.

② Natwest Bank:

the bank houses a memorial plaque to its staff who died in both World Wars.

③ Castle grounds:

you can still see the Dragon's teeth, fortifications of reinforced concrete, placed here in WWII to impede the movement of tanks and other vehicles in the event of invasion.

④ Reigate & Banstead Town Hall:

during WWII, this was the control centre for fire and bomb disposal. There is a large war memorial inside the Town Hall.

⑤ Reigate Caves:

during WWI cordite, an explosive, was stored in the caves. During WWII, they were used as an air raid shelter and the sand extracted from the tunnels was used for sandbags.

⑥ Garden of Remembrance:

Kenneth Eugene Merry, a Lt Col in the US Army, is remembered here. He served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam wars.

⑦ St Mary's Choir memorial:

the memorial to members of the Choir of St Marys who died in WWI and WWII.

Reigate Grammar School memorial: ⑧

look through the gates to see this memorial to the old boys of the school who lost their lives in WWII.

St Mary's Church memorial: ⑨

inside the church, there is a memorial.

Reigate Cemetery: ⑩

containing 34 WWI and three WWII graves. The gravestones for British personnel killed in the WWI and WWII are made from Portland stone.

Cross of Sacrifice: ⑪

this is a Commonwealth War memorial designed in 1918 by Sir Reginald Blomfield for the Imperial War Graves Commission (now the Commonwealth War Graves Commission). It is present in Commonwealth war cemeteries containing 40 or more war graves. Also a Blue plaque for Bob Doe WW2 Spitfire pilot on the side of 55, Reigate Road.

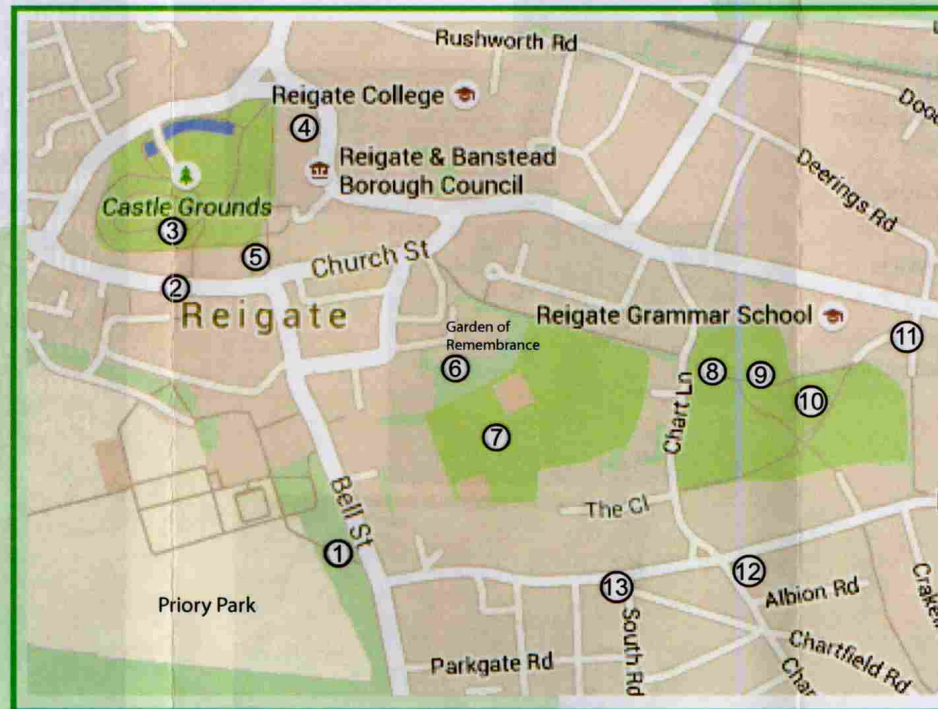
Drill Hall: ⑫

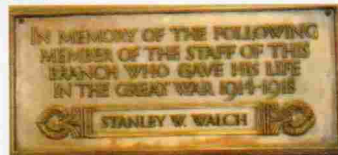
the day after WWI started, the 5th Battalion Queen's Royals West Surrey Regiment grouped at the Drill Hall. It then marched through Reigate via Lesbourne Road, down Bell Street, through Tunnel Road and up to the railway station.

Memorial bench by ⑬

Lesbourne Road shops:

this new memorial was made by students at East Surrey College to mark the 100th anniversary of WWI.





www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk

May 2015

Other points of interest

- **The Beeches Auxilliary Hospital:** in March 1916, the hospital was opened for sick and wounded servicemen. In 1917, the hospital moved to bigger premises in Beech Road.
- **Nutley Lane Church:** troops were billeted here in WWI.
- **Fairfield Auxilliary Hospital:** in July 1917, the hospital opened with 50 beds. During WWII, it reopened to help with casualties of war.
- **Reigate Fort:** during WWI, the fort was used to store ammunition. During WWII, it became a defence post in case of an invasion. It was also the countryside HQ of the South East Command.
- **Doods Road:** the great pigeon loft was based at number 18 and was under armed guard in WWII.
- **Reigate Manor Hotel:** requisitioned in WWII to house troops.
- In WWII, a flying fortress bomber crashed into Reigate Hill. A memorial bench can be seen at the site.

For more information

www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/ww1

www.reigatehistory.co.uk

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/reigate-hill-and-gatton-park/

www.worldwar1schoolarchives.org/reigate-grammar-school