Introduction

Welcome to Britain’s first self-guided Muslim heritage trail.

Britian’s Muslim Heritage Trails

#1 The Woking Trail

Timeline

1884
Dr Gottlieb Leitner purchases the site for his Oriental Institute
and secures The Muhammadan Cemetery plot at Brookwood Cemetery.

1889
Leitner dies and the Oriental Institute closes.

1899
Khwaja Kamal ud Din visits the mosque and formally reopens it. The first edition of Muslim India and the Islamic Review is published.

1913
Mass immigration from mainly Pakistan adds to the Muslim community of Woking.

1932
Khwaja Kamal ud Din passes away.

1960
The Shah Jahan Mosque is listed as a Grade I English monument.

2015
Launch of Britain’s Muslim Heritage Trails #1 The Woking Trail and #2 The Muslim Cemetery Walk.

2019
The Woking Muslim War Cemetery is renovated and reopened as the Muslim Burial Ground and Peace Garden.

BARRED NEEDLE

*Available at the Shah Jahan Mosque, Surrey History Centre and EverydayMuslim.org

Design: WeareOneagency.com

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This trail was researched and developed by the Everyday Muslim Heritage & Archive Initiative.

EverydayMuslim.org Documenting Muslim heritage in the UK

We would like to think that we have managed by tradition and chance to have dedicated the English Heritage Building for the Study and Preservation of the History of Religion and of the English Secular Community and to have built the England's Heritage Building for the Study and Preservation of the History of Religion and of the English Secular Community.

Everyday Muslim Heritage and Archive Initiative

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The Shah Jahan Mosque

The mosque is one of the two finest examples of 19th-century Islamic architecture in England and is set in a uniquely designed garden. The mosque and Sir Salar Jung Memorial Hall were built at the same time as Sir Salar Jung, a wealthy Indian merchant and philanthropist who lived in Woking.

The mosque was designed by local Anglo-Irish architect William Isaac Chambers in a style that soon became known as Indiatellectualism, which was developed in India between the 15th and 18th centuries. It features a large central dome, a spired arch, and a pointed arch.

The mosque is reportedly where notable Muslims in the region, such as the Shah Jahan Mosque's library, administration offices, and Imam's private residency, conducted their activities.

The mosque was originally a guest house but is now the mosque library, administration offices, and Imam's private residency. It was also the last home of the Shah Jahan, a British Muslim subject who was killed in 1915.

The Woking Trail

From the Shah Jahan Mosque to the Peace Gardens, Brookwood Cemetery.

More biographies can be found on the EverydayMuslim.org site.

Or you can scan this code:

Did you know?

Aliens and Moas!

The Shah Jahan Mosque was destroyed by aliens in Woking resident, H.G. Wells' famous sci-fi fantasy, War of the Worlds, and in the book The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells. The mosque was also featured in the movie War of the Worlds.

Famous Faces

The Shah Jahan Mosque has been visited by many famous figures, including the daughter of the mosque's key donor, Sultan Jahan Begum. The mosque windows are said to have been designed by the famous Muslim architect and scholar Anthony Galloway.

Birthplaces of 'Pakistan'

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Sir Salar Jung I

Mir Usao Ali Khan was born in Bijapur in 1822 into a family of nobles. He is remembered as the greatest Prime Minister of Hyderabad for social, political, and structural reforms. He is also remembered for supporting Britain in its First War of Independence or the Indian Mutiny in 1857. Knighted by the British, Sir Salar Jung died of cholera in February 1863.

The Woking Muslim War Cemetery was established in 1915 to bury Britain's Muslim subject soldiers. The location was chosen for its proximity to the country's only mosque at the time. The cemetery became the final resting place for a number of famous Muslim soldiers, including Abdul Khaliq, founder of Britain's first mosque in Liverpool, and Marmaduke Pickthall, the famous Quran translator and one of the last Ottomans Princes, HIK Hayriye Aisha Durr-i-in order Sultan. To learn about the other famous Muslims buried here, pick up Britain's Muslim Heritage Trail #2: The Muslim Cemetery Walk.

The Shah Jahan Mosque

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