Literary & Artistic Footprints Of The Thames Valley

REFERENCE SHEET

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***Mapledurham House & Pope’s Manor*** - **Alexander Pope** (18th Century poet & writer) & The Blount Family

***Purley-on-Thames, Berkshire*** - **Cecil Aldin** - Early 20th Century Artist

During the First World War Aldin was in charge of the local remounting depot.

The restored Medieaval barn which was used to stable the horses for this local Remounting Depot 1 is now situated in the Goosecroft recreational area of Purley. It is open once a month for the Farmers Market. Look out for the Goosecroft sign on the Reading Road.

***Hardwick House*** - **Caroline Lybbe Powys**, 18th Century diarist, **Henry James**, author of *Portrait of a Lady*, **Kenneth Grahame** author thought to have used Hardwick House as model for Toad Hall and Sir Charles Day Rose as Toad in *Wind In The Willows.* Kenneth Grahame’shouse in Blewbury can also be identified by a blue plaque.

**Eric Kennington**, war artist and sculptor lived on the ***Hardwick Estate*** in the early to mid part of 20th Century. Good example of his skill as a sculptor can be seen at ***Church of*** ***St Peter & St Paul, Checkendon*** along with a fine etched glass window in his memory.

***Whitchurch on Thames, Oxfordshire*** - **May W Cannan**, War poet lived at Walliscote Cottage in the High Street and **Count Nikolai Tolstoy**, author and biographer of Patrick O’Brien (Seafaring writer of such classics as *Master and Commander*) was a teacher at a rather surreal prep school that is now three private dwellings known collectively as Whitchurch House in the High Street.

***Pangbourne, Berkshire -* D H Lawrence and his wife Frieda** lived at **Myrtle Cottage now 38** **Reading Road** Pangbourne for a few months in 1919 after being expelled from Cornwall under The Defence of The Realm Act in 1917. **Mortimer Menpes** Australian born artist and friend of Whistler lived at ***Iris Court, Riverview Road, Pangbourne*** from 1900 until his death in 1938. His distinctive raised grave can be seen in the churchyard of ***St James the Less, Pangbourne*** and has recently had an inscription carved on the top surface. This church also has the beautiful stained glass Armstrong Window above the altar executed as a commission to commemorate 2nd Lt George C Armstrong who was killed in WW1 by **Karl Bergemann Parsons (1884-1934)*. Church Cottage*** on the right as you exit the main entrance to the churchyard is where **Kenneth Grahame** lived from 1924 until his death in 1932.

***The Swan Inn*** is on the right as you travel out of Pangbourne towards Streatley and is where the fictional *Three Men in a Boat* finally abandoned their vessel having been rained off. They then caught the train back to London from Pangbourne Station. Apart from the addition of gantries for the overhead electrification of the rail line, the station buildings themselves are much the same as they were when **Jerome K. Jerome** wrote his comic classic. His grave can be found along with his wife, stepdaughter and sister in ***Ewelme churchyard.***

***Goring-on-Thames -* Oscar Wilde** began writing *An Ideal Husband* whilst staying at ***Ferry House in Ferry Lane*** in 1893.

***Aldworth, Berkshire*** - Alfred Lord Tennyson courted his future wife Emily who was living with her uncle and aunt in the village probably in the 1840s. Their family (Selwood) grave is in the churchyard as is the grave of **Laurence Binyon** who wrote the celebrated WW1 poem *For the Fallen* part of which is read at Remembrance Sunday services every year. The ancient yew (now believed to be 2000 years old) thought to be mentioned in Tennysons poem *In Memoriam* is right

in front of the church by the main entrance. The De La Beche tomb effigies popularly known as

The Aldworth Giants are inside the church and not to be missed!