

THE VICTORIA CROSS GROVE

The year 2006 marked the 400th anniversary of Royal Tunbridge Wells and the 150th anniversary of the Victoria Cross. To commemorate the two anniversaries, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council specially commissioned Andrew Motion, Poet Laureate, to write a poem, and artist Charles Gurrey to create a memorial sculpture. Extracts from Andrew Motion's poem, *Remembrance*, feature on the sculpture.

The Victoria Cross was instituted by Queen Victoria on 29 January 1856 as a way of recognising acts of outstanding bravery by members of the armed services. Over time, the award has been extended to include members of Commonwealth forces.

THE TEN VC RECIPIENTS:

Charles Davis Lucas *Mate (later rising to Rear Admiral) in the Royal Navy*

The first act of bravery to win the Victoria Cross medal was undertaken by Charles Lucas. He received his medal from Queen Victoria on 26 June 1857 for his action on board HMS *Hecla* in 1854, during the Crimean War.

Matthew Charles Dixon *Captain (later rising to Major General) in the Royal Regiment of Artillery*

Captain Dixon gained his Victoria Cross soon after he was ordered to the front at the outbreak of the Crimean War in 1855.

William Temple *Assistant Surgeon in the Royal Regiment of Artillery*

William Temple was honoured for his courage at the assault at Rangiriri, New Zealand in 1863.

John Duncan Grant *Lieutenant (later rising to Colonel) in the 8th Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army*

Lieutenant Grant was awarded his Victoria Cross for his action whilst storming Gyantse Jong fort, Tibet in 1904.

Douglas Walter Belcher *Lance Sergeant (later rising to Captain) in the 1/5th (City of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (The London Rifle Brigade)*

Lance Sergeant Belcher was the first Territorial to receive the Victoria Cross, awarded for his bravery in Belgium in 1915, during World War I.

William Robert Fountains Addison *Reverend, Chaplain of the Forces, 4th Class (later 2nd Class) in the Army Chaplains' Department attached to the King's own Royal Lancaster Regiment*

Reverend William Addison was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions during World War I, at Sanna-i-Yat, Mesopotamia (present-day Iraq).

Eric Stuart Dougall *Acting Captain in the Special Reserve attached to A Battery, 88th Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery*

Eric Dougall gained his Victoria Cross for his action at Messines (near Ypres), Belgium in 1918, during World War I.

William Hew Clark-Kennedy *Lieutenant Colonel of the 24th Battalion, Quebec Regiment (Victoria Rifles), Canadian Expeditionary Force*

William Clark-Kennedy was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery displayed in France in 1918, during World War I.

Lionel Ernest Queripel *Captain in the Royal Sussex Regiment attached to the 10th Parachute Battalion*

Captain Queripel was awarded the Victoria Cross for his action in 1944, during fighting in Holland in World War II.

John Henry Cound Brunt *Temporary Captain in the Sherwood Foresters (The Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment), attached to the 6th Battalion The Lincolnshire Regiment*

John Brunt gained his Victoria Cross as a result of his leadership and bravery at Faenza, Italy in 1944, during World War II.

GETTING TO THE VICTORIA CROSS GROVE

- The Victoria Cross Grove is near the Bayhall Road entrance to Dunorlan Park, 15-20 minutes' walk from the town centre.
- For travel by bus check the Arriva website or ring Traveline on 0870 6082608.

DUNORLAN PARK

Opening hours

- From 7.30am until dusk, daily.

Access – see plan overleaf.

Café

- Hot and cold snack meals, drinks and ice creams from 9am – 5pm daily.

Dogs

- Dogs and their owners are welcome, BUT please:
 - keep your dogs under control and away from the water-fowl
 - don't allow them to disturb other visitors
 - clean up after your dog

Contacts:

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Parks Service:
01892 526121

e-mail: parcs@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Parks staff (English Landscapes) during park opening hours: 07901 513287

Or, visit the Council's website:
tunbridgewells.gov.uk/dunorlan

If you require this information in large print, Braille, on audiotape or in any other format, please contact us on 01892 526121

WELCOME TO



Victoria Cross Grove, Dunorlan Park

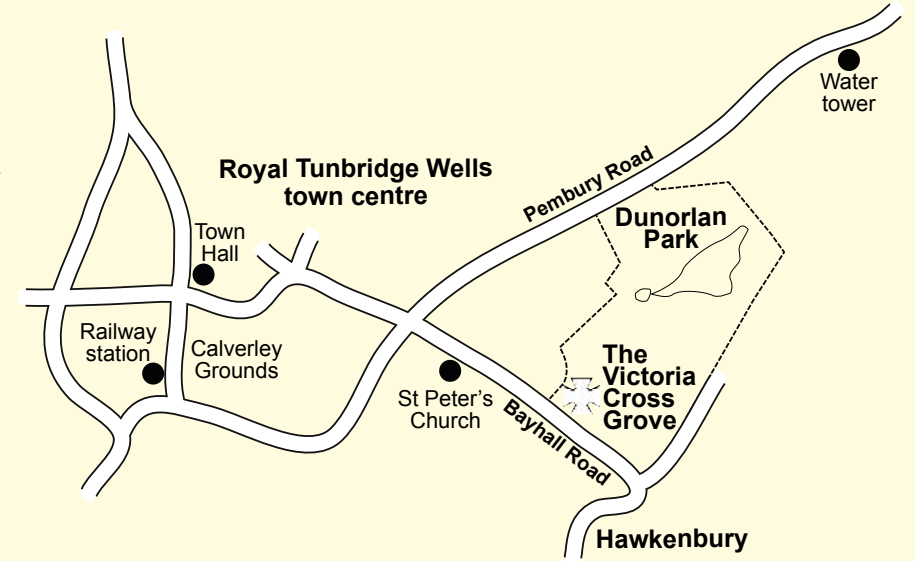


The Victoria Cross Grove, Dunorlan Park

The Victoria Cross Grove commemorates ten recipients of the Victoria Cross who had connections with the borough of Tunbridge Wells. The grove of 21 oak trees was planted during the winter of 1994/5 and dedicated on the 50th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, 8 May 1995. The ten brave men are named on the back of this leaflet and more information is provided at the Victoria Cross Grove.

The Victoria Cross Grove can be found near the main Bayhall Road entrance to Dunorlan Park, in the more informal part of the park. It takes 15-20 minutes to walk to the Victoria Cross Grove from the town centre, or you could travel by bus. You may also like to visit other parts of Dunorlan Park and this map will help you find your way around the park. You can find out more about the park's history, and events and activities at the information points at the café.

 Dunorlan Park is naturally hilly. However, there is a relatively level path around the lake that can be easily reached from Hall's Hole Road car park. The red paths  are steep and may not be suitable for some visitors. Steps are also highlighted in red.



-  Bus stop
-  Pedestrian entrance
-  Bicycle park
-  Parking
-  Information point
-  Café



The Friends of Dunorlan Park is a Registered Charity (no. 1063715/0) with a special interest in the park.

The Friends arrange talks and guided walks on a range of topics.

To find out more visit:
www.friendsofdunorlanpark.org.uk
 or call **Robin Christie**, Membership Secretary,
 on **01892 527662**.