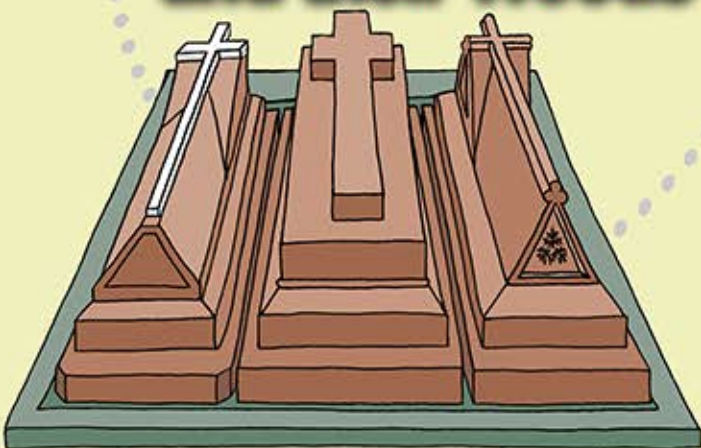


friends of  
Rose  
Hill

# The Watkin Walk



## The amazing Watkins of Rose Hill House and their Woods



### Welcome to the Watkin Walk!

This Walk celebrates two former residents of Northenden, Manchester whose achievements have largely been forgotten by the modern age. Absalom Watkin and his son, Sir Edward, lived in Rose Hill House - a Grade II\* listed building, which can be found at the end of this walk.

Absalom Watkin (1787-1861) was a social and political reformer, who led campaigns for voting reform and an end to the infamous Corn Laws that brought many families to starvation.

Sir Edward Watkin, 1st Baronet (1819-1901) was a Member of Parliament and a leading railway entrepreneur of the Victorian age. He was an ambitious visionary and presided over large scale railway engineering projects in Britain, Canada and India. Among his most notable projects were the construction of the Great Central Main Line from Manchester to London, the creation of a pleasure gardens with a partially constructed 'Eiffel' tower at Wembley and in 1880 an attempt to dig a channel tunnel to link Manchester to Paris by rail. This was halted by the Government fearful that the French would invade through it!

The Watkin Walk commences at St Wilfrid's church, which contains memorials to Absalom and Edward and six stained-glass windows commissioned by Edward. Their graves can be found to the right of the church in front of the far wall.

Follow the Walk using the map overleaf and the Waymarkers until you reach Rose Hill House (private). Observe the Sharstone and then continue following the house railings to the entrance to Rose Hill Woods (to the right of the electric gates). Once inside the woods bear left and uphill to the unique Watkin memorial.

On your way back why not sit and enjoy the beauty of Absalom's woods or follow the stepped path to see more.

We'd love to hear from you and we hope that you enjoy this lovely historic corner of Northenden village.



### Who are the Friends of Rose Hill?

We are a group of local people with two aims: to spread the word about the exciting story of Absalom and Edward Watkin and the lovely public open space, just off Longley Lane in Northenden, known as Rose Hill Woods.

We are all volunteers but our efforts have now been recognised by a generous grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund.

Would you like to support us by becoming a member? There is no fee although donations would be very welcome. We could put you on our mailing list to keep you in the picture about our plans for the future and to invite your comments and suggestions.

We look forward to hearing from you and thanks for your interest in The Watkin Story.



@watkinrosehill



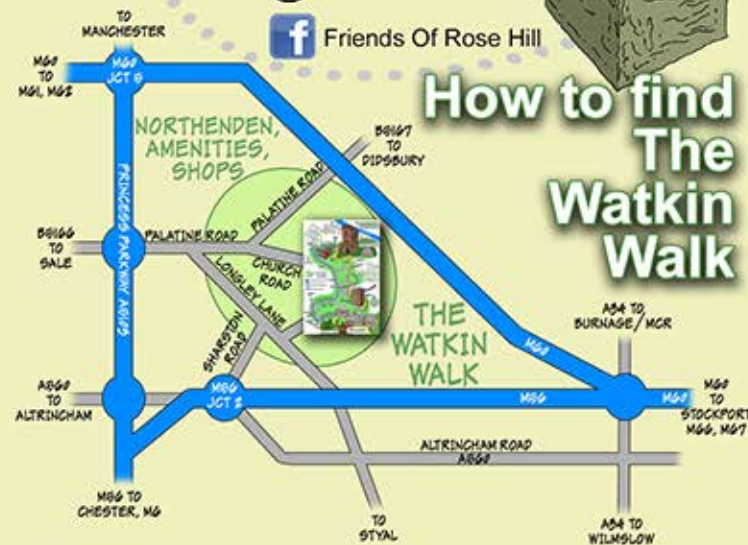
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Friends Of Rose Hill



## How to find The Watkin Walk



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