

MAP
INCLUDED

BROMLEY NORTH VILLAGE

Heritage Trail

*An illustrated guided walk showing
some of the most historic and interesting
places in Bromley North*



THE LONDON BOROUGH
www.bromley.gov.uk



THIS IS
BROMLEY
NORTH VILLAGE

1 mile

BROMLEY NORTH VILLAGE Heritage Trail

Above the shopfronts hidden away in quiet parks, streets and behind walls are some insights into Bromley's past. From the 17th Century Bromley College, to the Market Square, to HG Wells birthplace, we take a tour of discovery around Bromley North Village.

You may wish to choose sections of the walk since the route is approximately 1 mile long and will take an hour to complete.

A map of the route is included. The numbers which appear in the text and on the map refer to points of interest along the walk.

BROMLEY

Bromley literally means "the heath where broom grows". The town developed around the market place, located at today's Market Square, and grew along the old London to Hastings turnpike. Increased traffic brought larger buildings such as posting houses and inns to accommodate travellers. The market town on high ground above the valley of the River Ravensbourne benefited from pleasant views and healthy country air. Early maps show buildings grouped around the market place and the High Street. Up to the middle of the 19th century the town extended from the College in the north, to the site of the Aberdeen Buildings, in the south, with estate gardens abutting sections of the High Street. Little changed until the railway came to Bromley in 1858.

Our journey starts at Market Square.



1 Town Pump

The cast iron town pump originally stood against the north west corner of the Victorian town hall. It was moved to Church House Gardens after 1933 and then placed in its present location in 1985, in front of the Charles Darwin mural, approximately 20 metres from the original site.

2 Market Square

Bromley developed around Market Square which was the location of the original Charter Market. A charter was granted in 1205 to the Bishop of Rochester by King John, to hold a weekly market on Tuesdays. In 1447 this was changed by application to Henry VI, to Thursdays, on condition that a market is held every Thursday in the year, including Christmas Day. Nowadays, the weekly Charter Market is held in Station Road and still on a Thursday.

A timber framed market house was located in the centre of the



square until it was demolished in 1863 to make way for a gothic red brick town hall building which was subsequently demolished in 1933 to make way for the neo Tudor buildings on the site today.

3 HG Wells Birthplace

With the building of a new section of road called the 'New Cut' in 1832, a sharp bend in the High Street was removed. The buildings constructed following this work included No. 47 which became the china, glass and pottery emporium of Joseph Wells. Here on 21 September 1866 Herbert George Wells was born. He spent much of his early childhood in the town until he was apprenticed to a draper and left the area. No. 47 became part of Medhursts in 1879 when Fred Medhurst bought several adjacent properties. The Primark store still has the name Medhurst on the building which stands today, and a plaque to commemorate the birthplace of H G Wells is displayed on the front of the shop.



Walking between Primark and the Market Building walk north to Church Road, turn left and stop at the flint walls of the Parish Church.



4 Number

180-184 High Street (HSBC Bank)

The HSBC Bank, Nos. 180-184 High Street, was built in 1888 to provide shop premises. It was designed by Walter Albert Williams and built in the Flemish style. Above the first floor windows on the corner



are terracotta carvings which include the letters 'C' and 'H' for Covell & Harris, the butchers, former occupants of the building.

5 The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul

The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul in Church Road was almost totally destroyed by bombing on the night of 16 April 1941. Only the 15th century tower remains. It was one of the first churches to be rebuilt after the war. Princess Elizabeth, now Queen Elizabeth II, laid the foundation stone in 1949. The new church by F. Harold Gibbons was dedicated by the Bishop of Rochester in 1957. The building makes use of local materials including flints. The lych gate dates from 1855.

Retrace your steps back to the High Street.



6 **The Partridge Public House (194 High Street)**

The Partridge Public House stands at the junction of Church Road and was originally built for the National Provincial Bank in 1927 by architects Gunton & Gunton. It became a Public House in 1995.

7 **Nos. 196-198 High Street (TP's)**

Nos. 196-198 High Street was a dwelling house which became used as a wine merchant towards the end of the 18th century. George Pamphilon became the owner in 1865 and in 1876 he rebuilt the premises. The timber shopfront reflects the design as it was in the 19th century. Note the lettering on the arch to the right and the grape detail on the pilasters. The building is now used as a bar.

Walk across the High Street.



8 **The Royal Bell Public House**

The present Royal Bell Hotel was designed by Ernest Newton, an Arts and Crafts architect. It forms part of a group of three buildings designed as a whole. Hunters the Jewellers, No. 181 High Street, is the only shop in Bromley to retain its original shopfront. No. 179 was originally Martins Bank; circular motifs on two leaded bays still show 'M' and the date 1898.

The fame of the Bell was such that Lady Catherine de Burge recommends it in Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice'.

Walk north along the High Street taking note of the vernacular buildings to the right at Nos 189-193.



9 Walters Yard

Until the end of the 18th century the east side of the High Street from The Bell Inn northwards, including part of the side of the college, comprised land called Grete House. This was a large private estate now covered by Walters Yard. During the Napoleonic Wars part of the area became known as 'Prison Yard'. A temporary building on the site was used to hold French prisoners being marched through the country in the periods between 1797 and 1815. The yard is said to be named after John Walter, who ran a smithy which enjoyed a high reputation locally.

Head towards the Star and Garter Public House and note the Art Deco style cinema on the left hand side.

10 The Star and Garter Inn

The Star & Garter Inn was constructed in 1898 and was designed by Berney and Sons for Nalder and Collyer, a local Croydon brewer. The sign hanging over the High Street has become a local landmark.

Keep heading north towards the junction of London Road and Beckenham Lane.

11 The Swan and Mitre Public House

The Swan & Mitre is an old coaching inn which was popular with carters carrying farm produce and fish, resting on their journey to the London markets. It dates mainly from the early 19th century, although part of the



original stables building dates from the middle of the 18th century. The interior contains seating from the Old Gaiety Theatre in London and ornate mirrors presented by Marie Lloyd, once a patron of the inn.

Continue north along the High Street (which is now London Road) to the distinctive gates of Bromley College to the right.

12 Bromley College

One of Bromley's finest and most important buildings, Bromley College lies behind red brick walls and 18th century iron gates in London Road. John Warner was one of only eight Bishops to survive until the restoration of the Stuart Monarchy in 1660. When he died in 1666 his legacy was to provide £8,500 for the foundation of a College or almshouse for 'twenty poore widowes of Orthodoxe and Loyalle clergymen'. The College was built between 1670 and 1672 to the design of Richard Ryder, a Master Surveyor who worked with

Sir Christopher Wren on the rebuilding of London, following the Great Fire of 1666.

At the end of the 18th century a second courtyard was added for twenty more widows. A replacement Chapel was built in 1863 and can be seen through the stone archway. The college now accommodates retired clergymen and their wives as well as widows. The site is private. No public access is permitted but group tours can be arranged through the chaplain's office.

Retrace your steps south to College Slip just beyond Bromley College on your left.

13 College Slip

College Slip is the passageway which follows the old college wall. In the latter part of the 19th century it was still a country lane leading to open fields. The early 19th century cottage on the north side was the home of the nurseryman who grew his plants on the adjacent site. The nursery was originally purchased by the College in 1830 to prevent development of the site. This use continued until 1984 when the land was bought by the Council and named College Green. The rear of Bromley College can be seen across the Green.

Walk east along College Slip and stop in front of the red telephone kiosk.

14 K2 Telephone Kiosk

Note the red K2 type telephone kiosk at the junction with College Road which dates from 1927 and is one of a series of cast iron kiosks designed by Giles Gilbert Scott. Other cast concrete and cast iron kiosks by the same architect



followed, culminating in the 1936 K6 series which were not superseded until 1968.

Cross West Street and walk along North Street to the end noting the Bromley Little Theatre on Compass Lane to the right.

15 The Railway Public House

The Railway Public House was built in 1879, possibly by Berney & Sons who also designed the Star & Garter public house in the High Street, for the brewers Nalder and Collyer. Visual references to the brewers can be seen in plaster motifs and terracotta panels. It stands opposite Bromley North Station.

Turn and look across Tweedy Road.



16 Bromley North Station

The original timber buildings which formed Bromley North Station were rebuilt in 1925, just prior to the electrification of the line. The railway, both here and at Bromley South, altered Bromley's existence as a market town. A population of 5,500 in 1861 had grown to 15,000 by 1881, and numbered 33,500 by 1911. By then Bromley had become an outer London suburb.

Turn right and walk along East Street.



17 The Old Drill Hall (O'Neills Public House)

The Drill Hall, Nos 27-29 East Street, was opened in 1872 for use by the Bromley Volunteer Rifle Corps. Town celebrations and events were held here. It became a public house in 1997.

Continue to the junction of East and West Streets.



18 Number 19 East Street

Number 19 East Street formerly the offices of the Local Board (the first body of local administration in Bromley). It stood at the junction of East Street and West Street. The purpose of the local board was to provide such essentials as street lighting and an adequate sewage system for the town.

Look across West Street.



19 Former Post Office

The former Post Office in West Street was completed in 1896, it was occupied in 1897 and enlarged in 1913. The previous premises in Market Square had become too small to cope with the rapid expansion of the town.

Retrace your steps north along East Street, cross the road and walk along South Street. On your right, you will see No. 8 South Street.



20 No. 8 South Street

No. 8 South Street is where Mrs Knotts dame school was attended by a young H.G. Wells between 1871 and 1874.

Continue walking east, on your left you will see the Fire Station.

21 The Fire Station

The Fire Station was designed by Stanley Hawkings, the Borough Engineer, and was completed in 1905 at a cost of £5,191 12s 6d.

Continue walking, on your right, you will see Community House.

22 Community House (former Magistrates Court)

The former Magistrates Court was designed in 1939 by C Cowles Voysey and forms part of an identifiable group of public buildings with the Fire Station and the Town Hall complex.

Continue walking along South Street and at the junction of Tweedy Road you will see the former Town Hall.

23 Former Town Hall

The former Town Hall in Tweedy Road was built in 1906 by R Frank Atkinson in a neo-Wren style. The hipped slate roof has a central cupola constructed in timber, set above a fine entrance porch. Officially opened by Mayor Alderman R W Jones JP on 25 September 1907, the building cost £35,000 including furnishings.

Look directly across Tweedy Road.



21



24 Former School of Science and Art (now called the Clock House)

The School of Science and Art stands opposite the Edwardian Town Hall. The external relief terracotta panels include representations of science and art. The original building was designed by John Sulman and was built in 1878 by J C Arnauld at a cost of £3,000. The public opening included a display of the first working telephones ever made. The building was extended in 1894 to provide the town's first library. It is now a private residential building.

Walk to the junction of Tweedy Road and Widmore Road and turn right.



25 Former Town Hall extension

The neo-Georgian style former Town Hall extension (now Exchequer House) in Widmore Road, was built in 1938-39 and designed by C Cowles Voysey, well known for his work on town hall and public buildings in the 1920's and 1930's. He was the son of Charles Voysey, one of Britain's most influential architects.

Walk west along Widmore Road to Market Square to end the Heritage Trail.



You can find out more about the Bromley North Village Heritage Trail from the Council's web site at:

www.bromley.gov.uk /bromleynorthheritagetrail

or contact the Heritage Team on
0208 313 4664 or 0208 461 7532



MAP



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|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Town Pump | 8. The Royal Bell | 15. The Railway | 22. Community House |
| 2. Market Square | 9. Walters Yard | 16. Bromley North Station | 23. Former Town Hall |
| 3. H G Wells Birthplace | 10. Star and Garter | 17. O'Neills (Old Drill Hall) | 24. Former school of Science and Art |
| 4. 180-184 High Street | 11. Swan & Mitre | 18. 19 East Street | 25. Former Town Hall |
| 5. St Peter & St Paul Church | 12. Bromley College | 19. Former Post Office | |
| 6. The Partridge | 13. College Slip | 20. 8 South Street | |
| 7. TP's (196-198 High Street) | 14. K2 Telephone Kiosk | 21. Fire Station | |



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