

Blue Plaque Bromley Town & Shortlands

Start in the Local Studies Section of Bromley Central Library (TQ402691). ‘Goddendene’, home of the **March family** in Locksbottom, was demolished in 1980. Their **Blue Plaque** is missing from their site. Their family vault in Farnborough churchyard is visited during the Biggin Hill, Downe & Farnborough walk. There is a large bust of Winston Churchill produced by **Elsie March** and two photographs of ‘Goddendene’ (*filing references L9/9 and L9/150*). Exit left into Neuwied Way. *After Bromley’s twin town in Germany of Neuwied named a new road ‘Bromleystrasse’, Bromley Town Twinning Association requested a reciprocal naming here. As the reporting of an emergency normally includes the road name, mispronunciation of which might delay the response, it was decided to use the name here, where this problem would not arise. A plaque on the Library wall records the naming ceremony on the tenth anniversary of the twinning.* On reaching the High Street, turn left.

High on the frontage of Primark at No. 162 (*left*) there is a **Blue Plaque** recording the birthplace of author **H G Wells** (1866-1946). Bear right (*anti-clockwise*) around the Market Square, passing a **large mural** (*right, behind the old town pump, where there was previously a mural about H G Wells*) of a young **Charles Darwin** in a rural setting. Cross Widmore Road and fork half right (NNE) along East Street. Turn right into South Street. At No. 8 is a **black and gold plaque** stating that **H G Wells** was a pupil at the dame school there from 1871 until 1874. At the end of South Street turn left into Tweedy Road, A21.

Cross the road to reach No. 51, on the side of which facing Florence Road is a **Blue Plaque to sisters Rachel and Margaret McMillan**, pioneers of nursery education, who once lodged here. Land and water speed records holder **Sir Malcolm Campbell** lived at 9 Glebe Road at the time of the 1911 Census, but had moved to 3 Florence Road by the time of his marriage in 1913. *A plaque worded ‘lived here’ has been erroneously placed on the wall of a house in Chislehurst where he never lived. It was the home of his father from whom he was estranged.*

Continue northwards along Florence Road, then turn left along Crescent Road to No. 6 (*left*), where there is a **Blue Plaque to Prince Pyotr** (Peter) **Alekseyevich Kropotkin** (1842-1921), geographer and theorist of anarchism, who once lived there. On reaching College Road, A2212, turn left, cross the road, and then turn right along Farwig Lane. Cross London Road, A21, to Park End. Continue down Highland Road, then turn right down Beckenham Lane, A222.

Immediately before reaching the rail bridge, turn right (NW) along Ravensbourne Avenue to No. 58, where there is a **Blue Plaque to Harold Bride** (1890-1956), wireless operator aboard RMS Titanic, who lived there from 1903 until 1922. Shortly after obliquely crossing the Greenwich Meridian fork left up Downs Hill. Turn left into Downs Bridge Road. Cross Bromley Road, A222, to Scotts Lane. Turn right along Oakwood Avenue, passing No. 34 (*left*), where **Enid Blyton** lived with her parents in 1915. Turn left along Overbury Avenue, then left again along Stanley Avenue.

At No. 35 (*left*) there is a **Blue Plaque to Ewan MacColl** (born James Miller; 1915-1989), political songwriter and playwright, who lived there. On reaching Scotts Lane, turn right, then left at the roundabout into Shortlands Road. At No. 83 (*right, originally numbered 31*) there is a **Blue Plaque to Enid Blyton** (1897-1968), prolific writer of children’s books, who lived there from its completion in 1926 until 1929. Turn right along Den Road, then left into Kingswood Road. At its corner with No. 20 Church Road (*left, near the War Memorial, right*) there is a **Blue Plaque to Alexander Muirhead** (1848-1920), electrical engineer, who lived there from 1893 until 1920.

Continue down Church Road past No. 16 (*left*), where there is a **Blue Plaque to Charles Keeping** (1924-1988), illustrator, who lived there from 1961 until his death in 1988. For an early finish, continue to the end of the road, and then turn right into Shortlands Road (358/367 bus route) to Shortlands Station (*right, 4.7 miles*). Otherwise, turn back as far as Den Road, then turn left (SE) into South Hill Road. Shortly before reaching **Westmoreland Road, B228, (5.4 miles)**. There is a **Blue Plaque** far away on the wall of No 2 (*right*) of South Hill Road to **Sir Thomas Dewey** (1840-1926), champion for Bromley who pioneered public health and education improvements, and who lived here for many years.

Bus services 138 to Bromley North Station and 162 to Eltham Station run eastwards along Westmoreland Road. Services 138 to Coney Hall and 162 to Beckenham Junction run westwards.

Blue Plaque Shortlands

This **2.7 mile circular walk** from **Shortlands Station (TQ394693)**, **227, 358, and 367 bus stops nearby**, utilises Ravensbourne Avenue to complete the circuit. It passes the 5 easternmost **Blue Plaques** above.