

## Blue Plaque Chislehurst & Petts Wood

**Start from Chislehurst Station, Station Approach, off Summer Hill, A222.** Turn left down Station Approach. Turn right into Old Hill, then right again into Caveside Close. Bear left to the entrance to Chislehurst Caves (*conducted tours; closed Mondays and Tuesdays*), on the outside wall of which is a **Blue Plaque** recording the use of **Chislehurst Caves** as an overnight air raid shelter during the Second World War. Free entry to historical display area (*also café and toilets*). Return to Old Hill, then turn right.

At the top of the hill is 'The Cedars' (*left*), a large house with a **Blue Plaque to William Willett** (1856-1915), noted house builder and initiator of British Summer Time. Turn left along Camden Park (private) Road.

Fork left into Bonchester Close to 'Bonchester', on the wall of which is a **Blue Plaque to Sir Malcolm Campbell, MBE** (1885-1948), world land and water speed record holder, who lived at 'Rossmore' (*now 'West Witheridge'*) in Prince Imperial Road from his birth in 1885 until 1894, and at 'Northwood' in Manor Park Road between 1895 and 1908. (*Despite the misleading wording on the plaque, he never lived at 'Bonchester', his parents' home!*). Return to the end of Camden Park Road.

Turn left along the drive to **Camden Place**, now a golf clubhouse. To the left of its entrance a rectangular white marble wall plaque inscribed in French records that **Napoleon III** (1808-1873) lived here from 1871 until his death in 1873, as did the **Empress Eugene** from 1870 until 1879 and the **Prince Imperial** from 1870 until 1879. Turn back to Camden Park Road. Turn left, then left again into Prince Imperial Road, B263. Immediately to the right of the road is a tall stone **memorial** to the **Prince Imperial**, who was killed in action whilst serving in the British Army in South Africa.

Follow a broad path NE across Chislehurst Common. Bear right to Bromley Road, A222, then turn left. At the War Memorial turn right along Royal Parade, A208, soon passing a replica 'Penfold' letter box (*right*) and the village sign (*left*), erected in 1953 to mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. At the top of this is a carving of **Queen Elizabeth I** knightling local resident **Sir Thomas Walsingham** in 1597. (*An alternative route via 161 bus and Mottingham starts near here*). Next turn left along Bull Lane, bear left along Holbrook Lane, and then bear right into Shepherds Green.

On the wall of No. 5 is a **Blue Plaque to Lord Ted Willis of Chislehurst** (1918-1992), playwright, politician and author, who lived here from 1957 until 1992. Turn back, then follow Holbrook Lane (*Chislehurst Society Plaque to Alan Watts, author, born at No.5, left*). Turn right into Poyntell Crescent, from which take a footpath (*right*) to St Pauls Cray Road, A208. Cross into Manor Park (road). Turn right along Manor Place, then turn right again to reach The Old House (*left*), on which is a **Blue Plaque to Sir Victor Shephard** (1893-1989), naval architect.

Return to Manor Park, then turn right. After bearing left to reach the end of the road, enter Petts Wood (*NT*) and bear southwards to reach the boundary fence of the Hawkwood Estate. Here turn left (*E*) by footpath to the point where the fence turns southwards to follow the London Loop. In a clearing about 100 metres ENE from here stands the granite **Willett Memorial Sundial**, permanently displaying British Summer Time. There is no obvious path or waymarking to the sundial from the London Loop path, which should be followed southwards past the **Edlmann Memorial** (*right*). Take the tunnel under the railway to Hazelmere Road, then turn left.

Continue eastwards to 34 Birchwood Road (*left*) to view a **Blue Plaque to Sir Geraint Evans** (1922-1992), opera singer and producer. Cross the road to No. 41, where **General** (and later President of France) **Charles de Gaulle** (1890-1970) lived for several months whilst commanding the Free French during the Second World War. A commemorative **Blue Plaque** was once placed in error on No. 36. This has since been removed.

Return to Hazelmere Road. Turn left to 49 Towncourt Crescent (*right*) with its **Blue Plaque to Heddle Nash** (1894 *sic* -1961), international opera singer. At the far end of the road, bear left along Woodland Way to Station Square, passing the '**Daylight Inn**' on the way to **Petts Wood station** (*right, 5.2 miles*).

## Blue Plaque Chislehurst & Mottingham

Take the 161 bus from Chislehurst to Mottingham. Continue NW along Mottingham Lane past Eltham College to the **Blue Plaque** on the front wall of 'Fairmount' (*right, TQ414732*) where the cricketer **Dr W G Grace** (1848-1915) once lived. Continue to **Grove Park Station, 4 miles**, via the waymarked Green Chain.