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Official Guide

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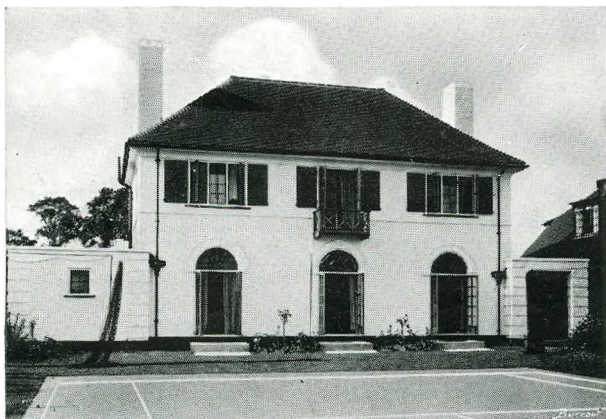
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BROMLEY

in the County of Kent



The Official Guide

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BROMLEY**

FOREWORD

ON THE PUBLICATION of this, the tenth edition of the *Official Guide to Bromley*, it is interesting to recall that the very first edition was published more than thirty years ago. At that time, in the early nineteen-twenties, Bromley was already a well-known residential district, with a population of 35,000, and was renowned for its fine gardens and public open spaces. The Borough has developed steadily during those thirty years and the population figure has grown to over 64,000 ; but Bromley has not lost its reputation as a residential centre nor have its gardens been sacrificed in the interests of building development.

Built on sloping ground, which rises towards the south from about 200 feet to 400 feet above sea-level, Bromley is undoubtedly a healthy district. The North Downs, rising to heights of over 600 feet, lie within easy reach, and so, of course, does the rest of the wonderful countryside and coast of Kent—the Garden County.

Indeed, the Borough has much to recommend it as a place of residence: from it, all parts of London can be quickly reached by rail and road; it is a pleasant place in itself, with equally pleasant surroundings; and it is a self-contained community with good shopping facilities and social services.

It is to enlarge upon these advantages and also to recount the interesting events and personalities connected with its history that this new edition of the *Guide* has been issued.



E. R. Craker

*The Borough of Bromley
Municipal Buildings—
the main entrance, Widmore Road*

Introducing BROMLEY

FEW towns have been so fortunate as to preserve a continuous tradition of romantic interest. Bromley Palace still stands among its glorious limes and elms, though it has long since ceased to be the official home of the Bishops of Rochester. And what shades of strange and great men the imaginative visitor may feel haunting its leafy walks! Bishop Sprat has a conspicuous place in history. It is said that in Bromley Palace he drew up the forged Deed of Association for the restoration of James II, which was signed by the great Marlborough and then deposited in a flower-pot in order that it should be found there by the Government officers. When Bishop Atterbury was in residence there he had Pope and Swift and Matthew Prior as visitors. He gave the place an excellent testimonial in a letter to Pope when he wrote: "I never part from Bromley but with regret, though I generally keep here what Mr. Cowley calls the worst of company in the world—my own." There is a little chalybeate spring in the grounds, though it is now but a trickle, but it has been the scene of many pious pilgrimages in the past. It was dedicated to St. Blaise, and to commemorate the conversion of King Ethelbert to Christianity, special indulgences were granted to those who drank the waters. The palace is now used by the British and Foreign School Society as a teachers' training college.

Those who approach Bromley from London by the high road have their attention invariably drawn to a pair of fine wrought iron gates bearing the date 1666. There is a scene beautiful and tranquil behind them, very reminiscent of a famous picture depicting sweet old people in their harbour of refuge. This is Bromley College, which was founded and endowed by John Warner (in 1666), sometime Bishop of Rochester, as a residence for forty widows of "loyal and orthodox clergymen of the Church of England." The buildings are of typical seventeenth-century architecture and are surrounded by spacious and beautiful gardens, but the Gothic chapel was rebuilt in the nineteenth century.

BROMLEY

It was in the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul, however, that we could, until 1941, have found the richest treasury of links with the storied past. But on April 16th, 1941, this ancient building was destroyed by enemy action, the fourteenth-century tower alone surviving, split from top to bottom, but still erect. So complete was the destruction that with the above exception scarcely a vestige of the church remained. Plans for the new church, incorporating the old tower, were drawn up by Mr. Harold Gibbons, F.R.I.B.A., in 1943. Rebuilding is now in progress, and the foundation stone was laid on the 13th October, 1949, by Her Majesty the Queen, when Princess Elizabeth. The consecration of the first part of the new Parish Church took place on 20th December, 1952, and this part is now used by the congregation. The original church goes back in history to the thirteenth century. The list of rectors takes us back to 1226, and the registers to 1558. The church contained many interesting monuments. Among those which have survived is a memorial stone, in what was once the centre aisle, to Mrs. Johnson, the "Tetty" of Dr. Johnson's "Prayers and Meditations." Dr. Johnson married Mrs. Porter when he was twenty-six and she was a widow twenty years older. It recalls a sensible match-making at least. Johnson told the lady that he was of humble extraction, had no money, and that one of his uncles had been hanged. Mrs. Porter replied that she had no money, and that though none of her relatives had been hanged, she had several who ought to be. The lady was buried in Bromley Church in 1752 and the doctor wrote a funeral sermon which was never preached. But thirty-one years afterwards her memory was still green in his heart, for he then wrote to the vicar giving instructions for him to "lay a stone upon her."

BROMLEYANA

Sometime no doubt an author seeking a fascinating theme for a book will group the women who have been associated with Bromley. It would make a remarkable story. Not the least piquant essay would be about Mrs. Bellamy, the celebrated actress, who lived there, and made the place notorious if not noteworthy—and probably both—as the scene of some of her most hectic adventures. Mistress George Anne Bellamy was supposed to have been the natural daughter of a Quaker schoolgirl and Lord Trawley, and



E. R. Craker

The Parish Church

was born, most probably, at Lisbon in 1727. She is believed to have made her debut at Covent Garden at the age of seventeen. She was an extraordinary creature, and saw many remarkable alternations of fortune, during one of which she was confined in a debtors' prison. From this she was released by a "free benefit" in 1785. In this year she published an "Apology" for her life in six volumes, and anyone who wishes to make a complete study of Bromleyana must include this "Apology" in his reading. By contrast, there are the more recent associations of Mrs. G. S. Reaney, who first began to make her name as a novelist just when the old three-volume novel was *in extremis*. Her stories were eminently proper. A representative selection of her books formed a presentation to the Bromley Library in memory of the authoress.

There is now such keen interest in the literature of places that a brief guide to some of the books about Bromley is sure to be welcome. First one must mention that the town has been singularly

fortunate in having two magazines of the past which afford rich treasures of curious and authentic information about the history, the associations, the flora and fauna, and innumerable other matters. The old *Bromley Magazine* bears the odd explanatory sub-title that it was "conducted by the pupils of Mr. Rawe's Academy," and the pupils did the work well. The other magazine is the *Bromley Record and Monthly Advertiser*. The files of these two productions are invaluable. The *History and Antiquities of the Parish of Bromley*, by Charles Freeman, published more than a hundred years ago, includes a brief account of noteworthy places of historic interest in the district. *The Antiquarian Jottings of Bromley, Hayes and Keston*, by George Clinch, and also his *Bromley and Bromley District*, repay study. The most comprehensive record is, of course, the handsome quarto entitled *Bromley, Kent*, by E. L. S. Horsburgh, B.A., F.R.HIST.S., which was published for the History of Bromley Committee in 1928. Old Bromley Church has been well served: there is *The History of Bromley Church*, by Walter Thomas Beeby, while the *Notes of the Parish Church of Bromley*, by the Rev. G. G. Hellicar, sometime the vicar, contain a good deal of illuminating matter from the church registers.

Those who become fascinated by the unique association of the borough with notables of the past and present will next turn to the handsome Public Library, in the High Street. That ripe scholar and public benefactor who, since he gave us the idea of Bank Holidays, has been affectionately called "St. Lubbock," took a deep interest in providing local facilities for students. A brass tablet in the porch records the fact that the Libraries Act was adopted in 1892, and the first Library in Tweedy Road was opened by Lord Avebury (Sir John Lubbock) just two years later. The present commodious central building, with the adjoining exquisite flower garden and visions of the Kentish Hills, was opened by Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the donor, in 1906. One of the most popular men of letters is honoured with a large portrait in the reference room, which proudly recalls that Mr. H. G. Wells was born at 57 High Street, on 21st September, 1866. Thomas Paine, author of *The Age of Reason*, who is said to be enjoying a popular reputation he did not have in his lifetime, was another resident who maintained the traditional associations of the borough with our literature.

THE BOROUGH ARMS EXPLAINED

For coloured reproduction see front cover

"Sprigs of Broom" (Bromley)

The name Bromley, formerly written as "Bromleag" or "Bromleah," appears to have originated from the common Broom which once grew here in great abundance. The name, therefore, signifies a field or pasture where Broom grows. Until within quite recent years the Bromley Recreation Ground (Martin's Hill) was famous for its Broom, and in earlier years, before it was a public recreation ground, the two hills on either side of the present centre footpath were one mass of this particular shrub.

"The Sun" ("Sun" dridge)

The Manor of Sundridge was considered in bygone days a very important one. It was owned, in the reign of Henry III, by a family of the name of Bland or Blound, of whom Peter Bland was made by the King, Constable of the Tower of London. Sundridge continued in the possession of his descendants for some time, afterwards being owned by different families of position, until in 1796 it was purchased by Sir Claude Scott, Bart., who pulled down the old house and built the present mansion, which still remains in the possession of the Scott family.

"Escallop Shell"

The Escallop Shell was the pilgrims' ensign in their expeditions to holy shrines, notably Canterbury. There are many roads and lanes in Kent still called Pilgrims Road or Pilgrims Way along which the devout pilgrims walked.

"Rampant Horse"

This is the Rampant or White Horse of Kent.

"The Ravens" ("Ravens" bourne)

This river or stream, which flows through Bromley, has its chief source in Caesar's Well at Keston. The name is commonly supposed to take its origin from the following tradition:—When the Roman soldiers were encamped at "Holwood" there was a great need of water. A raven was seen to frequent a certain spot near the camp and upon close examination a small spring was discovered among the bushes. On digging out the place, a copious spring was found and from this discovery it is supposed the stream took its name.



The Terrace, Church House Grounds

E. K. Craker

The old Municipal Buildings and part of the new



BROMLEY

The Modern Borough

PRESENT-DAY Bromley is justly proud of its progress. Its claims are as a first-class residential centre, and municipal policy is wisely directed towards this ideal. It has no industries and invites none, for it is well content with its quiet roads and leafy avenues, and its up-to-date shopping thoroughfares and modern business premises.

The first-time visitor to Bromley is always impressed by the town's spacious air, and its obvious affection for gardens. Adjoining the Market Square and quite near the Municipal Buildings is the little retreat known as the Queen's Garden, while the public library is at the entrance to one of the best-kept gardens to be found anywhere within a ten-mile radius of London; the roses alone make a display which visitors from far afield come to see. Here, too, has been established the Garden for the Blind—a splendid example of combined effort on the part of the Corporation and the Bromley Rotary Club.

Bromley's principal thoroughfare is the London Road and High Street which runs right through the busy part of the town. This point is the Market Place, now, as it has ever been, the business centre. But it has undergone transformation: old buildings which actually had no sentimental or architectural claims to preservation and had long since ceased to be worthy of the importance of the borough and inadequate to its commercial needs, have been replaced by handsome shops, yet, it is interesting to observe, still preserving the names of many traders who have been associated with the borough for generations. It is simple to find the way about, for all other roads may be said to meet at some point here. Both East Street and Widmore Road are other admirable shopping-places.

It is from either of these that we approach the handsome Municipal Buildings, one section of which houses the whole of the civic activities. Bromley, with an area of 6,519 acres and an estimated population of 64,590, is governed by a Corporation consisting of the Mayor, seven Aldermen and twenty-one Councillors representing seven wards. Here, too, are the offices of the

BROMLEY

Bromley Committee for Education. The companion building over the way is the local headquarters of the Kent County Fire Brigade.

The corporation provides the following services: public libraries, allotments, housing estates, refuse destructor, open-air bath and cemeteries, and it also controls the weekly market. Electricity is supplied by the London Electricity Board except in the Keston and Hayes Ward, where the supply is provided by the South Eastern Electricity Board. Gas is provided by the South Eastern Gas Board. The corporation is a constituent authority of the West Kent Main Sewerage Board.

Bromley is the principal town of a County Court circuit and the head of a Petty Sessional Division with a separate Court of Summary Jurisdiction. The County Court and offices are in College Road, at its junction with Tweedy Road, near the North Station, and the Magistrates' Court and offices are in South Street adjoining the Municipal Buildings. The borough is in the Metropolitan Police area, and the police station is in Widmore Road, almost opposite the Municipal Buildings.

The town draws an abundant water supply from the Metropolitan Water Board.

The boundaries of the Parliamentary Borough of Bromley coincide with those of the Municipal Borough, and the Town Clerk is the Electoral Registration Officer.

Bromley Hospital is situated in Cromwell Avenue, and provides a general hospital service with 133 beds. This hospital also has two maternity units, at 118 Widmore Road (22 beds), and 20 Masons Hill (34 beds). Lennard Hospitals, Lennard Road, have provision for 212 beds, 24 of which are for the treatment of elderly persons and the remainder reserved for the isolation and treatment of infectious diseases.

These hospitals are within the area of the South Eastern Regional Hospital Board, and are administered by the Bromley Group Hospital Management Committee, whose offices are at Farnborough Hospital.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

The church of SS. Peter and Paul was the oldest and mother church of the borough. St. Mark's Church, in Westmoreland Road, formerly a daughter church of the parish church, was severely



The Public Library

Bromley High Street



BROMLEY

damaged on April 16th, 1941, during an air raid; it has now been restored and brought into use following a Service of Re-dedication on 18th July, 1953. St. John's Church, Park Road, which was consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1880, suffered severe damage in a subsequent raid. Holy Trinity, on Bromley Common, is a Gothic building which was erected in 1841; out of this parish, that of St. Luke's was formed in 1889. St. Luke's church was built in 1886, the tower being added in 1910. As a result of the increased population in the Southborough, Bickley, district, the separate parish of St. Augustine's was formed in 1934. St. George's Church, Bickley, was built in 1864 and consecrated in 1865, and is a handsome building containing interesting monuments and windows. It, too, suffered considerable damage from a flying bomb, but it has since been restored and is in use again.

The church of St. Mary, Plaistow, erected in 1863, has from time to time been added to and beautified, and is noted for its many stained glass windows and mural paintings and decorations in the chancel. Developments in this parish made further provision for worship imperative, and a new brick church dedicated to St. Andrew was built in 1929. Christ Church, Highland Road, was erected in 1887.

The Roman Catholics have a handsome church, dedicated to St. Joseph, which is situated in Plaistow Lane, as well as the mission church of St. Swithun in Fashoda Road, Bromley Common. The famous preacher, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, visited Bromley in 1864 to lay the foundation stone of the Baptist church which stands almost opposite the Municipal Offices; there are other Baptist churches at Bromley Common and Hayes Lane. Since 1929, the Bromley Baptist Church has assisted in the building of churches at Downham, Elmstead Woods and Southborough Park. The Congregational Church in Widmore Road, which was founded in 1788, was completely destroyed by enemy action in April, 1941. A prefabricated church has now been erected on the same site. One of the largest and most imposing buildings in the borough is the Central Hall of the Methodists in the London Road which, too, received damage during the war. The main Methodist Church is, however, in the High Street, and there are also churches of this denomination at Bromley Common and Tylney Road. The



*St. John's Church
Park Road*

Christian Scientists have one of the most interesting of all the modern places of worship. The picturesque septangular structure in Widmore Road is to the design of Mr. Braxton Sinclair and it is considered to be one of the most beautiful churches the Christian Scientists possess in the kingdom. Trinity Church, in Freeland Road (also damaged by bombs) belongs to the Presbyterians. A Salvation Army citadel was erected in Ethelbert Road a few years ago.

SOCIAL AMENITIES

Bromley is widely known in the realm of music, and there is great musical activity in the borough. The Bromley Symphony Orchestra is one of the best music societies in the United Kingdom and its concerts are always well patronised. The Ripley Choir's fame extends considerably beyond the confines of the borough and they have broadcast on several occasions. The Bromley and District Male Voice Choir have also brought laurels to the borough in winning many choral competitions, and they, too, have broadcast.

The Bromley Musical Festival has become one of the most notable competitive annual fixtures of the kind in the home counties, and further artistic, musical, dramatic, literary and social interests are provided by the following organisations and branches of societies in Bromley: Bromley Art Society, Bromley and District Amateur Theatre Guild, Bromley Choral Society, Bromley Co-operative Choral Society, Bromley Film Society, Bromley and District Angling Society, Bromley and District Male Voice Choir, Bromley Little Theatre, Bromley Camera Club, Bromley Philatelic Society, Bromley Cage Bird Society, Bromley and District Horticultural Society, Bromley Chess Club, Bromley and District Allotment Association, the Congregational Church Literary and Musical Society, Townswomen's Guilds, Women's Voluntary Services, Dickens' Fellowship, Workers' Educational Association, Young Women's Christian Association, Girls' Friendly Society, British Legion, St. John Ambulance Brigade, British Red Cross Society, Toc H., Ancient Order of Foresters, Independent Order of Oddfellows, Order of Buffaloes and other Friendly Societies. Ex-service men are splendidly catered for at the Bromley United Services Club in London Road and at the Royal Naval Club in the High Street, whilst the Home Guard have excellent club premises in Beckenham Lane. The Bromley Chamber of Commerce is a



The Lake, Keston Common

live body of local business men, and the Rotary and Round Table Clubs meet at specified times. There is a Conservative Club, with a women's section, in High Street, and a Liberal Club in Tweedy Road, whilst the Labour Party's headquarters are at Masons Hill. A well-equipped Masonic Hall, housing numerous lodges and chapters, is situated at Cromwell Avenue, near the South Station, and a social club is accommodated in the same building. There are also many Boy Scout Troops and Girl Guide Companies, as well as the various societies organised by the churches, residents' associations and ex-Civil Defence Associations. There are three cinemas in the town, the Gaumont, the Odeon and the Palais, all of which are situated in the High Street.

The Grand Theatre in the High Street, part of which was used during the war as a public air raid shelter, has been restored to public use to provide facilities as a repertory theatre, and is now known as the New Theatre.

The need for a theatre in Bromley had been felt for a long time, and a large and representative gathering was present when the theatre opened on December 29th, 1947, with a performance of "Alice in Wonderland".

SPORT

Set as it is near open country, and possessing the happy character of an informal garden city, Bromley naturally offers to the residents capital facilities for all kinds of sport. The provision of adequate public playing fields and open spaces has always been the aim of the local authority. Overlooking the Shortlands valley and quite near the High Street is the Martins Hill Recreation Ground, in which stands the town's War Memorial, whilst adjoining it below is the Queens Mead Recreation Ground with facilities for cricket, football and bowls. The same facilities with the addition of grass tennis courts are provided at the Whitehall Recreation Ground, an open space of seventeen acres at Bromley Common, whilst in the north of the borough there are nine acres for games at Kings Meadow in Burnt Ash Lane. The Corporation have also reserved 56 acres of land on the west side of Bromley Common which will be known as Norman Park, and they have provided a recreation ground in the Widmore district, as well as the Parkfield Recreation Ground comprising 41 acres, adjoining their recently developed Coppice Housing Estate. In addition to the Queens Garden and Library Gardens already mentioned there are, also in the centre of the town, the Church House Grounds with beautifully laid-out gardens, a bandstand, a small ornamental lake and a children's yacht pool. The Corporation have also acquired open spaces at Hollydale Estate in the south of the borough and at New Street Hill in the north, and still more recently have reserved nine acres at Havelock Road. Elmstead Wood comprising 61 acres was acquired early in 1937 for preservation in its natural state. Including the commons and open spaces at Hayes and Keston there are over 600 acres of public open space in the borough. There are plenty of facilities for golf, and those zealots of the royal game will find excellent golf courses within the confines of the borough boundaries. The Sundridge Park Golf Club has two eighteen-hole courses practically adjoining Sundridge Park station. The Corporation have also opened a nine-hole course to the public, on land near Magpie Hall Lane, and there are several other well-known golf courses in the immediate vicinity. Bowls is an historic game in Bromley, as elsewhere, and crack touring and national players have enjoyed the games on the capital greens of the clubs in Plaistow Lane and Hayes Lane. A Ladies' Club

uses the Queens Mead rink at Shortlands. The town is rich in cricket clubs, which always give a welcome to new players. One of the pleasant amenities of Widmore Road is the ground of the Bromley Cricket Club; amongst others, mention may be made of the Bromley Town and Bickley Park Clubs, which are first-rate clubs with grounds at Hayes Lane and Bickley Point respectively. The town Association football club is well-known, and its ground, opened in season 1938-39, is adjacent to the former ground at Hayes Lane. There are a number of Rugby football clubs in the neighbourhood. The Bromley Hockey Club uses the cricket ground in Widmore Road, and there are several excellent tennis, badminton and squash clubs and also public courts for hire. The Corporation have provided an open-air swimming bath which is situated off Bromley Common, between Southlands Road and The Avenue, and some few years ago this was modernised and a filtration plant installed. The two local Swimming Clubs make full use of the facilities offered.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

A town which is essentially residential and desirous of attracting residents only, must be mindful of the modern need for first-class educational facilities. The Borough of Bromley is an Excepted District under the Education Act, 1944, and controls primary and secondary education in the borough on behalf of the Kent County Council as Local Education Authority.

The borough is well served with primary and secondary schools and playing fields, and the plan of development which has been approved by the Local Education Authority provides for the comprehensive development of all forms of education, in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act, 1944. New sites for schools to be planned on modern lines have been reserved, and as soon as national conditions will allow, the development plan will be implemented.

The plan provides for Bromley to serve as a Regional Centre for further education, and plans are in hand for the provision of a Regional College of Art and Technology, on a central site covering an area of approximately 80 acres. A Department of Building for the training of apprentices and craftsmen for the building industry has been opened at the Wharton Road site. A centre of specialized

BROMLEY

training is the College of Art, immediately facing the Municipal Offices in Tweedy Road, where day and evening classes are held.

Full-time and evening classes in academic and commercial subjects, as well as evening classes in other subjects, are held at the Bromley Technical Institute which since September, 1950, has occupied premises especially adapted for the purpose at "Spring-hill," College Road. There is also an evening institute covering similar subjects at certain secondary schools.

In due course there will be fully-equipped secondary modern technical and grammar schools to augment the present provision.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Boys' Schools, preparatory only:—

Bickley Hall, Bickley, recognized by the Ministry of Education and a Member of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools.

Bickley Park, Bickley.

Carn Brea, Sundridge Avenue.

Girls' Schools.

Baston House, Hayes Common, with boys' preparatory.

Bromley High School, recognized by the Ministry of Education, and a Public School under the Girls' Public Day School Trust.

(In area of Chislehurst and Sidcup U.D.C.) Farrington Girls' School, Chislehurst, a Public School.

Holy Trinity Convent, Plaistow Lane, a boarding and day school, inspected and recognized as efficient by the University of London and approved by the Ministry of Education. (Boys up to 9 years.)

Kinnaird Park School, Sundridge Park. (Boys up to 8 years.)

Nettlestone, Bickley, with boys' preparatory.

Stratford House School, Bickley, recognized by the Ministry of Education. (Boys up to 8 years.)

Kindergartens and Preparatory.

Beresford House, 124 College Road. (Boys' and girls'.)

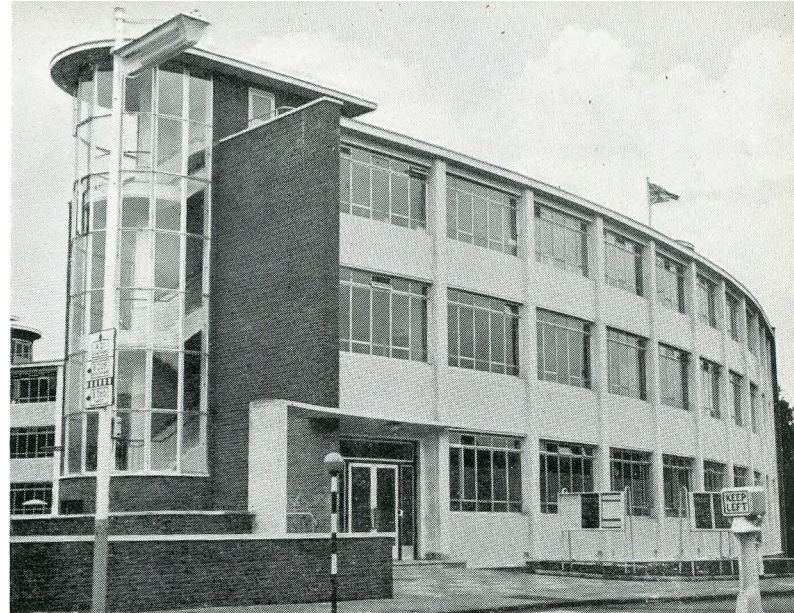
Breaside, 43 Orchard Road. (Boys only.)

Viola House, 22 Crescent Road, (Boys' and girls'.)

Brewood, 9 Sackville Avenue, Hayes. (Boys only.)

233 Southlands Road. (Boys' and girls'.)

Raymont, 97 Widmore Road. (Boys' and girls'.)



E. R. Craker

Crown Building, Westmoreland Road

New Council Flats in London Road



BROMLEY

Co-educational Schools.

Heath House School (Marsland Schools Ltd.), 46 Masons Hill.

Commercial Colleges.

Bromley Commercial College (Marsland Schools.), Heath House, 46 Masons Hill. Day and Evening Classes.

Clark's College, 48 Masons Hill.

POST AND PARKING

Together with these essentials for a town suited and attractive for residence and business, Bromley possesses the very necessary assets of excellent transport and good postal facilities. The General Post Office has premises in East Street, which are admirably situated, being central for the shopping thoroughfares.

Free car parks have been provided by the Corporation in Station Road, near Bromley North Station, and in Queens Road, near the Market Square, and there are nine official parking places in roads adjoining the High Street. Another free car park for 95 cars is under construction in the grounds of "The Hill", Beckenham Lane.

RAILWAY AND ROAD FACILITIES

The train service is one of the best enjoyed by any town on the fringe of London. There are no less than six stations in the borough—Bromley North, Sundridge Park, Elmstead Woods, and Hayes stations with trains from Charing Cross, Cannon Street and London Bridge; and Bromley South and Bickley stations, connecting with Victoria, Holborn Viaduct and Blackfriars. The distance for all except Bickley, the farthest out (which is 12 miles from Victoria and 12½ from Holborn Viaduct), is about eleven miles. Electric trains run at frequent intervals to and from all stations in the borough, the journey occupying generally less than half an hour. The service continues from early morning till past midnight.

Being situated on the main London road, Bromley is conveniently connected with the metropolis and the surrounding districts by the London Passenger Transport Board's bus services, many of which pass through Bromley to various parts.

Several road services conduct daily services between Bromley and London. Green Line (London Transport) coaches from



Station Approach, Hayes

London to Tunbridge Wells (Route 704), and from London to Sevenoaks (Route 705) pass through Bromley at 15-minute intervals. A new hourly service (Route 725) operating between Gravesend and Windsor also passes through Bromley. The Maidstone and District Motor Services Ltd. operate to and from the coast on their London-Bexhill service (nine each way daily during August Bank Holiday week, seven each way daily from July to September and four each way daily during the remainder of the year); the London-Rye service (twice daily each way) also passes through Bromley.

Both railway and motor coach developments have resulted in adding to the amenities of the borough by making it a splendid centre for enjoyable excursions. Hayes, Keston and Chislehurst, which have natural charms with their extensive commons and many historical associations, offer short outings by bus or rail. The whole wonderful Weald of Kent may be easily explored by rail or coach, while both provide frequent facilities daily for reaching the sea. All these things have contributed to enhance the popularity of the borough as a desirable residential district.

HAYES AND KESTON

Hayes and Keston, which are now part of the borough, have many interesting associations with the past. Hayes Place is known as the home of the Earl of Chatham and his son William Pitt. In the mansion, but recently demolished, the great Earl died in 1778, a few days after his attempted protest in the House of Lords against the surrender of the American colonies by Great Britain. The grounds of Hayes Place have been developed as a pleasant housing estate, and the names of some of the new roads preserve these associations. In the grounds of Holwood, Keston, formerly the residence of Lady Stanley, is preserved the ancient oak under which Wilberforce discussed his scheme of slave emancipation with William Pitt the younger, for whom Holwood Park was a favourite retreat. Several remains of Roman habitation have been discovered at Hayes Common and at Keston Common, where tiles, broken pieces of pottery, coins and other relics have been found. The remains of the Roman temple and burial ground at Warbank, Keston, are preserved as an ancient monument by the Corporation of Bromley. The Ravensbourne stream has its beginning in Keston at a spring known as Caesar's Well or the Roman Bath.

The Parish Church of Hayes, Early English in style, has a tower with a spire and some very fine stained glass windows, together with numerous brasses and monuments. The register, which has entries beginning in Tudor days, contains the record of the baptism of William Pitt (born at Hayes Place in May, 1750). There is a memorial to the two Pitts. The Parish Church of Keston is situated near the main Westerham Road and is built in the Norman and Early English styles. The registers date from the year 1540. In the churchyard is buried Mrs. Craik, author of *John Halifax, Gentleman*. Recent excavations during war damage repairs have brought to light evidence of pre-Norman origin and it is thought the church was built on the site of a Roman-British Cemetery. Another church, dedicated to St. Audrey, was built in 1888 nearer the village of Keston. A Methodist Church was erected in 1926 at Keston, whilst the Hayes Free Church is in Pickhurst Lane.

In spite of the development around Keston, the village itself has not greatly altered. This cannot, however, be said of Hayes, for it is difficult to realise that Hayes—with its streets and develop-

ment controlled in accordance with Bromley's planning methods and with its modern shopping centres near the new and spacious buildings of the Hayes Station terminus of the Southern Region's Charing Cross line, and near the church—was a village but a few years ago.

With this growth, so have the educational, social and entertainment facilities progressed. The Corporation have erected a large school at Hayes, in addition to the school at Keston, and the former Rectory at Hayes has been converted to provide a commodious and up-to-date branch library for the area. There are a local Chamber of Commerce, an active residents' association, a horticultural society, social clubs, a branch of the British Legion, dramatic societies, musical societies, men's clubs, Toc H Groups, a recently formed Townswomen's Guild, a Women's Institute, and branches of the various political parties at both Hayes and Keston. The Keston Village Hall, near the school and the Hayes Village Hall at Hayes Street are both convenient and pleasant halls and are used for many and various functions. The Odeon Cinema is a modern building in Station Approach. In addition there are sports clubs in both districts which have grown from the former village clubs.

There are excellent travelling facilities, for in addition to the Southern Region electric line there are good omnibus services to and from Bromley.

Open spaces and pleasure grounds are, of course, essential for a healthy residential district, and Hayes and Keston are happily placed in this respect. There are two open spaces comprising seven acres in Pickhurst Lane and recently the Corporation have acquired 12 acres of land adjoining the Hayes Place Housing Estate, which has been laid out as the Pickhurst Recreation Ground; but the main resorts are Hayes and Keston Commons, and Pickhurst Green. Hayes Common is a delightful stretch of high ground comprising some 200 or more acres, whilst Keston Common is an extension of fifty-five acres with a pretty chain of small lakes formed by the Ravensbourne stream as it leaves Caesar's Well.



Places of Interest

FARTHER AFIELD

WITHIN easy reach of Bromley are a number of fine houses including Wickham Court and Downe House (for some time the residence of Charles Darwin).

CHISLEHURST. Say the authors of *Picturesque Kent*: "It is a pleasant walk from Bromley through Sundridge to Chislehurst. The last-named place recalls the illustrious exiles who made Camden Place, here, their home in banishment. Formerly the mansion was the residence of the antiquary Camden, who bought it and, in 1628, died in it. At a later date it was occupied by Lord Chancellor Pratt, who derived from it the title of Baron Camden. The French Imperial family took refuge there in 1870, and less than three years later the ex-Emperor Napoleon died there. The bodies of both the Emperor and his son rested for some years prior to their removal to Farnborough, Hants., in the mortuary attached to St. Mary's Church, and in that building there are memorials to them. On Chislehurst Common (one of the most beautiful in Kent) is the huge granite cross erected by local residents in memory of the Prince Imperial, slain in 1879 in Zululand, while fighting as a volunteer for the cause of the country which had given him a refuge and a home. Chislehurst Church (St. Nicholas), a most picturesque building in charming surroundings, is chiefly Perpendicular, but has an Early English north wall and font. One of its memorials indicates that

'A knight, sometime of worthie fame,
Lyeth buried under this stonie bower;
Sir Edmund Walsingham was his name,
Lieutenant he was of London Tower.'

Sir Edmund died in 1549, but the monument was erected by his son, Thomas, to the memory of his father and in anticipation of his own death, which happened in 1630."

To the south of the village and skirted on the south by the Southern Region railway line and immediately adjoining St. Paul's Cray Common, is Pett's Wood, covering 87½ acres of thickly-wooded land which was in 1927 acquired by the nation



Elmstead Wood—typical of many woodland expanses in and around Bromley

[Photo: The Times]

through public subscription as a Willett Memorial in honour of William Willett, the originator of the scheme which culminated in the permanent adoption of the Summer Time Act. Willett is buried in Chislehurst churchyard.

SEVENOAKS. Sevenoaks lies to the south-west of Bromley and is reached by a splendid road. It stands on the brow of a hill and the general impression one gets on entering is that of a clean, well-cared-for, comfortable country town, with buildings suggestive of the picturesque beauty of a bygone age, side-by-side with up-to-date business premises, evidencing an appreciation of the needs of the times. Altogether the town still retains a general pleasing picturesqueness and appearance of cleanliness and well-being.

A stroll down the town from the Tonbridge Road, noting the general appearance and the particular buildings as one goes, is interesting. A few yards along the Tonbridge Road, just before entering the town, there is a splendid view across Knole Park, with Knole House, the seat of Lord Sackville, in the distance. The park is always open to the public and has numerous entrances. The main entrance is opposite the parish church. No written description of Knole Park can be adequate. In size it is some two miles long from north to south, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles wide from east to west, and it has an area of some 1,000 acres. The historical state apartments in the house, containing priceless art treasures, curios and antique furniture, are on view to the public on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and Bank Holidays (excluding Xmas and Boxing Days). (Admission 2/6.) There is no admission on Sundays. Tickets from porter's lodge.

TONBRIDGE (20 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles). Worth visiting to see the castle and its charming grounds, the school, the Old Chequers Inn, the Medway with its boating, and the ancient House of the Port Reeve in East Street. Five miles beyond Tonbridge the traveller comes to **TUNBRIDGE WELLS**, the fashionable health and pleasure resort. Chief among many attractions here are the picturesque historic promenade known as the Pantiles, the famous chalybeate spring, and the breezy gorse-and-bracken-covered common with its views of wide extent and beauty.

PENSHURST. The picturesque village of Penshurst is five miles from Tonbridge, and here is Penshurst Place, the home of Lord De L'Isle and Dudley, V.C., and the birthplace of Sir Philip Sidney.

The State Rooms containing priceless furniture and many portraits of the Sidney family are well worth a visit and are open to the public from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on each Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, and on the first, third and fifth Sundays in the month, from April to mid October, in addition to Bank Holidays (not Good Fridays). Admission 2/6, children 1/6. Organisers of parties please give previous notice to the Secretary.

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ACCOMMODATION: Hotels—Bromley Hill Court (A.A., R.A.C.); Coombe Lea Hotel, Hawthorne Road; Cranford, London Road (R.A.C.); Crest Hotel, Blyth Road (A.A., R.A.C.); Ravenscroft (A.A., R.A.C.); Boughton Hotel, Bickley; Castilla Hotel, Plaistow Lane; Hackwood Hotel, Widmore Road; Harcourt Lodge, Southlands Grove; Hadley Hotel, 103 Widmore Road; St. Anthony's Hotel, 16 Sundridge Avenue; Keston Park Hotel, Croydon Road, Keston; West Kent Hotel and Country Club, Blackbrook Lane, Bickley; Royal Bell Hotel, Market Square.

BANKS: Barclays Bank Ltd., Lloyds Bank Ltd., Martins Bank Ltd., Midland Bank Ltd., National Provincial Bank Ltd., Westminster Bank Ltd., Bromley Trustee Savings Bank.

EARLY CLOSING DAYS: Wednesday (Bromley), Thursday (Hayes).

ECCLESIASTICAL DATA: Rural Deanery, Bromley; Archdeaconry and Diocese, Rochester.

ELECTRICITY: With the exception of the Keston and Hayes Ward, electricity is supplied by the London Electricity Board. Offices and showrooms for the Bromley area, 1 West Street. Telephone: Rav. 6084.

The Keston and Hayes Ward is supplied by the South-Eastern Electricity Board with offices at 270 High Street, Orpington, telephone Orpington 1660, and showrooms at 24 Station Approach, Hayes. Telephone: Hurstway 1717.

GAS SUPPLY: Supplied by the South-Eastern Gas Board. Showrooms, 75 High Street, Bromley. Telephone: Rav. 2682.

LICENSING HOURS: 10.30—2.30, 6—10.30, Sundays, 12—2, 7—10.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DATA: Hundred, Bromley and Beckenham; Lathe, Sutton-at-Hone. Bromley is a municipal and parliamentary borough, a market and union town, and the head of a petty sessional division and parish.

MARKET DAY: Thursday (Station Road).

MILEAGES: By Road—Catford 3, Chelsfield 7, Farnborough 4, Lewisham 4, London 10, Maidstone 27, Orpington 5, Sevenoaks 13, Sidcup 5, West Wickham 3. By Rail—Greenwich 6, London 10, Sevenoaks 14.

NEWSPAPERS: *Bromley and Kentish Times*, Friday 3d.; *West Kent Mercury*, Friday 3d.

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ORDNANCE SHEETS: Maps are on sale at local booksellers or by post from "Geographia" Ltd., 167 Fleet Street, E.C.4. The 1 inch to 1 mile, No. 171, and the "Quarter Inch" No. 12 cover the Bromley district.

POLITICAL DATA: The boundaries of the Parliamentary Borough of Bromley coincide with those of the Municipal Borough.

POPULATION (1951 Census): 64,178. (Est. 1953): 64,590.

PUBLIC OFFICES IN BROMLEY:

Bromley Group Hospital Management Committee, Farnborough Hospital.

Commissioners of Customs and Excise, 1 Westmoreland Road.

County Court, College Road.

Electricity Showrooms, 1 West Street.

Fire Station, South Street.

Inland Revenue Office, H.M. Inspector of Taxes, H.M. Collector of Taxes, 1 Westmoreland Road. District Valuer, 2 Ethelbert Road.

Kent County Council, Park House, Beckenham Lane.

Magistrates' Court, South Street.

Metropolitan Water Board, 21 North Street.

Ministry of Education, 1 Westmoreland Road.

Ministry of Labour and National Service, 1 Westmoreland Road.

Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, 1 Westmoreland Road.

Municipal Offices, Tweedy Road (Town Clerk, Borough Treasurer, Borough Engineer, Medical Officer of Health, Borough Education Officer, Property Manager and Registrar of Cemeteries).

National Assistance Board, 1 Westmoreland Road.

National Savings (District Office), 1 Westmoreland Road.

Police Station, Widmore Road.

Post Office (Head), East Street.

Public Library (Central), High Street; Branches—Burnt Ash Lane and "The Old Rectory," Hayes; Part-time Branch at St. Luke's Institute, Raglan Road.

Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Superintendent), Park House, Beckenham Lane.

Registration Officer (Parliamentary Borough of Bromley), Municipal Offices.

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Telephone Exchanges—Ravensbourne (Church Road), Hurstway (Hayes Street, Hayes), Imperial (Bickley Park Road).
Weights and Measures Office (Kent County Council), Hawkesworth Road.

West Kent Main Sewerage Board, Barnfield, Blyth Road.

West Kent Valuation Panel, 46 East Street.

Women's Voluntary Services, 2 Ethelbert Road.

Youth Employment Bureau, Municipal Offices.

RATES IN THE £: 23s. 5d. financial year ending 31st March, 1958,

RATEABLE VALUE: £787,953. 2 11, 29, 12 25.

THE WATER SUPPLY: The district is supplied with water by the Metropolitan Water Board, the source of supply being the River Thames and wells in the Kent area. The domestic water rate is 94 per cent of the net annual value of the premises supplied.

The Collector's office for payment of water rates is at 21 North Street, Bromley (near Bromley North Station). (Tel. Ravensbourne 5643.)

The Resident Engineer's office is at Brookmill Road, Deptford (Tel. Tideway 3881); and the District Engineer's office at 21 North Street, Bromley (Tel. Ravensbourne 2657).

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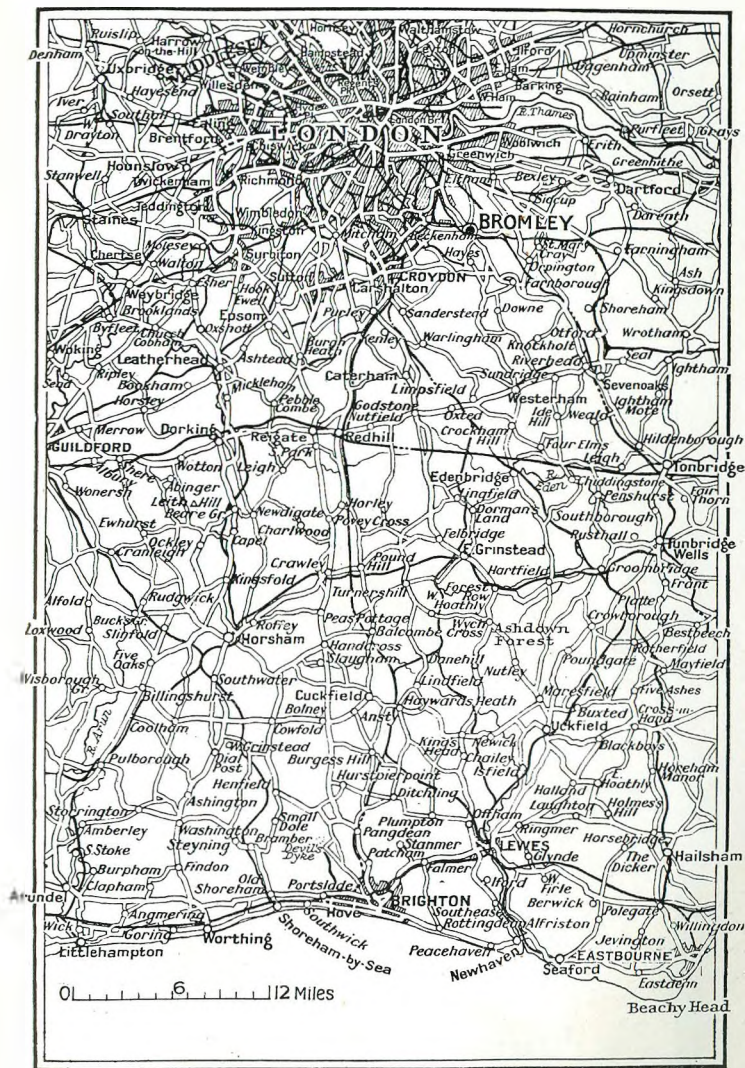
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Baxter, Payne & Lepper, Opp. G.P.O., Bromley. And at Beckenham and Orpington.	RAV. 2234
G. Proctor & Partners, Station Buildings, Bickley.	IMP. 1622
Robert W. Edbrooke, successor to Taylor-Downes, 169 High Street, Orpington.	ORP. 6677
Spencer & Kent, 14 High Street, Beckenham.	BEC. 3454
Leonard Ralph & Partners, 2 East Street, Bromley.	RAV. 6066
H. E. Morgan & Co., 1 Crofton Road, Farnborough. And at Westerham.	Farnborough 2420
Linay & Shipp, 6 Central Parade, High Street, Orpington.	ORP. 5678
Carter, Law & Leech, 58 East St., Bromley. And at Bromley South, Shortlands & Chis't.	RAV. 2217
W. Levens & Son, Station Approach, Orpington.	ORP. 152
R. W. Inniss & Co., 247 High Street, Orpington.	ORP. 1076
Eric Rogers, Keston Park Estate Office, Farnborough.	Farnborough 66
Jolly & Wood, 4 The Broadway, Croydon Road, Beckenham.	BEC. 1430
J. R. Turner, 135 High Street, Bromley.	RAV. 2358
Waterer & Dickins, 133 High Street, Bromley.	RAV. 0147
Plant, Clifford & Co., 28 Widmore Rd., Bromley.	RAV. 1145
Colin Gray & Co., Hollington Galleries, High Street, Chislehurst.	IMP. 2233
J. Hayne, 46 East Street, Bromley.	RAV. 6283
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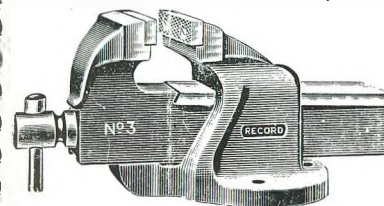
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