

A Walk through the Blue Plaques of Belsize

A good place to start is outside 31 Steeles Road, the home of Hutch Hutchinson, a remarkable American singer and pianist remembered for his versions of Cole Porter songs particularly "Let's do it, let's fall in love"...

A short walk across Haverstock Hill to Parkhill Road will take you to the homes of painter Piet Mondrian (No 11A) and sculptor Henry Moore (No 60). Then wander up to Lawn Road where three pioneers of Modern Design, Walter Gropius, Marcel Breuer and Laszlo Moholy-Nagy resided at various times in the Lawn Road flats, known as the Isokon. Close by, Sir Rowland Hill originator of the Penny Post lived on the site of the Royal Free Hospital.

Returning across Haverstock Hill stop by the corner of Ornan Road where David Devant, a magician, lived for a year in Ornan Court, then continue to 6 Lyndhurst Road (marked as Rosslyn Park Mews on the map) which was the home of actor Richard Burton. Burton, nominated for seven Oscars, was one of the highest-paid actors in the world during the late 1960s.

20 Maresfield Gardens is a ten-minute walk from Lyndhurst. Sigmund Freud, the neurologist and founder of psychoanalysis, lived here working in the Viennese consulting room he recreated in faithful detail. The house is now a museum dedicated to his memory and the memory of his daughter Anna, considered to be the founder of psychoanalytic child psychology. Hence there are two Blue Plaques. Cecil Sharp, a collector of folk music and dance, lived at 4 Maresfield Gardens. A house in Primrose Hill, a folk arts centre, is also named after him.

The next stop will be 14 Adamson Road, close to Swiss Cottage tube station, the home of Robert Bevan, painter and founder of Camden Town Group. From here head towards 44 Belsize Park Gardens, home of Frederick Delius whose musical compositions were conducted by Thomas Beecham; then across the road, No 37 was the home of Henry Brailsford, a writer. The final destination of this tour is No 9 Howitt Road, where Ramsey McDonald lived. Ramsey was the first Labour Party politician to become Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

The official blue plaques app is available to download for free for iPhone and Android.

