

Number Place

Historical information

1

Bruce Castle,
Lordship Lane,
N17 8NU

Judith de Lens, Countess of Huntingdon (1054/55 – after 1086)

Judith was the most prominent woman living at the time of the compiling of Domesday Book between 1066-1086. How did she come to be in such a significant position in the 11th century? As the niece of William the Conqueror, the new King, she had been married to Waltheof for political reasons - he was the Earl of Huntingdon in 1069. Between the couple they were major landowners, and included the manor of Tottenham. (The medieval manorhouse for Tottenham was likely to have been on the site where Bruce Castle is today). But Waltheof's loyalty to the Norman conqueror was always under suspicion and he was beheaded in 1075 for treason. Newly widowed, Judith acquired all their holdings. All her land is recorded under her name in Domesday Book. However, despite her wealth and power she was meant to marry again to please the new King. She didn't want to marry Simon of Serlis and so William gave away some of her land to him. Judith died in relative obscurity and her land passed to her daughter Maud who married into the Scottish royal family of Bruce. The Scottish name survives today at Bruce Castle.

Sarah Alston – Lady Coleraine (and formerly the Duchess of Somerset) (1631-1692)

Education Reformer, Philanthropist

Sarah Alston married Henry, 2nd Lord Coleraine in 1682 and lived at Bruce Castle. Unusually, in her marriage settlement she reserved the power to dispose of her own estate. She endowed the Tottenham Grammar School, gave manor houses in Wiltshire to colleges in Oxford and Cambridge and endowed almshouses in Froxfield in Wiltshire which survive to this day. She is buried in Westminster Abbey.

Henrietta Rosa Peregrine Townsend (1745-1785)

Artist

Daughter of Henry Hare, 3rd Lord Coleraine of Bruce Castle, Henrietta was left her **father's** estate in 1749. Unable to inherit as she was French and illegitimate, at 18 years she married James Townsend. By private Act of Parliament they became the owners of Bruce Castle and Lord and Lady of the manor. An accomplished artist, she drew a number of 18th century views of Tottenham

2

Bruce Castle Park,
Lordship Lane,
N17 8NU

The Tottenham branch of the British Women's Temperance Association

donated a drinking fountain, 1902 (it was unveiled by the north elevation of Bruce Castle). Women, who were often the most affected by the violence and poverty caused through alcohol abuse, were active in the Temperance Movement to encourage abstinence. Founded in 1902, the Tottenham Branch also ran a regular coffee stall in the park. In addition, **the Movement ran a 'White Ribbon'**

3

Graveyard
at All Hallows' Church,
Church Lane,
N17 7AA

North side of
graveyard

The Tudor Porch,
All Hallows' Church,
Church Lane,
N17 7AA

restaurant and had a gymnasium promoting sport and physical health, with women-only sessions one evening a week.

Sarah Claret (died 1760)

The burial register from All Hallows Parish Church of Tottenham records that a black woman called Sarah Claret, the wife of Robert Claret was buried on 6th April 1760. Two years later, **Sarah's** husband had also died. We know nothing more. Were they once slaves? Servants? Did they run a small business in Tottenham? Where had they come from and where they did they live in Tottenham?

Margaret Lydia Samuel (nee Hogg) (1825-1847)

A tomb in the churchyard reads: 'In memory of Margaret Lydia Hogg. Wife of James Samuel and daughter of 'The Ettrick Shepherd' who died 29 February 1847, aged **22years.**' Margaret was the eldest daughter of the Scottish poet and essayist James Hogg, known as the 'Ettrick Shepherd'. She had married her husband James in Scotland the year before she died. They had moved to Tottenham, living at Willoughby House, in Willoughby Lane. As a widower, James continued to live there to see through his training to be a civil engineer.

Elizabeth Fleming (died 1790)

One of the old local history books of Tottenham by Fisk says: "*Much has been written about the room over the Church porch: in it Elizabeth Fleming lived for 40 years. In many tit-bits of Tottenham history one comes across the old story which is told that this woman died March 17, 1790, aged 100 years. ... She is believed to have been a witch.*" He **doesn't** elaborate further or let on what might have happened for her to be called a witch. The room above the Porch was originally used from the Tudor period as a schoolroom to teach a small group of boys. In the centuries that followed it was used to house poor inhabitants of the Parish - like Elizabeth. The room was very small. Maybe she kept herself to herself, positioning herself on the margins of society? Perhaps her longevity made her stand out as different? As an older woman, she would have been seen as having the benefit of experience and wisdom - often where the 'magic' associated with witches comes from. Living above the entrance to the church, she was on the threshold of this sacred space, neighbouring the graveyard and living outside the main community. We can see how rumour, gossip and speculation can conjure such stories about someone they may not have known very well. Checking the burial registers for the church for 1790, there is one Elizabeth Fleming who was buried in September that year - but her recorded age was 76 years.

4

7 Bruce Castle
Road,
N17 8NL

Rosamund John (1913 – 1998) Film and stage actor

Born Nora Rosamund Jones, she grew up in Tottenham before becoming a popular star of her age on screen. She

lived with her parents at this address before World War Two, before marrying her first husband in 1943. You can read more [here](#) about her life. Or watch [here](#) one of her films - *'Here's To The Memory'*.

22 Bruce Castle
Road,
N17 8NF

Elizabeth Fox (1862 – c.1940s?)

Pacifist, suffragette, census resister and active member of the Cooperative movement – the Fox family spoiled their return for the 1911 census in support of the votes for women movement. Her daughter-in-law was the Irish **children's** book writer and journalist **Patricia Lynch (c. 1894 – 1972)**, who was an activist in achieving votes for women.

5

Coombes Croft
Library,
High Road,
N17 8AG

The London Society of the Protection of Young Females – had an asylum in Tottenham from 1835, run as a charity by the Tottenham Parish. Until the law was changed in 1885, the age of consent in England was 13; many young girls who had been drawn into prostitution were in fact younger than this. The asylum tried to look after as many girls as possible, providing care for girls up to 15 years of age. The asylum was based at Coombes Croft House, just off Tottenham High Road (the building had previously been the Parish Workhouse). Today, Coombes Croft Library recalls the original name of the old house which stood off Bromley Road (on the opposite side of the road). The Society campaigned to close local brothels and to prosecute those who exploited very young girls. By 1863 it claimed to have shut down 504 **'infamous houses'** and taken in 828 girls. Inmates were educated for **"situations of usefulness in after life"**; this probably meant domestic service.

6

Site next to 729
High Road,
N17 8AG

Marist Sisters opened a convent next to the church of St. Francis de Sales in 1888. The convent, which for a time contained an orphanage and a school, closed between 1913 and 1922.

7

Devonshire Hill
Primary School,
N17 8LB

The Cinderella Mural by Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant, 1945

An extraordinary mural depicting the fairy-tale story of Cinderella was unveiled in 1945 in the Devonshire Hill **School's** dining room in Tottenham. No doubt the schoolchildren and dinner ladies loved their new surroundings when eating their school lunches. The mural was designed and created by the renowned Bloomsbury Group artists, Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant who had been commissioned by the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts (CEMA) in 1943. The British Institute of Adult Education was quoted at the unveiling ceremony hoping that: **'such** mural paintings, as now adorned the school would lead to a new age in education in which appreciation of art would spread through the education **system.'** Unfortunately, the murals no longer exist, having been removed during a past building refurbishment.

8

Selby Centre,
Selby Road,
N17 8JL

Organisations and groups for women at the Selby Centre

In the late 1980s, local people campaigned for a new local community centre. The then recently-vacated school in Selby Road was identified for the new 'Selby Centre'. It started out as a community centre run by Haringey Council until 1990. A convincing case was made by locals to let the community run the centre. Since then a range of organisations have been based there, including those that support women or are run by women. You can find groups such as **Roj Women's Association** advising with the education and training of Kurdish & Turkish women, as well as **Solace Women's Aid**, supporting women and children to build safe and strong lives, free from abuse and violence. These groups continue today in the support of women, as we see other organisations and women have done in the past in and around Haringey. You can read more [here](#) about the Selby Centre's history.

Former Trafalgar House on site of White Hart Lane, near Selby Road, N17

Women of Trafalgar House

Tottenham Terrace was a row of large houses once stood near here on White Hart Lane. Prominent amongst these was Trafalgar House which was the home to a few women over the decades – including the Robinsons, a wealthy Tottenham family. **Frances Mary Robinson (1810-1857)** was the eldest daughter of Mary and William Robinson (her father had written a history of Tottenham in 1840). She was a miniaturist painter and in 1832 she painted the portrait of a Sarah Miles. It survives today in the collections of Bruce Castle Museum. Later occupants of the house was the Pedley family, with the three daughters of Joshua Pedley - Eleanor, Florence and Eliza. **Eleanor went on to continue the Pedley family's philanthropy, supporting women's welfare locally.**

9

Haringey Sixth Form College (the site at White Hart Lane, N17 8HR)

St Katherine's College, Tottenham Teacher training college for women

Opening in 1878, St Katherine's was established as a 'training college for schoolmistresses'. In 1964 they united with Berridge House, from Hampstead to form The College of All Saints, a Church of England institution. They joined Middlesex Polytechnic in 1978, becoming Middlesex University in 1992. The campus had schools of was humanities and cultural studies, business studies, law, sociology and women's studies. It closed in 2005 but The College of All Saints Foundation continues as the All Saints Educational Trust

10

Meridian Walk,
N17 8EH
(north of Durban Road; formerly the site of Lorencio Road)

Annie Mole (1913 - 1980) Resident at 82a Lorencio Road, it was Annie's home for over 70 years. Her great-grandson has written about her: "George's wages (when he was in work) were never enough, so to help finance the running of the house, Annie worked as a cleaner at the Three Compasses [pub, nearby]. She later cooked, cleaned and scrubbed steps for the middle classes in Palmers Green...."

George's death plunged the family into further financial hardship. Although Annie brought in a meagre income from her cleaning jobs she now relied heavily on money from her eldest son, George..... Annie - a tiny lady, no more than five feet in height - had lived a long and hard life: She was born to a hard-knock Victorian world, with few basic comforts to help make the hardships endurable. She was born to an age of horsedrawn vehicles, candle and gas light, where primitive telephones were a luxury of the wealthy. Like so many of her generation, her life was a struggle against poverty, which faced many challenges: She lived through two world wars and although her husband, George, survived the trenches of the Great War, he never really recovered and she was widowed at the age of forty-one. ...**Annie** had borne ten children, and buried four of them before their fourth birthday. The last went to her grave just a year before the death of her father, George. She also lived to see the terrible drowning of her **sister's** child, and endured the looks and gossip of neighbours of her **daughter's** pregnancy at fifteen, which burdened her with yet another child to raise when all that should have been behind her. Annie Mole, lived on at 82a Lorengo Road until the street was demolished in the late early 1970s as part of a local authority redevelopment programme. You can read more [here](#) about **Annie's** life and her family in Lorengo Road.

11

71 Creighton Road,
N17 8JS
(south side of the road)

Grace Nicholson (1923 – 2010?) Dressmaking tutor

Home of Grace Nicholson and her family. During the 1950s, she taught dressmaking at the local Technical College (now CHENEL). Grace was born and grew up in Tottenham. Her husband was Bill Nicholson, football player and, later, manager of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club. An ardent Spurs fan, along with her daughters, Grace was supportive behind the scenes and shunned the limelight. She did not attend football matches, it is said on account of **Bill's** 'superstition'. Both Grace and **Bill's** ashes are buried together under the new **Spurs'** football stadium, not far from where they once lived. Their long marriage lasted 67 years until **Bill's** death in 2004.

12

White Hart Lane,
N17

Mary Chauvet (? – 1763) Huguenot, silk weaver and business owner

A successful and wealthy silk-weaving business owner, Mary was in partnership with two others at Spitalfields. **Mary's** family was from the Saintonge region of France. Like other Huguenots (members of the French Protestant church), Mary had to flee religious persecution in France, settling in London. Silk-weaving was one of the many traditional skills that the Huguenot community brought here. **Mary's** main home was in the City, but she had a second home in Tottenham, a desirable place to live in the countryside within good travelling distance of the City. In her will, Mary marked the difficulties in being forced to start a new life in a strange

country and so left her money to a Huguenot charity, to help other refugees from the Saintonge region.

13

White Hart Lane,
N17
(near to the High
Road end)

Vicarage, Parish church of Tottenham

The original vicarage for All Hallows, the Parish church of Tottenham was not neighbouring the church as you might expect (and as it does today) but was situated near this site on White Hart Lane. There has not (as yet) been a female vicar associated with the church of All Hallows, so the vicarage has always been associated with male vicars. Back in the early 17th century, **Marsie (Chipperfield) and her four daughters** lived here with their father William Bedwell, the vicar of Tottenham. Despite **William's** role in the community and his highly-respected scholarly work, the women of the vicarage and the more humble life they spent together was important to them all, living in the Vicarage, their home from 1607-1632.

14

Brook House,
Tottenham High
Road,
N17 8EY
(now site of the
estate Brook
House, 881
Tottenham High
Road)

Alida Evelyn Klemantaski (1895-1955)

Poetry Bookshop owner, supporting poets and poetry

Ran the Poetry Bookshop in Bloomsbury with her husband Harold Monro. It was a meeting place for poets and poetry in the years leading up to World War I and after. After her husband died, she continued the shop until 1935. She is best known for her literary work relating to the poet and writer Charlotte Mew, as well as published books of her **Monro's** work. The Klemantaski family owned Brook House and ran a woollen mill factory nextdoor. Alida lived at Brook House promoting and writing about British poets until she died in 1955. In her lifetime she was also a noted tennis player.

15

Brantwood Road,
N17 0DX
(site of former
Waggon Lane,
N17)

Bridget Tool, (born 1790)

Hawker of oranges

In the census of 1851, Bridget Tool was listed as the Head of her family. She was a widow, aged 61 and a hawker of oranges. We also learn from this record that Bridget was born in Ireland. The Potato Famine of 1840 and Great Hunger drove increasing numbers of Irish families to England. The majority of these were women. According to the 1851 census, there were 65 Irish women living in the Haringey area, and this rose to 148 in the next ten years. Most of these women worked as servants, laundresses, or had their own businesses. Several worked at the India Rubber factory in Tottenham (near to the site of Factory Lane today).

16

64
Northumberland
Park,
N17 0TT

Greta Delleany RA (1884 – 1968)

Artist - printmaker

Greta's full name was Margaret Annie Mary Adelaide Delleany. As a very young child Greta moved with her parents to 64 Northumberland Park. She studied first at the Westminster School of Art and then at the Royal Academy under Walter Sickert, the noted British Impressionist who was to have an important influence on her work. **Sickert's** masters were Whistler and Degas, and **Greta's** pastoral landscapes in

delicate pastel show a clear affinity to all three of these important artists. Whilst still living in Tottenham with her widowed father, between 1913 and 1940 she exhibited in sixteen exhibitions at the Royal Academy and also showed frequently with the Royal Society of Painters and Etchers (of which she was made an associate in 1919), and at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool. For a period of time she worked in New York City and San Francisco and was a member of the California Printmakers. She taught for many years at the Cheltenham College of Art and eventually served as its principal. **Greta's** artwork is represented in different collections around the world and in London, including Bruce Castle Museum.

17

Former JAP factory,
Tariff Road,
Northumberland Park,
N17 0TX

Women munition workers during First World War (c.1915-1919)

The labour shortage of 1915 led to the employment of women in industry. To support the war effort, large factories in Tottenham turned their production line to munitions work – which included the works of John A. Prestwich (JAP). The factory continued to make engines throughout the war – work that would have been previously allocated to men.

18

Kenneth Robbins House,
Northumberland Park,
N17 0QA

Olive Rainbird (1915 – 2006), community campaigner, and Maureen Dewar (1925 – 2009), local politician and Mayor of Haringey 2000-1.

Both women were actively involved in local politics, contributing and being involved in community issues, helping to shape the development of their local party based at Tottenham Trades Hall. They also supported elders in the borough: both women were actively involved in Haringey Age UK and in their last years they were founder members and were instrumental in running the invaluable Over 55s Club in Northumberland Park in Tottenham at the Eric Allen Community Centre in Kenneth Robbins House.

19

Tottenham Hotspur Football Stadium,
High Road,
N17 0BX

Tottenham Hotspur Women

The Club was formed in 1985 as Broxbourne Ladies by the late Sue Sharples and Kay Lovelock after the East Herts College team folded. For the 1991/92 season, the team got permission granted for the name of Tottenham Hotspur to be used and at the start of the 1992/93 season a reserve side was added to the senior side. You can read more [here](#) about the Women **Team's** history and successes.

20

Corner of Tottenham High Road and Lansdowne Rd (north side), N17

Home of the Hibbert seven sisters

The Hibbert family lived on Tottenham High Road on the site of the old London Co-operative Building, on the corner of Lansdowne Road and the High Road. In 1886 the seven Hibbert sisters were chosen to plant a new set of trees that year. Each sister was given a special commemorative brooch as a souvenir of the occasion. The presentation box which originally held all seven brooches, survives in the collections at Bruce Castle Museum, on display. There is only one brooch, given to Rosa Hibbert, the other sisters having kept

their own - Alice, Amy, Edith, Julia, Georgina and Matilda. The **'Misses Hibbert'** name and the year of the planting is recorded on the shaft of the ceremonial spade in the Museum. Two sisters – Georgina and Edith - were amateur artists and you can see some of their work on the Art UK website [here](#).

21

St Mary's Church,
Lansdowne Road,
N17 9XE

The Parish of **St Mary the Virgin** was established in Lansdowne Road in 1884 as a Mission District within the ancient parish of Tottenham. Many women helped to shape the community at the church, with activities led by groups such as the **Mothers' Union**. One life-long member of the church was **Violet Paul (1914-2008)**, nee Thompson, who had lived all her life at 112 Seymour Avenue, Tottenham. Inside the church, there is a painting by the artist **'Beatrice Beavan'**. This is **Beatrice Offor** who lived at 8 Bruce Grove (see **number 86** on map).

The **Tottenham & Edmonton Synagogue** was also once located in Lansdowne Road. Members of the **Ladies Guild** in the congregation would meet at the synagogue and led on many fundraising campaigns to help pay for activities and care in the community during the 1970s.

22

628 High Road,
N17 9TR
– set back in
Rheola Close, site
of former
Tottenham
Community Press

This was the base for Tottenham Community Project which was a publisher of grassroots community campaigns. This included some of the reports and advice and information leaflets produced by the **Haringey Women's Employment** during the 1980s. The HWE Project was instrumental in supporting many women in the borough by providing training and giving help to overcome the barriers faced in seeking employment and campaigning for equality in the workplace. Their publications included pamphlets and booklets such as *Women where are your jobs going?: a study of women's unemployment in Haringey and Lewisham* (1981), amongst many other titles.

23

Scotland Green/
High Road,
N17 9TA
(now the site of
The Bluecoats
pub)

Blue Coat Charity School for Girls

Established in 1735 by local subscribers, the Blue Coat Charity School for Girls was the first school in the area to offer primary education – and it was for girls. It set out to educate and clothe 40 poor girls who were taught **'reading, writing, knitting and needlework, and a little arithmetic'**. Their distinctive blue uniform marked them out as charity girls. About 40 girls, aged 7 to 14, were attending in 1833, rising to 60 by 1840. The school was converted into the Tottenham Middle Class Girls' School in 1886. With numbers of pupils rising, by 1927 it was overcrowded and in 1930 pupils were moved to All Hallows school.

24

Quaker Meeting
House,
594 High Rd,
N17 9TA

Hannah Kilham (1774 – 1832)

Teacher, educationalist and traveller

With the naval interception of slave ships following the 1807 Abolition Act, in 1819 a Portuguese schooner was seized

carrying seventy enslaved Africans – many were children. The Quaker and teacher Hannah Kilham turned to the plight of **these children being ‘liberated’ from slave ships and being resettled** in Freetown, Sierra Leone. As a teacher she wanted to help by providing instruction for the children in their own languages. Hannah found learning languages hard but was skilled in analysing them. In 1820 she came to Tottenham where Quaker friends were persuaded to accompany her to meet a ship arriving in London from the Gambian coast and find someone to stay in England and help transcribe their languages. Two sailors, Sandanee and Mahmadee, stayed, supported by Tottenham Friends. Hannah taught the sailors English in return for learning Walof and Mandingo. She wrote their languages down for the first time to produce grammar books. In Autumn 1823 Hannah, Sandanee and Mahmadee sailed for the Gambia to set up schools in Bathurst, Gambia. Mahmadee and Sandanee were unsettled by their return to Africa and became disillusioned with the missionary work. Hannah returned to London within a year. She learnt more languages and sailed for Sierra Leone where, although she was often sick, she set up many schools. She died on a sea voyage to Sierra Leone after a visit to Liberia in March 1832, aged 58.

Maria Fox (1794 – 1844)

Minister in the Society of Friends, Tottenham Meeting

From its inception in the 17th century, the Religious Society of Friends accepted women equal with men in its ministry. Maria Fox was acknowledged as a minister in 1825, two years before she married Samuel Fox in 1827. She travelled around the country **‘in the service of the Gospel’**, before becoming a member of the Tottenham Meeting in 1838. Her last journey of ministry was to Scotland before suddenly being taken ill at home on Tottenham High Road, near Tottenham Green. In January 1844 she died. Maria was much-loved and admired, and in 1846 her husband ensured her life and work was not forgotten with the publishing of the book *Memoirs of Maria Fox, late of Tottenham: consisting chiefly of extracts from her journal and correspondence*, which charted her travels and ministry.

African Women's Welfare Group

A Pan – African Women grass root organisation founded in 1989 to advocate the rights and the dignity of newly arrived African women, refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. AWWG aims at empowering African refugees, migrant women and children in order to fulfil their potentials.

The Green Coat School or ‘The School of Industry for Girls’

Founded in 1792 by Priscilla Wakefield, the Quaker, author and philanthropist. The Green Coat school (later known as the Green School and then Holy Trinity Primary School) allowed 36 girls to be taught reading, writing and arithmetic as well as sewing and knitting. As pauper girls they were

594 Tottenham
High Road,
N17 9TA

25

East side of
Tottenham High
Road – the site to
the north of
Stoneleigh South,
N17

clothed and trained for domestic service, one of the few ways that women could earn a living outside marriage in the past. Monetary awards were offered by the school to girls who remained in service with an employer for three or six years after leaving the school, provided a good report of their conduct was obtained.

26

Chesnut Road,
N17

Mrs Cawley and the Tottenham Outrage

The tragic events of 23 January 1909 in Tottenham and the extensive man-hunt that followed shocked Edwardian Britain. It became known as the Tottenham Outrage. Those that gave chase to stop the perpetrators also included women. One was Mrs Cawley who was witness to the two armed robbers escaping with their loot from **Schnurrman's** rubber factory, located opposite the police station in Chesnut Road. As they ran past she yelled out '**Murder!** Stop those two **men!**' She grabbed whatever she had to hand – a potato – and aimed her throw at the men. One stopped, turned but **didn't** fire his gun, choosing to run on. At the end of Chesnut Road was a group of 12 women sitting in a circle, peeling potatoes. The two men ran past with a number of local people and police officers now giving chase. These women too started throwing their peeled potatoes at the robbers in a vain attempt to stop them. There were, of course, two women who suffered terribly that day – the widow of the police officer who was killed, Mrs Emily Tyler of 32 Arnold Road, and the mother of the 10-year-old boy Ralph Joscelyn who died, caught up in the cross-fire, in Mitchley Road.

You can find out more [here](#) about the Tottenham Outrage story of 1909.

27

High Cross – by
Monument Way
(north side)

Bathsua Makin (c.1600 – 1675)

Education Reformer in 17th century

Said to be the most learned woman of her age, Bathsua had been tutor to the daughter of King Charles I and believed that women should be as well-educated as men. She set up a private school at High Cross in Tottenham, where girls were taught ancient and modern languages, arithmetic, history, geography, natural history and astronomy, as well as music, dancing and drawing.

You can read more about her life [here](#).

28

South side of
Ferry lane near
bridge part of road

Women workers at the Harris Lebus furniture factory

The First World War saw a grand departure from the pre-war position where **women's** work was largely in domestic service or, for married women, being a wife, mother and home-maker, often undertaking work that could be done at home, such as laundry. Like the other large factories in Tottenham Hale, the Lebus furniture factory moved its assembly-line to munitions work to support the war effort between 1914 - 1918. Women workers were crucial for this to succeed. As the making of furniture decreased, so the factory turned to manufacturing wooden items such as boxes for ammunition boxes and supplies of tent poles and pins, wheelbarrows and

stretchers. By 1917 the factory constructed war planes too, with women workers assembling the Handley Page O/100 Bomber.

29

Emily Bowes
Court, Lebus
Street, N17 9FD

Emily Bowes Gosse (1806-1857)

Victorian landscape painter and illustrator, and writer of evangelical Christian poems and tracts. A member of the Plymouth Brethren, she married Philip Gosse at Brook Street Chapel, Tottenham High Road. A family of artists, her son was the poet Edmund Gosse. You can read more about her life [here](#).

30

River Lea, near
Ferry Lane, N17

The River Lea and Judith, the Countess of Huntingdon

The River Lea is the natural boundary for the Tottenham area. This boundary would have changed little since the 11th century when Judith, the Countess of Huntingdon, is recorded in Domesday Book, as the most prominent woman living at the time and owning the manor of Tottenham (amongst many other land holdings in England). (You can read more about Judith at **number 1** on the map.) The original manor of Tottenham extended from the River Lea in the east over to where Tottenham Wood in the west (where Alexandra Palace stands today, high on the hill). Today the traditional barge moored by the towpath on the Lea bears the name 'Judith', after the Countess of Huntingdon, so-called after an appeal to the public to make suggestions for a name. The location of the river barge 'Judith' on the Lea reminds of this centuries-old boundary as well as this 11th century woman.

31

Site of Edith Road
now near Broad
Lane, Tottenham
Hale, N15

Penny Feiwei (1909-2011)

Nurse during Spanish Civil War

Ada Louise Feiwei, known as Penny, was born and grew up in Edith Road in Tottenham Hale (the houses long since demolished) near Broad Lane. Penny became a nurse and went to Spain during the Spanish Civil War. Stationed in Albacete, and then Tarancon, east of Madrid, she helped set up an improvised operating theatre. She was badly injured in 1938 when her biomedical station was bombed. You can find out more [here](#) about her extraordinary life in this interview, an extract from '*The Real Band of Brothers*' a publication by Max Arthur (writer of Crouch End), which tells the verbatim accounts of British members of the International Brigades. Penny died in Bournemouth in 2011, aged 102.

Flatau shoe factory

The old shoe factory of Flatau's once stood on the corner of Ferry Lane and Broad Lane in Tottenham Hale. It had been established on this site in 1900. This large factory along with Eagle Pencil Company nearby and the Basildon Works were significant employers in the area, especially for women workers.

32

Broad Lane, N15
(former site near
the bend in road
by Markfield
Road)

Gestetner factory

The company Gestetner was a major industry and employer in Tottenham for most of the 20th century, manufacturing duplicating machines (the predecessor of the photocopier). Their machines revolutionised the modern-day office. Women workers were much-needed during wartime with the increase in production and shortage of labour and so women were conscripted to work in local factories in Tottenham to ‘master’ supposedly masculine skills.

33

Nr Markfield Park,
N15
(south-west
corner)

The Hobson Women of Markfield House

Markfield Park bears the name of an old house that once stood nearby - Markfield House. During the early 19th century, it was the home of the Hobson family who were local Quakers. Ann and William Hobson had sixteen children. The well-known artist John Constable had been invited to stay at Markfield House in 1806 and during his that time he undertook a series of sketches of the Hobson daughters. These survive today in the collections of the British Museum and you can see the sketches [here](#).

34

Gladesmore
School,
N15 6EB –
(formerly Markfield
School), near
Markfield Park

Marjorie Lynette Sigley (1928 – 1997)

Artist, teacher, theatre director and television producer

Marjorie Sigley pioneered many of the attitudes towards children's drama we now take for granted. She introduced thousands of children to what she called "the wonder of theatre" by involving them in the making of it. She was pivotal for establishing, developing and promoting forms of youth theatre and television in the UK and USA. During the 1960s Marjorie had a teaching career, which she combined with her drama activities. Teaching at Markfield and Woodlands Park Schools in Tottenham, Marjorie adapted stage classics for performance by young children who mostly came from underprivileged backgrounds. The children were also encouraged to write, cast, design, produce and star in their own productions.

35

30 Elm Park
Avenue,
N15 6AU

Vera Turl (1910 – 1984)

Parachutist

In May 1934, Vera Turl hit the headlines as the first woman to hold an Air Ministry professional parachute licence when she was parachuting at Brooklands that year. She would recall that, given the difficulty of steering parachutes in those early days, “If you hadn’t landed in the sewage works, you hadn’t jumped at **Brooklands**”. If she came down on the racing track, the drivers would screech to a halt and pick her up. For the next few years, Vera was part of an aerobatics team working with the Sky Devils Air Circus, undertaking parachute jumps as part of organised public events. By 1940 Vera was also doing daredevil motorbike tricks on the ‘Wall of Death’ for the new George Formby film ‘Spare A Copper’ – she said she had been doing this trick for ten years! Her son also took pride in her career when during the Second World War, as a

Second Officer, Vera Turl joined the Air Transport Auxiliary and was responsible for the parachute section.

36

99 Tottenham High Road, N15

The site of the business **W. Conquest & Co. Printers** was here. They printed the **Women's Freedom League's** Votes for Women campaign banner (surviving copy in the House of Commons)

37

175 Tottenham High Road, N15

Pat Hanlon (1915-1997)

Cyclist, Cycle Designer and Manufacturer

Designed, built and sold high end racing bikes from her shop 'Pat Hanlon, Tottenham **Lightweights**' on the High Road Tottenham in the 1950s and 60s. In 1959 she opened her shop 'Pan Halon, Tottenham **Lightweights**', originally at 175 High Road, South Tottenham and subsequently moving to 179 High Road, N15

38

South Tottenham Station, N15 6UJ

In 1919 **South Tottenham Labour Party** was established, and one of the founder members was **Jessie Lynch** who went on to set up a **Women's** Section, separate from, but linked to, the party. Jessie Lynch was a local councillor on Tottenham Borough Council, becoming an alderman for Middlesex County Council representing Tottenham 1934-37. She was the **Mayor's** consort in 1940 during the early years of World War Two. With her husband Alderman Albert J. Lynch they played a crucial role in leading the community in Tottenham as part of the war effort.

Vivienne Fenwick (1946-1990)

Local politician

Viv Fenwick was the first Jewish female Mayor for Haringey (1984-85). She had been elected a councillor from 1981 – 86 for Hornsey Vale ward, and then 1986-1990 for South Tottenham.

39

Earlsmead School, Broad Lane, N15 4PW

Tottenham Branch of the Women's Freedom League

A '**Votes for Women**' Meeting was held at Earlsmead School on Tuesday 23 March 1909 for the Tottenham Branch of the **Women's** Freedom League. It was addressed by two well-known **women's** suffrage activists – Australian-born Muriel Matters (1877-1969), famed for chaining herself to the '**grille**' of the **Ladies'** Gallery in the House of Commons which obscured their view of parliamentary proceedings; and Maud Mary Arncliffe Sennett (1862 – 1936), a former actor and a member of the executive committees of the Women's Freedom League, the Hampstead branch of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), and the Actresses' Franchise League, who had been arrested four times for her activism.

40

Junction of Broad, Lane and High Road, at Page Green, N15

Seven Sisters Trees

The Seven Sisters in Tottenham has been noted through history as the well-known landmark of seven trees growing at Page Green (also known as [Page Green Common](#)), near to

Tottenham High Road and Broad Lane. The story of the Seven Sisters is a fascinating one, gripping the imagination of locals, writers and artists over many centuries who often align the presence of the trees with real sisters living in the area. No one knows for sure how far back these stories go, although seven centuries is quite possible.

The first links of this area with a specific group of trees probably goes back considerably further. Some accounts say that it was from Roman times that a group of seven elms had grown there, surrounding one walnut tree in a circle. This could indicate their use in pagan activities, which some say is where the name Page Green is said to have originated. The Romans have been attributed as introducing the [walnut tree](#) to this country and the location of these trees was by the old Roman road of Ermine Street. The [elm tree](#) has been here much longer, and is thought to have been introduced by Bronze Age farmers according to the Woodland Trust, and is certainly highly symbolic in myth and folklore in many cultures around the world, associated with death and renewal. Elms can also grow in circles naturally, adding much magical potency to this story. The number seven is equally captivating and important to many cultures and religions, bringing good **fortune...**

Fuelled by uncertainties, trying to pinpoint why the trees were there and who might have planted them is the real stuff of this local legend and mystery. There are variations of the tale of course. One common thread suggests seven sisters from a local family, who were due to go their separate ways, planted seven elms to commemorate their time together. You can read more [here](#) about these seven trees, their replanting over time and the connection with seven sisters in the area.

41

679 Seven Sisters
Road,
N15 5LA

The Artistic Hair Frame Co.

This Jewish firm, run by J. Drobchinsky, employed women to make wigs, and was especially important for providing wigs for married women in the local Orthodox Jewish community. They also made wigs for other hairdressing establishments, making all the fashionable styles of the day in the 1920s. Some of the women workers were also able to take their young children to work, if there was no alternative provision to look after them.

42

81 Vartry Road,
N15 6QD

Sarah Ward (c.1800 – 1885) and The Aged Pilgrim's Friend Society almshouses

The Vartry Road almshouses of the The Aged **Pilgrim's Friend Society** were founded, built and endowed in 1883 by Sarah Ward. Sarah was in her 80s and in poor health when she decided to take on her building plans. She lived not far away in Sydney Place, Stamford Hill and was able to oversee the work herself. No expense was spared by Sarah, employing her architect William Henry Salisbury Gilbert, and using the best of materials. The building was faced with Portland Stone and red bricks, whilst the back was the more traditional yellow stock bricks of London. The almshouses had a peaceful

setting, overlooking the original iron church of St **John's** and the fields nearby. Pensioners received 10 guineas a year from **Sarah's** endowment and each resident had two rooms. If there were sisters being housed they would share rooms. There was a warden to look after them all.

43

Tiverton Road,
N15 6RP

Former site of Tiverton Road Public Wash-house

The local councils for Tottenham, Hornsey and Wood Green provided public wash-houses where residents could take their washing and do the laundry. Here is one woman reminiscing about how the facilities were used: *“The Tiverton Road wash-house was one self-service style laundry. The family wash would be sorted into two piles - white things in one pile, coloured things in another - and put into pillowcases or sacks ready to be transported in the family pram or push-chair round to the wash-house. At the wash-house, the attendant—man or woman—would collect your money and give you a metal token or ticket. Then you sat and waited ‘til a machine was empty. A large boiler would take all the ‘whites’ and then the washing was transferred to big stone sinks or zinc baths for rinsing. Many women would take their own zinc baths and washboards as there was no hot water at home. Coloured items would be washed by hand while the whites were boiling. ‘Oxydol’ and ‘Clozone’ were popular bleaching agents for white washing. After washing, the clothing etc would be put in the ‘hydro-extractor’ to be spun dry. Then the washing was arranged on wooden racks for drying. The racks were tall and mounted on tracks in rows. A handle pulled out each rack, the washing was draped over the rails, then the rack was pushed back into the drying area. There were arguments over people using racks allocated to someone else.”*

Public wash-houses were closed down with the introduction and use of the launderette on high streets.

44

90 Suffolk Road,
N15 5RH

St. Mary's Convent

A group of **Servite Sisters** settled in Suffolk Lodge, on the south side of St. Ann's Road, in 1871, and formed the nucleus of St. Mary's Priory. In 1972 there were 42 nuns, some of whom taught at St. Mary's School in Tottenham and others farther afield; the community also included nurses, retired sisters, and novices. In the grounds of the convent is a burial ground for the nuns, each grave marked with a black iron memorial.

The former convent building is now in community use as a mosque.

45

Land north of St
Ann's Road

Elizabeth Candler (died 1622)

The earliest visual record of the landownership of Tottenham survives in a map of 1619. Known as the Dorset Survey, it maps the land held in the manor of Tottenham. Most of the area was countryside and fields, with each field marked with the name of the landowner. Perhaps surprisingly, there are a number of **women's** names recorded as major landowners.

One was Elizabeth Candler. She had inherited and owned a substantial 270 acres of land, groves, houses and other buildings. Along with her daughter Lady Ann Heybourne, both women are commemorated by impressive funeral monuments in All **Hallows'** church, Tottenham, that survive today.

46

St Ann's Road,
N15

– historical plaque on gatehouse by the entrance to St Ann's Hospital

Charlotte Riddell (1832 – 1906)
Writer and Gothic novelist

Charlotte Riddell, (also known as Mrs J. H. Riddell) was a popular and influential Irish-born writer in the Victorian period. She was the author of 56 books, novels and short stories, and also became part-owner and editor of *St. James's Magazine*, a prominent London literary journal in the 1860s. Charlotte and her husband lived at St John's Lodge until 1873. The building no longer survives but a Haringey Historical Green Plaque on the gatehouse by the entrance to St Ann's Hospital commemorates her. You can see the plaque listing [here](#) and read more about her life [here](#).

Haringey Trades Council - Women's Subcommittee

The Union Offices were based at St Ann's Hospital in Tottenham.

47

Vale Road,
Harringay, N4

Tottenham's first purpose-built nursery school opened at Vale Road in 1937, a step towards giving women greater independence to be part of the paid workforce. Classes were already in progress at other schools too and followed on from the Wartime Nurseries set up in Tottenham – such as Pembury Road - during the Second World War. As part of the war effort, there was a need to encourage women to take up work which led to increases in nursery provision.

48

Vale Road, N15
entrance of
building and also
105 Eade Road,
N4 1TJ

Women sweet-maker at Maynard's Sweet Factory

In 1906 **Maynard's** sweet factory – that had started in nearby Stamford Hill in 1880 – expanded its production by moving to a new factory in Vale Road, Harringay. The well-known brand of **Maynard's** Wine Gums merged in 1990 with the Tottenham liquorice mill Bassett's, and Trebor. Over the decades **Maynard's** and the other local sweet factories were a significant employer for local women. During the First World War its workforce was almost made up entirely of women. Former women employees always said there was always a job in the local sweet factory industry.

The old factory building survives and used today. You can read more [here](#) about the history of the factory.

49

164 Hermitage
Road,
N4 1NL

Eva Winifred Spinks (nee Crocker; 1899-1975)

Mrs Spinks – as she was always referred to – became the unexpected muse and model for the artist Eleanor Brooks. Mrs Spinks first sat as the **artist's** model in 1966. It was the beginning of a project that was to last seven years, with a large number of portraits produced of Mrs Spinks, using a variety of media. Eva Winifred Spinks was born in 1899, as

she described ‘**at** the back of the Harringay dog-**track**’. This was where the Crocker family home was - at 164 Hermitage Road. Mrs Spinks looked back at her past whilst sitting as a model. In her stories she remembered the Tottenham area, and other places she lived and had visited. During the sittings, Eleanor Brooks recorded her model speaking and the transcripts and stories were published in *Mrs Spinks Speaks* in 2006. You can listen to the artist [here](#) as she talks about the collection of artworks and portraits of Mrs Spinks. This body of work is an unusual visual study of an older woman. The collection has been exhibited all around the country.

50

Former Harringay Arena, now the Harringay Retail Park, N4 1ED

Lulu Adams (1900 - 1978)

Styled as the only female clown in the world, **Lulu’s** first performance at Harringay Arena was at the very first Harringay circus held there in 1948-49.

51

Fairfax Hall, 11 Portland Gardens, N4 1HU

Women and Fairfax Hall

During the First World War, Sylvia Pankhurst, one of the leading militant suffragettes, gave an anti-war speech at Fairfax Hall in 1916. Conscription had recently been introduced that year. The area of Harringay went on to have one of the highest concentrations of conscientious objectors in London. Many in the audience would have been in agreement with Sylvia Pankhurst’s anti-war views and arguments. You can read more here about this 1916 event at Fairfax Hall.

Kurdish & Turkish Community Centre

The Fairfax Hall today is the centre for the Kurdish and Turkish community in Harringay. Over the past two decades the **Zilan Kurdish Women’s Festival** has been held here.

52

Stanhope/Essex Gardens, N4

Nilgun Canver (1957 - 2017)

Local politician

In 2018 a plaque was unveiled by the Gardens Residents’ Association alongside the tree planted to remember Nilgun Canver. Resident of Mattison Road, in 1998 Nilgun was the first mainland Turkish woman to be elected as a councillor in England. She was a councillor for South Tottenham Ward 1998-2002 and St Ann’s Ward 2002-2014. You can read more [here](#) about her.

53

42 Grand Parade, Green Lanes, N4 1AQ (east side of the road)

Dame Barbara Windsor (1937 – 2020)

Actor

In the days when she was lesser known, Barbara Windsor lived in a flat above a **men’s** clothes shop in Green Lanes in 1962. A photograph in the collections of the National Portrait Gallery was taken that year, photographed in her flat. You can read more [here](#) from former neighbours who fondly remember seeing Barbara out and about, visiting friends, walking her poodle, shopping locally – and above all hearing her distinctive voice.

54

By The Salisbury Pub – ‘speakers’ corner’ - Green Lanes Ward, Harringay (east side of the road/ corner with St Ann’s Rd)

Dr Edith Summerskill, Baroness Summerskill (1901-1980)

Physician, Politician, Writer

One of the regular speakers at the **Women’s** section meetings of the Tottenham Labour Party was Dr Edith Summerskill. She often spoke on topics such as contraception. From 1933 a member of the Wood Green **council’s** Maternity & Child Welfare Committee, Edith began her political career locally. In 1932 Edith fought for Green Lanes Ward in Harringay in the Middlesex County Council elections. Backed by the Tottenham and Wood Green **Women’s** sections, she still found canvassing difficult, experiencing rebuffs on the doorstep, particularly from men. Despite this, Edith won and went on to become an MP in 1938 – one of only eight in the House of Commons. Appointed to the [Privy Council](#) in 1949, Edith promoted **women’s** causes, starting with the Clean Milk Act in 1949. As president of the Married **Women’s** Association, she campaigned for the equal rights of housewives and of divorced women, leading to the Married **Women’s** Properties Act in 1964 and the Matrimonial Homes Act in 1967. You can read more [here](#) about **Edith’s** exceptional career in politics.

55

611 Green Lanes, N8 0RE (west side of road)

Suffragette Meetings

In 1913 Beresford Hall at 611 Green Lanes was one of a number of locations in Harringay that were used for meetings of the **Women’s Social and Political Union** (WSPU). Speakers such as **Miss Leonora Tyson** were invited to address local women and discuss the votes for women campaign. One of the organisers of such meetings was **Theodora Bonwick** who lived in Hornsey.

56

103 Frobisher Road, N8 0QX

Freda Lingstrom OBE (1893-1989)

BBC television producer

The Lingstrom family moved to 103 Frobisher Road when Freda was aged 6. Growing up locally, Freda trained to be an artist and went on to become a designer. In 1940 she joined the BBC, where she worked in schools broadcasting. During this time she developed the lunchtime programme *Listen With Mother*. Moving into television, working with her friend Maria Bird, Freda was a pioneer in creating more **children’s** programmes in the 1950s. Both women introduced *Andy Pandy* and *The Flower Pot Men* to our screens. You can read more [here](#) about **Freda’s** life and work in developing **children’s** entertainment.

57

Ducketts Common, N8

Smash the Backlash march 1987

On Saturday 2 May 1987 the ‘**Smash the Backlash**’ demonstration marched with over 3,500 people from **Duckett’s Common at Turnpike Lane to Bruce Castle Park** in Tottenham, via The Roundway en route. The rally was in support of Lesbian & Gay rights and to oppose Section 28. It

was the first UK demonstration to highlight lives of the black LGBT community.

58

211 Langham Rd,
N15 3LH

Haringey Chinese Community Centre – Women’s Group

Established in 1987, the Haringey Chinese Centre has been at the heart of the Chinese community based near Turnpike Lane. Committed to promoting social, education and cultural welfare of local Chinese people, their support framework includes group activities specifically for Chinese women.

59

Mitalee Centre,
Stanley Road,
N15 3HB

Bangladesh Women's Association in Haringey

This centre for Bangladeshi women and women from other minority ethnic communities, has offered advice, training and counselling. Activities have included Saturday school, ESOL classes, adult education, Bengali classes, creche, cultural events and an under-5s playgroup.

60

23 Clarendon
Road,
N15 3JX

Margaret Mitchell (1897 - 1991) Activist, Trade Unionist

Margaret Mitchell was in her 20s with three young children during the Depression years between the two World Wars. With her husband Fred unemployed, she was one of the founders of the National Unemployed **Workers’** Movement, speaking to men outside the Labour Exchange and advising on benefits. The NUWM also organised marches and demonstrations and fed and housed those marching from Wales and the North of England. In 1926 **Margaret’s** husband died of his war wounds that he had endured from active service in the Great War.

61

32 Langham
Road,
N15 3RA

Daisy Abdul-Ali (born 1886) Member of the Primrose League

Daisy lived with her husband Muhammad Hyder Abdul-Ali in Langham Road. Both were members of the local Primrose League, led by the Beavans of Bruce Grove (see **number 86** on map). In 1909, Daisy was one of several women who stood as representatives of the League for different areas in Tottenham. The appeal to female audiences of the Primrose League has often been credited for easing the transition to female suffrage and mass democracy after 1918. The organisation drew heavily, although not exclusively, upon female political helpers which arguably contributed to the process leading to more widespread female suffrage.

62

24 Abbotsford
Avenue,
N15 3BS

Winifred Alice Kent (1885 – 1981)

Local politician and first woman to be the Mayor of Tottenham in 1940-41, during the Second World War.

63

West Green
Factory On
opposite side of
the road to the
junction where

Women workers at Myristis textile factory

Women have worked in many branches of the clothing industries over the centuries locally – from dressmaking to needlewomen and seamstresses. Some were homeworkers whilst others worked with textiles in factories. **Myristis factory** has been a presence at 257 West Green Road since

Philip Lane meets
West Green Road.

the 1960s producing bedlinen and specialist clothing lines. Many of its workers were women, representing different backgrounds but with most coming from the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. Although the shop is still operational, the factory closed down in 2016. Other textile industry in the area, like Florentia Clothing Village, Vale Road, N4, has a strong workforce of women working there.

64

142 West Green
Road,
N15 5AD

Althea McNish (1925 – 2020)
Textile Designer

Althea died recently and is an international icon of the Windrush generation. She was a British textile designer of Trinidadian origin who has been called the first British designer of African descent to earn an international reputation. She lived for almost 60 years in West Green Road, Tottenham. You can read more [here](#) about Althea.

65

Corner of West
Green Road and
High Road
(on north side,
outside Costa
Coffee)

'Speakers' Corner'

Local women got involved and campaigned against Oswald Mosely and the Union of British Fascists during the 1930s. Many would have met here at what was the local **Speakers' Corner** to gather, rally support and hear speeches. **Marie Coghill of Tottenham** was amongst them, as she recalls : **'We** went to their meetings and marches and gave out leaflets telling people how the Fascists were working against their interests and wanted to blame bad working conditions on to immigrant workers – in those days it was the **Jews.'**

66

2 Page Villas,
Talbot Road,
N15 4DF

Hetta Bartlett (1877-1947)
Stage and film actor

Born Henrietta Bartlett, her career spanned both the West End and Broadway. You can read more [here](#) about her life.

Spring Cottage,
41 Talbot Road,
N15 4DF

Lady Grace Morrison (1881 – 1983)
Local politician

Active in local politics, Grace Morrison supported her husband Robert Morrison as a councillor and then MP in the Tottenham area. When he became a member of the House of Lords in 1945, Grace she became known as Lady Morrison of Tottenham. By then Grace had become a member of Tottenham Borough Council and served as Mayor of Tottenham in 1958-59.

67

Tottenham Green
(former Prince of
Wales Hospital, of
Tottenham Green)

Kate Marsden (1859-1931)
Nurse

A pioneering nurse born in Tottenham who attended the **Deaconesses' Institute** at Tottenham Green. Kate Marsden trained at Dr **Laserson's** institute in the 1870s, before going on to nurse in the Russo-Turkish war 1877-1878 in the Balkans. Here she came across soldiers suffering from leprosy. Strong-minded and determined, Kate decided to help those suffering from leprosy, initially working with the Red Cross in Europe and Russia. In 1891 she set off to Siberia in search of a cure for leprosy and, although she did

not discover a cure, she did set up hospitals for the treatment of the disease there. Her Siberian mission saw her elected one of the first women Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society. Her legacy still lives on in the work of the St Francis Leprosy Guild which she founded in 1895, which supports people and communities world-wide in fighting the disease today.

Asarto Ward (1891 - ?)

Nurse

Asarto came to Tottenham in 1899 from Sierra Leone. She **had been adopted by Mary Ward at her dying mother's** request. Mary Ward was a nursing sister at the Princess Christian Hospital in Freetown. Asarto stayed with Miss **Ward's brother's family in Tottenham** and went to school here. Training as a nurse, presumably at the same hospital as Mary – the Tottenham Deaconess Institute at Tottenham Green - Asarto later returned to Africa to work.

Sister Freda (active c.1895-1900s)

Nurse

We know very little about Sister Freda, with few other details. She worked at the Tottenham Hospital at Tottenham Green and can be seen in the back row of a group photograph of the nurses who worked and trained there. Sister Freda is the only black nurse training at the hospital at that time.

Priscilla Wakefield (1751-1832)

Quaker philanthropist, writer and feminist economist

Priscilla Wakefield, led a life pursuing social reform. She was actively engaged in social action and the alleviation of poverty in Tottenham focusing on charities concerned with women and children founding the Lying-in Charity for Women and the School of Industry for girls. She founded a Frugality Savings Bank in Tottenham and as a result she is widely acknowledged as the founder of the first Savings Bank in England.

She was well-read with an enthusiasm for education and learning as well as the economic emancipation of women, political issues of the day and the topics of science, history and geography. Her books, written in later life as a result of financial difficulties in her family, reflected her wide range of interests. (Priscilla Wakefield House in Tottenham is named after her). You can read more [here](#) about Priscilla.

Sarah Hoyle (1609 - ? late 1600s)

Innkeeper

A trade token of 1665 records the name of Sarah Hoyle as the innkeeper of The Rose & Crown Pub at the High Cross in Tottenham. Unusual at the time for a woman to be in charge of an alehouse, the token is also a rare survival. By 1665 Sarah Hoyle was a widow. Sarah had come from a family involved in the inn trade. Her parents Henry and Sara Bowman were described in her baptism record as victuallers.



Site of United Reformed Church, N15 4BN and corner of Colsterworth Road

The former Rose & Crown pub, High Cross – now site of 342-344 High Road, Tottenham, N15 4ET

She went on to marry Henry Hoyle (or Hoile), an alehouse keeper, at All **Hallows'** Tottenham on 1 January 1639. They had three daughters together – Lucretia (born 5 November 1640), Blanche (born 1643) and Sarah (born ?), who sadly died in 1648. Henry had died in 1656, leaving his worldly goods to his wife Sarah. She carried on the family alehouse trade and continued running the Rose & Crown.

69

Welbourne Road,
N17

Hannah Gondolman (1897 - ?)

Hannah was born in Kishniev in Moldova. It had been the scene of some of the worst '**pogroms**' or anti-Jewish persecutions, in eastern Europe. **Hannah's** father travelled to London, leaving Hannah and her mother behind until he had earned enough money to send for them. He had been helped by Mrs Jane Wagerman, a Jewish woman who had fled Kishniev herself and lived in Tottenham. Hannah recalls: '**She** was a wonderful woman. She used to go looking for them, the *luntzmen* (people from her home town) ... they met in the East End. She used to go there every day and collect her luntzmen and find them jobs ... she used to give them lodging, or find them somewhere, and out of what she earned she taught them how to use the **money.**' When Hannah arrived in London, she found her name had been changed to '**Goldman**'. Her father had not been able to write his name in English script, and Goldman was as near as his employers could get to it. **Hannah's** family lived in Welbourne Road and she attended Page Green School, and a Hebrew School in Grove Street. She remembers her mother setting up home in Tottenham: '**My** mother was a good manager. I never met anybody who could make so much out of so little money, she was wonderful. She used to put money in cups, she knew exactly what she needed for the milkman, the baker etc Never known to be without. She kept a good, kosher **house.**'

70

Tottenham Town
Hall,
Town Hall
Approach,
Tottenham Green,
N15 4RY

Organisation of Women of African and Asian Descent (OWAAD)

OWAAD (1979-1982) was an activist organisation for British black and Asian women established in 1978. Its founding members included Stella Dadzie, Olive Morris, Martha Osamor and Gail Lewis. It has been called "a watershed in the history of Black women's rights activism". It held four annual conferences from 1979 to 1982, the first leading to black women's groups being formed nationwide. The second OWAAD national conference took part in the Community Service Unit building, which belonged to Tottenham Technical College (now CHENEL).

Cynthia Jarrett (1936 - 1985)

Symbol of the Community. A commemorative plaque honours the memory of Cynthia Jarrett. Her tragic death in her Tottenham home sparked outrage amongst the community in 1985 at the conduct of the police. Her [memorial can be found](#) outside the former Tottenham Town Hall, Town Hall Approach, N15.

Clyde Road,
near Philip Lane,
Tottenham, N15

Former site of
Clyde Lodge,
42A Clyde Road,
Tottenham
(near to the
railway bridge, to
east of Loobert
Road, N15)

Lesbian and Gay Unit

In 1986 campaigning for lesbian and gay rights stepped up. A group called Positive Images was established and in 1987 they organised a demo with Haringey Black Action called Smash the Backlash that marched from **Duckett's** Common to Bruce Castle Park, via The Roundway in Tottenham. Over 3,000 people were on the march in support of **Haringey's** gay and lesbian community. The Labour Party had won control of Haringey Council in 1986 with a focus on lesbian and gay equality as part of the manifesto. The **council's Lesbian and Gay Unit** was launched - the first of its kind in the country - to highlight the rights of LGBT people to the public and to council staff. Pioneering campaigner Femi Otitoju was part of the unit. It was based at Tottenham Town Hall.

Maysie Wright (formerly Hayhow; 1929 - 2010)

The Hayhow family had lived at 1 Oak Cottage in Clyde Road since at least 1891, with Maysie having been born in the house and where she lived for her whole life. She had been active in her community, becoming the treasurer of her **residents'** association. When she died in 2010, the **Maysie Memorial Garden** was created in her name to brighten up a small patch of grass alongside a car park at the end of the road. Maysie was a source of lots of local knowledge, history and stories and was interviewed in 2006 for Bruce Castle Museum about her life and the jobs she had done, including one she had for a while at the **Dickinson's** paper factory at Tottenham Hale in 1944.

Eileen Philippa Rose Fowler MBE (1906 – 2000) Physical exercise instructor

Involved in the keep-fit craze and had a lasting career on radio and BBC television. originally trained to act and dance despite her parents' objections. She did not appreciate the lifestyle and in the 1930s she had trained to be a keep-fit instructor at the time that exercise became a craze. In 1934 she founded the Industrial Keep Fit Organisation and she gave classes in the south of England. During WW2 she was employed by the Central Council of Physical Recreation to improve the fitness of workers as she toured across the country conducting group physical training. In February 1945 she married an electrical engineer. After several years the CCPR again employed her and she and 200 women provided a show at an F.A. Cup final.

In 1954 she gave her first keep-fit broadcast. Many were exercising with her radio broadcasts at 6:45 in the morning. With the catchphrase "Down with a bounce; with a bounce, come up" she introduced fun into exercise. She helped found the Keep Fit Association in 1956 and she ran her own "EF Fitness" classes near her house. These exercises moved on to BBC television until 1961, and after this she created exercise records that allowed people to continue to exercise

at home. Alternatively, they could read *Stay Young Forever* which Fowler wrote in 1963. During the 1970s she appeared on TV and on radio.

72

Philip Lane and
Jansons Road,
N15

Beecher Cottages, Philip Lane and Stowe Villas, Jansons Road, N15

These houses and the road were built by Mr Janson, a Tottenham Quaker and abolitionist. He admired the work of the American abolitionist and author **Harriet Beecher Stowe** and named these buildings after her. The publication of her book *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in 1852 depicted the harsh conditions for enslaved African Americans. The book reached millions as a novel and play, and became influential in the United States and Great Britain, energizing anti-slavery forces in the American North, while provoking widespread anger in the South.

73

Site of 13 Philip
Terrace in Philip
Lane, N15
(south side of
road)

Queen Annie Pepple of Bonny

In 1856 Queen Annie was exiled with her husband the ex-King William Dappa Pepple of Bonny in Eastern Nigeria. They came to England and lived in Philip Lane. They were in Britain to claim compensation from the government, who had been responsible for his fall from power. The Queen and King brought with them their two daughters, who attended Lancasterian School in Church Road, N17. The Queen also had two servants, Mary and Jane Dullery aged about 11 and 23. By 1861 the Pepples had returned to Bonny, but their daughters remained here for their schooling.

74

Kitchener Road,
N17
(named after her)

Mrs Agnes Kitchener Politician and Campaigner

Known as the '**Mother of the Council**', Agnes Kitchener had the Freedom of the Borough in 1957, after 29 years serving as a councillor and Mayor (1950-51). A social pioneer, she advocated for electric lighting and bathrooms in council houses and for lifts in blocks of flats. Durham Road in Tottenham became Kitchener Road in 1955-6 in her honour. (Lived at 27 Devonshire Hill Road and at 16 Bromley Road, N17, living there after her husband died in 1952).

75

187 Philip Lane,
N15 4HJ

Lottie Hale (1882 - 1965) and Hale Laundry, Philip Lane

From 1903 until c.1913 Lottie Hale ran her own laundry business at 187 Philip Lane, and employed a number of women of different ages. Apart from domestic service, laundry work was often the only opportunity available for young girls and women to contribute to their **family's** income. The premises at Hale laundry were bare but functional with a wooden extension at the rear full of large scrubbing tubs, mangles and laundry baskets. In the scrubbing, mangling and ironing of laundry, these women endured long and hard work that was physically very demanding. By 1910, Lottie had got married to George Harrison, who joined her in the running of her laundry business. At first taking her **husband's** name, a

few years later both Lottie and George were known by her family name, Hale.

76

34 Downhills
Avenue, N17 6LG

Queenie Rawle (1924 - 2017)
Artist, survivor and campaigner for a memorial for the Downhills Shelter Tragedy

Queenie lived in Tottenham all her life. If she had had the opportunity she would have gone to art school, such was her skills and talent. For Queenie, her family, her art and her home were the most important things to her. We are lucky that Queenie, along with her husband Les, were keen local historians, and have left us with remarkable reminiscences and memories written down about their lives in Tottenham. **Queen's** paintings (now in the collections at Bruce Castle Museum) are also often visual records of a past Tottenham, long gone. One called *Nostalgia* was painted, based on a photograph she had from 1932 showing her father tending his allotment at Broadwater Farm. It was a place where they had spent many happy hours together. **Queenie's** father was tragically killed in the Downhills Shelter Tragedy when it suffered a direct hit in the bombing of 1940. Queenie was in the shelter too and was lucky to be alive; there was such a high death toll. For many years, the story of surviving the bombing and the scale of the tragedy remained untold, until she was able to tell it in her later years. Along with other local campaigners, in 2014 Queenie saw the stone memorial unveiled in Lordship Recreation Ground as a lasting testament to all the lives that were lost. You can read more [here](#) about the tragedy.

77

27 Walpole Road,
N17 6BE

Violet Fuller (1920-2006)
Artist

Studied at Hornsey School of Art, and worked professionally in animated films, mainly for Gaumont British Animation. She was a founder member of the group Free Painters and Sculptors (FPS) in 1952, along with her friend **Joan Knoblock** and some members of the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA). Following the exciting Festival of Britain in 1951 at what is now the South Bank, FPS was a pioneering group of artists who played a major part in the 1950s in establishing more abstract and modern forms of expressive art in Britain. Locally, Violet was a founder of the Tottenham Art Group, was instrumental in the Three Towns Festival and her paintings can be found in the collections of Bruce Castle Museum. You can read more [here](#) about **Violet's** art and work, as well as that of her friend Joan Knoblock.

78

Lordship
Recreation
Ground,
Lordship Lane,
N17

Women's Association of Lordship Rec

The group brings together local women, groups and women-led organisations with the aim to inspire women to explore their potential. Holding events each year, the activities support and promote the achievements of women and challenge barriers. Each year they organise events for **International Women's Day**.

79

Broadwater Farm
Estate, N17

Women's groups at Broadwater Farm Estate

In 1987, Broadwater Farm Youth Association was established which included the **Mothers' Project**. By 1997 the group **Better Life for Women and Families** was formed. In 2004, an additional group was developed to provide a voice for women on the estate with the **Broadwater Women's Forum**. The forum was launched on 8th March - International **Women's Day** that year.

80

31 Teynton
Terrace,
Tower Gardens,
N17 7PZ

Annie Bradley (1905 – 2005) Homeworker

Annie and her husband Harry were both blind homeworkers who worked from their home on the Tower Gardens Estate and where they brought up their two daughters. Annie had taken up knitting at home as an out-worker under the Royal London Society for the Blind "**home workers**" scheme. She ran her own business from home, mainly making woollen socks on her frame-knitting machine. All the carpets and rugs in their home were her own handiwork too. Independent for nearly all her (not quite) 100 years, the tools of her craft and oral histories of her life can now be found at Bruce Castle Museum and also the Frame-knitters Museum in Ruddington.

81

Lordship Lane,
N17 (generally)

Lady Anne Clifford and the 1619 Map of Tottenham

At this point in Lordship Lane, the name of the road recalls those in charge of the manor of Tottenham – his Lordship. The earliest visual record of Tottenham we have is in the form of a map showing the area as it was surveyed in 1619. It is called the Dorset Survey and was there to document the landownership of the manor of Tottenham. It was a symbol of power, a '**showing off**', demonstrating how much land was owned by the wealthy lord. The name that the map is most usually associated is of course a man. Richard Sackville, the 3rd Earl of Dorset, who was the first husband of Lady Anne Clifford. But their marriage of 1609 was not a success. Those close to the Earl tended to blame Lady Anne's powerful personality, while those who were friends of the Countess laid the blame firmly at his door, pointing to the Earl's repeated infidelities. He was also known as the 17th **century's** most '**accomplished gamblers and wastrels**'. Given his unfocussed approach to his property and affairs, the survey of Tottenham in 1619 would hardly have taken off if it **wasn't** for Lady Anne Clifford who guided the project all the way to completion.

82

91 Mount Pleasant
Road,
N17 6TW

Georgina Sarah Harbord – nee Hogan (1854 - 1941) Suffragette

Originally from South Australia, Georgina Harbord was a member of the **Women's Freedom League** (Tottenham branch), held meetings in her home from 1908. Edith How Martyn went to speak at her house.

On the 1911 Census only Walter Harbord was listed at home on census night. He is 54yrs old and a Head Teacher of a

Boarded School for London County Council. In 1900 electoral register, Walter Harbord is listed at 8 Mount View Villas, Mount Pleasant Road (likely to be number 91). In 1919 electoral register, the Harbords had moved to Hillingdon and are listed as - Walter Harbord, Georgina Harbord and Dorothy Harbord. By 1930 Georgina and Dorothy were back in the area on the Hornsey electoral register, at 61 Hillfield Avenue. Presumably Walter may have died. In 1939, Georgina is listed on the electoral register at Barnstaple Hotel in Devon, living there with her sister Kate Hogan (a retired teacher); Georgina is described as a widow. By 1941 Georgina has died. Different birth years, either 1854 or 1857 - but she was born in South Australia, possibly in Prahan, Victoria. Her marriage to Walter Harbord took place on 8 April 1882 at Southwark St Giles, Camberwell Parish church, he was 25 and described as a schoolmaster, of 4 Elms Road, she was 27 with no profession given, of 1 High Street. They had three children - Hugh, Lancelot and Dorothy.

83

Lordsmead Road
N17 6EX
(site of no.1)

Maria Crewdson Eliot Howard
Author

On the site of the former house 'Lordsmeade' (now 1 Lordsmead Road) is a plaque to a man, John Eliot Howard. His wife was Maria Crewdson. Both were from old Quaker families. Maria diligently documented and recorded the significant changes that were happening during the 1830s when there was a split in the Society of Friends. Maria and John became Plymouth Brethren, and were instrumental in setting up Brook Street Chapel, near Bruce Grove: *"On the 6th October 1836, we resigned our connection with the Society of Friends and a few days afterward we renounced Quaker garb"*. Maria records in her memoir that this was *"a step far more painful and formidable that can at this distance of time be understood"*. In December *"we partook of the Lord's Supper at the Baptist chapel where we had been baptised and though not becoming members of the church, we happily worshipped with them."*

After John's death Maria compiled *"Memorials of John Eliot Howard"* which she had printed and distributed privately in 1885. She outlived him by eight years and died on 23 March 1892 aged 85. Both are buried together in Tottenham cemetery.

84

Lordship Lane/on
Corner of Church
Lane (now the
electrical
substation)

Lady Caroline Hill (nee Hardy; 1843-1924)
Artist

Caroline Emily Gray Hill was born in the house next door to Bruce Castle in Tottenham in 1843. **Caroline married 'the boy nextdoor'**, John Edward Gray Hill (later Sir). Whilst she pursued her interest and career in painting, he became a solicitor. The couple did not have any children. In 1888 they took their first trip to the Holy Land, which began their thirst for travel over many decades. They had a house on Mount Scopus, on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Whilst there Caroline

painted scenes of the desert and took photographs. She used the photographs to illustrate the travel book, *With the Beduins* (1891), written by her husband. **Caroline's collection of paintings of the desert made her become known as the Lady of the Desert. Caroline's paintings are now part of the Liverpool Walker Gallery, whilst some of her works and papers are in the University of Liverpool archives. A pair of portraits of Lady Caroline and her husband Sir John were painted by the Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Robert Hughes. These now can be seen at Bruce Castle Museum, in Tottenham their family home.**

85

Site of old
Haringey
Magistrate's Court

Thomas Corney's Charity and Orphan School for Girls

At Bruce Castle a high-relief sculptural memorial survives from a former school at Elmslea House. The school once **stood on the site of the former Haringey Magistrate's Court in Lordship Lane, opposite Bruce Castle Park. The memorial is dedicated to a man - Thomas Corney, a former schoolmaster and member of the Drapers' Company, who had died in 1866. An inscription around the edge tells us that a bequest was left in 1867 to establish a school for fatherless Anglican girls. This enabled the Drapers to purchase Elmslea House in Lordship Lane, Tottenham in 1868. There were initially 24 young girls aged 7 – 18, with numbers growing to 40. They were taught at Elmslea until the opening of Tottenham High school on the High Road. After Elmslea's closure in 1930, the magistrate's court was built.**

86

8 Bruce Grove,
N17 6RA

Beatrice Offor RA (1864 – 1920)

Artist

Beatrice Offor was amongst the first women artists in this country to attend the Slade School of Art. A prolific portraitist, in later life, **Beatrice's** home was at 8 Bruce Grove where she lived with her second husband, the local Alderman James Beavan. Bruce Castle Museum holds over forty paintings by her which are regularly on display in the museum. Most of her paintings are images or portraits of women. 2020 was the centenary of her tragic death. A special exhibition of **Beatrice's** paintings opened in 2020, along with associated events revealing the results of new research and study of her life and work. The exhibition about her life *Sisters, Sirens & Saints* continues at Bruce Castle Museum in 2021. Follow the link [here](#) to see and hear more about two of her paintings of women from the collections currently on display.

7 Bruce Grove,
N17 6RA

Mariabella Howard (1770 -1852)

Weather watcher

Number 7 Bruce Grove has an English Heritage Blue Plaque **saying the 'namer of clouds live here'**. Along with Luke Howard, the study of the weather must also include his wife **Mariabella's significant contribution. She undertook a lot of the experiments and recordings. This letter written by Mariabella to Luke in 1813, when he was away in Pontefract:**

“I intend to do my best respecting the rain gauge and thermometer. The barometer I have already attended to. We have had very changeable weather, third day very fine and lightning in the night; yesterday very wet, fine this morning, now very wet.” Their diligent work together was produced over a number of years and published in the ‘*Climate of London*’, first in 1818 and again in 1833. You can read more about the Tottenham weather, about a meteor in 1819 and the flowering of horse-chestnuts at Tottenham Green by following the link [here](#).

87

Bruce Grove
Primary School,
Sperling Road,
N17 6UH

Blanche Nevile (1871–1962)

Founder of the Blanche Nevile School for the Deaf

At 23 years old, Blanche Nevile started a school for deaf children in Tottenham on 14th January 1895 and worked at the school for 30 years. The first class had eight children, set up in Bruce Grove Primary School. This was the start of a remarkable career with a far-reaching impact on how deaf children would learn to communicate and actively participate in their community. Highly regarded in her specialism, her influence and expertise extended beyond the London area. A new dedicated school was built in 1924 in Philip Lane. When she retired in 1925, Blanche left Tottenham with a thriving, efficient school known for its outstanding work for deaf children. The school has since moved to other locations in the borough and celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2020. You can read more [here](#) about the exceptional career of Blanche Nevile and the history of the school in Haringey.

88

Bruce Grove
Toilets,
N17 6UR

After the expansion of the new sewer works in London, public toilets began to be built in London in 1852. Most were designed for **men’s** use and not for women. The lack of facilities for women was described as the ‘**urinary leash**’ – a restraint for keeping women at home and limiting their independence so that they were unable to travel about, given the scarcity of public toilets. The **Ladies Sanitary Association** campaigned about the problem from 1878.

89

Tottenham Palace
421-427 High
Road,
N17 6FF

Tottenham Palace

Built in 1908, Tottenham Palace opened as a music and variety theatre. Here people came from far and wide to see their favourite music hall stars of the day. Amongst them were the **nation’s** favourite **Gertie Gitana**, who lived locally at one time, and **Marie Lloyd**. The theatre was also subject to acts of protests by suffragettes, as can be found in the newspapers at the time.

You can read more [here](#) about the theatre and its acts.

413 High Road,
N17 6RD

Felvus Hall

The name of this building survives today. It was erected close to the High Road in 1926, part of the Tottenham High School for Girls that once stood on this site. The hall was named after the long-serving headmistress of this highly respected school for girls - Miss Felvus.

417-419 High
Road,
N17 6RD

Edwardian women skaters at the Canadian Skating Rink, Tottenham High Road

In 1911 the Paris couturier Paul Poiret introduced harem 'pants' or skirts as part of the effort to reinvent and 'liberate' Western female fashion. Such designs were seen as controversial as Western women typically did not wear trousers. In March 1911, the *Tottenham Weekly Herald* reported that the Canadian Skating Rink on Tottenham High Road – that had only opened in 1910 for the new craze of roller skating - as the 'first place of amusement' to put 'harems' on their bill of fare. Twice a week four women volunteers wearing masks to cover their identity would model the harem skirts, skating only amongst other women on the rink who were very excited by the new look. The demonstrations of wearing the harem skirts certainly showed the adaptability for skating, allowing freedom for the legs. There was harsh criticism though from two male 'protestors' who targeted their complaints to the rink as well as suffragettes, signing themselves off as 'The Society for the Curtailment of Women's Ambitions'. The management of the rink pasted their protests on all the public boards – much to the amusement of the skaters who had 'no end of fun' reading them and who carried on nonetheless with the wearing of the harem skirts.

90

Former Tottenham
Central Library,
now Library Court,
391 High Road,
N15 6QN

Tottenham Branch of the Women's Voluntary Service

During the Second World War, the Tottenham Branch of the **Women's Voluntary Service (WVS)**, which had started in 1938, were involved in different initiatives in the area. including organising an aluminium collection for the war effort at the Central Library in Tottenham in 1940. Amongst their group leading these initiatives was **Alderman Mrs Jessie Lynch** (see 38 for more information about her).