

BLUE PLAQUES IN BARNES AND MORTLAKE

Herbert Howells (1892-1983): 3 Beverley Close, Barnes, his home from 1946 until a few weeks before his death.

One of the last of the great English Romantic composers, Howells' work was recognisably English and his canticle settings, anthems and motets are considered amongst the greatest contributions to Anglican church music of the twentieth century.

James Henry Greathead (1844 – 1896): 3 St Mary's Grove, Barnes where he lived from 1885 to 1889.

Railway & Tunnelling Engineer. Greathead worked on many engineering and tunnelling projects for London overground and underground railways expanding in the 1880s. He was Chief Engineer on City & London Railway digging tunnels under the Thames. The Greathead tunnelling shield and later adaptations were used throughout the 20th century.

Kitty Godfree (1896-1992): 55 York Avenue, East Sheen, where she lived between 1936 and 1992

Lawn tennis champion Kitty Godfree made her debut at Wimbledon in 1919 aged 23. She soon established herself as one of the most talented of all British women players. Twice winner of the women's singles title in 1924 and 1926. She won 5 Olympic medals including gold in the doubles at the Antwerp games in 1920. With her husband Lesley Godfree she won the mixed doubles at Wimbledon in 1926, the only husband & wife partnership to do this.

Kurt Schwitters (1887 – 1948): 39 Westmoreland Rd, Barnes where he lived from around 1940 to 1945

A German artist and poet. Originally a portraitist, he developed the art of collage from 1918 using discarded trash such as buttons, bus tickets, stamps etc and of poems consisting of sounds without words.

Dame Ninette de Valois, (1898-2001): 14 The Terrace, Barnes where she lived from 1962 to 1982

Founder of the Royal Ballet. Passionately interested in dancing from her childhood, she became a ballerina in England and danced with Diaghilev's famous Ballets Russes. After retirement as a dancer, she became the one person most responsible for the great achievements of British ballet in the twentieth century. In 1928 she was appointed director of a ballet company at Sadler's Wells. Over the years de Valois turned it into one of the world's most famous companies and it eventually became the Royal Ballet. She was also responsible for founding the establishment which became the Royal Ballet School.

Edouard Espinosa, (1872- 1950): Woolborough House, 39 Lonsdale Road, Barnes where he lived from 1913 until his death.

Maitre de ballet & founder of the British Ballet Organisation. The Espinosa method of teaching stretches to Australia & New Zealand and includes Belgium, Switzerland and Kuwait. He probably appeared on every important stage in Western Europe, North America, Australia and South Africa and is said to have arranged the dances for some 300 West End shows in London.

Gustav Theodore Holst (1874 - 1934): 10 The Terrace, Barnes where he lived from 1908 to 1913.

British composer, trombonist and teacher. He composed operas, ballets, choral works and orchestral suites among which is 'The Planets'. He became director of music at St Paul's Girls' School, Hammersmith in 1905 and director of music at Morley College in 1907, continuing in both posts until his death. In 1913, St Paul's Girls School opened a new music wing, and Holst composed the still popular St Paul's Suite for the occasion.

Henry Fielding (1707-1754), novelist: lived at Milbourne House, Barnes in about 1750 when writing Amelia.