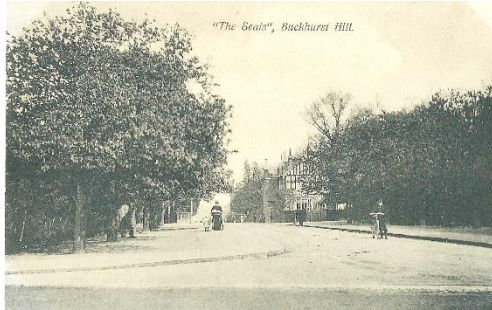


A walk down Queen's Road Buckhurst Hill

A walk with history in mind – something to look out for as you stroll down to the shops or the station...starting on the south side.



Let's begin at the top, at 'The Seats' – no-one seems to use that phrase now, but in Edwardian times it seems they did. Behind us is the car park of the Toby Carvery (real name, Bald Faced Stag) and if you peep down the driveway, you can catch a glimpse of Buckhurst Hill House, which began life as a school in the early years of the nineteenth century, and was later the home of the Crossman family. You can look up the life of politician Richard Crossman, who spent some of his childhood

here. The house you can just see on this view, which was replaced in the 1930s, was known as Langford House.

Down we go, past the Indian restaurant. Look up at the stonework over the windows, and you can see the initials, TJB – Thomas James Banks was the original owner of the building, when it was a draper's shop.

As we pass various shops and businesses, look out for the unusual building at the side of the large



building which has been an off licence and a hairdresser's – this side building was part of a blacksmith's business, and more of his buildings were hidden behind. The main building was called Waterloo House and here it is in 1917.

The newish flats, Ivydene Court, replaced the Daneley Court Nursing Home, which had occupied two Victorian houses, Ivydene and Rowantree. Next come a lovely row of Victorian villas, called St Kilda Villas. These

date from the 1860s.

Further down, Laburnum House, which for some reason has had its name scrubbed out, was the home of film critic, illustrator and writer Richard Winnington, who, when he was short of money, used to draw cartoons of his fellow-drinkers in the Bald Faced Stag! The row of cottages is called The Woodlands. Beyond the flats are some late Victorian houses, St Edmondsbury and St Keverne, then Ivy House before the newish block which is on the site of Buckhurst Hill Methodist Church, which was demolished in the 1980s. A few more villas, all with their own names (Buckhurst Hill was only numbered in the 1920s). Look out for the name of the villas which include the premises of Carter Devile – you can see Alexandra on one of the posts. The row of shops was known as Queen's Terrace.

We cross King's Place, formerly known to locals as Sweep's Street, where, you guessed it, the chimney sweep used to live. The shop on the corner used to be the Parish Offices, but before that, it was Les George, motor supplies, and before that, a dairy. In the very early days, it was one of Buckhurst Hill's first pubs, with the unusual name of the Title Deed.

The block of shops including Broome's newsagents was called Hannah Terrace, and the name can still be seen if you look carefully. And beyond that is Victoria Terrace, which was numbered one to seven. You can still see the original number three over the top of the door leading to what is now number 16.



We are now approaching the railway, and this is where there was a level crossing before the line was electrified after the Second World War. Look above Churchills on the corner and you will see Queen's Buildings, 1886.

Now, we'll turn round and go back up the road on the north side.

Waitrose arrived in 1986; there had been a range of shops on the site, including a bank on the corner. Lumley's carpets premises was a house called Milton Villa in Victorian times. Fine Doors and Leonardo's are in what remains of Grafton Villas. Bennett's funeral services are in a building which was once a grocer's shop. On the corner of King's Avenue was the pub, the British Queen. It has been a restaurant under many names for some years. The row above once contained a fishmonger and a greengrocer. Napier Villas were replaced recently.

Beyond the newish block is a row of fine Victorian houses – Bellingham, Westgate, Portland and St Helena Villa. This last one, empty as I write this, was so named as the first owner, Nathaniel WB Collyer, was born on the island of St Helena at a time when the Emperor Napoleon was in residence, and may have met him as a small child!

Beyond Andrews Close is Taunton House, which was a school for many years, but was originally called Talbot House. After the newer house we have 1 and 2 Clint Hill, Hillside Villas, and Blandford Villas (look for the name on the gatepost). After more modern infill we have Park Villas and next to them the two townhouses are nestled into the shell of what was a big house called Travancore – look for the brackets below the roof. Dunbeath House has been restored recently but it still has the name in stained glass over the door and on the gatepost. Then come York Villas.



Coming up to the shops at the top, what is now 3 shops just before the flooring shop, was once Waterman's furniture shop. Like many in that business in Victorian times, he was also a funeral director (why? Because he had access to wood for coffins, and had a horse and cart!)

← Mr Waterman and his staff

The library began as a Baptist Church in 1866. It became a public hall in the 1890s and the library in the 1940s.

I could not include every building in this leaflet, and there really is much more to see. I hope you enjoyed the stroll down and up Queen's Road – come and join a walk with the Residents' Society one day!

LYNN HASELDINE JONES