

Clock House



Clock House district is named after the clock that was housed on the stables of a manor house standing on the site of the impressive Victorian building now known as the community centre, Venue 28, Beckenham Road.

The original house was built in the early 18th century by William Lethieuller, son of a wealthy merchant. Lady Annabella Byron (1792-1860), wife of Lord Byron, philanthropist and mother of mathematician and first computer programmer, Ada Lovelace, lived there in the 1820s. The house was demolished in 1896 and the stables in 1926.

Clock House station was opened in 1894, providing an additional stop between Elmers End and New Beckenham stations on the Hayes and Addiscombe lines.



▲ Clock House Station 1890s



▲ Bomb damage along Beckenham Road August 1944

Balgowan School was built in 1914/5 but for its first few years it was used entirely as a military hospital, admitting 5257 soldiers. In 1944, 44 people were killed when a V1 bomb hit a café on Beckenham Road at a busy lunchtime.

Clock House Parade was built by Syme and Duncan Ltd in 1904.



▲ Clock House Parade 1914

Croydon Road Recreation Ground was provided by the Local Board in 1891. Originally, there was an ornamental lake and fountain fed by a natural spring. It was replaced by the paddling pool just before World War II. During both world wars, the park was partly given over to allotments, and the paddling pool became an Emergency Water Supply Point. Beckenham Bowling Club, still in existence, started life here as the Beckenham Bowling and Quoits Club round about 1899. In 1969 the Victorian bandstand was the scene of David Bowie's free concert.



▲ Croydon Road Recreation Ground 1910



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THE LONDON BOROUGH
www.bromley.gov.uk

1 Derek Underwood (b 1945) cricketer, and **Bill Wyman** (b 1936) Rolling Stone, both attended Beckenham and Penge Grammar School

2 Sydney (1907-1983) and **Betty** (1915-1999) **Box**, film makers, Beckenham Road

3 Paul Creswick (1866-1947) children's and science fiction author, Beckenham Road

4 Walter de la Mare (1873-1956) poet and **Dame Floella Benjamin** (b 1949), broadcaster and politician, Mackenzie Road

5 Malorie Blackman (b 1962) children's author, Churchfields Road

6 Sheila Hodgson (1921-2001) author for radio and TV, notably ghost stories, Cromwell Road

7 Dame Julie Andrews actor (b 1935) Cromwell Road

8 Mollie Russell Smith (1927-2014) artist and poet, Cromwell Road

9 David Bowie (1947-2016) Free Concert, on the bandstand at Croydon Road Recreation Ground, August 1969

14 Lt Col Frank Bourne DCM OBE (1854-1945), DCM at Rorke's Drift 1879, Kings Hall Road

13 Enid Blyton (1897-1968), children's author, Chaffinch Road, Clock House Road and Elm Road

12 Lady Annabella Byron (1792-1860), lived in the Clock House on this site

11 Duncan Goodhew (b 1957) and **Margaret Wellington** (b 1926), Olympic Swimmers trained at Beckenham Baths

10 Phyllis Chase (1897-1977) artist, Illustrator of Enid Blyton's books, Queen's Road

The present Venue 28 began as Beckenham Technical Institute, opened in 1901. The Institute moved to become The Beckenham and Penge Country Grammar School in 1931, and in 1968 moved again to become Langley Park School for Boys.



▲ Technical School and Baths 1910

The Beckenham Baths, now the site of Beckenham Spa, were also opened in 1901, with both covered and open air pools.



▲ Beckenham Baths 1902

Beckenham School of Art (1908-1962) trained many of Britain's most distinguished artists, was located next to the Library.



▲ Beckenham School of Art



▲ Recreation Ground and Hospital 1906

Beckenham Cottage Hospital, with just four beds, was provided by Peter Hoare of Kelsey Manor, and opened in 1872. It was extended over the following decades, and, in 1902, X-Ray facilities were provided by Muirheads of Elmers End. An electricity generating station was built on Churchfields Road in 1900, using the town's refuse as part of its fuel.