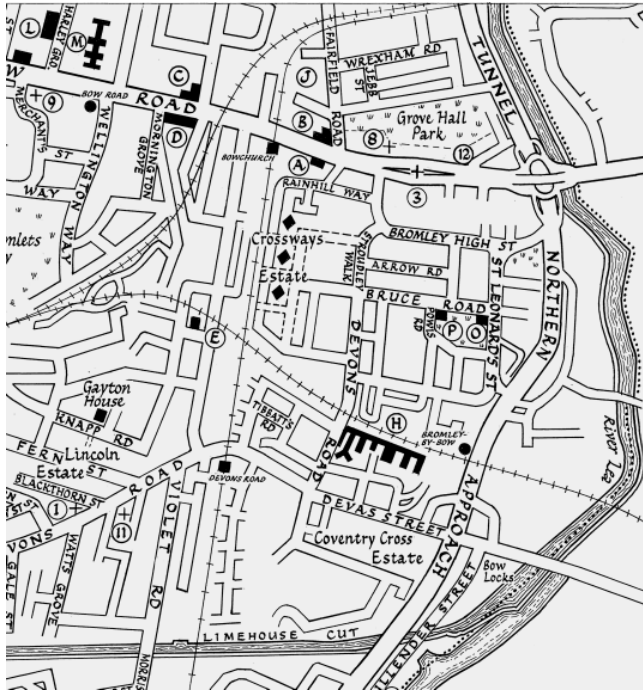


HERITAGE of LONDON TRUST *in association with* Pevsner Architectural Guides

Story of London Walking Trails: Bow & Bromley

YALE



The parishes of Bow and Bromley began as settlements on the banks of the river Lea. The ancient parish of Bromley grew around the Benedictine priory of St Leonard. Bow became a separate parish in 1730. Industry developed early, making use of water power from the Lea, as can still be appreciated at the Three Mills Centre. Already by the 18th century, factories had overwhelmed the country houses which formerly enjoyed open prospects across the river. By the end of the 19th century chemicals

and wood for six or seven match factories came up the River Lea Navigation canal to Bow.

Start your trail from Bow Road Station. Opposite the station on the corner of Bow Road and Alfred Street is Electric House, 1925-6, on which the **Minnie Lansbury Memorial Clock** can be seen. The Heritage of London Trust has recently helped with its restoration. Minnie Lansbury was the daughter-in-law of George Lansbury, the Labour Party Leader from 1931-1935. She was a suffragette and a Labour Councillor.

From the station walk east along Bow Road. On the left before the railway bridge is the **Police Station (C)**, 1903 by John Dixon Butler. The 1930s married quarters behind the Police Station resemble a seaside villa. Continue along Bow Road and take the footpath on the right just before the Bow Bells pub to see the surviving central section of the **Drapers Almshouses**, built in 1706 for 12 poor persons. The almshouses were founded by Sir John Jolles in 1617. Return to Bow Road, passing the Bow Bells, to see **Bromley Public Hall (A)**, designed by A & C Harston 1879-80. It was built as the Vestry Hall but is now Tower Hamlets Registry Office. Prominent across the road on the corner of Fairfield Road is **Poplar Municipal Hall (B)** 1937-8, an early work by Clifford Culpin. There are impressive relief panels over the side



entrance and a mosaic under the canopy on the Bow Road entrance showing the docks and industries.

In the centre of Bow Road beyond the **statue of William Gladstone** is **St Mary's Church (3)**, the only relic of the medieval

village of Bow. It was built as a chapel of ease in 1311. The oldest part of the church dates from the 14th century. Threatened with demolition on three occasions during the 19th century, it was saved in 1896 by the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings.



Turn right into Bromley High Street. On the right is the **Rose and Crown pub**, a 19th century building which replaced the Bowling Green Inn. St Leonard's Church, which stood at the east end of the street, was originally the chapel of the Priory of St Leonard. It was demolished in 1842. Only a small part of the churchyard has survived close to the A12. Follow Bromley High Street, turning right into Edgar Road. On the left is **Old Palace Primary**

School, built on the site of a 17th century brick palace. The palace was demolished in 1893 to make way for an LCC Board School, since replaced by the modern school. A room from the palace has been preserved at the V & A. C R Ashbee was so outraged by the destruction that he established the Survey of London.



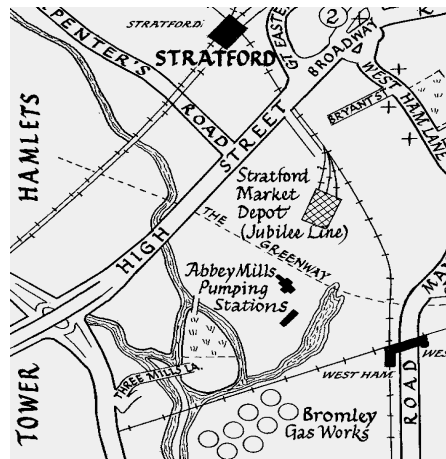
Go right at Bruce Road and immediately left into Powis Road to see **Kingsley Hall (P)** designed by C Cowles-Voysey in 1928. The Hall

was built by Muriel and Doris Lester, who did charitable work in the East End, and was named after their brother who died aged 26. When Mahatma Gandhi was invited to London in 1931 for talks on Indian Independence, he chose to stay at the Hall, rather than in a luxurious hotel.

Return to Bruce Road, turn right and walk to St Leonard's Road, passing the **Bromley by Bow Centre (O)**. Turn right to see the **18th century classical archway** at the St Leonard's Street entrance to the Centre. The arch came from Northumberland House on the Strand - it was erected here in 1998. Cross St Leonard's Road and take Washington Close to reach the A12. Take the subway and, keeping Tesco on the right, walk down the cobbled approach to **Three Mills**



Island. The **House Mill** and the **Clock Mill** sit astride the River Lea and were powered by the tidal water, grinding grain to make flour, or from the 18th century, for distilling alcohol. The House Mill, 1776, was last used in 1941, when bomb damage caused the mill to close. The Clock Mill, with its distinctive drying kilns, is also a tidal mill; the Clock Tower is the oldest part, dating from 1850. The third of the three mills was a windmill which existed until about 1838.



Northeast of Three Mills Island runs Bazalgette's **Northern Outfall Sewer Embankment**, built in the 1860s. It is now a walking and cycling route, known as **The Greenway**. In 2012 this path will be upgraded to become a key pedestrian route into the Olympic Park. Close by is the magnificent **Abbey Mills Pumping Station**, designed by Bazalgette and Cooper (1865-8) and decorated inside with tiles and ornate wrought iron. Return via the subway and turn left to reach Bromley by Bow tube station.

Become a Friend of the Heritage of London Trust

Become a friend and your membership fee will help us continue giving out grants to restore London's historic buildings in community use. Friends receive regular newsletters and invitations to lectures and visits year round!

Friend (£25 pa) Joint Friends (£40 pa)

Life Member (£250) Please contact me to discuss making a legacy

Please make cheques payable to Heritage of London Trust.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

<p>Gift Aid</p> <p>To make your donation worth another 20%, we can claim the tax you have already paid. Please tick the box and sign next to the statement below.</p>	
<p>I am a UK tax payer and want Heritage of London Trust to treat as Gift Aid this and any future donations.</p>	
<p>Date/...../.....</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Signature _____</p>	