

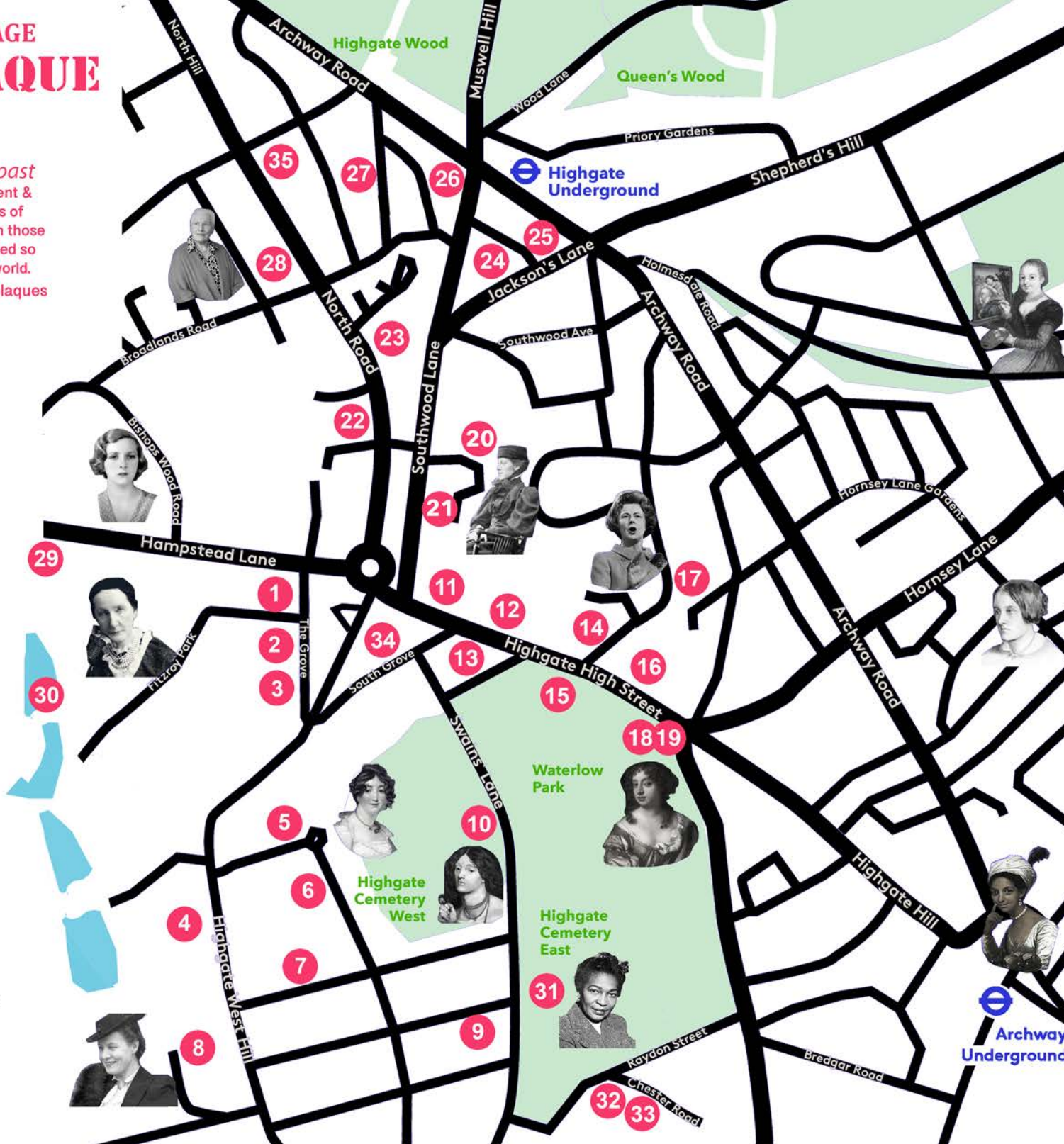
# HIGHGATE HERITAGE PINK PLAQUE PROJECT

## Reclaiming pink and the past

We aim to celebrate women, present & past and, to challenge perceptions of Pink by associating the colour with those whose self directed lives contributed so much to Highgate and the wider world.

[www.highgatefestival.org/pink-plaques](http://www.highgatefestival.org/pink-plaques)

- 1 Victoria Wood  
1953 - 2016  
Highgate West Hill, N6 6DA
- 2 Dame Gladys Constance Cooper 1888 -1971  
2 The Grove, N6 6JU
- 3 Rumer Godden  
1907 - 1998  
2 The Old Hall, N6 6BP
- 4 Florence Nightingale  
1820 - 1910  
37 Highgate West Hill, N6 6LS
- 5 Harriot Mellon  
1777 - 1837  
Holly Lodge Gardens N6 6AA
- 6 Baroness Angela Burdett-Coutts 1814 - 1906  
Holly Lodge, N6 6AA
- 7 Stella Dorothea Gibbons  
1902 - 1989  
19 Oakshott Ave, N6 6NT
- 8 Baroness Summerskill of Kenwood 1901 - 1980  
30 Milfield Lane, N6 6JD
- 9 Felicity Sparrow  
1950 -  
Makepeace Mansions, N6 6ES
- 10 Elizabeth Siddal  
1829 - 1862, Highgate Cemetery  
Swain's Lane, N6 6PJ
- 11 Isla Merry  
1909 - 1975  
88 Highgate High Street, N6 5HX
- 12 Phyllis Harper  
76 Highgate High Street, N6 5HX
- 13 Lady Gould  
1804 - 1841  
Highgate High Street, N6 5HX
- 14 Barbara Castle 1910 - 2002  
Chomeley Lodge N6 5EN



- 15 Matilda and Emily Sharpe  
1842 - 1928  
Channing School, The Bank, N6 5HF
- 16 Catherine Da Costa  
1678 - 1756, Crowell House  
104 Highgate High Hill, N6 5HE
- 17 Dame Geraldine Aves  
1898 - 1986, 55a Cholmeley Park, N6 5EH
- 18 Nell Gwynn  
1650 - 1687, Lauderdale House, N6 5HG
- 19 Sasha Young  
1931 - 1993, Lauderdale House, N6 5HG
- 20 Mary Kinglsey  
1862 - 1900, 22 Southwood Lane, N6 5EF
- 21 Phyllis Mary Wilmott  
1922 - 2013, Kinsley Place, N6
- 22 Joan Schwitzer  
1925 - 2009, 12 Priory Gardens, N6 5QS  
St. Michael's Primary School N6 4GB
- 23 Christina Rossetti  
1830 - 1894, 2 North Hill, N6 4PU
- 24 Gretel Hinrichsen  
1919 - 2024 Hillside Gardens, N6 5SU
- 25 Nicky Gavron  
1941 - 2024, Jacksons Lane Theatre  
269 Archway Road, N6 5AA
- 26 Celia Mitchell 1933 - 2024  
Ripping Yarns, 355 Archway Road, N6 4EJ
- 27 Penelope Fitzgerald  
1916 - 2000, 27 Bishops Road N6 4HP
- 28 Diana Athill 1917 - 2019  
107 North Hill, Highgate, N6 4DP
- 29 Dido Elisabeth Belle  
1761 - 1804, Kenwood House, NW3 7JR
- 30 Swimmers and Lifeguards of Kenwood Ladies Pond  
1926 - Highgate N6 6HQ
- 31 Claudia Jones 1915-1964  
Highgate Cemetery, Swain's Lane, N6 6PJ
- 32 Highgate Library  
1906 - Chester Road N19 5DH
- 33 Ms Dynamite  
1981- Highgate Newtown NW5
- 34 Dame Stella Rimington  
1935 - Pond Square N6
- 35 Marilyn Monk  
1938 - Talbot Road, N6 4QT

The project was developed by Catharine Wells, Alicia Pivaro and Maria Kramer. Please check out the website for more info and audio content. [www.highgatefestival.org/pink-plaques](http://www.highgatefestival.org/pink-plaques)



# HIGHGATE HERITAGE PINK PLAQUE PROJECT

Reclaiming pink and the past

**Discover the lives of some of the most influential women from Highgate. Unearth information about female movers and shakers from OUR area's past and present. [www.highgatefestival.org/pink-plaques](http://www.highgatefestival.org/pink-plaques)**

## 1 Victoria Wood 1953 - 2016

Comedian whose work was grounded in everyday life and included references to activities and attitudes that exemplified Britain. She was noted for her skills in observing culture and in satirising aspects of social class.

## 2 Gladys Constance Cooper DBE (Lady Pearson) 1888 - 1971

After Appearing in Edwardian musical comedy and pantomime, she starred in dramatic roles and silent films before WW1. In the 20s&30s, she managed the Playhouse Theatre, then acted in the West End and on Broadway, moving to Hollywood in 1940. She lived at the Grove as Lady Pearson.

## 3 Margaret Rumer Godden OBE 1907 -1998

An author of more than 60 works of fiction and non-fiction for adults and children under the name of Rumer Godden. During her life she lived in Bangladesh, America&India where she ran a dance school for 20 years.

## 4 Florence Nightingale 1820 - 1910

Founder of modern nursing, archives show that she spent time with The Howitts at 37 Highgate West Hill recovering after the Crimean war in 1839. She noted that the Highgate Infirmary was "by far the best of any workhouse infirmary we have."

## 5 Harriot Mellon 1777 - 1837

A famous actress and beauty, she leased Holly Lodge in 1809 before marrying the wealthy banker Thomas Coutts in 1815. She inherited his fortune on his death in 1822, bought Holly Lodge, then married the Duke of St Albans in 1827.

## 6 Baroness Angela Georgina Burdett-Coutts 1814 - 1906

1st Baroness Burdett-Coutts of Highgate and Brookfield become one of the wealthiest women in England. A pioneering and prolific philanthropist, she helped set up what became the NSPCC and the RSPCA. Aged 67, she forfeited over half of her fortune to marry her American-born secretary, aged 29.

## 7 Stella Dorothea Gibbons 1902 - 1989

Author and poet, her first novel *Cold Comfort Farm* won the Prix Etranger category of the Prix Femina in 1933. From the mid 1930s until her death in 1989, she lived on Oakshott Avenue on the Holly Lodge estate. A Fellow of the RSL, she also wrote for Punch.

## 8 Edith Clara Summerskill CH PC1901 - 1980

During her first speech in Parliament, the new Labour MP for Warrington said: "There is a saying that women are no good at figures; but I am reminded that throughout this country in thousands of homes, the Chancellor of the Exchequer is a woman."

## 9 Felicity Sparrow 1950 -

After a row about the lack of female representation in an Arts Council exhibition on experimental film, an all-female group co-founded the feminist film and video network Circles to promote and distribute work by contemporary women artists.

## 10 Elisabeth Siddal 1829 - 1862

Artist, poet and muse, her relationship with Dante Gabriel Rossetti has been the subject of several television dramas, notably *Dante's Inferno* (1967), by Ken Russell, in which she was played by Judith Paris and Rossetti by Oliver Reed. past.

## 11 Isla Merry 1909 - 1975

A founding member and first women chair of the Highgate Society. She donated the Merry Mug for the fiercely-contested annual quiz between the Highgate Society and the HLSI.

## 12 Phyllis Harper 1948 -

Running our High Street butcher shop, originally with her husband and now with her son Lee, Phyllis is a local celebrity. Asked by the Ham and High what her epitaph would say, she replied "She told it as it was".

## 13 Lady Gould 1804 - 1841

17th-century philanthropist who ensured that part of her estate in Highgate, inherited from her mother Anne, be distributed 'among such poor Inhabitants of Highgate as should be fit objects of charity'. The Lady Gould Trust continues this vital charitable work to this day.

## 14 Barbara Castle 1910 - 2002

Baroness Castle of Blackburn, PC was a leading Labour politician. As Transport Minister she oversaw the introduction of speed limits, breathalysers and seat belts. As Employment Secretary she introduced the Equal Pay Act in 1970.

## 15 Matilda and Emily Sharpe 1842 - 1928

Author, teacher and painter, Matilda and sister Emily established Channing House School on Highgate Hill. She published an anthology of poetry, *Old Favourites* from the Elder Poets, in which she included nine women poets.

## 16 Catherine da Costa 1678 - 1756

English Jewish Miniature Painter, she went to the operas and oratorios of contemporary George Frederick Handel and read the Enlightenment philosophers Locke and Hume. Her *Self Portrait* (1720) shows the well-dressed artist busy working at her easel.

## 17 Dame Geraldine Aves 1898-1986

Pioneering senior civil servant and community care organiser, instrumental in establishing our modern social services system. She nurtured the Harington Scheme, chaired the Highgate Cemetery Trust and was Vice President of the HLSI, setting up its archives.

## 18 Nell Gwynn 1650 - 1687

Prostitute, orange seller and celebrity actress was also a long-time mistress of King Charles II. She dangled one of their children out of a window of Lauderdale House and threatened to drop him unless he was granted a peerage.

## 19 Sasha Young 1931 - 1993

BBC radio producer, artist and writer, she played a key role in saving Lauderdale House as an arts and education charity.

## 23 Christina Georgina Rossetti 1830 - 1894

Joan Schwitzer noted: "She spent several weeks of each year in the 1860s staying in Park House (refuge for fallen women) dressed in the nun-like black habit of a sister with hanging sleeves, a muslin cap with lace edging and a veil."

## 24 Gretel Hinrichsen 1919 - 2024

Gretel and her husband Klaus, a friend of Kurt Schwitters with whom he was interred in the war, bought their house off-plan in 1958 after crawling through a hole in the wall of the site of Southwood House which had burned down in 1953.

## 25 Nicky Gavron 1941 - 2024

A leading Labour politician who started her career as councillor for the Archway ward. She campaigned against widening of Archway Road and helped save Jackson's Lane. Deputy Mayor until 2003, she was a key figure in establishing the London Climate Change Agency.

## 26 Celia Mitchell 1933 - 2024

Celia (Hewitt) Mitchell, actor and activist married poet Adrian Mitchell. His most famous love poem, *Celia*, *Celia*, is much quoted: "When I am sad and weary / When I think all hope has gone / When I walk along High Holborn / I think of you with nothing on."

## 27 Penelopes Fitzgerald 1916 - 2000

Booker prize-winning novelist, essayist, and biographer, described as the best British novelist of the late twentieth century. She wrote 'The Gate of Angels' and 'The Blue Flower' at her desk in this house.

## 28 Diana Athill 1917 - 2019

Editor and then author in her own right. After winning a competition she said "Bury me, dear friends, with a copy of the Observer folded under my head, for it was the Observer's prize that woke me up to the fact that I could write and had become happy."

## 29 Dido Elisabeth Belle 1761-1804

Born to Maria Belle, an enslaved African in the West Indies and Sir John Lindsay, a naval officer stationed there; she grew up at Kenwood with Lord Mansfield's family; helped him with correspondence. Belle is a film of life from slavery to heiress.

## 30 Swimmers and Lifeguards of Kenwood Ladies Pond 1926–

The Kenwood Ladies Pond has been a place of sanctuary, community and connection to nature for thousands of women. All made possible by the passion and professionalism of the wonderful lifeguards.

## 31 Claudia Jones 1915 - 1964

Born in Trinidad, she was given asylum in the UK in 1955 and became a leading anti-racist activist. A communist, she launched the Notting Hill Carnival in 1959 to celebrate the culture of the community. Buried in Highgate Cemetery next to Karl Marx.

## 32 Highgate Library 1906 -

This newly-restored, important and much-loved community asset was achieved through a unique partnership and collaboration between the Friends of Highgate Library charity and Camden council.

## 33 Ms Dynamite 1981-

Pioneering British singer, rapper, songwriter, recipient of the Mercury Music Prize, 2 Brit Awards, 3 MOBO Awards. MBE for her services to music.

## 34 Dame Stella Rimington 1935-

First female Director-General of M15, she was instrumental in modernising the UK's secret security services to be more open and accountable. She has written her memoir.

## 35 Marilyn Monk 1938 -

Eminent and world-leading research scientist in molecular biology, genetics of bacteria and their viruses, DNA replication and repair.

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