

# STANFORD IN LONDON FROM HOLLAND STREET TO LEIGHTON HOUSE

10 Kensington Church Walk, Holland Park, London

POUND, EZRA (1885-1972)



A 1920 portrait of Ezra Pound by British photographer EO Hoppe. Pound was later indicted for treason in America due to his support of fascism, but he was declared unfit to stand trial and was committed to a psychiatric hospital.

## IDAHO TO LONDON

Born in Idaho, USA, Pound arrived in 1908 in London, where he was to spend the formative – and most significant – years of his career. In the period up to his departure for Paris in 1921, Pound was productive as a writer: his collections of verse included *Personae* (1909), *Exultations* (1909), *Canzoni* (1911) and *Ripostes* (1912), and he also worked to promote other, then unknown, writers such as James Joyce and TS Eliot, who also lived in Kensington.

## LITERARY KENSINGTON

In 1912 Pound invented the label ‘imagism’: imagist poetry stressed clarity, precision and economy of language, and was to have a profound influence on 20th century literature. Two years later he named and was a founder of the Vorticist group of artists and writers, which came to be led by Wyndham Lewis.

Pound lived in a top-floor bed-sitting room at 10 Kensington Church Walk from 1909 until 1914, when his marriage necessitated larger quarters. The house was owned by a Mr and Mrs Langley, who were described by Pound as ‘positively the best England can produce at ANY level’. Here, Pound received visitors including Ford Madox Ford (who lived nearby), DH Lawrence and Henri Gaudier-Brzeska.

## ITALY AND CONTROVERSY

The later, controversial period of Pound’s career was spent in Italy. His support for fascism led to his being indicted for treason in America, but he was instead certified insane and confined. It was partly for these unsavoury later associations that he died a semi-recluse in Italy. Pound was rejected for blue plaque status in 1988, but his literary importance and connection with London was finally deemed strong enough to merit one. The plaque was unveiled in 2004 in the presence of his daughter, Mary de Rachewiltz.

**13 Holland Street, Holland Park, London**

## CRANE, WALTER (1845-1915)



Walter Crane was a children's book illustrator and decorative artist, who together with William Morris was a leader in the arts and craft movement.

The photograph of about 1897 is titled 'Walter Crane as Cimabue'. The artist and illustrator enjoyed a bohemian life at 13 Holland Street, and seems to have been fond of fancy dress – he also reportedly dressed up as a crane for his son's 21st birthday party.

### ILLUSTRATOR AND ARTIST

The son of a portrait painter, Crane first exhibited his work at the age of 16, but came to public notice from 1865 for his illustrations of a series of children's books – known as 'Toy Books'.

In the 1870s he became increasingly involved in the decorative arts, designing textiles, stained glass, tiles, wallpapers and plasterwork. In 1884 he was a founder member of the Art Workers' Guild and, four years later, founded the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society, of which he served as President for many years. In 1898, he was appointed Principal of the Royal College of Art.

## BOHEMIAN HOME

By the turn of the 20th century Crane was widely admired, and 13 Holland Street – a property of about 1760 known as The Old House – became a focus for an active social life. Living there from autumn 1892 until the year of his death, Crane and his wife Mary, née Andrews (c. 1846–1914), enjoyed a bohemian lifestyle. They kept a marmoset and an alligator as pets, and for their son Lionel's 21st birthday party Walter and Mary invited 700 people and dressed up as a crane and a sunflower, respectively.

The walls of number 13 were decorated with some of Crane's celebrated wallpapers and textiles, while its collections of pewter, china, model ships and Indian dolls reflected the couple's eclectic tastes.

Visitors to the house included William Morris and Sir Edward Burne-Jones.

**37 Holland Street, Kensington, London,**  
**HALL, RADCLYFFE (1880-1943)**



Radclyffe Hall was a novelist and poet, best-known for her lesbian novel *The Well of Loneliness*, which was banned shortly after publication in 1928. Hall was living at 37 Holland Street in Holland Park with her partner Una, Lady Troubridge when the scandal broke.

## THE WELL OF LONELINESS

Marguerite Radclyffe-Hall began her literary career writing verse, but it was her novel *The Well of Loneliness* (1928), together with her unconventional lifestyle, that gained her notoriety and has since made her an iconic figure.

*The Well of Loneliness* – the fifth of seven novels written by Hall – is a largely autobiographical work in which a lesbian heroine, Stephen Gordon, searches for fulfilment and acceptance in the post-Victorian age. Its appearance scandalised 1920s society, and the book was quickly banned in Britain. It remained largely unavailable until its republication in 1949.



(A) The novelist Radclyffe Hall frequently dressed in men's clothes and was known as 'John' to her friends (B) Radclyffe Hall (standing) and her partner Una, Lady Troubridge in about 1927

## HOLLAND STREET HOME

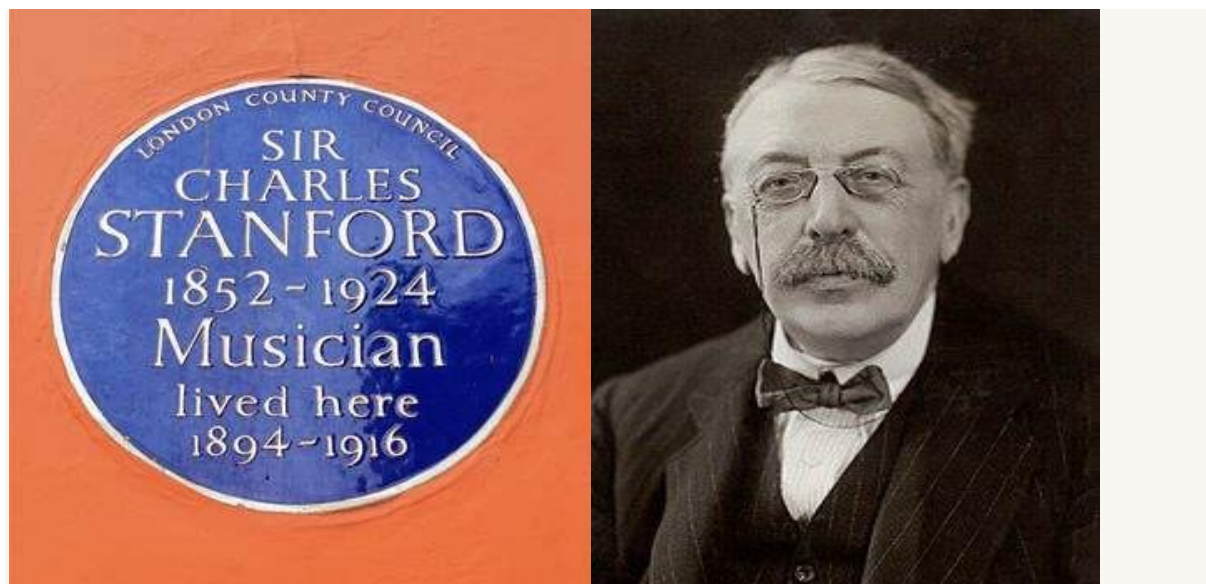
Hall lived with Una, Lady Troubridge (1887–1963) from 1916 until her death. The couple – both women of considerable means – were inveterate movers-of-house, flitting from flat to flat with remarkable speed.

Number 37 was their home from autumn 1924 until late 1928. Una described it as 'a charming house' in which they lived 'for four years. Something of a record for us, wandering Gentiles that we were'. It was while living here that Hall wrote *The Well of Loneliness*, and was besieged by the press and public when the scandal broke following its publication. Number 37 also saw the writing of the less controversial *Adam's Breed* (1926), a best-seller.

**56 Hornton Street and 50 Holland Street, Holland Park, London**

## STANFORD, SIR CHARLES

(1852-1924)



### STANFORD'S MOVE TO LONDON

The London house that Stanford chose to move to in 1893 was an early Victorian semi-detached villa built in 1845 on the edge of the Phillimore Estate, North of the newly developed High Street. It was within a few minutes of St Mary Abbots Church, close to Kensington Gardens and Holland Park and within a twenty minute walk of the Royal College of Music's recently completed new building on Prince Consort Road. There was some delay in moving into the house, this finally taking place in February 1893. The property was to be leased/rented and it would appear that the delay may have been caused by a previous extension being demolished and replaced. This extension occupied the corner site adjacent to Hornton Street and almost doubled the floor area of the original house. In particular, this was to provide a large ground floor reception room which became Stanford's music room, large enough to hold his own soirées and recitals and with window bays overlooking the garden.

In 1916 Stanford, by then 62 years old, moved from Holland Street to his final house, 9 Lower Berkeley Street. This street is now named Fitzhardinge Street and the house itself has been demolished.

## THE HOLLAND STREET HOUSE SINCE STANFORD MOVED

The extended house at Holland Street remained largely unaltered until the 1950s when the property was divided and the extension became known as 56-58 Hornton Street.



The house in Hornton Street is now in a rather dilapidated state. The present owners wish to refurbish it but their planning applications to date have failed to win approval from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Their plans include retaining Stanford's 'music room' though there has already been an assortment of internal changes in the building over the years. The owner has expressed an interest in hosting a 'Stanford' recital in the house if and when their plans come to fruition.

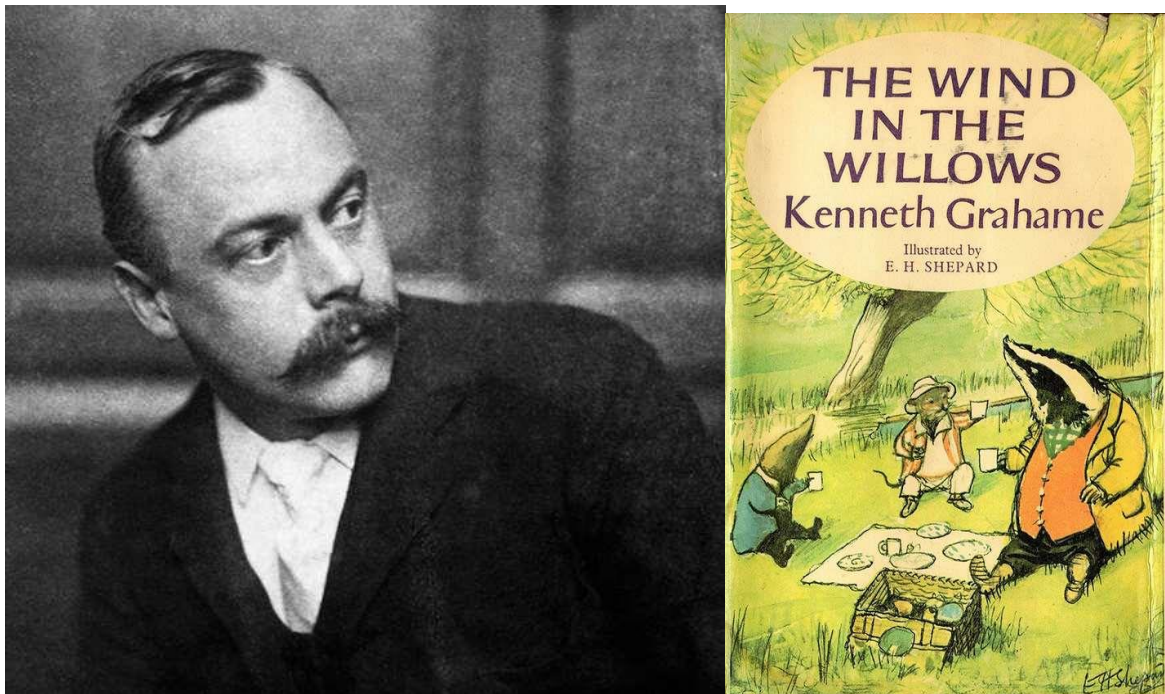


16 Phillimore Place, Holland Park, London

## GRAHAME, KENNETH (1859-1932)



Kenneth Grahame wrote the children's classic, *The Wind in the Willows*, while living at 16 Phillimore Place in Holland Park.



(A) Kenneth Grahame pictured around the turn of the century, before he wrote his most famous work (B) EH Shepard's famous illustrations first accompanied the 1931 edition.

## EARLY WORKS

Throughout the most important years of his life, Grahame enjoyed two careers: one, as an employee of the Bank of England – he entered the bank in 1879 and was appointed Secretary in 1898 – and another as a writer.

As a writer, Grahame first came to notice with *Pagan Papers* (1893), a collection of stories about a group of orphaned children. The work was followed in 1895 by *The Golden Age* and, four years later, by *Dream Days*. Grahame's lasting fame, however, rests on *The Wind in the Willows* (1908).

## THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS

Supposedly based on a series of bedtime stories told by Grahame to his only child, Alastair (1900–20), the work was written at 16 Phillimore Place, formerly 16 Durham Villas. A friend and neighbor, Graham Robertson, wrote that Grahame's

*special room in No. 16 was most characteristic; it looked like a nursery. Books there were certainly, but they were outnumbered by toys . . . intriguing, fascinating toys which could hardly have been conducive to study.*

The blue plaque incorrectly states that Grahame lived at the address in 1901–8. In fact, number 16 was the author's London home from the time of his marriage in July 1899 to Elspeth Thomson (1862–1946) until June 1908, when he retired from the Bank of England.

**18 Stafford Terrace, Holland Park, London**

# LINLEY SAMBOURNE, EDWARD (1844-1910)



Edward Linley Sambourne was an English cartoonist and illustrator most famous for being a draughtsman for the satirical magazine *Punch* for more than forty years and rising to the position of ‘First Cartoonist’ in his final decade.

## PUNCH MAGAZINE

The Victorian magazine *Punch* was founded in 1841. One of the more popular satirical magazines of that era it was also one of the first magazines to pioneer the idea of employing cartoons in a comical format. Sambourne became ‘First Cartoonist’ for the magazine in 1901 and stayed with the magazine until his death in 1910. During his time at *Punch* Sambourne drew a number of famous cartoons. Most notable among these is the quintessential picture of British Imperialism: Cecil Rhodes with his feet planted at opposite ends of the African continent.

Linley Sambourne was a great-grandfather of Antony Armstrong-Jones, 1st Earl of Snowdon, who was the husband of Princess Margaret. Their son David Armstrong-Jones was styled Viscount Linley before becoming 2nd Earl of Snowdon on his father's death.

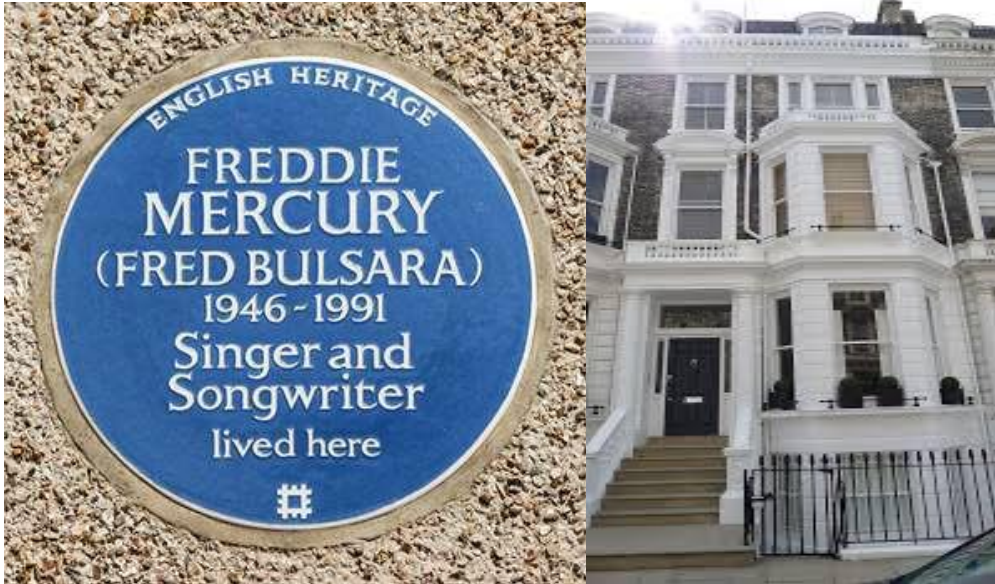
## 18 STAFFORD TERRACE



The house at 18 Stafford Terrace has been preserved with the exact same interior decorations and furnishings that it had while occupied by Sambourne and his family around the turn of the century. Sambourne purchased the house in 1875 and lived there until his death. The rooms are filled with cartoons, sketches, paintings, and other interesting and eclectic pieces of art. There is a formidably large china collection along with Sambourne's original bed and writing desk.

**12 Stafford Terrace, Holland Park, London**

## MERCURY, FREDDY (1946-1991)



Freddie Mercury was one of the greatest stars in the history of rock music. ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’ – written by Mercury and performed with Queen – remains one of Britain’s best-loved songs.

Freddie Mercury was born Farrokh Bulsara to British Indian parents on the island of Zanzibar. He was known as ‘Fred’ rather than Farrokh even before the family came to London, and signed himself as Fred Bulsara on letters until 1970, when he changed his name to Mercury.

After attending a British public school in India he returned to Zanzibar but was forced to flee to London with his family in 1964 when the island’s violent revolution broke out. The Bulsara family moved into 22 Gladstone Avenue in Feltham in November of that year, and Mercury lived there on-and-off until about 1970. (The blue plaque illustrated is from there.) He crashed at various London flats between 1966 and 1969 while he studied for a Diploma in Graphic Art and Design at Ealing College and took various jobs to support himself, including washing dishes in the kitchens of Heathrow Airport, just a stone’s throw from Gladstone Avenue.



Having met up with Brian May and Roger Taylor in 1970 the final member to be added to the newly-named Queen was bassist John Deacon in February 1971.

Freddie's first flat in London was at 12 Stafford Terrace W8 and then the band all shared a flat at 36 Sinclair Road W14. Later Freddie lived at 100 Holland Road W14, where he began to write Queen's most famous song 'Bohemian Rhapsody', and then at 1 Logan Place W8 from 1986 until his death.

Queen were prime developers of stadium rock, and their spectacular concerts were dominated by Mercury's energetic and flamboyant stage presence. Off stage, however, he was a private, even shy, man. He was secretive about his roots in Zanzibar and never publicly stated that he was homosexual. In the mid-1980s rumours persisted that Mercury had tested HIV-positive, but he constantly denied them. In the autumn of 1990 he returned to the studio to record what was to be the group's last album, *Innuendo*, which entered the UK charts at number one. Mercury died from bronchial pneumonia at his London home on 24 November 1991, aged 45, a day after announcing that he was suffering from AIDS.

18 Melbury Road, Holland Park, London

HOLMAN-HUNT, WILLIAM, O.M.  
(1827-1910)<sub>t</sub>



William Holman Hunt was a 19th-century painter and one of the founders of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.



(A) *The Lady of Shalott* – his final and best-known work – was completed while he was living at 18 Melbury Road in Holland Park,  
(B) William Holman Hunt in a portrait painted by Sir William Blake Richmond in 1900, three years before Holman Hunt moved to 18 Melbury Road.

## PAINTING CAREER

Born in the City of London, Holman Hunt met and befriended John Everett Millais and Dante Gabriel Rossetti in the 1840s, and was part of the group that founded the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood in 1848. The works for which he is best remembered – many of them inspired by his frequent visits to Jerusalem – include *The Light of the World* (1851–3), which has been described as ‘arguably the most famous religious image of the nineteenth century’, *The Finding of the Saviour in the Temple* (1854–60), and *The Scapegoat* (1854–5). Holman Hunt’s artistic output ended with his completion of *The Lady of Shalott* (c. 1888–1905), by which time he was suffering from glaucoma.

## 18 MELBURY ROAD

Number 18 Melbury Road is a tall semi-detached house dated 1877, and lies in the lower part of this artists’ thoroughfare. Holman Hunt had long been a resident of Holland Park and nearby Fulham by the time he moved to Melbury Road in 1903. Here, he dedicated himself to literary activities, working on his memoirs, and producing *Pre-Raphaelitism and the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood* in 1905, an account intended to propagate the principles of the group he had helped to found. In the same year, he was awarded the Order of Merit.

Holman Hunt died at number 18, and the house was still occupied by his widow, Edith, *née* Waugh (1846–1931), when the blue plaque was installed in 1923. In 2006, this blue plaque was joined by that to Zulu king Cetshwayo, who stayed in the house in the summer of 1882.