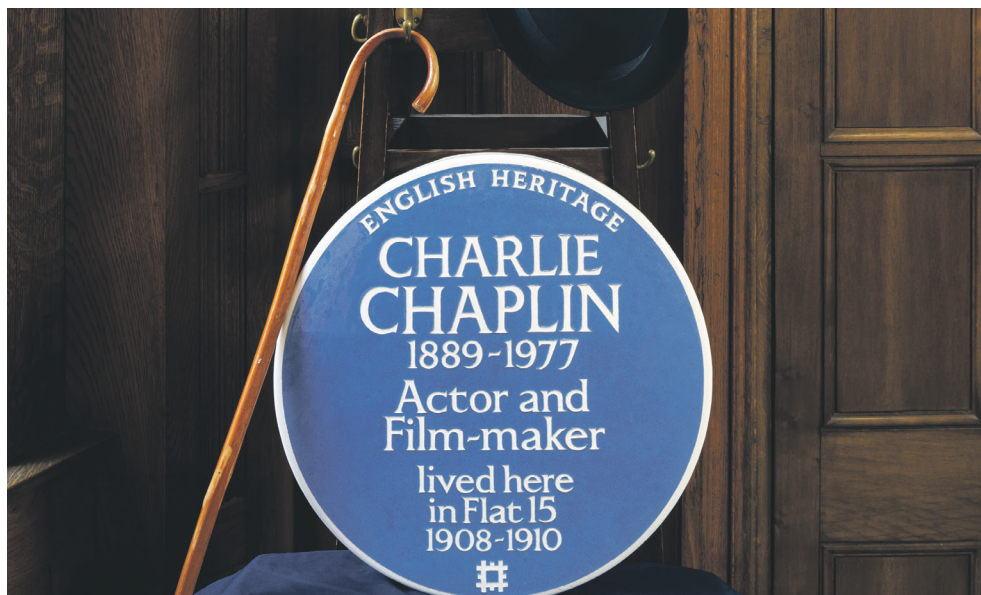


# Step into London's history

Did you know there are now more than 900 English Heritage blue plaques across the capital?

HOP on a Tube, bus or even a Santander Cycle and visit some of the memorable places made famous by Londoners, while exploring the streets of the city. Here are some notable names recently commemorated.

**Charlie Chaplin (1889-1977) Kennington**  
London-born actor and film-maker Charlie Chaplin is one of the most famous stars of early cinema. He had an impoverished



Pictures: English Heritage

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childhood, and though he found fame and fortune in America, the roots of his comedy were inspired by the music and entertainment scene of the capital and were often reflected in his films. He is most recognised as an icon of the silent film era and associated with his popular character, the Little Tramp. Chaplin is honoured with a blue plaque at his former home in Glenshaw Mansions, Kennington, where he lived with his brother Sydney in the top floor flat between 1908 and 1910.

**Borough:** Lambeth

### Sir John Gielgud (1904-2000) Westminster

With a career spanning eight decades, Sir John Gielgud is widely regarded as one of the nation's finest Shakespearian actors. He was also one of the few performers to have an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony under his belt.

Gielgud is commemorated with a plaque at his home in Westminster, where he lived from 1945 until 1976. It was during this time that he experienced some of the most significant moments of his life, including his knighthood in 1953 and his arrest that year for breaching laws against homosexuality.

**Borough:** City of Westminster

### Sir Henry Cotton (1907-1987) East Dulwich

Passionate about golf from an early age, Sir Henry Cotton went on to be known as one of the greatest golfers of all time. He won the Open Championship in 1934, 1937 and 1948, as well as 11 Opens in other European countries, becoming the leading British player of his generation. He also had an eye for fashion and was known for his expensive and flamboyant lifestyle. Cotton was awarded a knighthood in 1988 but died before receiving the honour. He is commemorated with a plaque at his former family home, where he used to practise his swings in the garden.

**Borough:** Southwark

### Mary Macarthur (1880-1921) Golders Green

An avid campaigner for working women, Mary Macarthur was one of the most important figures in the history of women's trade unionism. She fought for equal pay and supported the first strike for female workers on London's buses and trams. She was also largely

responsible for increasing the female membership of trade unions from 142,000 in 1892 to 1,342,000 in 1920. Macarthur is commemorated with a plaque at her home in Golders Green, where she died, aged 40.

**Borough:** Barnet

### Stella, Lady Reading (1894-1971) Westminster

Stella, Lady Reading was the founder of the Women's Voluntary Services (WVS) - one of the largest voluntary organisations in British history. The WVS provided essential aid in the UK during the Second World War, which included looking after child evacuees and refugees, knitting and sewing clothes, and devising recipes for war rations. By the end of the war the organisation had one million members and was dubbed the 'Greatest Women's Army in the World'. A plaque is marked at 41 Tothill Street, which served as the WVS headquarters from 1938-1966 - Lady Reading worked here for all 28 years.

**Borough:** City of Westminster

### Plan a blue plaque tour

You can plan a tour by borough using the English Heritage site, which provides locations for each plaque. Visit [english-heritage.org.uk](https://english-heritage.org.uk) for more details. To plan your journey, go to [tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey](https://tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey), hire a Santander Cycle or simply walk.

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