

# THE ROYAL BELL

A Grade II listed hotel in the historic heart of Bromley



This aerial photograph shows how The Royal Bell sits at the nucleus of the original settlement of Bromley beside the medieval parish church and the market square.



This view south along the High Street from the Royal Bell Hotel shows some of the high-quality Victorian and Edwardian architecture that forms the setting of the Royal Bell in the Town Centre Conservation Area. The Royal Bell has some fine neighbours: the listed Queen Anne former Butchers Shop, now a HSBC bank, the neo-Tudor development on the Market Square reminiscent of Staple Inn in the City, and the wonderful Baroque revival former bank now the Partridge pub.



We are much inspired by the lively turn of the century civic and commercial architecture in the centre of Bromley. This fire station was built in 1905 in the Edwardian 'Renaissance' style. Like the Royal Bell, this building echoes the 17th century architecture of Bromley College.



One of this Grade II listed parade of shops, bank and hotel that Ernest Newton designed for the High Street in 1898 is Hunter's Practical Jeweller – which is still in the same use. Happily, the original timber shopfront survives. It is one of the most important Arts & Crafts shopfronts surviving in the capital, perhaps rivalled only by the architect Phillip Webb's remarkable shops and workshops at 91-101 Worship Street in Shoreditch.



This view shows the glorious Star and Garter pub, just north of the Royal Bell on the High Street. Its 'Old English' architectural style energetically references Kent's Renaissance and vernacular architecture. This architectural style was pioneered by Ernest Newton's mentor Norman Shaw RA. Contemporary with the Royal Bell, these and many other fine buildings show the confident re-building of the Bromley High Street around 1900.



One of the most significant architectural landmarks in Bromley is the 17th century Bromley College. It was built as alms-houses for the widows of clergyman in 1666. The Royal Bell's architect Ernest Newton took the Queen Anne or Restoration style architecture of Bromley College as an inspiration for the design of the Royal Bell.



The remains of a Dutch revival commercial building beside Sainsbury's on 'Walter's Yard'.